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No. 213

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 16, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BETTY MCCOLLUM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### REJECTING LIBERAL LOCKDOWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, liberal Governors across the country have shown they know nothing about good governance.

Many times I have heard impassioned speeches from my Republican colleagues on how liberal Governors running their States have gone off the deep end. Today, I am here to share North Carolina's story.

For months, Governor Roy Cooper has avoided numerous opportunities to keep North Carolina open for business. He imposed phases of reopening that only caused more businesses to go under while he claimed it was the best option.

Now he believes a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will somehow eliminate COVID-19 altogether. What this curfew will do in the end is remind North Carolinians that their Governor has no idea what he is doing.

COVID-19 is not a creature that roams the streets in the dead of night and retreats to its burrow once day-break hits. This is a virus. Necessary safety precautions can be taken to protect yourself, your loved ones, and those around you.

But when ill-conceived directives from Governor Cooper come into play, North Carolinians begin to question where the ambition ends and where leadership begins.

The American people hear time and time again that we must follow the science, but when we question the science that is used to justify lockdowns, we seldom receive true clarity.

We can all agree that the imperative here is to protect people from the scourge of the virus. That is abundantly clear. However, that imperative becomes horribly diluted when State and local economies suffer, people lose their jobs, and ends can't be met because of lockdowns. That is the sad reality of what lockdowns can do.

I have a message for Governor Cooper: Your abject failures during this pandemic have hurt the livelihoods of people who are proud to call North Carolina home. The last thing North Carolinians need is a bureaucrat sitting in the Governor's mansion who hands down blanketed mandates.

Hopefully, Governors across the country, including yourself, will look to common sense as a guide moving

forward; but based on what has been done to date, you would probably squander that opportunity, too.

Leadership is not a foreign concept. So why not lead the right way and put aside your desire to see North Carolina closed for business?

North Carolina is an economic powerhouse because of its hardworking citizens who show up to work and get the job done. It is high time it is treated that way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

### HONORING THE LIVES OF GUADALUPE AND MARIA LOPEZ

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Guadalupe and Maria Lopez, who were taken from us by COVID-19 in Chicago only a few weeks ago.

Like thousands during this pandemic, their children—Erica, Richie, and Andy—weren't even able to say a proper good-bye.

Guadalupe and Maria were loving parents, grandparents, and active members of the community who raised their family in Archer Heights in Chicago.

Lupe, as most people knew him, was a beloved 911 dispatcher for 33 years. Chicago police officers described him as a "voice of security and reassurance" who guided them on the radio through some of the most dangerous situations. Colleagues remember him as always ready to help jump-start a car or change a tire, even after a long, stressful shift.

Maria owned an income tax service in my neighborhood of Little Village. She served the community and, particularly, immigrants with kindness and dedication.

☐ 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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Lupe and Maria's marriage was a love story, and their children and grandchildren were the center of their universe. They are reunited in Heaven.

My wife, Evelyn, and I are keeping the Lopez family in our prayers.

#### BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, Americans witnessed a remarkable achievement. Less than a year after the novel coronavirus reached the shores of America, the first doses of a safe and effective vaccine were administered to frontline healthcare workers in Pennsylvania and around the country.

This amazing accomplishment is not only a testament to America's unparalleled healthcare heroes, researchers and scientists, but it is also a testament to the promise of American innovation.

In just a matter of months, Operation Warp Speed has harnessed the full power of the Federal Government, the private sector, and the scientific community to deliver results for the American people, all in record time.

I am sincerely grateful to the leaders at the helm of this historic public/private partnership, including President Donald Trump and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, who was born in my district, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Truly, all of those who have served in Operation Warp Speed have done an incredible job.

As our Nation continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that a safe and effective vaccine is key to restoring our communities, rebuilding our economy and, ultimately, saving lives. While the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer already has been granted emergency authorization from the FDA, we expect more to follow in the coming days and weeks.

Now, it is imperative for the American people to know the facts about these vaccines so that they can make informed consent.

Number one: As part of Operation Warp Speed, multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being developed by private companies and simultaneously produced, accelerating the typical production process so that, as soon as a safe and effective option is cleared, it is ready to go.

Number two: Each COVID-19 vaccine is undergoing the same rigorous safety, quality, and efficacy screenings as any other modern vaccine.

Number three: The FDA will only grant emergency use authorization to a vaccine following the recommendation of an independent advisory board.

Number four: The American people can be confident in the safety and the efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Madam Speaker, like many Americans, I recognize that this vaccine has

lifesaving potential, and I plan to take the vaccine as soon as I am eligible.

As part of Operation Warp Speed, our Nation is equipped to facilitate this vaccine distribution more efficiently than any other country in the world. At the same time, we know that it will take time before everyone can receive it.

As we wait, this is not the time to grow complacent. COVID-19 cases are rising in Pennsylvania and around the country, and it is up to all of us to do our part to protect our family, our friends, and our neighbors.

This year, I have been amazed by Americans' commitment to one another and to their communities. Together, we can defeat this virus. As we wait for the widespread immunization, we must continue to stand strong against this invisible enemy.

Yes, the coronavirus remains an ever-present threat to America and to our economy. Yes, we are in a shared fight to save lives and to save livelihoods. And, yes, there is hope on the horizon. It is arriving in communities every day in the coolers on UPS and FedEx trucks.

As we near the end of this incredibly challenging year, Americans have much to be grateful for. Thanks to our scientific community, to Operation Warp Speed, and especially to our healthcare heroes, there are brighter days ahead.

#### MOBILITY, INNOVATION, AND PLACEMAKING

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

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to the importance and interrelationship of mobility, innovation and placemaking.

In honor of my predecessor, the late Honorable John Lewis, I am happy to offer the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop. The John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop envisions spurring over \$5 billion of economic development in Georgia's Fifth District in honor of the legacy of Congressman John Lewis' sacrifice and commitment to equity, justice, and economic empowerment.

Specifically, this project provides an opportunity to achieve justice in mobility and placemaking through strategic land use and transit-oriented development.

Campbellton Road, a major artery of this project, is the area where both of Congressman Lewis' homes were located. This funding will ultimately create a snowball effect for signature catalytic projects, such as Fort McPherson TOD, Tyler Perry Studios, Greenbriar, and Westgate redevelopment.

One of the first projects in the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop is high-capacity transit in the Campbellton Road corridor. The project will introduce Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit to the area served by one the city's busiest bus routes.

All told, this will create billions of dollars of economic revitalization, which will result in greater transportation options, better quality of life, and renewed civic engagement. I encourage my colleagues to support this project.

I include in the RECORD an appropriations request in honor of John Lewis.

CONGRESSMAN KWANZA HALL,

5th District, Georgia, December 14, 2020.

THE JOHN LEWIS TOD INNOVATION LOOP—TOWARDS JUSTICE IN MOBILITY AND PLACEMAKING

I am happy to submit this extraordinary appropriations request in honor of John Lewis. The John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop envisions spurring over \$5 Billion of economic development in Georgia's Fifth District in honor of the legacy of Congressman John Lewis' sacrifice and commitment to equity, justice and economic empowerment. Specifically this project provides an opportunity to achieve justice in mobility (transportation) and placemaking through strategic land use and transit oriented development (TOD). Campbellton Road, a major artery of this project, is the area where both of Congressman Lewis' homes were located.

IMMEDIATE 2020 FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE JOHN LEWIS TOD INNOVATION LOOP

1. \$5M for development of the conceptual plan.
2. \$50M for Accelerated Campbellton Road Bus Rapid Transit project.

This funding will ultimately create a snowball effect for signature catalytic projects listed below. Their estimated economic impacts are:

- Fort McPherson TOD / Tyler Perry Studios, \$800M.
- Oakland City TOD, \$200M.
- Campbellton Road or Bus Rapid Transit and future Light Rail, \$50M/\$250M.
- Greenbriar—Westgate Area, \$1B.
- John Lewis Senior Transit Center @ Barge Rd, \$500M.
- Camp Creek @ Campbellton Road, \$200M.
- Campbellton @ Fulton Industrial, \$200M.
- Fulton Industrial @ MLK Drive, \$200M.
- Aerotropolis (Atlanta Airport Area), \$1.7B.
- Total impact: \$5.05 Billion.

One of the first projects in the John Lewis TOD Innovation Loop is high-capacity transit in the Campbellton Road Corridor. This project will assist in transforming this corridor of established neighborhoods and businesses into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use community and could incentivize major redevelopment efforts at Greenbriar Mall and Fort McPherson. The project will introduce Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit to the area served by one of the city's busiest bus routes. The budget is \$50 million and the project would be administered by Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

For more information visit: <https://www.itsmarta.com/campbellton-corridor.aspx>

#### PROBLEMS IN AMERICA'S PRISONS

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw the Chamber's attention to a second problem, a problem in America's prisons.

I include in the RECORD the following hyperlink to an article from Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/usa-jails>.

The article draws attention to the private prisons, the death penalty, and COVID. These are longstanding challenges in our criminal justice system. Also on the list of problems, but not

mentioned in that article, are life sentences, the Federal sentencing guidelines, and solitary confinement.

I am supplementing to this statement and to the article an appropriations proposal. Were it here during the appropriations process, I would submit this proposal so that it may be integrated into future appropriations vehicles.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of several pieces of legislation that I am proud to co-sponsor on behalf of the people of Georgia's 5th Congressional District.

First, I will highlight several pieces of legislation critical to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. As a survivor of COVID-19, I know firsthand the pain and difficulty this terrible disease has caused too many Americans.

Health care is a right, not a privilege. Ensuring that every American has high-quality health care is never more important than during a pandemic that has claimed nearly 300,000 American lives. That is why I support H.R. 6317, the Ensuring Coverage in Public Health Emergencies Act, introduced by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, and hope to be added as a co-sponsor this week. This bill would create a special 30-day enrollment period during public health emergencies to allow employees to enroll in health plans. It also would require coverage of services like vaccines, diagnostic testing, and treatment and care.

As we fight the pandemic, it is critical to address the racial and ethnic disparities in how COVID-19 affects Americans. Systemic health, economic, and social inequities mean that minority communities have borne the worst of this terrible disease—in cases, deaths, jobs lost, and pay cut. We are, sadly, not all in this together. H.R. 6585, the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act, and H.R. 6763, the COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force Act, were both introduced by the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. KELLY. These bills will provide critical information and attention to this problem and help to mitigate the effects that this disease has had on communities like the ones I represent, and I look forward to being added as a co-sponsor.

Black women experience some of the worst systemic disparities in health, housing, employment, and education. I am proud to support two other bills co-sponsored by Congresswoman KELLY of Illinois and hope to be added as a co-sponsor. H.R. 8196, the Protect Black Women and Girls Act would establish an Interagency Task Force to examine the complex problems and make recommendations for policy changes to help increase opportunity for our mothers, sisters, and daughters. H.R. 1897, the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA's) Act, will direct federal resources to prevent maternal mortality and expand Medicaid to cover one year of postpartum needs. Georgia faces a crisis: My state has the worst maternal mortality rate in the country, and many women, particularly women of color, lack access to critical pre- and postpartum services and lack health insurance. We know that we all do better when we all do better, and as we rebuild our country from the ruin caused by the pandemic, we must leave no one behind.

During a time in which we need people to stay home as much as possible, but people

have lost jobs and income, it is more critical than ever to provide critical housing assistance. The CARES Act provided many homeowners with the right to have all mortgage payments completely paused for a period of time. Renters, however, face a patchwork of regulations across the country that leave them in more uncertain positions. That is why I co-sponsored H.R. 6820, the Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act, introduced by Mr. HECK of Washington. This bill would provide \$100 million in emergency assistance to help prevent people at risk of homelessness from finding themselves on the street. Especially as coronavirus cases rise and as the weather gets colder, we must ensure that as many people as possible are able to safely find the protection and dignity of their own home.

Our nation's experience with COVID-19 has highlighted this country's need for paid family and medical leave. H.R. 1185, the FAMILY Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, would create a new paid family and medical leave system run by the Social Security Administration. Under this system, workers and employers would split the very modest cost of the program. Paid leave benefits employers and employees alike—workers have time and flexibility to help themselves or their families through personal crises, while employers can afford to keep trained workers on the job. But the United States is the only rich nation without it. Paid leave would have helped save countless jobs and businesses during this difficult year.

Sadly, COVID-19 is not the only epidemic facing the American people. This summer, the rest of the country was reminded of what my constituents in Metro Atlanta know all too well: that people of color, particularly African-Americans, face systemic racism every day. Sometimes, this discrimination manifests itself as unnecessary and brutal police violence, as we saw in the murders of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and, in my district, Rayshard Brooks. Black Lives Matter, and their Black Lives Mattered.

I have co-sponsored legislation to ensure police treat citizens with dignity and respect and are accountable to the communities they serve. First, I am proud to introduce a bill aimed at abolishing qualified immunity, which helps shield police officers who break the law from accountability. H.R. 4408, the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act, introduced by the chairman of our caucus, Mr. JEFFRIES of New York, would forbid the use of police chokeholds. I also support H.R. 7100, the George Floyd Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE. This comprehensive legislation improves accountability by introducing new accreditation standards related to use of force, civilian review, and other provisions like training and data collection.

We also must do all we can to erase the bitter legacy left by enslavement and forced bondage. H.R. 40, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, would create a commission to study and develop reparations proposals for African-Americans. Black communities today still suffer from the wages, property, and rights stolen by slavery and Jim Crow. We must also work to end the forced labor that still exists due to mass incarceration, and I am proud to introduce a constitutional amendment to end that horrific practice that perpetuates human suffering.

H.R. 7217, the Confederate Monument Removal Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from California, Ms. LEE, would remove all Confederate memorials from the United States Capitol, so that we do not risk perpetuating the myths of white supremacy to a new, more diverse, more inclusive generation of Americans. I strongly support efforts in the Georgia General Assembly to replace the state's statue of Alexander Stephens in Statuary Hall with one honoring my predecessor and friend, the late Honorable John Lewis. Congressman Lewis challenged the historical status quo in the South by championing civil and human rights through peaceful, dramatic, nonviolent action, dating from his tenure as president of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and including his 17 terms serving in this House.

I am also proud to join two other bills important to my constituents.

H.R. 2975, the Women's Health Protection Act, offered by the gentlewoman from California, Ms. CHU, prohibits states like Georgia from restricting access to abortion services. Georgia has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, but my constituents deserve to make their own choices regarding their health.

Lastly, H.R. 5349, the Protect SNAP Act, was introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO. This bill prohibits the administration from limiting access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps. Last year, the administration announced a plan to make nearly 700,000 people ineligible for food assistance. We know SNAP is critical to making sure that children in the richest country in the world have food in their stomachs, and it would be doubly irresponsible to deny them help during a pandemic and recession. Congress must do all it can to ensure this vital program is strengthened and expanded, not cut.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of Georgia's 5th Congressional District. I believe these bills to be some of the critically important measures this body should be considering and passing to help the American people through this difficult time.

#### DEMOCRAT ELECTION THEFT EXPERT DESCRIBES HOW HE DOES IT

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as an overview, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI, without a floor vote, has dictated that we wear a mask while speaking on the House floor or we will be silenced; hence, my mask.

Madam Speaker, this is my seventh speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the presidential election.

Today, I continue citing an August 29, 2020, New York Post expose that reveals the sordid underbelly of voter fraud and election theft that plague American elections.

The New York Post, after confirming a Democrat election thief expert's "rap sheet and long history working as a

consultant to various campaigns,” reveals his stunning election theft strategies and view that “election fraud is more the rule than the exception.”

The Democrat election theft expert steals elections at nursing homes, stating: “Hitting up assisted-living facilities and helping the elderly fill out their absentee ballots was a gold mine of votes. There are nursing homes where the nurse is actually a paid operative. They literally fill the ballot out for them.”

The Democrat election theft expert steals elections by exploiting weak voter identification laws.

“The Democrat election theft expert would send operatives to vote in polling stations, particularly in States likes New Jersey and New York that do not require voter ID.”

□ 1215

The Democrat election expert describes how he deploys his election theft team:

You fill out these index cards with that person's name and district, and you go around the city and say: You are going to be him. You are going to be him.

At the polling place, the fake voter would sign in and vote.

The imposters re-create the signature that already appears in the voter roll as best they could. In the rare instance that a real voter had already signed in and cast a ballot, the impersonator would just chalk it up to an innocent mistake and bolt.

The Democrat election theft expert steals elections at homeless shelters, which offer a nearly inexhaustible pool of reliable—buyable—voters.

Laughing at the roughly \$174 per vote Mike Bloomberg spent to win his third mayoral term, he said he could have delivered the same result at a 70 percent discount.

Madam Speaker, voter fraud and election theft increasingly rot at the foundation of America's republic: our elections.

Voting by illegal aliens and other noncitizens is rampant and flipping elections because socialist Democrats have made it illegal to require proof of citizenship when illegal aliens and other noncitizens demand to be registered to vote.

This year, at a minimum, hundreds of thousands and, more likely, millions of illegal aliens and other noncitizens voted after Joe Biden openly promised amnesty and citizenship if he is elected President.

Vote-by-mail schemes are both horribly prone to voter fraud and illegal because they violate Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution and Congress' ensuing designation, with minor exceptions, of one 24-hour day as the election day during which citizens can vote. Congress could have but did not create an election week, an election month, or an election season.

Madam Speaker, the overwhelming and irrefutable evidence compels but one conclusion: If only lawful votes cast by eligible American citizens are counted, then Donald Trump won the electoral college.

In 1776 American patriot Thomas Paine said it best:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

Madam Speaker, I urge all American patriots to join the fight for America and against dictatorial socialism. Why? Because America is worth fighting for.

As such, on January 6, 2021, provided the required one Senator joins me, I will move to reject electoral college submissions of all States whose election systems are so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHIL ROE

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, PHIL ROE, Representative of Tennessee's First District, as he chooses to end this chapter in his life and return to being a private citizen.

On television, many Americans are left with the impression that the U.S. House of Representatives is a place of constant combat. Naturally, over the past two centuries, the House has seen many great debates about the future of our Nation.

Debate at its essence is about passionately arguing for your preferred course of action. The beauty of the people's House and the reason that former Speaker Longworth described the House as coming nearer reflecting at all time the popular will than does any other individual or legislative body in this or any other country is that we debate in earnest, yet we do so with a premium on civility. But, alas, as I say, many Americans are left, based on the evening cable entertainment shows, with the opposite impression.

My experience over the past 6 years is that this Chamber is, in fact, a place where the great issues of the day are debated and where, through that work and debate, firm friendships are established. Those friendships extend across the aisle, across cultures, and across generations.

Over the past 6 years, I have come to have the greatest respect for one of my colleagues who, after 12 years, has elected to leave the House and return to that most basic title that we all hold with honor, that of citizen.

During the course of these years, I recognize my friend, PHIL ROE, Representative of Tennessee's First District, as a man of high character, immense intellect, and great loyalty. His loyalty to the people of the Tri-Cities of east Tennessee is shown in his daily spirit.

His loyalty, passion, and care for his fellow veterans have overflowed in his role as chairman of the House Vet-

erans' Affairs Committee and currently as ranking member. He has never forgotten his service in the U.S. Army in the Medical Corps, where he was stationed in Korea.

He has never forgotten his constituents, who enjoy a livelihood in the thriving region in and around Johnson City, Tennessee.

For three decades, prior to coming to Congress, PHIL was an OB/GYN. He claims, Madam Speaker, that his terrific record of public service and local office, including being mayor of Johnson City, were essential to his preparation for and success in earning a seat in Congress. But we all know better, Madam Speaker. We know that simply delivering the vast majority of your constituents is a surefire way to be successfully elected.

As a Christian, PHIL sets a high standard and is a stalwart in the annual National Prayer Breakfast preparation and our weekly Thursday morning bipartisan fellowship, where he never hesitates to bring his guitar and share his musical talents. There must be something in the water in Bristol, Tennessee, home of country music.

It is true that PHIL and I bonded over critical national defense policy, accountability and excellence in care for our veterans, and his solutions for market-based policies that would lead to more affordable healthcare for all Americans. But we grew up as Scouts, so our real mutual love is for the outdoors. To this day, decades later, we share a love of backpacking, camping, and hiking in the mountains.

In fact, in 2019, both of us were so excited that Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, new national wilderness areas in each our districts. For me, I was able to add acreage to Flatside Wilderness and commence a formal study of the area. For PHIL, it was adding nearly 20,000 acres of some of the wildest pockets of Cherokee National Forest in east Tennessee to the wilderness system.

We both share an amazing affection for that long day at high-altitude above the treeline. One evening in Maine, after a delicious dinner, we agreed, hey, let's get up in the morning and go climb the highest mountain on the eastern seaboard and hike the end of the Appalachian Trail. We will climb and retrace the steps of Henry David Thoreau's attempt to climb Mount Katahdin.

Sure enough, we were true to our word. We got up at 3 a.m. and drove from the coast to the trailhead, arriving at 7 a.m. We spent one of the most memorable days on the trail that I can recall. The summit of Mount Katahdin was pea soup, but you can tell from our smiles that the long trek up and down was worth every step.

Congressman ROE, you have fought the good fight. You have kept the faith. And like every good Scout, you have left your campsite cleaner than when you found it. Now it is time for a few less cross fires and a few more late-night campfires.

Martha and I wish you and Clarinda; your combined families; your three kids, Whitney, John, David; and their families many, many happy days on the trail in the years to come.

You will be missed here in the people's House. You will be missed by your friends. These Halls will be a little emptier without your smile, your voice, and your love expressed daily for the people of east Tennessee.

#### RECOGNIZING PAUL KRATZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a faithful public servant who served the city of Omaha for nearly 23 years.

Paul Kratz, who led the city's legal department as the city attorney, retired last week to spend his days with his wife of 47 years, Diane. He is also a wonderful friend of mine.

A 1975 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law, Paul oversaw a staff of 35, including 24 attorneys, and negotiated redevelopment agreements and managed litigation. Originally hired by former Mayor Hal Daub, also a former Congressman here, he served during the administrations of Mayor Mike Fahey, Mayor Jim Suttle, and current Mayor Jean Stothert.

Mayor Stothert had this to say about Mr. Kratz:

Paul has been an important adviser, negotiator, and taxpayer advocate for more than two decades. He has guided mayors and city councils to make decisions that make Omaha the great and growing city it is today.

Former Mayor Suttle said this about him:

During my time as mayor, Paul Kratz always told me what I needed to hear, not necessarily what I wanted to hear. Out of this foundation came a strong relationship built on trust and honesty. In addition, it made me a better mayor and a better leader, especially as we led the city through the two major tragedies of a potential bankruptcy and the devastating 2011 Missouri River flood.

Former Mayor Daub said this:

Paul Kratz brought unique skills and a love of public service to Omaha city government. Always the gentleman, his calm and pleasant demeanor provided stability in his well-managed office and earns broad agreement of admiring his objectivity and wise advice. He understood and appreciated the political ramifications of legal advice, the value of compromise, and his insights and creative recommendations to a multitude of tough issues were always helpful. His talent and tenacity in public service is rare, and he will leave very large shoes to fill.

Paul Kratz may have been the man behind the curtain in negotiations, but his legacy will remain because of dozens of projects, including the CHI Health Center, the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, the TD Ameritrade Park, and the College World Series contract.

In addition, the legacy of service of the Kratz family continues with his

children. His youngest son, Gregory Kratz, practices law in Fairbury, Nebraska, and also serves as an officer in the Nebraska Air National Guard. Jeff Kratz, his oldest son, serves as my legislative director and has worked for many years serving the needs of Nebraska taxpayers.

Paul Kratz's dedication to Nebraska has touched countless lives, and his positive example has surely inspired another generation of his family to carry his torch for many years to come.

We thank him for his dedicated service to our city and wish him the best in future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING STEVE NELSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steve Nelson, a man who has been at the forefront of Nebraska's booming agriculture industry and who retired on December 8 of this year as the president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, a position he has faithfully served since 2011.

A farmer his whole life, Steve has produced irrigated corn, hybrid seed corn, and soybeans at his farm near Axtell in south central Nebraska.

In his work with the Farm Bureau, both before and during his tenure as president, Steve has helped to secure farm bills and worked to reform and lower taxes to help protect farm and ranch families.

He has also fought to bolster animal agriculture against those who want to end it and sought initiatives to grow Nebraska's livestock industry.

While Texas and Nebraska may have had a rivalry on the football field, they also have held a rivalry in livestock. During Steve's time as president, Nebraska was ranked first for several years in commercial red meat production.

Steve has also advocated for Nebraska's agriculture industry to other countries, serving as a delegation member to Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Belgium, and many others.

I am sure his wife, Elma, a retired nurse, is looking forward to spending more time with her husband and is proud of the work he has done, as are his kids: Scott and his wife, Amy, who farm with Steve; and their daughter, Stacy, and her husband, Bobby, who live in Ashland. Sadly, their daughter, Sarah, passed away unexpectedly in 2006. Of course, his four grandchildren, I am sure, will spend more time with grandpa on the farm.

I thank Steve for advocating and bolstering Nebraska's agriculture industry. I thank him for his friendship and his counsel.

Madam Speaker, I wish Steve the best on his retirement from the bureau.

#### FAREWELL TO PHIL ROE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and colleague who will be retiring from Congress as the 116th Congress comes to a close. I have served with Dr. PHIL ROE since we came into Congress together as classmates in 2009.

PHIL represents the First Congressional District of Tennessee. His pathway to Congress includes being an Eagle Scout, veteran, mayor, and medical physician, delivering more than 5,000 of his future constituents.

PHIL and I have sat next to each other on the House Education and Labor Committee for 12 years. We started at the very end of the seniority seating and now sit prominently as senior members.

□ 1230

Congressman ROE has left his mark serving the American people as chair and Republican leader of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He authored the MISSION Act, which ensures veterans have the ability to receive the best possible care now and in the future, and the Forever GI Bill, which ensures veterans won't lose access to the education benefits that they earned through their service.

Madam Chair, in his own words, Congressman PHIL ROE said it best: "I'll leave Congress at the end of the year knowing that our Nation's heroes are better served today because of our work."

Thank you, PHIL. And thank you to his wife, Clarinda, and their family for sharing PHIL with us. Best wishes for whatever the next chapter's adventures bring.

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN GREG WALDEN

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in 2018, Congressman GREG WALDEN won his 11th term in Congress to represent Oregon's Second Congressional District. When the 116th Congress ends, he will retire after 22 years of service to our Nation.

GREG graduated from the University of Oregon with a journalism degree and took over the operations of his father's radio station in Hood River—and added another—before winning his congressional seat in 1998.

In 2014 and 2016, he successfully chaired the National Republican Congressional Committee. GREG served as chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 115th Congress and currently serves as the Republican leader of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have worked with Congressman GREG WALDEN and share passions with him: his passion to improve forest management and lead reforms to make our Federal forests healthier, make our rural communities more financially solvent, and make our forests more resilient to climate change.

To his wife, Mylene, thank you for sharing this lifelong Oregonian, Eagle Scout, and great public servant with us.

Best wishes, GREG. I know you will continue to make a difference in retirement.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN ROB BISHOP

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a retiring leader and mentor, Congressman ROB BISHOP.

A public schoolteacher turned public servant, ROB BISHOP represents Utah's First Congressional District in the United States Congress. I have had the privilege of serving with and under the leadership of Congressman BISHOP on the Committee on Natural Resources for 8 years.

First elected in 2003, ROB served as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Natural Resources and is now its ranking member. He has been a key player on many public land bills.

Congressman BISHOP is committed to helping Congress strike a balance for wise management of our public lands and resources. Protecting private property rights and State sovereignty and preserving the Western heritage are among his chief priorities on the committees that guided him. There is no stronger fighter to protect the livelihoods of public land users in rural America, while ensuring that we are responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Madam Speaker, Congressman ROB BISHOP negotiated much of the legislation included in the Natural Resources Management Act. This legislation expanded access to public lands, while also shrinking the size of the Federal estate, and provided wins for America's sportsmen, hunters, and fishermen.

Thank you, ROB, for your service, your friendship, and your mentoring. Thank you, as well to his wife, Jeralynn, and his children and grandchildren for sharing ROB with us.

Best wishes in the next chapter of life.

#### HONORING DR. FRED MULLINS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a highly esteemed surgeon, compassionate physician, hero, and an incredible person.

Dr. Fred Mullins, who was president and CEO of the Burn and Reconstruction Centers of America, sadly, passed away at the age of 54. In his over 30 years of caring for thousands of patients, he was a trailblazer in burn care across the Nation and the world.

Dr. Mullins was also a founding board member of the Georgia Trauma Foundation, a member of the Georgia Trauma Commission, and chairman of the JMS Research Foundation. He was a native Augustan and graduated from Augusta College before attending the Medical College of Georgia.

Dr. Mullins was given a foundation for his skills in burn care by Dr. Joseph M. Still, and his focus was on carrying

Dr. Still's legacy to provide the best possible care to patients.

I became acquainted with Dr. Mullins in February of 2008, after the explosion of the Savannah Sugar Refinery in my hometown of Port Wentworth. A number of the victims there were taken to the Augusta Burn Center; and there, I witnessed Dr. Mullins' compassion, his concern, and his care for patients.

Madam Speaker, because of Dr. Mullins' unrivaled work and care for patients, he now leaves behind a legacy that represents dedication to the well-being of patients and improving healthcare across the Nation and world.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his friends, his patients, and all who knew him.

#### REMEMBERING HARRISON DEAL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Statesboro native Harrison Deal, who, tragically, passed away on Friday, December 4, from a fatal car crash in Pooler, Georgia.

Harrison was a 20-year-old student at the University of Georgia and was expected to graduate in 2022. He was a former intern for Senator PERDUE, and worked in the Athens office for Senator KELLY LOEFFLER's campaign.

Governor Brian Kemp stated Harrison was a member of the "Kemp Strong" family, and was a Kemp son and brother they never had. He has been described as an incredible, magnificent young man by Senator PERDUE and Senator LOEFFLER.

He clearly touched countless lives in the State of Georgia and beyond.

Madam Speaker, Harrison was the son of Bulloch County Commissioner Curt Deal and his wife, Jenni, and was the brother of Hannah and Halli Deal.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Deal family, Harrison's friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING MARCUS HILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a great American. Marcus Hill retires from serving as a senior executive adviser for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, or FLETC, on January 28, 2021.

Marcus began his career of service as a personnel management specialist with the Department of the Navy in 1983 and was assigned to the naval submarine base located in Kings Bay, Georgia. This position further inspired him to a life of service, so he went on to serve an Active-Duty tour in the United States Air Force.

Before he transferred to FLETC in 1999, Marcus served in several leadership assignments within the Navy. His career in FLETC spanned widely and included joining the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, after the tragic events of 9/11.

Marcus' life has been marked by distinguished commitment to serving his country and fellow man, which is why

he has received numerous awards and honors, to include the 2017 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service among many others.

It is people like Marcus who inspire us to live for something greater than ourselves, and I am thankful for the wonderful example he has set, which will surely outlast his career for countless years to come.

Madam Speaker, I wish him and his family the best as he embarks on his retirement.

#### NO VOTER FRAUD

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the treacherous and seditious behavior of some in this Nation who continue to poison the integrity of our democracy.

The voters have spoken. The recounts have spoken. The electoral college has spoken. Joe Biden will be the 46th President of the United States of America. Over 80 million people voted for Joe Biden—more than any other Presidential candidate in American history.

Joe Biden won blue States, like New York and California.

Joe Biden won swing States like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Joe Biden won red States, like Georgia and Arizona.

Joe Biden is the next President of the United States of America.

And yet there are some in this country who continue to peddle wild conspiracy theories without a shred of evidence:

The Republican Governor of Georgia found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican Governor of Arizona—no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican-led FBI found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican-led Department of Justice found no evidence of voter fraud.

Republican-appointed judges throughout the country have found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican Attorney General, Bill Barr, found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Supreme Court, with six Republican-appointed Justices dismissed the baseless lawsuit that contained not a shred of evidence of voter fraud.

Madam Speaker, Joe Biden was duly-elected as the next President of the United States of America, and yet there are some in this Nation who are behaving like members of the Jefferson Davis Caucus, including a former Member of this Chamber, who suggested that Texas secede.

Madam Speaker, it is time to respect the Constitution.

It is time to respect our democracy.

It is time to respect the voters.

It is time to respect the rule of law.

It is time to respect the peaceful transfer of power.

It is time to end this charade.

It is time to stop providing aid and comfort to an insurrection.

It is time to stop lying to the American people.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, thank You for giving us another day.

As we near the end of a long and difficult year, signs of hope begin to emerge. The long and difficult work of compromise and problem-solving has been encouraging. Continue to inspire the men and women of Congress to work together to fashion bills to fund the government and offer assistance to those who find themselves on the edge of economic disaster.

Bless as well those who, in great hope, deliver vaccines to the men and women who have been on the front line of the battle against the plague of COVID-19. May their work continue in good and improving health. Comfort those who have suffered the loss of loved ones during this difficult year.

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

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY FROM THE COVID-19 VIRUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as

Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of more than 300,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DICK HINCH, SPEAKER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the life and legacy of State Representative Dick Hinch, the speaker of the New Hampshire House. I was deeply saddened last week when I learned of the sudden passing of Speaker Hinch. He was yet another American we have lost due to COVID-19.

Dick was a dedicated elected official for the people of Merrimack, the town he represented at the State house for six terms. Just a week before his passing on December 2, Dick was sworn in as the new speaker of the New Hampshire House, a role he considered to be the honor of his life.

I saw him on election day, when he warmly greeted me at his polling place just like everyone else coming to vote. It didn't matter that I was a Democrat and he was a Republican. He knew that public service was a higher calling, and he treated everyone with the utmost respect.

Dick was a happy warrior and embodied the spirit of New Hampshire's citizen legislature. We are better off because of his decades of work on behalf of the people of Merrimack and New Hampshire.

My thoughts are with his wife, Pat, and their children, as well as his family, friends, and colleagues, during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

#### REMEMBERING PATROLMAN TYLER HERNDON

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patrolman Tyler Herndon of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, who passed away on December 11 in the line of duty.

He was a dedicated public servant, and many who knew him knew that he loved his job and his community immensely.

To his father, Mark; mother, Debbie; sister, Lindsey; and girlfriend, Holly, Tyler was someone who always put a smile on people's faces.

Tyler always wanted to be in law enforcement. After he received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from

UNC-Charlotte, he went on to pursue his dream.

May God bless Tyler's family and the many brave men and women serving with the Mount Holly Police Department.

#### WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to exhort all of us in this Chamber to work together.

I know there are those of us in this Chamber for whom the spending of one Federal dollar is a physically painful event, but now is not the time to be deficit hawks. Now is the time for us to come together.

The United States of America is more than the sum of its parts. In times of great danger to our Nation, we come together, and the Federal Government leads the way. We did it when we defeated fascism in Europe and Asia. We did it when we rebuilt Europe and Asia to become great allies and peaceful and productive partners.

We can do it again. We have a terrible enemy right now in the COVID virus. It is wrecking our economy, and it is killing our people. We have lost more than 300,000 people, more than our combat losses in World War II.

Let's work together for robust COVID relief for our economy. Let's get it done, Mr. Speaker.

#### CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT TRUMP ON VACCINE SUCCESS

(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, The Washington Times editorial board is appreciated for publishing "Joy, and Vaccines to the World," where they praised President Donald Trump for his efforts to bring a vaccine to the United States faster than any other vaccine in history.

The article is explaining:

The lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine that President Trump promised to deliver has arrived in record time. Hallelujah.

On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration concluded its review of the front-running vaccine developed and gave a green light for distribution. Initial shipments are expected to reach all 636 locations across the 50 States by today.

"Promises made, promises kept." Mr. Trump likes to say. That is the can-do spirit that makes America special. Just in time for Christmas, the fruits of Operation Warp Speed are starting to bring joy to the world.

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

Our family's sympathy for the death of former DNC Chairman Don Fowler.

### SURVIVAL CHECKS FOR MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are close to finalizing a relief package, but I ask my colleagues: Relief for whom?

A relief package without survival checks is not a relief package at all, nor is a relief package that leaves out millions of immigrants and their families. Any deal that we strike must include survival checks to families and immigrants, and mixed-status families must be included.

Earlier this year, countless families that I represent were denied stimulus checks, including U.S. citizens whose spouses are immigrants. We even excluded children who may have an immigrant parent.

How in the world did we exclude U.S. citizen children?

In this season of sacred holidays, I implore all of us to be compassionate and not punish kids for their parents' status. Families are struggling to put food on their tables and keep roofs over their heads.

Circumstances are dire. We need to put money directly into working families' pockets. I urge my colleagues that any relief package must include survival checks for everyone, including immigrant children.

### HONORING THOSE WHO HONOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Johnny Isakson and DAVID P. ROE, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, a bipartisan legislative package that includes two bills that I have proudly introduced this Congress, the VET TEC Expansion Act and the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act of 2020.

Since coming to Congress in 2007, one of my most important priorities in this Chamber has been to protect and improve the benefits that our Nation's veterans have earned and deserve. I introduced the VET TEC Expansion Act and the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act earlier this Congress in response to comments and feedback I received from veterans and veterans organizations throughout my district and across the country.

Both pieces of legislation seek to build upon existing veterans benefits programs, including the VET TEC pilot program and the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program, by expanding and streamlining them for veterans and veterans service providers who utilize them.

The VET TEC Expansion Act will continue to ensure that our heroes can enhance skills they developed in the

military when returning to private life by providing access to nontraditional and technology-oriented courses through the VET TEC pilot program. This bill would expand VET TEC to include part-time courses and permit additional course providers into the VET TEC pilot program.

I am also pleased that H.R. 7105, like the initial House-passed version of this bill, would increase the VET TEC funding authorization by \$30 million per year through 2023 to help the VA meet demand for this popular program with our veterans.

In addition, no veteran in my district or anywhere in the country should be homeless due to unnecessary VA staffing vacancies. The Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act would require that the VA contract out any consistently vacant HUD-VA Supportive Housing case management positions to community experts so that unused housing vouchers can be matched with homeless veterans who need them the most.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Dr. ROE for his unwavering commitment to our Nation's veterans throughout his time in this Congress, specifically as chairman and ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee over the course of the past 4 years and for his own personal service to the United States Army, serving in Korea.

His strong leadership on behalf of our fellow veterans has been unwavering since he came to Congress, and his tenacity, knowledge, and friendship will be missed in this Chamber after he retires from Congress.

On behalf of a very grateful Nation, we thank Dr. ROE for his servant's heart, for putting the veterans first, and for improving the quality of the care for them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill and thanking Congressman ROE for his service.

### HOPE AND DESPAIR IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, there is a mix of hope and despair in central Florida.

This week, the first vaccines arrived to help protect our healthcare professionals. But unemployment remains around 10 percent; food banks lay bare; many are behind on rent; and coronavirus cases continue to rise.

The message is clear in both Florida and across our Nation: Americans need help.

It is time for this Congress to come together and pass meaningful coronavirus emergency relief to defeat the virus; to help small businesses and the unemployed; and to ensure food, housing, and direct stimulus checks for our constituents.

The solution is within our grasp. We just need to come together this week to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues: Don't be an Ebenezer Scrooge. Embrace the Christmas spirit. Join me and vote "yes."

### RECOGNIZING MIKE VUCKOVICH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special shout-out to Mike Vuckovich, superintendent of the Indiana Area School District.

Mike was recently recognized as one of America's Superintendents to Watch for 2020. He was one of only 24 recipients to receive this recognition and the only Pennsylvanian.

Mike has been on the job just 2 years but recently was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association as a 2020 Superintendent to Watch. The organization selects superintendents from across the country who "demonstrate dynamic, fast-paced leadership with strong communication at its core."

This is exactly what Mike has done with his time at Indiana Area School District.

Mike has been a champion for digital technology and online communication throughout the district, investments that have clearly come in handy in the age of coronavirus. The district's new website and social media accounts have been a useful tool to keep parents, teachers, and students on the same page during what has undoubtedly been a hectic and stressful school year.

I thank Mike for his drive, dedication, and initiative, and I am pleased to have a leader like Mike in Indiana County.

□ 1415

### EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SHOOTING

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 26 beautiful lives that were lost on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago, 20 innocent children and six selfless educators were murdered in what should have been the safest places in their community: their school.

Today, I ask that we pause, reflect, remember, and recommit ourselves to working to ensure that this never happens again.

For many residents of Newtown, Connecticut, 8 years feels like yesterday. Time has stood still for so many families as they attempt to rebuild their



community and honor the precious memory of their children and educators.

Mr. Speaker, much needs to be done to ensure that our schools and communities are safe places. We owe it to the 26 families from Sandy Hook to work together to make this happen. We owe it to the over 38,000 people who will die each year from gun violence to do better. We owe it to the 50 million people who are affected by mental health challenges each year. We owe it to ourselves, because we are capable of creating change.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor, remember, and reflect, and then we get back to work.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DAWN BAKER

(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 Savannah, Georgia, WTOC news anchor Dawn Baker for appearing in this year's "CNN Heroes" special. In the special, she was recognized as the first person to participate in phase 3 of the COVID-19 vaccine trial in the U.S.

Local news anchors have thousands of viewers, so they have a great responsibility to serve as positive leaders in their community. By demonstrating the importance and safety of the coronavirus vaccine, which is now being distributed across the country, Dawn has exemplified the qualities of a true leader.

However, this is not the first time Dawn has been a hero. Throughout her career in journalism, she has blessed countless lives through her dedication to improving her community and the State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I take this time to thank all heroes like Dawn Baker for stepping up to the plate during an unprecedented time and demonstrating commitment to a better, healthier America.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 16, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM 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 December 16, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2032.

That the Senate passed S. 2054.

That the Senate passed S. 3152.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4356.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6100.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7259.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8354.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,  
Deputy Clerk.

#### 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 the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

#### DEPENDABLE EMPLOYMENT AND LIVING IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 7105) to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Determination of budgetary effects.

#### TITLE I—EDUCATION

##### Subtitle A—Education Generally

Sec. 1001. Improvements to Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1002. Expansion of eligibility for Fry Scholarship to children and spouses of certain deceased members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 1003. Period for election to receive benefits under All-Volunteer Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1004. Phase out of All-Volunteer Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 1005. Requirements for in-State tuition.

Sec. 1006. Expansion of authority for certain qualifying work-study activities for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include outreach services provided through congressional offices.

Sec. 1007. Restoration of entitlement to rehabilitation programs for veterans affected by school closure or disapproval.

Sec. 1008. Technical correction to clarify eligibility for participation in Yellow Ribbon Program of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1009. Clarification of educational assistance for individuals who pursue an approved program of education leading to a degree while on active duty.

Sec. 1010. Verification of enrollment for purposes of receipt of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance benefits.

Sec. 1011. Clarification regarding the dependents to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 1012. Expansion of reasons for which a course of education may be disapproved.

Sec. 1013. Oversight of educational institutions with approved programs: risk-based surveys.

Sec. 1014. Oversight of educational institutions subject to Government action for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1015. Additional requirement for approval of educational institutions for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1016. Clarification of accreditation for law schools for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1017. Clarification of grounds for disapproval of a course for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1018. Requirements for educational institutions participating in the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 1019. Overpayments to eligible persons or veterans.

Sec. 1020. Improvements to limitation on certain advertising, sales, and enrollment practices.

Sec. 1021. Charge to entitlement to educational assistance for individuals who do not transfer credits from certain closed or disapproved programs of education.

Sec. 1022. Department of Veterans Affairs treatment of for-profit educational institutions converted to nonprofit educational institutions.

Sec. 1023. Authority of State approving agencies to conduct outreach activities.

Sec. 1024. Limitation on colocation and administration of State approving agencies.

Sec. 1025. Elimination of period of eligibility for training and rehabilitation for certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

##### Subtitle B—Pandemic Assistance

Sec. 1101. Definitions.

Sec. 1102. Continuation of Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance benefits during COVID-19 emergency.

Sec. 1103. Effects of closure of educational institution and modification of courses by reason of COVID-19 emergency.

Sec. 1104. Payment of educational assistance in cases of withdrawal.

Sec. 1105. Modification of time limitations on use of entitlement.

Sec. 1106. Apprenticeship or on-job training requirements.

Sec. 1107. Inclusion of training establishments in certain provisions related to COVID-19 emergency.

Sec. 1108. Treatment of payment of allowances under Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act.

**TITLE II—BENEFITS**

**Subtitle A—Benefits Generally**

- Sec. 2001. Revision of definition of Vietnam era for purposes of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2002. Matters relating to Department of Veterans Affairs medical disability examinations.
- Sec. 2003. Medal of Honor special pension for surviving spouses.
- Sec. 2004. Modernization of service-disabled veterans insurance.
- Sec. 2005. Denial of claims for traumatic injury protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.
- Sec. 2006. Publication and acceptance of disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2007. Threshold for reporting debts to consumer reporting agencies.
- Sec. 2008. Removal of dependents from award of compensation or pension.
- Sec. 2009. Eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses who remarry after age 55.
- Sec. 2010. Study on exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxicants at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan.
- Sec. 2011. Comptroller General briefing and report on repealing manifestation period for presumptions of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents.
- Sec. 2012. Extension of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use income information from other agencies.
- Sec. 2013. Extension on certain limits on payments of pension.
- Subtitle B—Housing**
- Sec. 2101. Eligibility of certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces for home loans from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2102. Reducing loan fees for certain veterans affected by major disasters.
- Sec. 2103. Extension of certain housing loan fees.
- Sec. 2104. Collection of overpayments of specially adapted housing assistance.
- Subtitle C—Burial Matters**
- Sec. 2201. Transportation of deceased veterans to veterans' cemeteries.
- Sec. 2202. Increase in certain funeral benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2203. Outer burial receptacles for each new grave in cemeteries that are the subjects of certain grants made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2204. Provision of inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 2205. Aid to counties for establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.
- Sec. 2206. Increase in maximum amount of grants to States, counties, and tribal organizations for operating and maintaining veterans' cemeteries.
- Sec. 2207. Provision of urns and commemorative plaques for remains of certain veterans whose cremated remains are not interred in certain cemeteries.
- Sec. 2208. Training of State and tribal veterans' cemetery personnel by National Cemetery Administration.

**TITLE III—HEALTH CARE**

**Subtitle A—Health Care Generally**

- Sec. 3001. Expansion of modifications to Veteran Directed Care program.
- Sec. 3002. Prohibition on collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe.
- Sec. 3003. Oversight for State homes regarding COVID-19 infections, response capacity, and staffing levels.
- Sec. 3004. Grants for State homes located on tribal lands.
- Sec. 3005. Continuation of Women's Health Transition Training program of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 3006. Authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans.
- Sec. 3007. Waiver of requirements of Department of Veterans Affairs for receipt of per diem payments for domiciliary care at State homes and modification of eligibility for such payments.
- Sec. 3008. Expansion of quarterly update of information on staffing and vacancies at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include information on duration of hiring process.
- Sec. 3009. Requirement for certain Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities to have physical location for the disposal of controlled substances medications.
- Sec. 3010. Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for clinical observation by undergraduate students.
- Subtitle B—Scheduling and Consult Management**
- Sec. 3101. Process and requirements for scheduling appointments for health care from Department of Veterans Affairs and non-Department health care.
- Sec. 3102. Audits regarding scheduling of appointments and management of consultations for health care from Department of Veterans Affairs and non-Department health care.
- Sec. 3103. Administration of non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care.
- Sec. 3104. Examination of health care consultation and scheduling positions of Department of Veterans Affairs.

**TITLE IV—NAVY SEAL BILL MULDER**

- Sec. 4001. Short title.
- Subtitle A—Service-connection and COVID-19**
- Sec. 4101. Presumptions of service-connection for members of Armed Forces who contract Coronavirus Disease 2019 under certain circumstances.
- Subtitle B—Assistance for Homeless Veterans**
- Sec. 4201. Flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency.
- Sec. 4202. Legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.
- Sec. 4203. Gap analysis of Department of Veterans Affairs programs that provide assistance to women veterans who are homeless.
- Sec. 4204. Improvements to grants awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to entities that provide services to homeless veterans.

- Sec. 4205. Repeal of sunset on authority to carry out program of referral and counseling services for veterans at risk for homelessness who are transitioning from certain institutions.
- Sec. 4206. Coordination of case management services for veterans receiving housing vouchers under Tribal Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program.
- Sec. 4207. Contracts relating to case managers for homeless veterans in supported housing program.
- Sec. 4208. Report on staffing of Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program.
- Subtitle C—Retraining Assistance for Veterans**
- Sec. 4301. Access for the Secretaries of Labor and Veterans Affairs to the Federal directory of new hires.
- Sec. 4302. Expansion of eligible class of providers of high technology programs of education for veterans.
- Sec. 4303. Pilot program for off-base transition training for veterans and spouses.
- Sec. 4304. Grants for provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces after separation, retirement, or discharge.
- Sec. 4305. One-year independent assessment of the effectiveness of Transition Assistance Program.
- Sec. 4306. Longitudinal study on changes to Transition Assistance Program.

**TITLE V—DEBORAH SAMPSON**

- Sec. 5001. Short title.
- Subtitle A—Improving Access for Women Veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs**
- Sec. 5101. Office of Women's Health in Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5102. Women veterans retrofit initiative.
- Sec. 5103. Establishment of environment of care standards and inspections at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.
- Sec. 5104. Provision of reintegration and readjustment services to veterans and family members in group retreat settings.
- Sec. 5105. Provision of legal services for women veterans.
- Sec. 5106. Comptroller General surveys and report on supportive services provided for very low-income women veterans.
- Sec. 5107. Programs on assistance for child care for certain veterans.
- Sec. 5108. Availability of prosthetics for women veterans from Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5109. Requirement to improve Department of Veterans Affairs women veterans call center.
- Sec. 5110. Study on infertility services furnished at Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5111. Sense of Congress on access to facilities of Department of Veterans Affairs by reservists for counseling and treatment relating to military sexual trauma.
- Subtitle B—Increasing Staff Cultural Competency**
- Sec. 5201. Staffing of women's health primary care providers at medical facilities of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 5202. Additional funding for primary care and emergency care clinicians in Women Veterans Health Care Mini-Residency Program.
- Sec. 5203. Establishment of women veteran training module for non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers.

Sec. 5204. Study on staffing of women veteran program manager program at medical centers of Department of Veterans Affairs and training of staff.

Sec. 5205. Study on Women Veteran Coordinator program.

Sec. 5206. Staffing improvement plan for peer specialists of Department of Veterans Affairs who are women.

*Subtitle C—Eliminating Harassment and Assault*

Sec. 5301. Expansion of coverage by Department of Veterans Affairs of counseling and treatment for sexual trauma.

Sec. 5302. Assessment of effects of intimate partner violence on women veterans by Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

Sec. 5303. Anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 5304. Pilot program on assisting veterans who experience intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

Sec. 5305. Study and task force on veterans experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

*Subtitle D—Data Collection and Reporting*

Sec. 5401. Requirement for collection and analysis of data on Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services and disaggregation of such data by gender, race, and ethnicity.

Sec. 5402. Study on barriers for women veterans to receipt of health care from Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 5403. Study on feasibility and advisability of offering Parenting STAIR program at all medical centers of Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Subtitle E—Benefits Matters*

Sec. 5501. Evaluation of service-connection of mental health conditions relating to military sexual trauma.

Sec. 5502. Choice of sex of Department of Veterans Affairs medical examiner for assessment of claims for compensation relating to disability resulting from physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment.

Sec. 5503. Secretary of Veterans Affairs report on implementing recommendations of Inspector General of Department of Veterans Affairs in certain report on denied posttraumatic stress disorder claims related to military sexual trauma.

**TITLE VI—REPRESENTATION AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION MATTERS**

Sec. 6001. Short title.

Sec. 6002. Plan to address the financial exploitation of veterans receiving pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 6003. Overpayments of pension to veterans receiving pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 6004. Evaluation of additional actions for verifying direct deposit information provided by veterans on applications for veterans pension.

Sec. 6005. Annual report on efforts of Department of Veterans Affairs to address the financial exploitation of veterans receiving pension.

Sec. 6006. Notice regarding fees charged in connection with filing an application for veterans pension.

Sec. 6007. Outreach plan for educating vulnerable veterans about potential financial exploitation relating to the receipt of pension.

**TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS**

*Subtitle A—Administrative and Other Matters*

Sec. 7001. Medical examination protocol for volunteer drivers participating in program of transportation services for veterans.

Sec. 7002. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs.

Sec. 7003. Preference for offerors employing veterans.

Sec. 7004. Extension of certain employment and reemployment rights to members of the National Guard who perform State active duty.

Sec. 7005. Repayment of misused benefits.

Sec. 7006. Exemption of certain transfers.

Sec. 7007. Report and planned actions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address certain high-risk areas of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 7008. Annual report by Secretary of Veterans Affairs on implementation of priority recommendations of Comptroller General of the United States pertaining to Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 7009. Clarification of methods used to monitor compliance with certain limitations on subcontracting.

Sec. 7010. Department of Veterans Affairs requirement to provide certain notice to persons filing claims for damage, injury, or death on Standard Form 95.

*Subtitle B—Matters Relating to the Chief Financial Officer of Department of Veterans Affairs*

Sec. 7101. Definitions.

Sec. 7102. Plans for addressing material weaknesses and providing sufficient authority to Chief Financial Officer of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 7103. Chief Financial Officer attestation.

Sec. 7104. Chief Financial Officer responsibility for subordinate chief financial officers.

*Subtitle C—Servicemembers Civil Relief*

Sec. 7201. Clarification of delivery of notice of termination of leases of premises and motor vehicles for purposes of relief under Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Sec. 7202. Technical correction regarding extension of lease protections for servicemembers under stop movement orders in response to local, national, or global emergency.

**SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

**TITLE I—EDUCATION**

*Subtitle A—Education Generally*

**SEC. 1001. IMPROVEMENTS TO EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (b)(4) of section 3320 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by inserting “, or a dual degree program that includes such an undergraduate college degree,” after “undergraduate college degree”;

(B) by striking subclause (IX); and

(C) by redesignating subclauses (X) and (XI) as subclauses (IX) and (X), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “covered clinical training program for health care professionals or a” before “program of education”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) is an individual who has earned a graduate degree in a field referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) and is enrolled in a covered clinical training program for health care professionals.”.

(b) PRIORITY.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(c) PRIORITY.—(1) If the Secretary determines that there are insufficient funds available in a fiscal year to provide additional benefits under this section to all eligible individuals, the Secretary may give priority to the following eligible individuals:

“(A) Individuals who require the most credit hours described in subsection (b)(4).

“(B) Individuals who are entitled to educational assistance under this chapter by reason of paragraph (1), (2), (8), or (9) of section 3311(b) of this title.

“(2) The Secretary shall give priority to individuals under paragraph (1) in the following order:

“(A) Individuals who are enrolled in a program of education leading to an undergraduate degree in a field referred to in subsection (b)(4)(A)(i).

“(B) Individuals who are enrolled in a program of education leading to a teaching certificate.

“(C) Individuals who are enrolled in a dual-degree program leading to both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a field referred to in subsection (b)(4)(A)(i).

“(D) Individuals who have earned an undergraduate degree and are enrolled in a covered clinical training program for health care professionals.

“(E) Individuals who have earned a graduate degree and are enrolled in a covered clinical training program for health care professionals.”.

(c) AMOUNTS NOT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATION.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or chapter 36 of this title, any additional benefits under this section may not be counted toward the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits an individual’s receipt of allowance or assistance.”.

(d) COVERED CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM DEFINED.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) COVERED CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered clinical training program’ means any clinical training required by a health care professional to be licensed to practice in a State or locality.”.

**SEC. 1002. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FRY SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND SPOUSES OF CERTAIN DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 3311 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 105 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (11); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraphs (9) and (10):

“(9) An individual who is the child or spouse of a person who, on or after September 11, 2001, dies in line of duty while serving on duty other than active duty as a member of the Armed Forces.

“(10) An individual who is the child or spouse of a member of the Selected Reserve who dies on

or after September 11, 2001, while a member of the Selected Reserve from a service-connected disability.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 3311(f), by striking “paragraph (8)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraphs (8), (9), and (10)”.

(2) In section 3313(c)(1), by striking “(8), or (9)” and inserting “(8), (9), (10), or (11)”.

(3) In section 3317(a), in the second sentence, by striking “paragraphs (1), (2), (8), and (9)” and inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), (8), (9), (10), and (11)”.

(4) In section 3320, as amended by section 1001 of this title, in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “(8), or (9)” and inserting “(8), (9), (10), or (11)”.

(5) In section 3322—

(A) in subsection (e), by striking both “sections 3311(b)(8) and 3319” and inserting “section 3319 and paragraph (8), (9), or (10) of section 3311 of this title”;

(B) in subsection (f), by striking “section 3311(b)(8)” and inserting “paragraph (8), (9), or (10) of section 3311 of this title”; and

(C) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “either section 3311(b)(8) or chapter 35” and inserting “either chapter 35 or paragraph (8), (9), or (10) of section 3311”.

(c) APPLICABILITY DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect immediately after the amendments made by section 105 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48) take effect and shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1003. PERIOD FOR ELECTION TO RECEIVE BENEFITS UNDER ALL-VOLUNTEER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Any such election shall be made at the time the individual initially enters on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces” and inserting “Any such election shall be made during the 90-day period beginning on the day that is 180 days after the date on which the individual initially enters initial training”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “that such individual is entitled to such pay” and inserting “that begin after the date that is 270 days after the date on which the individual initially enters initial training”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1004. PHASE OUT OF ALL-VOLUNTEER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 3011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “after June 30, 1985” and inserting “during the period beginning July 1, 1985, and ending September 30, 2030”.

**SEC. 1005. REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-STATE TUITION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3679(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “less than three years before the date of enrollment in the course concerned”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “It shall” and inserting “(A) It shall”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) To the extent feasible, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet website of the Department a database explaining any requirements described in subparagraph (A) that are established by a public institution of higher learning for an individual to be charged tuition and fees at a rate that is equal

to or less than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for residents of the State in which the institution is located. The Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided by such an institution that does not provide the Secretary—

“(i) an initial explanation of such requirements; and

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which any such requirements change, the updated requirements.”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1006. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING WORK-STUDY ACTIVITIES FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) The following activities carried out at the offices of Members of Congress for such Members:

“(i) The distribution of information to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their dependents about the benefits and services under laws administered by the Secretary and other appropriate governmental and nongovernmental programs.

“(ii) The preparation and processing of papers and other documents, including documents to assist in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1007. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**

(a) ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3699 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “chapter 30,” each time it appears and inserting “chapter 30, 31”.

(b) PAYMENT OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.—Section 3680(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “or a subsistence allowance described in section 3108” before “, during”; and

(2) by inserting “or allowance” after “such a stipend”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 634; Public Law 116–140) is hereby repealed.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply as if included in the enactment of section 109 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 131 Stat. 978).

**SEC. 1008. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 3317(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “the full cost of established charges (as specified in section 3313)” and inserting “the full cost of tuition and fees for a program of education”; and

(2) by striking “those established charges” and inserting “such tuition and fees”.

**SEC. 1009. CLARIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO PURSUE AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION LEADING TO A DEGREE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 30 DAYS” after “ACTIVE DUTY”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “for a period of more than 30 days” after “active duty”; and

(3) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “for a period of more than 30 days” after “active duty”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2022.

**SEC. 1010. VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT FOR PURPOSES OF RECEIPT OF POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall require—

“(A) each educational institution to submit to the Secretary verification of each individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education at the educational institution and is receiving educational assistance under this chapter—

“(i) not later than such time as the Secretary determines reasonable after the date on which the individual is enrolled; and

“(ii) not later than such time as the Secretary determines reasonable after the last date on which a student is able to withdraw from the course or program of education without penalty; and

“(B) each individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education and is receiving educational assistance under this chapter to submit to the Secretary verification of such enrollment for each month during which the individual is so enrolled and receiving such educational assistance.

“(2) Verification under this subsection shall be in an electronic form prescribed by the Secretary.

“(3) If an individual fails to submit the verification required under paragraph (1)(B) for two consecutive months, the Secretary may not make a monthly stipend payment to the individual under this section until the individual submits such verification.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1011. CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE DEPENDENTS TO WHOM ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE TRANSFERRED UNDER THE POST 9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3319(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.—

“(1) TRANSFER.—An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual’s entitlement to an eligible dependent or a combination of eligible dependents.

“(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible dependent’ has the meaning given the term ‘dependent’ under subparagraphs (A), (I), and (D) of section 1072(2) of title 10.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to educational assistance payable under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, before, on, or after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1012. EXPANSION OF REASONS FOR WHICH A COURSE OF EDUCATION MAY BE DISAPPROVED.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3672(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting or “or (D)” after “subparagraph (C)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) A program that is described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph and offered by an

educational institution that is at risk of losing accreditation shall not be deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter. For purposes of this subparagraph, an educational institution is at risk of losing accreditation if that educational institution has received from the relevant accrediting agency or association a notice described in section 3673(e)(2)(D) of this title.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1013. OVERSIGHT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH APPROVED PROGRAMS: RISK-BASED SURVEYS.**

(a) **RISK-BASED SURVEYS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter I of chapter 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3673 the following new section:

**“§3673A. Risk-based surveys**

“(a) **DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary, in partnership with State approving agencies, shall develop a searchable risk-based survey for oversight of educational institutions with courses and programs of education approved under this chapter.

“(b) **SCOPE.**—(1) The scope of the risk-based survey developed under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Secretary, in partnership with the State approving agency.

“(2) At a minimum the scope determined under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Rapid increase in veteran enrollment.

“(B) Rapid increase in tuition and fees.

“(C) Complaints tracked and published with the mechanism required by section 3698(b)(2) from students pursuing programs of education with educational assistance furnished under laws administered by the Secretary, based on severity or volume of the complaints.

“(D) Compliance with section 3680A(d)(1) of this title.

“(E) Veteran completion rates.

“(F) Indicators of financial stability.

“(G) Review of the advertising and recruiting practices of the educational institution, including those by third-party contractors of the educational institution.

“(H) Matters for which the Federal Government or a State Government brings an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against an educational institution, including matters in cases in which the Federal Government or the State comes to a settled agreement on such matters outside of the court.

“(c) **DATABASE.**—The Secretary, in partnership with the State approving agencies under this chapter, shall establish a database or use an existing system, as the Secretary considers appropriate, to serve as a central repository for information required for or collected during site visits for the risk-based survey developed under subsection (a), so as to improve future oversight of educational institutions with programs of education approved under this chapter.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3673 the following new item:

“3673A. Risk-based surveys.”.

(b) **USE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES FOR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3673(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”; and

(B) by striking “compliance and risk-based surveys” and inserting “a risk-based survey developed under section 3673A of this title”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2022.

**SEC. 1014. OVERSIGHT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT ACTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3673 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT ACTION.**—(1)(A) If the Secretary receives notice described in paragraph (2), or otherwise becomes aware of an action or event described in paragraph (3), with respect to an educational institution, the Secretary shall transmit such notice or provide notice of such action or event to the State approving agency for the State where the educational institution is located by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives such notice or becomes aware of such action or event.

“(B) If a State approving agency receives notice as described in paragraph (2), or otherwise becomes aware of an action or event described in paragraph (3), with respect to an educational institution, other than from the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the State approving agency shall immediately notify the Secretary.

“(C) Not later than 60 days after the date on which a State approving agency receives notice under subparagraph (A), receives notice as described in subparagraph (B), or becomes aware as described in such subparagraph, as the case may be, regarding an educational institution, such State approving agency shall—

“(i) complete a risk-based survey of such educational institution; and

“(ii) provide the Secretary with—

“(I) a complete report on the findings of the State approving agency with respect to the risk-based survey completed under clause (i) and any actions taken as a result of such findings; and

“(II) any supporting documentation and pertinent records.

“(2) Notice described in this paragraph is any of the following:

“(A) Notice from the Secretary of Education of an event under paragraph (3)(A).

“(B) Notice of an event under paragraph (3)(B).

“(C) Notice from a State of an action taken by that State under paragraph (3)(C).

“(D) Notice provided by an accrediting agency or association of an action described in paragraph (3)(D) taken by that agency or association.

“(E) Notice that the Secretary of Education has placed the educational institution on provisional certification status.

“(3) An action or event under this paragraph is any of the following:

“(A) The receipt by an educational institution of payments under the heightened cash monitoring level 2 payment method pursuant to section 487(c)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094).

“(B) Punitive action taken by the Attorney General, the Federal Trade Commission, or any other Federal department or agency for misconduct or misleading marketing practices that would violate the standards defined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(C) Punitive action taken by a State against an educational institution.

“(D) The loss, or risk of loss, by an educational institution of an accreditation from an accrediting agency or association, including notice of probation, suspension, an order to show cause relating to the educational institution’s academic policies and practices or to its financial stability, or revocation of accreditation.

“(E) The placement of an educational institution on provisional certification status by the Secretary of Education.

“(4) If a State approving agency disapproves or suspends an educational institution, the State approving agency shall provide notice of such disapproval or suspension to the Secretary and to all other State approving agencies.

“(5) This subsection shall be carried out using amounts made available pursuant to section 3674(a)(4) of this title as long as such amounts remain available.

“(6) For each notice transmitted or provided to a State approving agency under paragraph

(1) with respect to an educational institution, the Secretary shall ensure the careful review of—

“(A) to the extent possible, the action that gave rise to such notice; and

“(B) any other action against the educational institution by any Federal or State government entity or by the educational institution’s accreditor.

“(7) In this subsection, the term ‘risk-based survey’ means the risk-based survey developed under section 3673A of this title.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1015. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3675 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The educational institution is approved and participates in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or the Secretary has waived the requirement under this paragraph with respect to an educational institution and submits to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives notice of such waiver.”.

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on any waivers issued pursuant to subsection (b)(4) or section 3672(b)(2)(A)(i) of this title.

“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, for the year covered by the report, the following:

“(A) The name of each educational institution for which a waiver was issued.

“(B) The justification for each such waiver.

“(C) The total number of waivers issued.”.

(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF STANDARD COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAMS.**—Clause (i) of section 3672(b)(2)(A) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) or (D), an accredited standard college degree program offered at a public or not-for-profit proprietary educational institution that—

“(I) is accredited by an agency or association recognized for that purpose by the Secretary of Education; and

“(II) is approved and participates in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), unless the Secretary has waived the requirement to participate in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1016. CLARIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION FOR LAW SCHOOLS FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraphs (14)(B) and (15)(B) of section 3676(c) of title 38, United States Code, are each amended—

(1) by striking “an accrediting agency” both places it appears and inserting “a specialized accrediting agency for programs of legal education”; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: “, from which recipients of law degrees from such accredited programs are eligible to sit for a bar examination in any State”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1017. CLARIFICATION OF GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL OF A COURSE FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(including failure to comply with a risk-based survey under this chapter or secure an affirmation of approval by the appropriate State approving agency following the survey)” after “requirements of this chapter”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) In this section, the term ‘risk-based survey’ means a risk-based survey developed under section 3673A(a) of this title.”

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1018. REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 1017 of this title, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f)(1) Except as provided by paragraph (5), a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State approving agency, shall take an action described in paragraph (4)(A) if the State approving agency or the Secretary, when acting in the role of the State approving agency, determines that an educational institution does not perform any of the following:

“(A) Prior to the enrollment of a covered individual in a course of education at the educational institution, provide the individual with a form that contains information personalized to the individual that describes—

“(i) the estimated total cost of the course, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, and any other additional costs;

“(ii) an estimate of the cost for living expenses for students enrolled in the course;

“(iii) the amount of the costs under clauses (i) and (ii) that are covered by the educational assistance provided to the individual under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, as the case may be;

“(iv) the type and amount of Federal financial aid not administered by the Secretary and financial aid offered by the institution that the individual may qualify to receive;

“(v) an estimate of the amount of student loan debt the individual would have upon graduation;

“(vi) information regarding graduation rates;

“(vii) job-placement rates for graduates of the course, if available;

“(viii) information regarding the acceptance by the institution of transfer of credits, including military credits;

“(ix) any conditions or additional requirements, including training, experience, or examinations, required to obtain the license, certification, or approval for which the course of education is designed to provide preparation; and

“(x) other information to facilitate comparison by the individual of aid packages offered by different educational institutions.

“(B) Not later than 15 days after the date on which the institution (or the governing body of the institution) determines tuition rates and fees for an academic year that is different than the amount being charged by the institution, provide a covered individual enrolled in a course of education at the educational institution with the form under subparagraph (A) that contains updated information.

“(C) Maintain policies to—

“(i) inform each covered individual enrolled in a course of education at the educational institution of the availability of Federal financial aid not administered by the Secretary and financial aid offered by the institution; and

“(ii) alert such individual of the potential eligibility of the individual for such financial aid before packaging or arranging student loans or alternative financing programs for the individual.

“(D) Maintain policies to—

“(i) prohibit the automatic renewal of a covered individual in courses and programs of education; and

“(ii) ensure that each covered individual approves of the enrollment of the individual in a course.

“(E) Provide to a covered individual enrolled in a course of education at the educational institution with information regarding the requirements to graduate from such course, including information regarding when required classes will be offered and a timeline to graduate.

“(F) With respect to an accredited educational institution, obtain the approval of the accrediting agency for each new course or program of the institution before enrolling covered individuals in such courses or programs if the accrediting agency determines that such approval is appropriate under the substantive change requirements of the accrediting agency regarding the quality, objectives, scope, or control of the institution.

“(G) Maintain a policy that—

“(i) ensures that members of the Armed Forces, including the reserve components and the National Guard, who enroll in a course of education at the educational institution may be readmitted at such institution if such members are temporarily unavailable or have to suspend such enrollment by reason of serving in the Armed Forces; and

“(ii) otherwise accommodates such members during short absences by reason of such service.

“(H) Designate an employee of the educational institution to serve as a point of contact for covered individuals and the family of such individuals needing assistance with respect to academic counseling, financial counseling, disability counseling, and other information regarding completing a course of education at such institution, including by referring such individuals and family to the appropriate persons for such counseling and information.

“(2) Except as provided by paragraph (5), a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State approving agency, shall take an action described in paragraph (4)(A) if the State approving agency, the Secretary, or any Federal agency, determines that an educational institution does any of the following:

“(A) Carries out deceptive or persistent recruiting techniques, including on military installations, that may include—

“(i) misrepresentation (as defined in section 3696(e)(2)(B) of this title) or payment of incentive compensation;

“(ii) during any 1-month period making three or more unsolicited contacts to a covered individual, including contacts by phone, email, or in-person; or

“(iii) engaging in same-day recruitment and registration.

“(B) Pays inducements, including any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, transportation, lodging, meals, or other item having a monetary value of more than a de minimis amount, to any individual or entity, or its agents including third party lead generators or marketing firms other than salaries paid to employees or fees paid to contractors in conformity with all applicable laws for the purpose of securing enrollments of covered individuals or obtaining access to educational assistance under this title, with the exception of scholarships, grants, and tuition reductions provided by the educational institution.

“(3) A State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State approving agency, shall take an action described in paragraph (4)(A) if the State approving agen-

cy or the Secretary, when acting in the role of the State approving agency, determines that an educational institution is the subject of a negative action made by the accrediting agency that accredits the institution, including any of the following:

“(A) Accreditor sanctions.

“(B) Accreditation probation.

“(C) The loss of accreditation or candidacy for accreditation.

“(4)(A) An action described in this subparagraph is any of the following:

“(i) Submitting to the Secretary a recommendation that the Secretary publish a warning on the internet website of the Department described in section 3698(c)(2) of this title, or such other similar internet website of the Department, that describes how an educational institution is failing to meet a requirement under paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

“(ii) Disapproving a course for purposes of this chapter.

“(B)(i) The Secretary shall establish guidelines to ensure that the actions described in subparagraph (A) are applied in a proportional and uniform manner by State approving agencies, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State approving agency.

“(ii) Each State approving agency and the Secretary, when acting in the role of the State approving agency, shall adhere to the guidelines established under clause (i).

“(C) The State approving agency, in consultation with the Secretary, or the Secretary when acting in the role of the State approving agency, may limit an action described in subparagraph (A)(ii) to individuals not enrolled at the educational institution before the period described in such subparagraph.

“(5)(A) The Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraph (1) or waive the requirements of paragraph (2) with respect to an educational institution for a 1-academic-year period beginning in August of the year in which the waiver is made. A single educational institution may not receive waivers under this paragraph for more than 2 consecutive academic years.

“(B) To be considered for a waiver under this paragraph, an educational institution shall submit to the Secretary an application prior to the first day of the academic year for which the waiver is sought.

“(6) Not later than October 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives the following reports:

“(A) A report, which shall be made publicly available, that includes the following:

“(i) A summary of each action described in paragraph (4)(A) made during the year covered by the report, including—

“(I) the name of the educational institution;

“(II) the type of action taken;

“(III) the rationale for the action, including how the educational institution was not in compliance with this subsection;

“(IV) the length of time that the educational institution was not in such compliance; and

“(V) whether the educational institution was also not in compliance with this subsection during any of the 2 years prior to the year covered by the report.

“(ii) A summary and justifications for the waivers made under paragraph (5) during the year covered by the report, including the total number of waivers each educational institution has received.

“(B) A report containing the recommendations of the Secretary with respect to any legislative actions the Secretary determines appropriate to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that is consistent with the requirements that educational institutions must meet for purposes of other departments or agencies of the Federal Government.

“(7) In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual who is pursuing a

course of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10.”

(b) **APPLICATION DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on June 15, 2021, and shall apply to an educational institution beginning on August 1, 2021, except that an educational institution may submit an application for a waiver under subsection (f)(5) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), beginning on June 15, 2021.

**SEC. 1019. OVERPAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS OR VETERANS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (b) of section 3685 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Any overpayment to a veteran or eligible person with respect to pursuit by the veteran or eligible person of a program of education at an educational institution shall constitute a liability of the educational institution to the United States if—

“(1) the Secretary finds that the overpayment has been made as the result of—

“(A) the willful or negligent failure of an educational institution to report, as required under this chapter or chapter 34 or 35 of this title, to the Department of Veterans Affairs excessive absences from a course, or discontinuance or interruption of a course by the veteran or eligible person; or

“(B) the willful or negligent false certification by an educational institution; or

“(2) the benefit payment sent to an educational institution on behalf of an eligible veteran or person is made pursuant to—

“(A) section 3313(h) of this title;

“(B) section 3317 of this title; or

“(C) section 3680(d) of this title; or

“(D) section 3320(d) of this title.”

(b) **CLARIFYING AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (a) of such section is further amended by inserting “relating to educational assistance under a law administered by the Secretary” after “made to a veteran or eligible person”.

**SEC. 1020. IMPROVEMENTS TO LIMITATION ON CERTAIN ADVERTISING, SALES, AND ENROLLMENT PRACTICES.**

(a) **PROHIBITION ON SUBSTANTIAL MISREPRESENTATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3696 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§3696. Prohibition on certain advertising, sales, and enrollment practices**

“(a) **PROHIBITION ON ENGAGING IN SUBSTANTIAL MISREPRESENTATION.**—An educational institution with a course or program of education approved under this chapter, and an entity that owns such an educational institution, shall not engage in substantial misrepresentation described in subsection (b).

“(b) **SUBSTANTIAL MISREPRESENTATION DESCRIBED.**—(1) Substantial misrepresentation described in this paragraph is substantial misrepresentation by an educational institution, a representative of the institution, or any person with whom the institution has an agreement to provide educational programs, marketing, advertising, recruiting or admissions services, concerning any of the following:

“(A) The nature of the educational program of the institution, including misrepresentation regarding—

“(i) the particular type, specific source, or nature and extent, of the accreditation of the institution or a course of education at the institution;

“(ii) whether a student may transfer course credits to another institution;

“(iii) conditions under which the institution will accept transfer credits earned at another institution;

“(iv) whether successful completion of a course of instruction qualifies a student—

“(I) for acceptance to a labor union or similar organization; or

“(II) to receive, to apply to take, or to take an examination required to receive a local, State, or Federal license, or a nongovernmental certification required as a precondition for employment, or to perform certain functions in the States in which the educational program is offered, or to meet additional conditions that the institution knows or reasonably should know are generally needed to secure employment in a recognized occupation for which the program is represented to prepare students;

“(v) the requirements for successfully completing the course of study or program and the circumstances that would constitute grounds for terminating the student’s enrollment;

“(vi) whether the courses of education at the institution are recommended or have been the subject of unsolicited testimonials or endorsements by—

“(I) vocational counselors, high schools, colleges, educational organizations, employment agencies, members of a particular industry, students, former students, or others; or

“(II) officials of a local or State government or the Federal Government;

“(vii) the size, location, facilities, or equipment of the institution;

“(viii) the availability, frequency, and appropriateness of the courses of education and programs to the employment objectives that the institution states the courses and programs are designed to meet;

“(ix) the nature, age, and availability of the training devices or equipment of the institution and the appropriateness to the employment objectives that the institution states the courses and programs are designed to meet;

“(x) the number, availability, and qualifications, including the training and experience, of the faculty and other personnel of the institution;

“(xi) the availability of part-time employment or other forms of financial assistance;

“(xii) the nature and availability of any tutorial or specialized instruction, guidance and counseling, or other supplementary assistance the institution will provide students before, during, or after the completion of a course of education;

“(xiii) the nature or extent of any prerequisites established for enrollment in any course of education;

“(xiv) the subject matter, content of the course of education, or any other fact related to the degree, diploma, certificate of completion, or any similar document that the student is to be, or is, awarded upon completion of the course of education; and

“(xv) whether the degree that the institution will confer upon completion of the course of education has been authorized by the appropriate State educational agency, including with respect to cases where the institution fails to disclose facts regarding the lack of such authorization in any advertising or promotional materials that reference such degree.

“(B) The financial charges of the institution, including misrepresentation regarding—

“(i) offers of scholarships to pay all or part of a course charge;

“(ii) whether a particular charge is the customary charge at the institution for a course;

“(iii) the cost of the program and the refund policy of the institution if the student does not complete the program;

“(iv) the availability or nature of any financial assistance offered to students, including a student’s responsibility to repay any loans, regardless of whether the student is successful in completing the program and obtaining employment; and

“(v) the student’s right to reject any particular type of financial aid or other assistance, or whether the student must apply for a particular type of financial aid, such as financing offered by the institution.

“(C) The employability of the graduates of the institution, including misrepresentation regarding—

“(i) the relationship of the institution with any organization, employment agency, or other agency providing authorized training leading directly to employment;

“(ii) the plans of the institution to maintain a placement service for graduates or otherwise assist graduates to obtain employment;

“(iii) the knowledge of the institution about the current or likely future conditions, compensation, or employment opportunities in the industry or occupation for which the students are being prepared;

“(iv) job market statistics maintained by the Federal Government in relation to the potential placement of the graduates of the institution; and

“(v) other requirements that are generally needed to be employed in the fields for which the training is provided, such as requirements related to commercial driving licenses or permits to carry firearms, and failing to disclose factors that would prevent an applicant from qualifying for such requirements, such as prior criminal records or preexisting medical conditions.

“(2) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘misleading statement’ includes any communication, action, omission, or intimation made in writing, visually, orally, or through other means, that has the likelihood or tendency to mislead the intended recipient of the communication under the circumstances in which the communication is made. Such term includes the use of student endorsements or testimonials for an educational institution that a student gives to the institution either under duress or because the institution required the student to make such an endorsement or testimonial to participate in a program of education.

“(B) The term ‘misrepresentation’ means any false, erroneous, or misleading statement, action, omission, or intimation made directly or indirectly to a student, a prospective student, the public, an accrediting agency, a State agency, or to the Secretary by an eligible institution, one of its representatives, or any person with whom the institution has an agreement to provide educational programs, marketing, advertising, recruiting or admissions services.

“(C) The term ‘substantial misrepresentation’ means misrepresentation in which the person to whom it was made could reasonably be expected to rely, or has reasonably relied, to that person’s detriment.

“(c) **LIMITATION ON CERTAIN COMMISSIONS, BONUSES, AND OTHER INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**—An educational institution with a course or program of education approved under this chapter, and an entity that owns such an educational institution, shall not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance.

“(d) **REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN RECORDS.**—(1) To ensure compliance with this section, any educational institution offering courses approved for the enrollment of eligible persons or veterans shall maintain a complete record of all advertising, sales, or enrollment materials (and copies thereof) utilized by or on behalf of the institution during the preceding two-year period. Such record shall be available for inspection by the State approving agency or the Secretary.

“(2) Such materials shall include but are not limited to any direct mail pieces, brochures, printed literature used by sales persons, films, video tapes, and audio tapes disseminated through broadcast media, material disseminated through print, digital, or electronic media, tear sheets, leaflets, handbills, fliers, and any sales or recruitment manuals used to instruct sales personnel, agents, or representatives of such institution.

“(e) **AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—(1) The Secretary shall, pursuant to section 3694 of this title, enter into an agreement

with the Federal Trade Commission to utilize, where appropriate, its services and facilities, consistent with its available resources, in carrying out investigations and making the Under Secretary of Benefit's preliminary findings under subsection (g)(1).

“(2) Such agreement shall provide that cases arising under subsection (a) of this section or any similar matters with respect to any of the requirements of this chapter or chapters 34 and 35 of this title may be referred to the Federal Trade Commission which in its discretion will conduct an investigation and make preliminary findings.

“(3) The findings and results of any investigation under paragraph (2) shall be referred to the Under Secretary for Benefits, who shall take appropriate action under subsection (g) in such cases not later than 60 days after the date of such referral.

“(f) FINAL JUDGMENTS FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Whenever the Secretary becomes aware of a final judgment by a Federal agency against an educational institution or owner of an educational institution pertaining to substantial misrepresentation described in subsection (b) or of other credible evidence relating to a violation of subsection (a), the Secretary, in partnership with the applicable State approving agency, shall—

“(1) within 30 days, alert the educational institution or owner that it is at risk of losing approval under this chapter of its courses or programs of education;

“(2) provide the educational institution or owner 60 days to provide any information it wishes to the Secretary;

“(3) require the educational institution or owner to submit to the Secretary a report prepared by an approved third-party auditor of the advertising and enrollment practices of the educational institution or owner; and

“(4) refer the matter to the Under Secretary of Benefits, who may thereafter make a preliminary finding under subsection (g).

“(g) PRELIMINARY FINDINGS, FINAL DETERMINATIONS, AND PROCESSES.—(1) The Under Secretary for Benefits shall make preliminary findings and final determinations on violations of subsections (a), (c), and (d).

“(2)(A) The Under Secretary shall establish a process for making preliminary findings and final determinations under paragraph (1).

“(B) The process established under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) clearly define what triggers an oversight visit by the Under Secretary for purposes of enforcing subsections (a), (c), and (d);

“(ii) set forth factors an educational institution, or the owner of the educational institution, must meet in order to retain approval status under this section, including with respect to the factors set forth under subsection (h)(2);

“(iii) include a process for the provision of notice to an educational institution, or the owner of the educational institution, that the Under Secretary has made a preliminary finding under paragraph (1) that the educational institution or owner has violated subsection (a), (c), or (d), which the Under Secretary shall provide to the educational institution or owner within such period after making the preliminary finding as the Under Secretary shall establish for purposes of this clause, except that, in every case, such period shall end before the date on which the Under Secretary makes a final determination under such paragraph; and

“(iv) include—

“(I) a process for receipt of findings from a third-party pertinent to this section; and

“(II) a process for an educational institution or an owner to provide such information as the educational institution or owner determines appropriate to the Secretary, including information about corrective actions the educational institution or owner may have taken in response to preliminary findings under paragraph (1).

“(C) The process established under subparagraph (A) shall not prohibit a State approving agency from—

“(i) independently investigating a potential violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d); or

“(ii) taking action if the State approving agency finds a violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d).

“(3) Upon a preliminary finding under this subsection of a violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d) by an educational institution, or the owner of an educational institution, the Under Secretary shall require the educational institution or owner to submit to the Under Secretary a report prepared by an approved third-party auditor of the advertising and enrollment practices of the educational institution or owner.

“(4)(A) Before making a final determination under this subsection regarding a violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d) by an educational institution or owner of an educational institution, the Under Secretary shall—

“(i) review the practices of the educational institution or owner that pertain to activities and practices covered by subsections (a), (c), and (d);

“(ii) consider the results of a risk-based survey conducted by a State approving agency, if available; and

“(iii) review—

“(I) the findings and information received pursuant to the processes established under paragraph (2)(B)(iii);

“(II) in a case in which a report was submitted under subsection (f)(3), such report;

“(III) the report submitted under paragraph (3)(B) of this subsection;

“(IV) any findings and results submitted under subsection (e)(3);

“(V) the marketing and outreach material of the educational institution and the contractors of the educational institution.

“(B) The Under Secretary may not make a final determination under this subsection solely based on preliminary findings.

“(5) The Under Secretary may not delegate authority to make a final determination under this subsection, including to any employee of the Department or to the Federal Trade Commission.

“(h) ENFORCEMENT.—(1)(A) Upon a final determination by the Under Secretary for Benefits under subsection (g) that an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution violated subsection (a), (c), or (d), the Under Secretary shall, but subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of this paragraph, take one of the following actions independent of any actions taken under section 3690 of this title:

“(i) Publish a caution flag on the GI Bill Comparison Tool, or successor tool, about that educational institution and alert its currently enrolled eligible veterans and eligible persons.

“(ii) Suspend the approval of the courses and programs of education offered by the educational institution by disapproving new enrollments of eligible veterans and eligible persons in each course or program of education offered by that educational institution.

“(iii) Revoke the approval of the courses and programs of education offered by the educational institution by disapproving all enrollments of eligible veterans and eligible persons in each course or program of education offered by that educational institution.

“(B) In deciding upon a course of action under subparagraph (A), for the first violation of this section, the Secretary shall consider the factors set forth in paragraph (2).

“(C) Subject to subsection (i), any repeat violation and final finding within five years of the first violation of this section shall result in—

“(i) a suspension of approval of new enrollments as described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph until reinstatement under subsection (j); or

“(ii) a revocation of approval under this chapter as described in subparagraph (A)(iii) of

this paragraph until reinstatement under subsection (j).

“(D) Subject to subsection (i), any third violation within three years of the second violation of this section shall result in revocation of approval under this chapter as described in subparagraph (A)(iii) of this paragraph until reinstatement under subsection (j).

“(E) Any action taken under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph regarding a violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d) by an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution shall be taken on or before the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Under Secretary provided notice to the educational institution or owner regarding the violation in accordance with the process established under subsection (g)(2)(B)(iii).

“(2) The factors set forth in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) That the Secretary's action brings sufficient deterrence for future fraud against students and the programs of education carried out under this title. Fraud against veterans must be met with a repercussion strong enough to send a deterrent message to this and other educational institutions and owners.

“(B) That the educational institution has secured an approved third-party auditor to verify the educational institution's, or owner's, advertising and enrollment practices for at least three years going forward.

“(C) That the educational institution or owner has repudiated the deceptive practices and has communicated to all employees that deceptive practices will not be tolerated, and has instituted strong governance procedures to prevent recurrence.

“(D) That the educational institution has taken steps to remove any pressure on its enrollment recruiters, including by removing enrollment quotas and incentives for enrollment.

“(E) That the State approving agency or the Secretary acting in the role of the State approving agency, has completed a risk-based survey and determined the educational institution is worthy of serving eligible veterans and eligible persons.

“(3) Enforcement action under this section shall not preclude enforcement action under section 3690 of this title.

“(4) No action may be carried out under this subsection with respect to a final determination by the Under Secretary under subsection (g) while such final determination is pending review under subsection (i).

“(i) APPEALS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish a process by which an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution that is the subject of more than one final determination by the Under Secretary under subsection (g)(1) that the educational institution or owner violated subsection (a), may request a review of the most recent final determination.

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall—

“(i) review each final determination for which a review is requested under paragraph (1); and

“(ii) pursuant to such review, issue a final decision sustaining, modifying, or overturning the final determination.

“(B) The Secretary may not delegate any decision under subparagraph (A).

“(C)(i) Review under subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph shall be the exclusive avenue for review of a final determination under subsection (g)(1).

“(ii) A decision issued pursuant to a review under subparagraph (A)(i) may not be appealed to the Secretary for review under section 7104(a) of this title.

“(3)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary issues a final decision under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on such final decision.

“(B) A report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

“(i) An outline of the decisionmaking process of the Secretary that led to the final decision described in subparagraph (A).



“(ii) Any relevant material used to make the final decision under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), including risk-based surveys and documentation from the educational institution or the owners of the educational institution.

“(iii) Materials that were submitted to the Secretary after the date of the final determination under subsection (g) that was the subject of the final decision under paragraph (2)(A)(ii) of this subsection and before the date on which the Secretary issued such final decision.

“(j) REINSTATEMENT OF APPROVAL.—(1) If an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution has had the approval of the courses or programs of education of the educational institution suspended as described in clause (ii) of subsection (h)(1)(A) or revoked as described in clause (iii) of such subsection for a violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d) pursuant to subparagraph (C) or (D) of subsection (h)(1), the educational institution or owner may submit to the applicable State approving agency or the Secretary when acting as a State approving agency an application for reinstatement of approval under this subsection.

“(2) Approval under this chapter may not be reinstated under this subsection until—

“(A) the educational institution or owner submits to the applicable State approving agency or the Secretary when acting as a State approving agency an application for reinstatement of approval under paragraph (1);

“(B) the date that is 540 days after the date of the most recent suspension or revocation described in paragraph (1) of the educational institution or owner;

“(C) the educational institution submits a report by an approved third-party auditor on the advertising and enrollment practices of the educational institution, including those of its third-party contractors;

“(D) procedures are in place to prevent any future violation of subsection (a), (c), or (d);

“(E) that the educational institution has met all factors set forth in subsection (h)(2); and

“(F) the Secretary agrees to such reinstatement.

“(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING STATE APPROVING AGENCIES AND RISK-BASED SURVEYS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a State approving agency from conducting any risk-based survey the State approving agency considers appropriate at any educational institution that it considers appropriate for oversight purposes.

“(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘approved third-party auditor’ means an independent third-party auditor that is approved by the Secretary for purposes of third-party audits under this section.

“(2) The term ‘risk-based survey’ means the risk-based survey developed under section 3673A of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3696 and inserting the following new item: “3696. Prohibition on certain advertising, sales, and enrollment practices.”.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONACCREDITED COURSES.—Paragraph (10) of section 3676(c) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(10) The institution, and any entity that owns the institution, does not engage in substantial misrepresentation described in section 3696(e) of this title. The institution shall not be deemed to have met this requirement until the State approving agency—

“(A) has ascertained that no Federal department or agency has taken a punitive action, not including a settlement agreement, against the school for misleading or deceptive practices;

“(B) has, if such an order has been issued, given due weight to that fact; and

“(C) has reviewed the complete record of advertising, sales, or enrollment materials (and copies thereof) used by or on behalf of the institution during the preceding 12-month period.”.

(c) APPLICATION DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1021. CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT TRANSFER CREDITS FROM CERTAIN CLOSED OR DISAPPROVED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3699 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) PERIOD NOT CHARGED.—(1) The period for which, by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title shall not exceed the aggregate of—

“(A) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course from which the individual did not receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subsection (b)(2); and

“(B) the period by which a monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.

“(2)(A) An individual described in subparagraph (B) who transfers fewer than 12 credits from a program of education that is closed or disapproved as described in subsection (b)(1) shall be deemed to be an individual who did not receive such credits, as described in subsection (b)(2), except that the period for which such individual’s entitlement is not charged shall be the entire period of the individual’s enrollment in the program of education. In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish procedures to determine whether the individual transferred credits to a comparable course or program of education.

“(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is an individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education closed or discontinued as described in subsection (b)(1) during the period beginning on the date that is 120 days before the date of such closure or discontinuance and ending on the date of such closure or discontinuance, as the case may be.

“(C) This paragraph shall apply with respect to a course or program of education closed or discontinued before September 30, 2023.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

**SEC. 1022. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CONVERTED TO NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§3699B. Treatment of certain for-profit educational institutions**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any for-profit educational institution that is converted to a nonprofit educational institution, the State approving agency or the Secretary when acting as a State approving agency shall conduct annual risk-based surveys of the institution during the three-year period beginning on the date on which the educational institution is so converted.

“(b) RISK-BASED SURVEY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘risk-based survey’ means the risk-based survey developed under section 3673A of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699A the following new item:

“3699B. Treatment of certain for-profit educational institutions.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 3699B of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to the conversion of a for-profit educational institution to a nonprofit educational institution that occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1023. AUTHORITY OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES TO CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**

Section 3673 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 1014 of this title, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—(1) A State approving agency may conduct outreach activities if—

“(A) the State approving agency has properly conducted its enforcement and approval of courses and programs of education under this chapter; and

“(B) funds are still available to do so.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), a State approving agency shall be considered to have properly conducted its enforcement and approval of courses and programs of education under this chapter if the State approving agency has—

“(A) met fulfilled its requirements pursuant to the applicable cooperative agreements between the State approving agency and the Department relating to the oversight and approval of courses and programs of education under this chapter; and

“(B) completed a risk-based survey of any course or program of education determined to be of questionable quality or at risk by any Federal or State agency or any accrediting agency.

“(3) Outreach activities conducted under paragraph (1) shall be carried out using amounts derived from amounts not specifically appropriated to carry out this subsection.”.

**SEC. 1024. LIMITATION ON COLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3671 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) A State department or agency may not be recognized as a State approving agency designated under this section if such State department or agency is administered at or collocated with a university or university system whose courses or programs of education would be subject to approval under this chapter by the State approving agency in that State.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1025. ELIMINATION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “or (e)” and inserting “(e), or (g)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a veteran who was discharged or released from active military, naval, or air service on or after January 1, 2013.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6(c) of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 633; Public Law 116-140) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

**Subtitle B—Pandemic Assistance**

**SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) COVERED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term “covered program of education” means a program of education (as defined in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code) approved by a State approving agency, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

(2) COVID-19 EMERGENCY.—The term “COVID-19 emergency” means the public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act on January 31, 2020, entitled “Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists Nationwide as the Result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus”.

(3) **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “educational institution” has the meaning given that term in section 3452(c) of title 38, United States Code, and includes an institution of higher learning (as defined in such section).

(4) **STATE APPROVING AGENCY.**—The term “State approving agency” has the meaning given that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

(5) **TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT.**—The term “training establishment” has the meaning given that term in section 3452(e) of title 38, United States Code.

(6) **TRAINING.**—The term “training” includes on-job training and apprenticeship programs and vocational rehabilitation programs.

**SEC. 1102. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines under subsection (c) that an individual is negatively affected by the COVID-19 emergency, the Secretary may provide educational assistance to that individual under the laws administered by the Secretary as if such negative effects did not occur. The authority under this section is in addition to the authority provided under section 1 of Public Law 116-128 (38 U.S.C. 3001 note prec.), but in no case may the Secretary provide more than a total of four weeks of additional educational assistance by reason of section 4 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140; 38 U.S.C. 3680 note) and this section.

(b) **HOUSING AND ALLOWANCES.**—In providing educational assistance to an individual pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) continue to pay a monthly housing stipend under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, during a month the individual would have been enrolled in a program of education or training but for the COVID-19 emergency at the same rate such stipend would have been payable if the individual had not been negatively affected by the COVID-19 emergency, except that the total number of weeks for which stipends may continue to be so payable may not exceed four weeks; and

(2) continue to pay payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, and 35 of such title and chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, during a month for a period of time that the individual would have been enrolled in a program of education or training but for the COVID-19 emergency, except that the total number of weeks for which payments or allowances may continue to be so payable may not exceed four weeks.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS.**—The Secretary shall determine that an individual was negatively affected by the COVID-19 emergency if—

(1) the individual is enrolled in a covered program of education of an educational institution or enrolled in training at a training establishment and is pursuing such program or training using educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary;

(2) the educational institution or training establishment certifies to the Secretary that such program or training is truncated, delayed, relocated, canceled, partially canceled, converted from being on-site to being offered by distance learning, or otherwise modified or made unavailable by reason of the COVID-19 emergency; and

(3) the Secretary determines that the modification to such program or training specified under paragraph (2) would reduce the amount of educational assistance (including with respect to monthly housing stipends, payments, or subsistence allowances) that would be payable to the individual but for the COVID-19 emergency.

(d) **EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT PERIOD.**—If the Secretary determines that an individual who received assistance under this section did not make progress toward the completion of the pro-

gram of education in which the individual is enrolled during the period for which the individual received such assistance, any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not be counted for purposes of determining the total amount of an individual’s entitlement to educational assistance, housing stipends, or payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

(e) **APPLICABILITY PERIOD.**—This section shall apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021.

**SEC. 1103. EFFECTS OF CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND MODIFICATION OF COURSES BY REASON OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY.**

(a) **CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.**—Any payment of educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall not—

(1) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual concerned; or

(2) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of title 38, United States Code, limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

(b) **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.**—Subject to subsection (d), the payment of educational assistance described in this subsection is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course or program of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

(1) was unable to complete such course or program as a result of—

(A) the closure of the educational institution, or the full or partial cancellation of a course or program of education, by reason of the COVID-19 emergency; or

(B) the disapproval of the course or a course that is a necessary part of that program under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, because the course was modified by reason of such emergency; and

(2) did not receive credit or lost training time, toward completion of the program of education being so pursued.

(c) **HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—In this section, educational assistance includes, as applicable—

(1) monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, for any month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education; and

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, during a month the individual would have been enrolled in a course or program of education.

(d) **PERIOD NOT CHARGED.**—The period for which, by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of title 38, United States Code, shall not exceed the aggregate of—

(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course from which the individual did not receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subsection (b)(2); and

(2) the period by which a monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **CONTINUING PURSUIT OF DISAPPROVED COURSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may treat a course of education that is disapproved under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, as being approved under such chapter with respect to an individual described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, on a programmatic basis, that—

(A) such disapproval is the result of an action described in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(B) continuing pursuing such course is in the best interest of the individual.

(2) **INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.**—An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who is pursuing a course of education at an educational institution under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, as of the date on which the course is disapproved as described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(f) **STATUS AS FULL-TIME STUDENT FOR PURPOSES OF HOUSING STIPEND CALCULATION.**—In the case of an individual who, as of the first day of the COVID-19 emergency was enrolled on a full-time basis in a program of education and was receiving educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, or subsistence allowance under chapter 31 of such title, and for whom the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (b), the individual shall be treated as an individual enrolled in a program of education on a full-time basis for the purpose of calculating monthly housing stipends payable under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, or subsistence allowance payable under chapter 31 of such title, for any month the individual is enrolled in the program of education on a part-time basis to complete any course of education that was partially or fully canceled by reason of the COVID-19 emergency.

(g) **NOTICE OF CLOSURES.**—Not later than 5 business days after the date on which the Secretary receives notice that an educational institution will close or is closed by reason of the COVID-19 emergency, the Secretary shall provide to each individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education at such educational institution using entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, or chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, notice of—

(1) such closure and the date of such closure; and

(2) the effect of such closure on the individual’s entitlement to educational assistance pursuant to this section.

(h) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall apply with respect to the closure of an educational institution, or the cancellation or modification of a course or program of education, that occurs during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021.

**SEC. 1104. PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF WITHDRAWAL.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any individual who withdraws from a program of education or training, other than a program by correspondence, in an educational institution under chapter 31, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code, for a covered reason during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall find mitigating circumstances for purposes of section 3680(a)(1)(C)(ii) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) **COVERED REASON.**—In this section, the term “covered reason” means any reason related to the COVID-19 emergency, including—

(1) illness, quarantine, or social distancing requirements;

(2) issues associated with COVID-19 testing accessibility;

(3) access or availability of childcare;

(4) providing care for a family member or cohabitants;

(5) change of location or residence due to COVID-19 or associated school closures;

(6) employment changes or financial hardship; and

(7) issues associated with changes in format or medium of instruction.

**SEC. 1105. MODIFICATION OF TIME LIMITATIONS ON USE OF ENTITLEMENT.**

(a) **MONTGOMERY GI BILL.**—The subsection (i) temporarily added to section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, by subsection (a) of section 6 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-140) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the period the individual is so prevented from pursuing

such program” and inserting “the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the first day after the individual is able to resume pursuit of a program of education with educational assistance under this chapter” and inserting “December 22, 2021”.

(b) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND TRAINING.—The subsection (g) temporarily added to section 3103 of title 38, United States Code, by subsection (c) of such section 6 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the period the individual is so prevented from participating such program” and inserting “the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program” and inserting “December 22, 2021”.

#### SEC. 1106. APPRENTICESHIP OR ON-JOB TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the period described in subsection (b), subsection (e) of section 3687 of title 38, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting the following for paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), for any month in which an individual fails to complete 120 hours of training, the entitlement otherwise chargeable under paragraph (1) shall be reduced in the same proportion as the monthly training assistance allowance payable is reduced under subsection (b)(3).

“(B) In the case of an individual who is unemployed during any month, the 120-hour requirement under subparagraph (A) for that month shall be reduced proportionately to reflect the individual’s period of unemployment, except that the amount of monthly training assistance otherwise payable to the individual under subsection (b)(3) shall not be reduced.

“(C) Any period during which an individual is unemployed shall not—

“(i) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual; or

“(ii) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(D) Any amount by which the entitlement of an individual is reduced under subparagraph (A) shall not—

“(i) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual; or

“(ii) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(E) In the case of an individual who fails to complete 120 hours of training during a month, but who completed more than 120 hours of training during the preceding month, the individual may apply the number of hours in excess of 120 that the individual completed for that month to the month for which the individual failed to complete 120 hours. If the addition of such excess hours results in a total of 120 hours or more, the individual shall be treated as an individual who has completed 120 hours of training for that month. Any excess hours applied to a different month under this subparagraph may only be applied to one such month.

“(F) This paragraph applies to amounts described in section 3313(g)(3)(B)(iv) and section 3032(c)(2) of this title and section 16131(d)(2) of title 10.

“(G) In this paragraph:

“(i) The term ‘unemployed’ includes being furloughed or being scheduled to work zero hours.

“(ii) The term ‘fails to complete 120 hours of training’ means, with respect to an individual, that during any month, the individual completes at least one hour, but fewer than 120 hours, of training, including in a case in which the individual is unemployed for part of, but not the whole, month.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—The period described in this section is the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2021.

#### SEC. 1107. INCLUSION OF TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS IN CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY.

(a) CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS.—Section 1 of Public Law 116–128 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or a training establishment” after “an educational institution”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ‘training establishment’ has the meaning given such term in section 3452(e) of title 38, United States Code.”.

(b) PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–140; 38 U.S.C. 3680 note) is amended by inserting “or a training establishment” after “educational institution”.

(c) PROHIBITION OF CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT.—The subparagraph (C) temporarily added to section 3699(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, by section 5 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–140; 38 U.S.C. 3699 note) is amended by inserting “or training establishment” after “educational institution”.

(d) EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—

(1) MGI.B.—The subsection (i) temporarily added to section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, by subsection (a) of section 6 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–140), as amended by section 1105 of this title, is further amended by inserting “or training establishment” after “educational institution”.

(2) TRANSFER PERIOD.—The subparagraph (C) temporarily added to section 3319(h)(5) of such title by section 6 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–140) is amended by inserting “or training establishment” after “educational institution”.

#### SEC. 1108. TREATMENT OF PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES UNDER STUDENT VETERAN CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT.

Section 4 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–140) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “may not exceed four weeks.” and inserting “may not exceed the shorter of the following.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(1) The period of time that the eligible veteran or eligible person would have been enrolled in a program of education or training but for the emergency situation.

“(2) Four weeks.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) ENTITLEMENT NOT CHARGED.—Any payment of allowances under this section shall not—

“(1) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the eligible veteran or eligible person concerned; or

“(2) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title 38, United States Code, limits the receipt of educational assistance by such eligible veteran or eligible person.”.

## TITLE II—BENEFITS

### Subtitle A—Benefits Generally

#### SEC. 2001. REVISION OF DEFINITION OF VIETNAM ERA FOR PURPOSES OF THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 101(29)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “February 28, 1961” and inserting “November 1, 1955”.

#### SEC. 2002. MATTERS RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.

(a) TEMPORARY CLARIFICATION OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR MEDICAL PRO-

FESSIONALS TO PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 504 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law regarding the licensure of health care professionals, a health care professional described in paragraph (2) may conduct an examination pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a) at any location in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, so long as the examination is within the scope of the authorized duties under such contract.

“(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL DESCRIBED.—A health care professional described in this paragraph is a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, audiologist, or psychologist, who—

“(A) has a current unrestricted license to practice the health care profession of the physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, audiologist, or psychologist, as the case may be;

“(B) is not barred from practicing such health care profession in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

“(C) is performing authorized duties for the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the amendment made by paragraph (1) is to expand the license portability for physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists to supplement the capacity of employees of the Department to provide medical examinations described in subsection (b).

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall not be construed to affect the license portability for physicians in effect under section 504(c) of such Act as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) SUNSET.—On the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, subsection (c) of such section shall read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TEMPORARY HALT ON ELIMINATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER POSITIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall temporarily suspend the efforts of the Secretary in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to eliminate medical examiner positions in the Department of Veterans Affairs until the number of individuals awaiting a medical examination with respect to medical disability of the individuals for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary that are carried out through the Under Secretary for Benefits is equal to or less than the number of such individuals who were awaiting such a medical examination with respect to such purposes on March 1, 2020.

(c) REPORT ON PROVISION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the provision of medical examinations described in subsection (b) by the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

(A) How the Secretary will increase the capacity, efficiency, and timeliness of physician assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists of the Veterans Health Administration with respect to completing medical examinations described in subsection (b).

(B) The total number of full-time equivalent employees among all physician assistants, nurse

practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists needed for the increases described in subparagraph (A).

(C) An assessment regarding the importance of retaining a critical knowledge base within the Department for performing medical examinations for veterans filing claims for compensation under chapters 11 and 13 of title 38, United States Code, including with respect to military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and toxic exposure.

(3) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall collaborate with the veterans community and stakeholders in the preparation of the report required by paragraph (1).

(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a review of the implementation of the pilot program authorized under subsection (a) of section 504 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the use of subsection (c) of section 504 of such Act, as amended by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(B) Efforts to retain and recruit medical examiners as employees of the Department.

(C) Use of telehealth for medical examinations described in subsection (b) that are administered by the Department.

(e) BRIEFING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on how the Secretary will implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States regarding—

(1) the monitoring of the training of providers of examinations pursuant to contracts under section 504 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note); and

(2) ensuring such providers receive such training.

(f) HOLDING UNDERPERFORMING CONTRACT MEDICAL EXAMINERS ACCOUNTABLE.—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to hold accountable the providers of medical examinations pursuant to contracts under section 504 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) who are underperforming in the meeting of the needs of veterans through the performance of medical examinations pursuant to such contracts.

#### SEC. 2003. MEDAL OF HONOR SPECIAL PENSION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.

(a) CODIFICATION OF CURRENT RATE OF SPECIAL PENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 1562 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$1,388.68”.

(b) SPECIAL PENSION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—

(1) SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFIT.—Such subsection is further amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall pay special pension under this section to the surviving spouse

of a person whose name has been entered on the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard Medal of Honor Roll and a copy of whose certificate has been delivered to the Secretary under section 1134a(d) of title 10.

“(B) No special pension shall be paid to a surviving spouse of a person under this section unless such surviving spouse was married to such person—

“(i) for one year or more prior to the veteran’s death; or

“(ii) for any period of time if a child was born of the marriage, or was born to them before the marriage.

“(C) No special pension shall be paid to a surviving spouse of a person under this section if such surviving spouse is receiving benefits under section 1311 or 1318 of this title.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Such section is amended—

(i) in subsection (d), by inserting “or married to more than one person who has been awarded a medal of honor,” after “honor,”; and

(ii) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “this section” and inserting “paragraph (1) of subsection (a), or under paragraph (2) of such subsection in the case of a posthumous entry on the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard Medal of Honor Roll.”.

(B) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARRIAGES.—Section 103(d)(5) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Section 1562(a)(2), relating to Medal of Honor special pension.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to payment of pension under section 1562 of title 38, United States Code, for months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 2004. MODERNIZATION OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS INSURANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MODERNIZED PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1922A the following new section:

##### “§ 1922B. Service-disabled veterans insurance

“(a) INSURANCE.—(1) Beginning January 1, 2023, the Secretary shall carry out a service-disabled veterans insurance program under which a veteran is granted insurance by the United States against the death of such individual occurring while such insurance is in force.

“(2) The Secretary may only issue whole-life policies under the insurance program under paragraph (1).

“(3) The Secretary may not grant insurance to a veteran under paragraph (1) unless—

“(A) the veteran submits the application for such insurance before the veteran attains 81 years of age; or

“(B) with respect to a veteran who has attained 81 years of age—

“(i) the veteran filed a claim for compensation under chapter 11 of this title before attaining such age;

“(ii) based on such claim, and after the veteran attained such age, the Secretary first determines that the veteran has a service-connected disability; and

“(iii) the veteran submits the application for such insurance during the two-year period following the date of such determination.

“(4)(A) A veteran enrolled in the insurance program under paragraph (1) may elect to be insured in any of the following amounts:

“(i) \$10,000.

“(ii) \$20,000.

“(iii) \$30,000.

“(iv) \$40,000.

“(v) In accordance with subparagraph (B), a maximum amount greater than \$40,000.

“(B) The Secretary may establish a maximum amount to be insured under paragraph (1) that is greater than \$40,000 if the Secretary—

“(i) determines that such maximum amount and the premiums for such amount—

“(I) are administratively and actuarially sound for the insurance program under paragraph (1); and

“(II) will not result in such program operating at a loss; and

“(ii) publishes in the Federal Register, and submits to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, such maximum amount and determination.

“(5)(A)(i) Insurance granted under this section shall be on a nonparticipating basis and all premiums and other collections therefor shall be credited directly to a revolving fund in the Treasury of the United States.

“(ii) Any payments on such insurance shall be made directly from such fund.

“(B)(i) The Secretary of the Treasury may invest in and sell and retire special interest-bearing obligations of the United States for the account of the revolving fund under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) Such obligations issued for that purpose shall—

“(I) have maturities fixed with due regard for the needs of the fund; and

“(II) bear interest at a rate equal to the average market yield (computed by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of market quotations as of the end of the calendar month preceding the date of issue) on all marketable interest-bearing obligations of the United States then forming a part of the public debt which are not due or callable until after the expiration of four years from the end of such calendar month; except that where such average market yield is not a multiple of one-eighth of one per centum, the rate of interest of such obligation shall be the multiple of one-eighth of one per centum nearest such market yield.

“(6)(A) Administrative support financed by the appropriations for ‘General Operating Expenses, Department of Veterans Affairs’ and ‘Information Technology Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs’ for the insurance program under paragraph (1) shall be paid from premiums credited to the fund under paragraph (5).

“(B) Such payment for administrative support shall be reimbursed for that fiscal year from funds that are available on such insurance after claims have been paid.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran is eligible to enroll in the insurance program under subsection (a)(1) if the veteran has a service-connected disability, without regard to—

“(1) whether such disability is compensable under chapter 11 of this title; or

“(2) whether the veteran meets standards of good health required for other life insurance policies.

“(c) ENROLLMENT AND WAITING PERIOD.—(1) An eligible veteran may enroll in the insurance program under subsection (a)(1) at any time.

“(2) The life insurance policy of a veteran who enrolls in the insurance program under subsection (a)(1) does not go into force unless—

“(A) a period of two years elapses following the date of such enrollment; and

“(B) the veteran pays the premiums required during such two-year period.

“(3)(A) If a veteran dies during the two-year period described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary of the veteran the amount of premiums paid by the veteran under this section, plus interest.

“(B) The Secretary—

“(i) for the initial year of the insurance program under subsection (a)(1)—

“(I) shall set such interest at a rate of one percent; and

“(II) may adjust such rate during such year based on program experience, except that the interest rate may not be less than zero percent;

“(ii) for the second and each subsequent year of the program, shall calculate such interest at an annual rate equal to the rate of return on the revolving fund under subsection (a)(5) for the calendar year preceding the year of the veteran’s death, except that the interest rate may not be less than zero percent; and

“(iii) on an annual basis, shall publish on the internet website of the Department the average interest rate calculated under clause (ii) for the preceding calendar year.

“(d) **PREMIUMS.**—(1) The Secretary shall establish a schedule of basic premium rates by age per \$10,000 of insurance under subsection (a)(1) consistent with basic premium rates generally charged for guaranteed acceptance life insurance policies by private life insurance companies.

“(2) The Secretary may adjust such schedule after the first policy year in a manner consistent with the general practice of guaranteed acceptance life insurance policies issued by private life insurance companies.

“(3) Section 1912 of this title shall not apply to life insurance policies under subsection (a)(1), and the Secretary may not otherwise waive premiums for such insurance policies.

“(e) **BENEFICIARIES.**—(1) A veteran who enrolls in the insurance program under subsection (a)(1) may designate a beneficiary of the life insurance policy.

“(2) If a veteran enrolled in the insurance program under subsection (a)(1) does not designate a beneficiary under paragraph (1) before the veteran dies, or if a designated beneficiary predeceases the veteran, the Secretary shall determine the beneficiary in the following order:

“(A) The surviving spouse of the veteran.

“(B) The children of the veteran and descendants of deceased children by representation.

“(C) The parents of the veteran or the survivors of the parents.

“(D) The duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the veteran.

“(E) Other next of kin of the veteran entitled under the laws of domicile of the veteran at the time of the death of the veteran.

“(f) **CLAIMS.**—(1) If the deceased veteran designated a beneficiary under subsection (e)(1)—

“(A) the designated beneficiary is the only person who may file a claim for payment under subsection (g) during the one-year period beginning on the date of the death of the veteran; and

“(B) if the designated beneficiary does not file a claim for the payment during the period described in paragraph (1), or if payment to the designated beneficiary within that period is prohibited by Federal statute or regulation, a beneficiary described in subsection (e)(2) may file a claim for such payment during the one-year period following the period described in subparagraph (A) as if the designated beneficiary had predeceased the veteran.

“(2) If the deceased veteran did not designate a beneficiary under subsection (e)(1), or if the designated beneficiary predeceased the veteran, a beneficiary described in subsection (e)(2) may file a claim for payment under subsection (g) during the two-year period beginning on the date of the death of the veteran.

“(3) If, on the date that is two years after the date of the death of the veteran, no claim for payment has been filed by any beneficiary pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), and the Secretary has not received notice that any such claim will be so filed during the subsequent one-year period, the Secretary may make the payment to a claimant whom the Secretary determines to be equitably entitled to such payment.

“(g) **PAYMENTS.**—(1) In a case described in subsection (f)—

“(A) in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall pay the designated beneficiary not later than 90 days after the designated beneficiary files a complete and valid claim for payment;

“(B) in paragraph (1)(B) or (2), the Secretary shall make any payment not later than one year after the end of the period described in the applicable such paragraph, if the Secretary receives a complete and valid claim for payment in accordance with the applicable such paragraph; or

“(C) in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall make any payment not later than one year after

the end of the period described in such paragraph, if the Secretary receives a complete and valid claim for payment.

“(2) In a case where the Secretary has not made an insurance payment under this section during the applicable period specified in paragraph (1) by reason of a beneficiary not yet having filed a claim, or the Secretary not yet making a determination under subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may make the payment after such applicable period.

“(3) Notwithstanding section 1917 of this title, the Secretary shall make an insurance payment under this section in a lump sum.

“(4) The Secretary may not make an insurance payment under this section if such payment will escheat to a State.

“(5) Any payment under this section shall be a bar to recovery by any other person.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1922A the following new item:

“1922B. Service-disabled veterans insurance.”.

(b) **SUNSET OF PREVIOUS PROGRAM AND TRANSITION.**—

(1) **S-DVI.**—Section 1922 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) The Secretary may not accept any application by a veteran to be insured under this section after December 31, 2022.

“(2)(A) During the period beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2025, a veteran who is insured under this section may elect to instead be insured under section 1922B of this title based on the age of the veteran at the time of such election.

“(B)(i) A veteran who elects under subparagraph (A) to be insured under section 1922B of this title shall be subject to the two-year waiting period specified in subsection (c) of such section.

“(ii) If the veteran dies during such period, the Secretary shall pay the beneficiary under this section, and, if applicable, under section 1922A, plus the amount of premiums paid by the veteran under such section 1922B, plus interest.

“(3) Except as provided by paragraph (2)(B), a veteran may not be insured under this section and section 1922B simultaneously.”.

(2) **SUPPLEMENTAL S-DVI.**—Section 1922A(b) of such title is amended by adding after the period at the end the following: “The Secretary may not accept any such application after December 31, 2022. Except as provided by section 1922(d)(2)(B), a veteran may not have supplemental insurance under this section and be insured under section 1922B simultaneously.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 19 of such title is amended—

(1) in the section heading of section 1922, by striking “**Service**” and inserting “**Legacy service**”;

(2) in the section heading of section 1922A, by striking “**Supplemental**” and inserting “**Legacy supplemental**”; and

(3) in the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter by striking the items relating to sections 1922 and 1922A and inserting the following new items:

“1922. Legacy service disabled veterans’ insurance.

“1922A. Legacy supplemental service disabled veterans’ insurance for totally disabled veterans.”.

**SEC. 2005. DENIAL OF CLAIMS FOR TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

Section 1980A of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1)(1) If a claim for benefits under this section is denied, the Secretary concerned shall provide to the member at the same time as the member is informed of such denial a description of the following:

“(A) Each reason for that denial, including a description of all the information upon which the denial is based and a description of the applicable laws, regulations, or policies, with appropriate citations, and an explanation of how such laws, regulations, or policies affected the denial.

“(B) Each finding that is favorable to the member.

“(2) Any finding favorable to the member as described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be binding on all subsequent reviews or appeals of the denial of the claim, unless clear and convincing evidence is shown to the contrary to rebut such favorable finding.”.

**SEC. 2006. PUBLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d)(1) The Secretary shall publish in a central location on the internet website of the Department—

“(A) the disability benefit questionnaire forms of the Department for the submittal of evidence from non-Department medical providers regarding a disability of a claimant, including any form or process that replaces any such disability benefit questionnaire form; and

“(B) details about the process used by the Department for submittal of evidence described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) Subject to section 6103 of this title, if the Secretary updates a form described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall—

“(A) accept the previous version of the form filed by a claimant if—

“(i) the claimant provided to the non-Department medical provider the previous version of the form before the date on which the updated version of the form was made available; and

“(ii) the claimant files the previous version of the form during the one-year period following the date the form was completed by the non-Department medical provider;

“(B) request from the claimant (or from a non-Department medical provider if the claimant has authorized the provider to share health information with the Secretary) any other information that the updated version of the form requires; and

“(C) apply the laws and regulations required to adjudicate the claim as if the claimant filed the updated version of the form.

“(3) The Secretary may waive any inter-agency approval process required to approve a modification to a disability benefit questionnaire form if such requirement only applies by reason of the forms being made public.”.

(b) **REPORTS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—Not less frequently than once each year through 2023, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Inspector General with respect to the use of the forms published under section 5101(d)(1) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(c) **INITIAL FORM.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall begin carrying out section 5101(d)(1) of such title, as added by subsection (a), by publishing, as described in such section, the form described in such section that was in effect on January 1, 2020.

(d) **ALTERNATE PROCESS.**—

(1) **ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, the Secretary shall—

(i) assess the feasibility and advisability of replacing disability benefit questionnaire forms that are used by non-Department medical providers to submit to the Secretary evidence regarding a disability of a claimant for benefits

under laws administered by the Secretary, with another consistent process that considers evidence equally, whether provided by a Department or a non-Department medical provider; and

(ii) submit to Congress—

(I) a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the assessment conducted under clause (i); and

(II) if the report submitted under subclause (I) of this clause includes a finding that replacing the disability benefit questionnaire forms described in clause (i) as described in such clause is feasible and advisable, a plan to replace such forms as described in such clause.

(B) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—If, in carrying out the assessment required by clause (i) of subparagraph (A), the Secretary determines that replacing the disability benefit questionnaire forms described in such clause as described in such clause is feasible and advisable, the Secretary shall collaborate with, partner with, and consider the advice of veterans service organizations, and such other stakeholders as the Secretary considers appropriate, on the replacement forms and process for submitting such forms.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may only determine under paragraph (1)(A) that replacing the forms described in such paragraph is feasible and advisable if the Secretary certifies that—

(A) it is in the best interest of veterans to do so;

(B) the replacement process would include all the medical information needed to adjudicate a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

(C) the new process will ensure that all medical information provided will be considered equally, whether it is provided by a Department medical provider or a non-Department medical provider.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), if the Secretary determines under paragraph (1)(A) that replacing the forms as described in such paragraph is feasible and advisable, the Secretary shall, not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

(i) replace the forms as described in paragraph (1)(A);

(ii) publish such replacement pursuant to subparagraph (A) of section 5101(d)(1), as added by subsection (a)(2); and

(iii) update the details under subparagraph (B) of such section.

(B) REPORTS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—If the Secretary replaces the forms under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall, not later than one year after the date that the Secretary replaces such forms and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is three years after the date on which the Secretary replaces such forms, submit to Congress a report on the process that replaced such forms that ascertains whether the process properly protects veterans.

(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not discontinue the use of the disability benefit questionnaire forms described in paragraph (1)(A) until a replacement form or process is implemented.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or section 5101(d) of such title, as added by subsection (a), may be construed to require the Secretary to develop any new information technology system or otherwise require the Secretary to make any significant changes to the internet website of the Department.

**SEC. 2007. THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING DEBTS TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 5319 the following new section:

**“§5320. Threshold for reporting debts to consumer reporting agencies**

“The Secretary shall prescribe regulations that establish the minimum amount of a claim or debt, arising from a benefit administered by the Under Secretary for Benefits or Under Secretary for Health, that the Secretary will report to a consumer reporting agency under section 3711 of title 31.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 5319 the following new item:

“5320.Threshold for reporting debts to consumer reporting agencies.”.

(c) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations under section 5320 of such title, as added by subsection (a), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2008. REMOVAL OF DEPENDENTS FROM AWARD OF COMPENSATION OR PENSION.**

Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that—

(1) the recipient of an award of compensation or pension may remove any dependent from an award of compensation or pension to the individual using the eBenefits system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or a successor system; and

(2) such removal takes effect not later than 60 days after the date on which the recipient elects such removal.

**SEC. 2009. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WHO REMARRY AFTER AGE 55.**

Section 103(d)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by inserting “chapter 13 or” after “benefits under”.

**SEC. 2010. STUDY ON EXPOSURE BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO TOXICANTS AT KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE IN UZBEKISTAN.**

(a) AGREEMENT AND STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement with the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry for the Administrator to complete, not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, a study to identify—

(1) incidents of cancer and other diseases or illnesses experienced by individuals who served in the active military, naval, or air service (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) in the covered location set forth under subsection (b) during the corresponding period set forth under such subsection; and

(2) a list of toxic substances, chemicals, ionizing radiation, and airborne hazards such individuals may have been exposed to during such service.

(b) COVERED LOCATION AND CORRESPONDING PERIOD.—The covered location and corresponding period set forth under this subsection are Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Air Base in Uzbekistan and the period beginning on October 1, 2001, and ending on September 30, 2005.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment regarding the conditions of the covered location set forth under subsection (b), including an identification of toxic substances, chemicals, ionizing radiation, and airborne hazards contaminating such covered location during such corresponding period.

(2) An epidemiological study of the health consequences of the service described in subsection (a) to the individuals described in such subsection.

(d) SUPPORT FOR STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide the Administrator with assistance in carrying out the study required by subsection (a), includ-

ing by gathering such information as the Administrator may consider useful in carrying out the study.

(2) OBTAINING INFORMATION CONCERNING EXPOSURE.—Assistance under paragraph (1) provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall include compiling information on exposure described in subsection (a)(2) and the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs such information concerning such exposure as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate for purposes of the study required by subsection (a), including environmental sampling data relative to any location covered by the study.

(e) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—No later than the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter until the date on which the study required by subsection (a) is completed, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress updates on the status of the matters covered by such study, including any preliminary findings of the Administrator.

(f) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the study required by subsection (a) is completed, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Administrator with respect to such study.

(g) INCLUSION OF UZBEKISTAN IN CERTAIN REGISTRIES AND PROGRAMS.—Section 201(c)(2) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Afghanistan or Iraq” and inserting “Afghanistan, Iraq, or Uzbekistan”.

(h) DEPLETED URANIUM FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any individual who deployed as a member of the Armed Forces to the covered location set forth in subsection (b) during the corresponding period set forth in such subsection is covered by the Depleted Uranium Follow-up Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 2011. COMPTROLLER GENERAL BRIEFING AND REPORT ON REPEALING MANIFESTATION PERIOD FOR PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CERTAIN DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN HERBICIDE AGENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on preliminary observations of the Comptroller General, and not later than 240 days after the date of such briefing, provide such committees a briefing and submit to such committees a final report, on the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide benefits, including compensation and health care, to veterans—

(1) who during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975; and

(2) in whom chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, or acute or subacute peripheral neuropathy have manifested.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of how the Secretary establishes a service connection for a disease described in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) manifesting in veterans, including the number of veterans described in paragraph (1) of such subsection who have filed a claim for a benefit associated with a disease described in paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(2) A description of how claims adjudicators of the Department of Veterans Affairs determine service connection for a disease described in subparagraph (C) or (E) of section 1116(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, when documentation proving the presence of the disease during the manifestation period set forth in such subparagraphs for the disease is not available.

(3) A description of the expected effect of repealing the manifestation period from such subparagraphs, including the expected effect on the number of claims for benefits the Department will receive, an estimate of the cost to the Department of such repeal, and a review of the scientific evidence regarding such repeal.

(4) A review of all claims submitted to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of such title that are associated with a disease described in subsection (a)(2), including the type of proof presented to establish a service connection for the manifestation of the disease based on exposure to a herbicide agent.

(5) Recommendations on how the Department can better adjudicate claims for benefits, including compensation, submitted to the Department that are associated with a disease described in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) for veterans described in paragraph (1) of such subsection.

(6) An assessment of such other areas as the Comptroller General considers appropriate to study.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall commence carrying out the recommendations submitted under subsection (b)(5) to the degree that the Secretary is authorized to carry out the recommendations by a statute that was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **HERBICIDE AGENT DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “herbicide agent” has the meaning given such term in section 1116(a)(3) of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 2012. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE INCOME INFORMATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES.**

Section 5317(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2027” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

**SEC. 2013. EXTENSION ON CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2028” and inserting “October 30, 2028”.

**Subtitle B—Housing**

**SEC. 2101. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HOME LOANS FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF HOME LOANS.**—Section 3701(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) The term ‘veteran’ also includes, for purposes of home loans, an individual who performed full-time National Guard duty (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 10) for a period—

“(A) of not less than 90 cumulative days; and  
“(B) that includes 30 consecutive days.”

(b) **EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 3702(a)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) Each individual described in section 3701(b)(7) of this title.”

(c) **RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with re-

spect to full-time National Guard duty (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) performed before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2102. REDUCING LOAN FEES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AFFECTED BY MAJOR DISASTERS.**

Section 3729(b)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D)(i) The term ‘initial loan’ means a loan to a veteran guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title if the veteran has never obtained a loan guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title.

“(ii) If a veteran has obtained a loan guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title and the dwelling securing such loan was substantially damaged or destroyed by a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the Secretary shall treat as an initial loan, as defined in clause (i), the next loan the Secretary guarantees or makes to such veteran under section 3710 or 3711, respectively, if—

“(I) such loan is guaranteed or made before the date that is three years after the date on which the dwelling was substantially damaged or destroyed; and

“(II) such loan is only for repairs or construction of the dwelling, as determined by the Secretary.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “if the veteran has previously obtained a loan guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title” and inserting “that is not an initial loan”.

**SEC. 2103. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “October 1, 2029” each place it appears and inserting “October 1, 2030”.

**SEC. 2104. COLLECTION OF OVERPAYMENTS OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**

Section 2102 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g)(1) Whenever the Secretary finds that an overpayment has been made to, or on behalf of, a person described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall determine—

“(A) the amounts to recover, if any; and

“(B) who is liable to the United States for such overpayment.

“(2) A person described in this paragraph is any of the following:

“(A) An individual who applied for assistance—

“(i) under this chapter; or

“(ii) under chapter 31 of this title who is pursuing a rehabilitation program under such chapter in acquiring adaptations to a residence.

“(B) An owner or seller of real estate used, or intended to be used, in connection with assistance under this chapter.

“(C) A builder, contractor, supplier, tradesperson, corporation, trust, partnership, or other person, who provided services or goods relating to assistance under this chapter.

“(D) An attorney, escrow agent, or financial institution, that receives, or holds in escrow, funds relating to assistance under this chapter.

“(E) A surviving spouse, heir, assignee, or successor in interest of or to, any person described in this paragraph.

“(3)(A) Any overpayment referred to in this subsection may be recovered in the same manner as any other debt due the United States.

“(B) In recovering the overpayment, the Secretary may charge administrative costs, fees, and interest, as appropriate, in a manner similar to the authority under section 5315 of this title.

“(4)(A) The recovery of any overpayment referred to in this subsection may be waived by the Secretary.

“(B) Waiver of any such overpayment as to a person described in paragraph (2) shall in no way release any other person described in such paragraph from liability.

“(5) The Secretary shall waive recovery under this subsection of any overpayment to a person described in paragraph (2)(A), or a dependent or survivor of such person, that arises from administrative error described in paragraph (7)(A).

“(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the imposition of any civil or criminal liability under this title or any other law.

“(7) The Secretary shall prescribe in regulations what constitutes an overpayment for the purposes of this subsection, which, at a minimum, shall include—

“(A) administrative error that results in an individual receiving assistance to which that individual is not entitled;

“(B) the failure of any person described in paragraph (2) to—

“(i) perform or allow to be performed any act relating to assistance under this chapter; or

“(ii) compensate any party performing services or supplying goods relating to assistance under this chapter; and

“(C) any disbursement of funds relating to assistance under this chapter, that, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, constitutes a misuse of such assistance.

“(8) Prior to collecting an overpayment under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide to the person whom the Secretary has determined liable for such overpayment—

“(A) notice of the finding by the Secretary of such overpayment;

“(B) a reasonable opportunity for such person to remedy the circumstances that effectuated the overpayment; and

“(C) a reasonable opportunity for such person to present evidence to the Secretary that an overpayment was not made.

“(9) For the purposes of section 511 of this title, a decision to collect an overpayment from a person other than a person described in paragraph (2)(A), or a dependent or survivor of such person, may not be treated as a decision that affects the provision of benefits.”.

**Subtitle C—Burial Matters**

**SEC. 2201. TRANSPORTATION OF DECEASED VETERANS TO VETERANS' CEMETERIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 2308 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “in a national cemetery” and inserting “in a national cemetery or a covered veterans' cemetery”.

(b) **COVERED VETERANS' CEMETERY DEFINED.**—Section 2308 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **COVERED VETERANS' CEMETERY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘covered veterans' cemetery’ means a veterans' cemetery—

“(1) in which a deceased veteran described in subsection (b) is eligible to be buried;

“(2) that—

“(A) is owned by a State; or

“(B) is on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization; and

“(3) for which the Secretary has made a grant under section 2408 of this title.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 2308 of such title is amended in the section heading by adding at the end the following: “**or a covered veterans' cemetery**”.

(d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 23 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2308 and inserting the following new item:

“2308. Transportation of deceased veteran to a national cemetery or a covered veterans' cemetery.”.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that

is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2202. INCREASE IN CERTAIN FUNERAL BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**—Chapter 23 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By transferring subsection (b) of section 2302 to the end of section 2303 and redesignating such subsection as subsection (d).

(2) By striking section 2302.

(3) In section 2303—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “**Death in Department facility**” and inserting “**Death from non-service-connected disability**”; and

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “a veteran dies in a facility described in paragraph (2)” and inserting “a veteran described in paragraph (2) dies”;

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

“(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a deceased veteran who is not covered by section 2307 of this title and who meets any of the following criteria:

“(A) The deceased veteran dies in—

“(i) a facility of the Department (as defined in section 1701(3) of this title) to which the deceased veteran was properly admitted for hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care under section 1710 or 1711(a) of this title; or

“(ii) an institution at which the deceased veteran was, at the time of death, receiving—

“(I) hospital care in accordance with sections 1703A, 8111, and 8153 of this title;

“(II) nursing home care under section 1720 of this title; or

“(III) nursing home care for which payments are made under section 1741 of this title.

“(B) At the time of death, the deceased veteran (including a person who died during a period deemed to be active military, naval, or air service under section 106(c) of this title) is in receipt of compensation under chapter 11 of this title (or but for the receipt of retirement pay would have been entitled to such compensation) or was in receipt of pension under chapter 15 of this title.

“(C) The Secretary determines—

“(i) the deceased veteran (including a person who died during a period deemed to be active military, naval, or air service under section 106(c) of this title) has no next of kin or other person claiming the body of the deceased veteran; and

“(ii) that there are not available sufficient resources to cover burial and funeral expenses.”;

(iii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “section 2302 of this title and”; and

(II) in paragraph (2), by striking “under section 2302 of this title or”; and

(iv) in subsection (d), as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “Except as” and inserting “With respect to a deceased veteran described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2), except as”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **TITLE 38.**—Such title is amended as follows:

(A) In section 2304, by striking “Applications for payments under section 2302 of this title” and inserting “Applications for payments under section 2303 of this title regarding veterans described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) of such section”.

(B) In section 2307, by striking “sections 2302 and 2303(a)(1) and (b)(2) of this title” and inserting “subsections (a)(1) and (b)(2) of section 2303 of this title”.

(C) In section 2308—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “pursuant to section 2302 or 2307 of this title,” and inserting “pursuant to section 2303 of this title regarding veterans described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) of such section, or pursuant to section 2307 of this title.”; and

(ii) in subsection (b)(3)—

(1) by striking “section 2302” and inserting “section 2303”; and

(II) by striking “subsection (a)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (a)(2)(C)”.

(D) In section 113(c)(1), by striking “2302.”.

(E) In section 5101(a)(1)(B)(i), by striking “2302” and inserting “2303”.

(2) **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE.**—Section 11 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3810) is amended by striking “section 2302(a) of title 38” and inserting “section 2303 of title 38, United States Code, regarding veterans described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) of such section”.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 23 of such title is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2302 and 2303 and inserting the following new item:

“2303. Death from non-service-connected disability; plot allowance.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to deaths that occur on or after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2203. OUTER BURIAL RECEPTACLES FOR EACH NEW GRAVE IN CEMETERIES THAT ARE THE SUBJECTS OF CERTAIN GRANTS MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2306(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(ii) by inserting “, or in a cemetery that is the subject of a grant to a State or a tribal organization under section 2408 of this title,” after “National Cemetery Administration”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

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

“(2)(A) The use of outer burial receptacles in a cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration or in a cemetery that is the subject of a grant to a State or a tribal organization under section 2408 of this title shall be in accordance with regulations or procedures approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(B) The use of outer burial receptacles in Arlington National Cemetery shall be in accordance with regulations or procedures approved by the Secretary of the Army.

“(C) The use of outer burial receptacles in a national cemetery administered by the National Park Service shall be in accordance with regulations or procedures approved by the Secretary of the Interior.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2204. PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CERTAIN HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

“(i)(1) In addition to any other authority under this section, in the case of an individual whose grave is not in a covered cemetery (as that term is defined in subsection (f)(2)) and for whom the Secretary has furnished a headstone or marker under subsection (a) or (d), the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, may replace the headstone or marker to add an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.

“(2) If the spouse or eligible dependent child of an individual referred to in paragraph (1)

predeceases the individual, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, include an inscription for the spouse or dependent child on the headstone or marker furnished for the individual under subsection (a) or (d).”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—Subsection (i) of section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an individual who dies on or after October 1, 2019.

**SEC. 2205. AID TO COUNTIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT, EXPANSION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF VETERANS' CEMETERIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “or county” after “State” each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (a)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c), (d), and (g)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g)(1) The Secretary may make a grant to a county under this section only if—

“(A)(i) the State in which the county is located does not have a veterans' cemetery owned by the State;

“(ii) the State is not in receipt of a grant under this section for the construction of a new veterans' cemetery to be owned by the State;

“(iii) the State did not apply for a grant under this section during the previous year;

“(iv) no tribal organization from the State in which the county is located has a veterans' cemetery on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, the tribal organization;

“(v) no such tribal organization is in receipt of a grant under this section for the construction of a new veterans' cemetery to be located on such land; and

“(vi) no such tribal organization applied for a grant under this section during the previous year; and

“(B) the county demonstrates in the application under subsection (a)(2), to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the county has the resources necessary to operate and maintain the veterans' cemetery owned by the county.

“(2)(A) If a county and the State in which the county is located both apply for a grant under this section for the same year, the Secretary shall give priority to the State.

“(B) If a county and a tribal organization from the State in which the county is located both apply for a grant under this section for the same year, the Secretary shall give priority to the tribal organization.

“(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.”; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as subsection (h);

(B) by moving such subsection, as so redesignated, to the location after subsection (g), as added by paragraph (3);

(C) in subsection (h), as so redesignated and moved, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(D) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **SECTION HEADING.**—The heading of such section is amended by inserting “, counties, and tribal organizations” after “States”.

(2) **TABLE OF SECTIONS.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 24 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2408 and inserting the following new item:

“2408. Aid to States, counties, and tribal organizations for establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take on effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.



**SEC. 2206. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS TO STATES, COUNTIES, AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING VETERANS' CEMETERIES.**

Section 2408(e)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$5,000,000" and inserting "\$10,000,000".

**SEC. 2207. PROVISION OF URNS AND COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES FOR REMAINS OF CERTAIN VETERANS WHOSE CREMATED REMAINS ARE NOT INTERRED IN CERTAIN CEMETERIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2204 of this title, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection (h):

“(h)(1) In lieu of furnishing a headstone or marker under this section for a deceased individual described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall furnish, upon request and at the expense of the United States—

“(A) an urn made of any material to signify the individual’s status as a veteran, in which the remains of such individual may be placed at private expense; or

“(B) a commemorative plaque signifying the individual’s status as a veteran.

“(2) If the Secretary furnishes an urn or commemorative plaque for an individual under paragraph (1), the Secretary may not provide for such individual—

“(A) a headstone or marker under this section; or

“(B) any burial benefit under section 2402 of this title.

“(3) A deceased individual described in this paragraph is an individual—

“(A) who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917;

“(B) who is eligible for a headstone or marker furnished under subsection (d) (or would be so eligible but for the date of the death of the individual); and

“(C) whose remains were cremated and not interred in a national cemetery, a State veterans’ cemetery, a tribal cemetery, a county cemetery, or a private cemetery.

“(4)(A) Any urn or commemorative plaque furnished under this subsection shall be the personal property of the next of kin or such other individual as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) The Federal Government shall not be liable for any damage to an urn or commemorative plaque furnished under this subsection that occurs after the date on which the urn or commemorative plaque is so furnished.

“(5) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall take on effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2208. TRAINING OF STATE AND TRIBAL VETERANS' CEMETERY PERSONNEL BY NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by sections 2205 and 2206 of this title, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs described in subsection (c)(1)” before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs described in subsection (c)(1)” before the period;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c)(1) A grant under this section for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) may be used, solely or in part, for training costs, including travel expenses and up to four weeks of lodging expenses, associated with attendance by employees of a veterans’ cemetery owned by a State or on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration.

“(2) Any employee described in paragraph (1) who participates in training described in such paragraph shall fulfill a service requirement as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) The Secretary may by regulation prescribe such additional terms and conditions for grants used for training costs under this subsection as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

(b) *REPORTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than each of two years and five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on training provided by the National Cemetery Administration under subsection (c) of section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) *ELEMENTS.*—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The attrition rate with respect to individuals who participate in the training described in paragraph (1).

(B) A description of how State and tribal veterans’ cemeteries that used grants awarded under section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, for training costs under subsection (c) of such section, as added by subsection (a), have improved as a result of the training, according to the administrators of such cemeteries.

(C) An identification of how many State and tribal veterans’ cemeteries used the authority provided by subsection (c) of section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), in order to train individuals.

(D) The amount obligated or expended as a result of the authority described in subparagraph (C).

**TITLE III—HEALTH CARE**

**Subtitle A—Health Care Generally**

**SEC. 3001. EXPANSION OF MODIFICATIONS TO VETERAN DIRECTED CARE PROGRAM.**

Section 2006 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) by striking “During a public health emergency” each place it appears and inserting “During the period specified in subsection (f)”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “during a public health emergency” and inserting “during the period specified in subsection (f)”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “an area agency on aging” and inserting “a covered provider”; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(e) *TRANSFER OF CERTAIN VETERANS TO THE PROGRAM.*—During the period specified in subsection (f), the Secretary shall allow a veteran residing in an area covered by the Program to be transferred to the Program for the duration of such period if—

“(1) the veteran had been receiving extended care services paid for by the Department, such as adult day services or homemaker or home health aide services, immediately preceding such period; and

“(2) those services are no longer available due to a public health emergency.

“(f) *PERIOD SPECIFIED.*—The period specified in this subsection is the period beginning on the

date on which a public health emergency was first declared and ending on the date that is 60 days after the date on which a public health emergency is no longer in effect.

“(g) *COVERED PROVIDER DEFINED.*—In this section, the term ‘covered provider’ means a provider participating in the Program, including—

“(1) an Aging and Disability Resource Center, an area agency on aging, or a State agency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)); or

“(2) a center for independent living (as defined in section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a)).”.

**SEC. 3002. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF A HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM A VETERAN WHO IS A MEMBER OF AN INDIAN TRIBE.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1730A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “catastrophically disabled” and inserting “certain”;

(2) by inserting “(a) *PROHIBITION.*—” before “Notwithstanding”;

(3) by striking “a veteran who is catastrophically disabled, as defined by the Secretary,” and inserting “a covered veteran”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) *COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.*—In this section, the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

“(1) is catastrophically disabled, as defined by the Secretary; or

“(2) is an Indian or urban Indian (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)).”.

(b) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1730A and inserting the following:

“1730A. Prohibition on collection of copayments from certain veterans.”.

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the day that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 3003. OVERSIGHT FOR STATE HOMES REGARDING COVID-19 INFECTIONS, RESPONSE CAPACITY, AND STAFFING LEVELS.**

(a) *REPORTING.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—During a covered public health emergency, each State home shall submit weekly to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the National Healthcare Safety Network of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through an electronic medium and in a standardized format specified by the Secretary, a report on the emergency.

(2) *ELEMENTS.*—Each report required by paragraph (1) for a State home shall include the following:

(A) The number of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infections among residents and staff, including residents previously treated for COVID-19, disaggregated by—

(i) veteran, spouse of a veteran, staff, and other;

(ii) race and ethnicity;

(iii) gender; and

(iv) age.

(B) The number of total deaths and COVID-19 deaths among residents and staff, disaggregated by—

(i) veteran, spouse of a veteran, staff, and other;

(ii) race and ethnicity;

(iii) gender; and

(iv) age.

(C) An assessment of the supply of personal protective equipment and hand hygiene supplies.

(D) An assessment of ventilator capacity and supplies.

(E) The number of resident beds and the occupancy rate, disaggregated by veteran, spouse of a veteran, and other.

(F) An assessment of the access of residents to testing for COVID-19.

(G) An assessment of staffing shortages, if any.

(H) Such other information as the Secretary may specify.

(b) PUBLICATION OF TOTAL INFECTIONS AND DEATHS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than weekly thereafter, the Secretary shall post on a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(A) the total number of residents and staff of State homes who are infected with COVID-19; and

(B) the total number of such residents and staff who have died from COVID-19.

(2) INFORMATION ON RESIDENTS AND STAFF.—The Secretary shall disaggregate information on residents and staff published under paragraph (1) by veteran, staff, and other.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term “covered public health emergency” means an emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared by a Federal, State, or local authority.

(2) STATE HOME.—The term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3004. GRANTS FOR STATE HOMES LOCATED ON TRIBAL LANDS.**

(a) STATE HOME DEFINED.—Section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))” after “(other than a possession)”.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATE HOMES.—Section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: “(g) In this subchapter, the term ‘State’ means each of the several States and each Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).”

(c) STATE HOME CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8131(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “includes each Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) but” before “does not”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8132 of such title is amended by striking “several”.

(d) ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—

(1) CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with Indian tribes to determine if any legislative or administrative action is necessary to modify the State home program to function efficiently in support of State homes operated by Indian tribes pursuant to the amendments made by this section.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after completing consultations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report recommending legislative action that the Secretary considers appropriate to modify the State home program described in such paragraph in light of those consultations.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after completing consultations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make any modifications to regulations implementing the State home program, for which legislative action is not necessary, as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of those consultations.

(e) TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide technical support and assistance to Indian tribes in carrying out the State home program at State homes operated by Indian tribes pursuant to the amendments made by this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) STATE HOME.—The term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

(4) STATE HOME PROGRAM.—The term “State home program” means the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for which payments are made under subchapter V of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and assistance is provided under subchapter III of chapter 81 of such title.

**SEC. 3005. CONTINUATION OF WOMEN’S HEALTH TRANSITION TRAINING PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) DURATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out the Women’s Health Transition Training program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this section referred to as the “Program”) until at least one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year and ten days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the Program that includes the following:

(1) The number of women members of the Armed Forces, disaggregated by military department (with respect to the Department of the Navy, disaggregated by the Navy and Marine Corps), who participated in the Program.

(2) The number of courses held under the Program.

(3) The locations at which such courses were held, the number of seats available for such courses, and the number of participants at each such location.

(4) With respect to the number of members of the Armed Forces who participated in the Program as specified under paragraph (1)—

(A) the number who enrolled in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) the number who attended at least one health care appointment at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) Data relating to—

(A) satisfaction with courses held under the Program;

(B) improved awareness of health care services administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(C) any other available statistics regarding the Program.

(6) A discussion of regulatory, legal, or resource barriers to—

(A) making the Program permanent to enable access to services provided under the Program by a greater number of women members of the Armed Forces at locations throughout the United States;

(B) offering the Program online for women members of the Armed Forces who are unable to attend courses held under the Program in person; and

(C) the feasibility of automatically enrolling Program participants in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 3006. AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH MEDICALLY NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION FOR NEWBORN CHILDREN OF CERTAIN WOMEN VETERANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1786 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 9102 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting “and transportation necessary to receive such services” after “described in subsection (b)”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “or”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) another location, including a health care facility, if the veteran delivers the child before arriving at a facility described in paragraph (1) or (2).”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including necessary health care services provided by a facility other than the facility where the newborn child was delivered (including a specialty pediatric hospital) that accepts transfer of the newborn child and responsibility for treatment of the newborn child”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(d) TRANSPORTATION.—(1) Transportation furnished under subsection (a) to, from, or between care settings to meet the needs of a newborn child includes costs for either or both the newborn child and parents.

“(2) Transportation furnished under subsection (a) includes transportation by ambulance, including air ambulance, or other appropriate medically staffed modes of transportation—

“(A) to another health care facility (including a specialty pediatric hospital) that accepts transfer of the newborn child or otherwise provides post-delivery care services when the treating facility is not capable of furnishing the care or services required; or

“(B) to a health care facility in a medical emergency of such nature that a prudent layperson reasonably expects that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health.

“(3) Amounts paid by the Department for transportation under this section shall be derived from the Medical Services appropriations account of the Department.

“(e) REIMBURSEMENT OR PAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR TRANSPORTATION.—

(1) Pursuant to regulations the Secretary shall prescribe to establish rates of reimbursement and any limitations thereto under this section, the Secretary shall directly reimburse a covered entity for health care services or transportation services provided under this section, unless the cost of the services or transportation is covered by an established agreement or contract. If such an agreement or contract exists, its negotiated payment terms shall apply.

“(2)(A) Reimbursement or payment by the Secretary under this section on behalf of an individual to a covered entity shall, unless rejected and refunded by the covered entity within 30 days of receipt, extinguish any liability on the part of the individual for the health care services or transportation covered by such payment.

“(B) Neither the absence of a contract or agreement between the Secretary and a covered entity nor any provision of a contract, agreement, or assignment to the contrary shall operate to modify, limit, or negate the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘covered entity’ means any individual, transportation carrier, organization, or other entity that furnished

or paid for health care services or transportation under this section.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES ALREADY INCURRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe, with respect to transportation furnished in order for a newborn child of a veteran to receive health care services under section 1786 of title 38, United States Code, during the period specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary may—

(A) waive a debt owed by the veteran to the Department of Veterans Affairs or reimburse expenses already paid by the veteran to the Department for such transportation;

(B) reimburse the veteran for expenses already paid by the veteran to a covered entity for such transportation; or

(C) reimburse a covered entity for the costs of such transportation.

(2) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this paragraph is the period beginning on May 5, 2010, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered entity” has the meaning given that term in section 1786(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

**SEC. 3007. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR RECEIPT OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR DOMICILIARY CARE AT STATE HOMES AND MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH PAYMENTS.**

(a) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1741 of title 38, United States Code (as amended by subsection (b)), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall modify section 51.51(b) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to provide the Secretary the authority to waive the requirements under such section 51.51(b) for a veteran to be eligible for per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home if—

(1) the veteran has met not fewer than four of the requirements set forth in such section; or

(2) such waiver would be in the best interest of the veteran.

(b) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1741(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the flush text following subparagraph (B), by striking “in a Department facility” and inserting “under the laws administered by the Secretary”.

(c) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3008. EXPANSION OF QUARTERLY UPDATE OF INFORMATION ON STAFFING AND VACANCIES AT FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON DURATION OF HIRING PROCESS.**

(a) QUARTERLY UPDATE.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 505 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 38 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Beginning with any update under paragraph (3) on or after the date of the enactment of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, the following:

“(i) For employees appointed under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 7401 of title 38, United States Code, the number of employees for which the duration of the process from validation of vacancy to receipt of official offer and notification of actual start date exceeds the metrics laid out in the Time to Hire Model of the Veterans Health Administration, or successor model.

“(ii) The percentage of employees who are described in clause (i) compared to all employees appointed under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 7401 of such title during the same period.

“(iii) The average number of days potential hires or new hires appointed under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 7401 of such title spent in each phase of the Time to Hire Model, or successor model.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended, in the first sentence, by adding before the period at the end the following: “and to improve the onboard timeline for facilities for which the duration of the onboarding process exceeds the metrics laid out in the Time to Hire Model of the Veterans Health Administration, or successor model”.

**SEC. 3009. REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES TO HAVE PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MEDICATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that each covered Department medical facility has a physical location where patients may dispose of controlled substances medications.

(b) COVERED DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FACILITY.—In this section, the term “covered Department medical facility” means a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs with an onsite pharmacy or a physical location dedicated for law enforcement purposes.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

**SEC. 3010. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program for a one-year period, beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide certain students described in subsection (d) a clinical observation experience at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) MEDICAL CENTER SELECTION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In selecting such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure regional diversity among such selected medical centers.

(c) CLINICAL OBSERVATION SESSIONS.—

(1) FREQUENCY AND DURATION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide at least one and not more than three clinical observation sessions at each medical center selected during each calendar year;

(B) ensure that each clinical observation session—

(i) lasts between four and six months; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, begins and ends concurrently with one or more academic terms of an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(C) ensure that the clinical observation sessions provided at a medical center have minimal overlap.

(2) SESSIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the pilot program consists of clinical observation sessions as follows:

(A) Each session shall allow for not fewer than five students nor greater than 15 students to participate in the session.

(B) Each session shall consist of not fewer than 20 observational hours nor greater than 40 observational hours.

(C) A majority of the observational hours shall be spent observing a health professional. The other observational hours shall be spent in a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded experience that exposes the students to a variety of aspects of medical care and health care administration.

(D) Each session shall provide a diverse clinical observation experience.

(d) STUDENTS.—

(1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) students who are—

(A) nationals of the United States;

(B) enrolled in an accredited program of study at an institution of higher education; and

(C) referred by their institution of higher education following an internal application process.

(2) PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the Secretary shall give priority to each of the following five categories of students:

(A) Students who, at the time of the completion of their secondary education, resided in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e)).

(B) First generation college students (as defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(C) Students who have been referred by minority-serving institutions (as defined in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(D) Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

(E) Students who indicate an intention to specialize in a health professional occupation identified by the Inspector General of the Department under section 7412 of title 38, United States Code, as having a staffing shortage.

(3) ASSIGNMENT TO MEDICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall assign students selected under paragraph (1) to medical centers selected under subsection (b) without regard for whether such medical centers have staffing shortages in any health professional occupation pursuant to section 7412 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a formal status to facilitate the access to medical centers of the Department by student observers participating in the pilot program;

(2) establish standardized legal, privacy, and ethical requirements for the student observers, including with respect to—

(A) ensuring that no student observer provides any care to patients while participating as an observer; and

(B) ensuring the suitability of a student to participate in the pilot program to ensure that the student poses no risk to patients;

(3) develop and implement a partnership strategy with minority-serving institutions to encourage referrals;

(4) create standardized procedures for student observers;

(5) create an online information page about the pilot program on the internet website of the Department;

(6) publish on the online information page created under paragraph (5) the locations of such centers, and other information on the pilot program, not later than 180 days before the date on which applications are required to be submitted by potential student observers;

(7) identify medical centers and specific health professionals participating in the pilot program; and

(8) notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the medical centers selected under subsection (c) within 30 days of selection, to facilitate program awareness.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the results of the pilot program, including—

(1) the number and demographics of all applicants, those accepted to participate in the pilot program, and those who completed the pilot program; and

(2) if participating institutions of higher education choose to administer satisfaction surveys that assess the experience of those who completed the pilot program, the results of any such satisfaction surveys, provided at the discretion of the institution of higher education.

(g) **SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program described in subsection (a) should be designed to—

(1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and empathy of future health professionals toward the health conditions common to veterans;

(2) increase the diversity of the recruitment pool of future physicians of the Department; and

(3) expand clinical observation opportunities for all students by encouraging students of all backgrounds to consider a career in the health professions.

(h) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this section. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

#### **Subtitle B—Scheduling and Consult Management**

#### **SEC. 3101. PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE.**

##### **(a) PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) establish a process and requirements for scheduling appointments for—

(i) health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) health care furnished through the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, by a non-Department health care provider; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a description of such process and requirements.

(2) **ELEMENTS OF DESCRIPTION.**—The description of the process and requirements for scheduling appointments for health care required to be submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) information on how such process and requirements take into account the access standards established under section 1703B of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) the maximum number of days allowed to complete each step of such process.

##### **(3) PERIODIC REVISION.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may revise the process and requirements required under paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers necessary.

(B) **SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days before revising the process and requirements under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a description of such revised process and requirements, including a description of any modifications to the certification and training under subsection (b).

(b) **CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING ON PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS.—**

(1) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall require each individual involved in the scheduling of appointments for health care from the Department or health care described in subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii), including schedulers, clinical coordinators, and supervisors, to certify to the Secretary that the individual understands the process and requirements established under subsection (a), including the maximum number of days allowed to complete each step of such process.

(2) **NEW EMPLOYEES.**—The Secretary shall require each employee hired by the Department on or after the date of the enactment of this Act

who is to be involved in the scheduling of appointments for health care from the Department or health care described in subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii)—

(A) to undergo training on the process and requirements established under subsection (a) as part of training for the position for which the employee has been hired; and

(B) to make the certification to the Secretary required under paragraph (1).

##### **(c) METHOD TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish or maintain a method or tool—

(A) to enable monitoring of the compliance of the Department with the process and requirements established under subsection (a), including compliance with policies of the Department relating to the maximum number of days allowed to complete each step of such process; and

(B) to ensure that each medical facility of the Department complies with such process and requirements.

##### **(2) USE THROUGHOUT DEPARTMENT.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require each medical facility of the Department to use the method or tool described in paragraph (1).

(B) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a report indicating whether each medical facility of the Department is using the method or tool described in paragraph (1).

(d) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the compliance of the Secretary with the requirements of this section.

#### **SEC. 3102. AUDITS REGARDING SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS AND MANAGEMENT OF CONSULTATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the conduct of a facility-level audit of the scheduling of appointments and the management of consultations for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

##### **(b) APPLICATION.—**

(1) **FIRST AUDIT.**—The first audit required under subsection (a) shall apply to each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **SECOND AUDIT.**—The second audit required under subsection (a) shall apply to only those medical facilities of the Department that are in need of corrective action based on the first audit, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—Each audit conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to each medical center of the Department covered by the audit, an assessment of any scheduling or consultation management issues at that medical center, including the following:

(A) An assessment of noncompliance with policies of the Veterans Health Administration relating to scheduling appointments and managing consultations.

(B) An assessment of the extent to which appointments or consultations are not timely processed.

(C) A description of any backlogs in appointments or consultations that are awaiting action.

(D) An assessment of whether consultations are appropriately processed.

(E) Data with respect to consultations as follows:

(i) Consultations that were scheduled within the request window.

(ii) Duplicate consultation requests.

(iii) Consultations that were discontinued.

(iv) Delays in consultations.

(v) Consultations that were not properly closed or discontinued, including a description of remediation attempts.

(F) A review for accuracy with respect to consultation management as follows:

(i) A review of the accuracy of the type of service, either administrative or clinical, that is inputted in the electronic health record.

(ii) A review of the accuracy of the type of consultation setting, either inpatient or outpatient, that is inputted in the electronic health record.

(iii) A review of the appropriateness of the level of urgency of the consultation that is inputted in the electronic health record.

(iv) A review of any delayed or unresolved consultations.

(2) An identification of such recommendations for corrective action as the Secretary considers necessary, including additional training, increased personnel, and other resources.

(3) A certification that the director of each medical center of the Department covered by the audit is in compliance with the process and requirements established under section 3101(a) and such other requirements relating to the scheduling of appointments and management of consultations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(4) With respect to referrals for health care between health care providers or facilities of the Department, a measurement of, for each medical facility of the Department covered by the audit—

(A) the period of time between—

(i) the date that a clinician of the Department determines that a veteran requires care from another health care provider or facility and the date that the referral for care is sent to the other health care provider or facility;

(ii) the date that the referral for care is sent to the other health care provider or facility and the date that the other health care provider or facility accepts the referral;

(iii) the date that the other health care provider or facility accepts the referral and the date that the appointment with the other health care provider or at the other facility is made; and

(iv) the date that the appointment with the other health care provider or at the other facility is made and the date of the appointment with the other health care provider or at the other facility; and

(B) any other period of time that the Secretary determines necessary to measure.

(5) With respect to referrals for non-Department health care originating from medical facilities of the Department, a measurement of, for each such facility covered by the audit—

(A) the period of time between—

(i) the date that a clinician of the Department determines that a veteran requires care, or a veteran presents to the Department requesting care, and the date that the referral for care is sent to a non-Department health care provider;

(ii) the date that the referral for care is sent to a non-Department health care provider and the date that a non-Department health care provider accepts the referral;

(iii) the date that a non-Department health care provider accepts the referral and the date that the referral to a non-Department health care provider is completed;

(iv) the date that the referral to a non-Department health care provider is completed and the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider is made; and

(v) the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider is made and the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider occurs; and

(B) any other period of time that the Secretary determines necessary to measure.

(d) **CONDUCT OF AUDIT BY THIRD PARTY.**—Each audit conducted under subsection (a) with

respect to a medical facility of the Department shall be conducted by an individual or entity that is not affiliated with the facility.

(e) TRANSMITTAL TO VHA.—Each audit conducted under subsection (a) shall be transmitted to the Under Secretary for Health of the Department so that the Under Secretary can—

(1) strengthen oversight of the scheduling of appointments and management of consultations throughout the Department;

(2) monitor national policy on such scheduling and management; and

(3) develop a remediation plan to address issues uncovered by those audits.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31 of each year in which an audit is conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the audit conducted during that year.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The Secretary shall include in each report required by paragraph (1)—

(A) the nationwide results of the audit conducted under subsection (a);

(B) the results of such audit with respect to each medical facility of the Department covered by such audit;

(C) an assessment of how the Department strengthened oversight of the scheduling of appointments and management of consultations at each such facility as a result of the audit;

(D) an assessment of how the audit informed the national policy of the Department with respect to the scheduling of appointments and management of consultations; and

(E) a description of any remediation plans to address issues raised by the audit that was completed.

#### SEC. 3103. ADMINISTRATION OF NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE.

(a) CERTIFICATION OF PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF NON-DEPARTMENT CARE.—

(1) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the staffing, training, and other requirements necessary to administer section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(i) an assessment of the type of positions required to be staffed at the medical facility;

(ii) the number of such positions authorized;

(iii) the number of such positions funded;

(iv) the number of such positions filled; and

(v) the number of additional such positions required to be authorized.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives—

(A) the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) a certification that the Secretary has established all staffing, training, and other requirements required to be reviewed under such paragraph.

(b) SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS.—

(1) MEASUREMENT OF TIMELINESS FOR EACH FACILITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall measure, with respect to referrals for non-Department health care originating from medical facilities of the Department, for each such facility—

(A) the period of time between—

(i) the date that a clinician of the Department determines that a veteran requires care, or a veteran presents to the Department requesting care, and the date that the referral for care is sent to a non-Department health care provider;

(ii) the date that the referral for care is sent to a non-Department health care provider and the date that a non-Department health care provider accepts the referral;

(iii) the date that a non-Department health care provider accepts the referral and the date that the referral to a non-Department health care provider is completed;

(iv) the date that the referral to a non-Department health care provider is completed and the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider is made; and

(v) the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider is made and the date that an appointment with a non-Department health care provider occurs; and

(B) any other period of time that the Secretary determines necessary to measure.

(2) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives the data measured under paragraph (1), disaggregated by medical facility.

(B) UPDATE.—Not less frequently than bi-weekly, the Secretary shall update the data submitted under subparagraph (A).

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—

(1) REVIEW.—Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review compliance by the Secretary with the requirements of this section, including a review of the validity and reliability of data submitted by the Secretary under subsection (b)(2).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1).

#### SEC. 3104. EXAMINATION OF HEALTH CARE CONSULTATION AND SCHEDULING POSITIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PROPER GRADING OF CONSULTATION AND SCHEDULING POSITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an examination of health care positions of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine whether health care positions involved in the consultation and scheduling processes are appropriately graded.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the examination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with health care staffing experts in the Federal Government and the private sector.

(3) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the results of the examination conducted under paragraph (1).

(b) REVIEW OF ONBOARDING PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a review of the onboarding process of individuals in health care positions described in subsection (a), including how long it takes to hire those individuals; and

(2) a description of any changes that the Secretary has made or plans to make to improve that process.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

#### TITLE IV—NAVY SEAL BILL MULDER

##### SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Navy SEAL Bill Mulder Act of 2020".

#### Subtitle A—Service-connection and COVID-19

##### SEC. 4101. PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WHO CONTRACT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VI of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### "§1164. Presumptions of service-connection for Coronavirus Disease 2019

"(a) PRESUMPTIONS GENERALLY.—(1) For purposes of laws administered by the Secretary and subject to section 1113 of this title, if symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (in this section referred to as 'COVID-19') described in subsection (d) manifest within one of the manifestation periods described in paragraph (2) in an individual who served in a qualifying period of duty described in subsection (b)—

"(A) infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (in this section referred to as 'SARS-CoV-2') shall be presumed to have occurred during the qualifying period of duty;

"(B) COVID-19 shall be presumed to have been incurred during the qualifying period of duty; and

"(C) if the individual becomes disabled or dies as a result of COVID-19, it shall be presumed that the individual became disabled or died during the qualifying period of duty for purposes of establishing that the individual served in the active military, naval, or air service.

"(2)(A) The manifestation periods described in this paragraph are the following:

"(i) During a qualifying period of duty described in subsection (b), if that period of duty was more than 48 continuous hours in duration.

"(ii) Within 14 days after the individual's completion of a qualifying period of duty described in subsection (b).

"(iii) An additional period prescribed under subparagraph (B).

"(B)(i) If the Secretary determines that a manifestation period of more than 14 days after completion of a qualifying period of service is appropriate for the presumptions under paragraph (1), the Secretary may prescribe that additional period by regulation.

"(ii) A determination under clause (i) shall be made in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(b) QUALIFYING PERIOD OF DUTY DESCRIBED.—A qualifying period of duty described in this subsection is—

"(1) a period of active duty performed—

"(A) during the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

"(B) before the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020; or

"(2) training duty under title 10 or full-time National Guard duty (as defined in section 101 of title 10), performed under orders issued on or after March 13, 2020—

"(A) during the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

"(B) before the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

"(c) APPLICATION OF PRESUMPTIONS FOR TRAINING DUTY.—When, pursuant to subsection (a), COVID-19 is presumed to have been incurred during a qualifying period of duty described in subsection (b)(2)—

"(1) COVID-19 shall be deemed to have been incurred in the line of duty during a period of active military, naval, or air service; and

"(2) where entitlement to benefits under this title is predicated on the individual who was disabled or died being a veteran, benefits for disability or death resulting from COVID-19 as described in subsection (a) shall be paid or furnished as if the individual was a veteran, without regard to whether the period of duty would

constitute active military, naval, or air service under section 101 of this title.

“(d) SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.—For purposes of subsection (a), symptoms of COVID-19 are those symptoms that competent medical evidence demonstrates are experienced by an individual affected and directly related to COVID-19.

“(e) MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND OPINIONS.—If there is a question of whether the symptoms experienced by an individual described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) during a manifestation period described in paragraph (2) of such subsection are attributable to COVID-19 resulting from infection with SARS-CoV-2 during the qualifying period of duty, in determining whether a medical examination or medical opinion is necessary to make a decision on the claim within the meaning of section 5103A(d) of this title, a qualifying period of duty described in subsection (b) of this section shall be treated as if it were active military, naval, or air service for purposes of section 5103A(d)(2)(B) of this title.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1164. Presumptions of service-connection for Coronavirus Disease 2019.”

**Subtitle B—Assistance for Homeless Veterans**  
**SEC. 4201. FLEXIBILITY FOR THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN CARING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS DURING A COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

(a) GENERAL SUPPORT.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS.—During a covered public health emergency, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out sections 2011, 2012, 2031, and 2061 of title 38, United States Code, to provide to homeless veterans and veterans participating in the program carried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) (commonly referred to as “HUD-VASH”), as the Secretary determines is needed, the following:

(A) Assistance required for safety and survival (such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items).

(B) Transportation required to support stability and health (such as for appointments with service providers, conducting housing searches, and obtaining food and supplies).

(C) Communications equipment and services (such as tablets, smartphones, disposable phones, and related service plans) required to support stability and health (such as maintaining contact with service providers, prospective landlords, and family).

(D) Such other assistance as the Secretary determines is needed.

(2) HOMELESS VETERANS ON LAND OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

(A) COLLABORATION.—During a covered public health emergency, to the extent possible, the Secretary may collaborate with one or more organizations to manage use of land of the Department for homeless veterans for living and sleeping.

(B) ELEMENTS.—Collaboration under subparagraph (A) may include the provision by either the Secretary or the organization of food services and security for property, buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by the Department.

(b) GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAM.—

(1) LIMITS ON RATES FOR PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—Section 20013(b) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (38 U.S.C. 2011 note; Public Law 116-136) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by inserting “(1)” before “In the case”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Secretary waives any limit on grant amounts or rates for per diem payments under paragraph (1), notwithstanding section 2012(a)(2)(B) of such title, the maximum rate for per diem payments described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be three times the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under section 1741 of such title.”

(2) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING LIMITS FOR GRANTS.—Subsection (c)(2) of section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, shall not apply to any grant awarded during a covered public health emergency under such section for a project described in subsection (b)(1) of such section.

(3) USE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—During a covered public health emergency, a recipient of a grant or an eligible entity under the grant and per diem program of the Department (in this subsection referred to as the “program”) may use per diem payments under sections 2012 and 2061 of title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance required for safety and survival (such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items) for—

(A) homeless veterans; and

(B) formerly homeless veterans residing in a facility operated wholly or in part by such a recipient or eligible entity receiving per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

(4) ADDITIONAL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During a covered public health emergency, under the program, the Secretary may provide amounts for additional transitional housing beds to facilitate access to housing and services provided to homeless veterans.

(B) NOTICE; COMPETITION; PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary may provide amounts under subparagraph (A)—

(i) without notice or competition; and

(ii) for a period of performance determined by the Secretary.

(5) INSPECTIONS AND LIFE SAFETY CODE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During a covered public health emergency, the Secretary may waive any requirement under subsection (b) or (c) of section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, in order to allow the recipient of a grant or an eligible entity under the program—

(i) to quickly identify temporary alternate sites of care for homeless veterans that are suitable for habitation;

(ii) to facilitate social distancing or isolation needs; or

(iii) to facilitate activation or continuation of a program for which a grant has been awarded.

(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may waive a requirement pursuant to the authority provided by subparagraph (A) with respect to a facility of a recipient of a grant or an eligible entity under the program only if the facility meets applicable local safety requirements, including fire safety requirements.

(6) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY RELATING TO GRANTS.—During a covered public health emergency, if the recipient of a grant awarded before or during such emergency under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, for a project described in subsection (b)(1) of such section is no longer providing services in accordance with the terms of the grant, the recipient shall not be subject during such emergency to any property disposition requirements relating to the grant under subsection (c) or (f) of section 61.67 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 200.311(c) of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations.

(c) INSPECTION AND LIFE SAFETY CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR THERAPEUTIC HOUSING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During a covered public health emergency, the Secretary may waive any inspection or life safety code requirement under subsection (c) of section 2032 of title 38, United States Code—

(A) to allow quick identification of temporary alternate sites of care for homeless veterans that are suitable for habitation;

(B) to facilitate social distancing or isolation needs; or

(C) to facilitate the operation of housing under such section.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may waive a requirement pursuant to the authority provided by paragraph (1) with respect to a residence or facility referred to in such section 2032 only if the residence or facility, as the case may be, meets applicable local safety requirements, including fire safety requirements.

(d) ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—To the extent practicable, during a covered public health emergency, the Secretary shall ensure that veterans participating in or receiving services from a program under chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, have access to telehealth services to which such veterans are eligible under the laws administered by the Secretary, including by ensuring that telehealth capabilities are available to—

(1) such veterans;

(2) case managers of the Department of programs for homeless veterans authorized under such chapter; and

(3) community-based service providers for homeless veterans receiving funds from the Department through grants or contracts.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term “covered public health emergency” means an emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared by a Federal, State, or local authority.

(2) HOMELESS VETERAN; VETERAN.—The terms “homeless veteran” and “veteran” have the meanings given those terms in section 2002 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) TELEHEALTH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “telehealth” means the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration.

(B) TECHNOLOGIES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), “telecommunications technologies” include video conferencing, the internet, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.

**SEC. 4202. LEGAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2022 the following new section:

**“§2022A. Legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness**

“(a) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.

“(b) CRITERIA.—(1) The Secretary shall—

“(A) establish criteria and requirements for grants under this section, including criteria for entities eligible to receive such grants; and

“(B) publish such criteria and requirements in the Federal Register.

“(2) In establishing criteria and requirements under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) take into consideration any criteria and requirements needed with respect to carrying out this section in rural communities, on trust lands, and in the territories and possessions of the United States; and

“(B) consult with organizations that have experience in providing services to homeless veterans, including—

“(i) veterans service organizations;

“(ii) the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps; and

“(iii) such other organizations as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section to an entity

applying for such a grant only if the applicant for the grant—

“(1) is a public or nonprofit private entity with the capacity (as determined by the Secretary) to effectively administer a grant under this section;

“(2) demonstrates that adequate financial support will be available to carry out the services for which the grant is sought consistent with the application;

“(3) agrees to meet the applicable criteria and requirements established under subsection (b)(1); and

“(4) has, as determined by the Secretary, demonstrated the capacity to meet such criteria and requirements.

“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this section shall be used to provide homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness the following legal services:

“(1) Legal services relating to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases.

“(2) Legal services relating to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning, and family reconciliation.

“(3) Legal services relating to income support, including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

“(4) Legal services relating to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of re-entry obstacles in employment or housing.

“(5) Legal services relating to requests to upgrade the characterization of a discharge or dismissal of a former member of the Armed Forces under section 1553 of title 10.

“(6) Such other legal services as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(e) FUNDS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.—For any fiscal year, not less than 10 percent of the amount authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section shall be used to provide legal services described in subsection (d) to women veterans.

“(f) LOCATIONS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall award grants under this section to eligible entities in a manner that is equitably distributed across the geographic regions of the United States, including with respect to—

“(1) rural communities;

“(2) trust lands (as defined in section 3765 of this title);

“(3) Native Americans; and

“(4) tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

“(g) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—(1) Not less frequently than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on grants awarded under this section.

“(2) To the extent feasible, each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to the period covered by the report:

“(A) The number of homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness assisted.

“(B) A description of the legal services provided.

“(C) A description of the legal matters addressed.

“(D) An analysis by the Secretary with respect to the operational effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the services provided.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2022 the following new item:

“2022A. Legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.”.

(c) CRITERIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and publish in the Federal Register the criteria and requirements pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 2022A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

**SEC. 4203. GAP ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN VETERANS WHO ARE HOMELESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall complete an analysis of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provide assistance to women veterans who are homeless or precariously housed to identify the areas in which such programs are failing to meet the needs of such women.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the analysis completed under subsection (a).

**SEC. 4204. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANTS AWARDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) INCREASE IN PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A)(i) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the rate for such per diem payments shall be the daily cost of care estimated by the grant recipient or eligible entity adjusted by the Secretary under clause (ii).

“(ii)(I) The Secretary shall adjust the rate estimated by the grant recipient or eligible entity under clause (i) to exclude other sources of income described in subclause (II) that the grant recipient or eligible entity certifies to be correct.

“(II) Each grant recipient or eligible entity shall provide to the Secretary such information with respect to other sources of income as the Secretary may require to make the adjustment under subclause (I).

“(III) The other sources of income referred to in subclauses (I) and (II) are payments to the grant recipient or eligible entity for furnishing services to homeless veterans under programs other than under this subchapter, including payments and grants from other departments and agencies of the United States, from departments or agencies of State or local government, and from private entities or organizations.

“(iii) For purposes of calculating the rate for per diem payments under clause (i), in the case of a homeless veteran who has care of a minor dependent while receiving services from the grant recipient or eligible entity, the daily cost of care of the homeless veteran shall be the sum of the daily cost of care of the homeless veteran determined under clause (i) plus, for each such minor dependent, an amount that equals 50 percent of such daily cost of care.

“(B)(i)(I) Except as provided in clause (ii), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may adjust the rate for per diem payments under this paragraph, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(II) Any adjustment made under this clause—

“(aa) may not result in a rate that—

“(AA) is lower than the rate in effect under this paragraph as in effect immediately preceding the date of the enactment of the Navy SEAL Bill Mulder Act of 2020; or

“(BB) exceeds the rate that is 115 percent of the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section; and

“(bb) may be determined on the basis of locality.

“(ii) In the case of services furnished to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent housing for the veteran upon termination of the furnishing of such services to such veteran, the maximum rate of per diem authorized under this section is 150 percent of the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section.”.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN FEES.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) REIMBURSEMENT OF ENTITIES FOR CERTAIN FEES.—The Secretary may reimburse a recipient of a grant under section 2011, 2013, or 2061 of this title or a recipient of per diem payments under this section for fees charged to that grant or per diem payment recipient for the use of the homeless management information system described in section 402(f) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f))—

“(1) in amounts the Secretary determines to be reasonable; and

“(2) if the Secretary determines that the grant or per diem payment recipient is unable to obtain information contained in such system through other means and at no cost to the grant or per diem payment recipient.”.

**SEC. 4205. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2021(a)(4) of such title is amended by striking “section 2023(e)” and inserting “section 2023(d)”.

**SEC. 4206. COORDINATION OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR VETERANS RECEIVING HOUSING VOUCHERS UNDER TRIBAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Section 2003 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ASSISTANCE FROM INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services under which case managers of the Indian Health Service may provide case management assistance to veterans who receive housing vouchers under the Tribal Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.”.

**SEC. 4207. CONTRACTS RELATING TO CASE MANAGERS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS IN SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 38 U.S.C. 2041 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2)(A) The director of each covered medical center shall seek to enter into one or more contracts or agreements described in paragraph (1).

“(B) Any contract or agreement under subparagraph (A) may require that each case manager employed by an eligible entity who performs services under the contract or agreement has credentials equivalent to the credentials required for a case manager of the Department.

“(C)(i) The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) with respect to a

covered medical center if the Secretary determines that fulfilling such requirement is infeasible.

“(ii) If the Secretary grants a waiver under clause (i), the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after granting such waiver, submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing—

“(I) an explanation of the determination made under clause (i);

“(II) a plan to increase the number of case managers of the Department; and

“(III) a plan for the covered medical center to increase use of housing vouchers allocated to that medical center under the program described in paragraph (1).

“(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered medical center’ means a medical center of the Department with respect to which the Secretary determines that—

“(i) more than 15 percent of all housing vouchers allocated to that medical center under the program described in paragraph (1) during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such determination was made were unused due to a lack of case management services provided by the Secretary; and

“(ii) one or more case manager positions have been vacant for at least nine consecutive months immediately preceding the date of such determination.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “, including because—” and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4208. REPORT ON STAFFING OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every three years thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the hiring needs of the program carried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437(o)(19)) (in this section referred to as the “HUD-VASH program”), including—

(A) an identification of the number of case managers of the HUD-VASH program as of the date of the report including—

(i) the total number of vacancies; and

(ii) the vacancies at each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(B) the number of case managers of the HUD-VASH program that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development jointly determine necessary to meet the needs of the Department and the program; and

(C) the amount of turnover among case managers of the HUD-VASH program and whether the turnover was planned or unexpected.

(2) An assessment of how compensation, including recruitment and retention incentives, for case managers of the HUD-VASH program affects turnover, and what percentage of retention compensation is provided to such case managers at each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs (compared to other positions).

(3) A comparison of compensation described in paragraph (2) with the compensation provided to State, local, and nongovernmental housing employees at comparable training and experience levels.

(4) Examples of how the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Housing

and Urban Development have worked with non-Federal partners (such as local governments, nongovernmental organizations, veterans service organizations, and employee unions) to meet the staffing needs of the HUD-VASH program.

(5) Examples of how medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs with high retention rates for case managers of the HUD-VASH program have been able to maintain staffing levels.

**Subtitle C—Retraining Assistance for Veterans**

**SEC. 4301. ACCESS FOR THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THE FEDERAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.**

Section 453A(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretaries of Labor and of Veterans Affairs shall have access to information reported by employers pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for purposes of tracking employment of veterans.”.

**SEC. 4302. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE CLASS OF PROVIDERS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION FOR VETERANS.**

Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmer Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall treat an individual as an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that the individual shall become an eligible veteran fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination. If an individual treated as an eligible veteran by reason of the preceding sentence does anything to make the veteran ineligible during the 180-day period referred to in such sentence, the Secretary may require the veteran to repay any benefits received by such veteran by reason of such sentence.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “has been operational for at least 2 years” and inserting “employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (6)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) EXPERTS.—The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—

“(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;

“(B) effectively teach the skills offered to eligible veterans;

“(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming eligible veterans; and

“(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.”;

(3) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “(not including an individual described in the second sentence of subsection (b))” after “each eligible veteran”;

(B) by inserting “or part-time” after “full-time”;

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “\$15,000,000” and inserting “\$45,000,000”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection (i):

“(i) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACCOUNTING OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of title 38, United States Code.”.

**SEC. 4303. PILOT PROGRAM FOR OFF-BASE TRANSITION TRAINING FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES.**

(a) EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (a) of section 301 of the Dignified Burial

and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 10 U.S.C. 1144 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “During the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Navy SEAL Bill Mulder Act of 2020”; and

(2) by striking “to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing such program to eligible individuals at locations other than military installations”.

(b) LOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “STATES” and inserting “LOCATIONS”; and

(B) by striking “not less than three and not more than five States” and inserting “not fewer than 50 locations in States (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “at least two” and inserting “at least 20”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) PREFERENCES.—In selecting States for participation in the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide a preference for any State with—

“(A) a high rate of usage of unemployment benefits for recently separated members of the Armed Forces; or

“(B) a labor force or economy that has been significantly impacted by a covered public health emergency.

“(6) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered public health emergency’ means—

“(A) the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); or

“(B) a domestic emergency declared, based on an outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), by the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or a State or local authority.”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Each such report shall include information about the employment outcomes of the eligible individuals who received such training during the year covered by the report.”.

(d) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (f) of such section is repealed.

**SEC. 4304. GRANTS FOR PROVISION OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AFTER SEPARATION, RETIREMENT, OR DISCHARGE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make grants to eligible organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to provide to members of the Armed Forces and spouses described in subsection (a) resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment training, and related services leading directly to successful transition, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an organization shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may require.

(d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an organization that—

(1) provides multiple forms of services described in subsection (b); or

(2) is located in a State with—

(A) a high rate of unemployment among veterans;



(B) a high rate of usage of unemployment benefits for recently separated members of the Armed Forces; or

(C) a labor force or economy that has been significantly impacted by a covered public health emergency (as such term is defined in section 131(n)).

(e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant under this section shall be in an amount that does not exceed 50 percent of the amount required by the organization to provide the services described in subsection (b).

(f) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out this section not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide a grant under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the Secretary implements the grant program under this section.

**SEC. 4305. ONE-YEAR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the covered officials, shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity with experience in adult education to carry out a one-year independent assessment of the Transition Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code (TAP), including—

(1) the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program for members of each military department during the entire military life cycle;

(2) the appropriateness of the career readiness standards of the Transition Assistance Program;

(3) a review of information that is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under the Transition Assistance Program, including mental health data;

(4) whether the Transition Assistance Program effectively addresses the challenges veterans face entering the civilian workforce and in translating experience and skills from military service to the job market;

(5) whether the Transition Assistance Program effectively addresses the challenges faced by the families of veterans making the transition to civilian life;

(6) appropriate metrics regarding outcomes of the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces one year after separation, retirement, or discharge from the Armed Forces;

(7) what the Secretary, in consultation with the covered officials and veterans service organizations, determine to be successful outcomes for the Transition Assistance Program;

(8) whether members of the Armed Forces achieve successful outcomes for the Transition Assistance Program, as determined under paragraph (7);

(9) how the Secretary and the covered officials provide feedback to each other regarding such outcomes;

(10) recommendations for the Secretaries of the military departments regarding how to improve outcomes for members of the Armed Forces after separation, retirement, and discharge; and

(11) other topics the Secretary and the covered officials determine would aid members of the Armed Forces as they transition to civilian life.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the independent assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary and the covered officials shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) the findings and recommendations (including recommended legislation) of the independent assessment prepared by the entity described in subsection (a); and

(2) responses of the Secretary and the covered officials to the findings and recommendations described in paragraph (1).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OFFICIALS.—The term “covered officials” means—

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

(B) the Secretary of Labor;

(C) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(D) the Secretaries of the military departments.

(3) MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—The term “military department” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

**SEC. 4306. LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHANGES TO TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study regarding the Transition Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code (TAP), on three separate cohorts of members of the Armed Forces who have separated from the Armed Forces, including—

(1) a cohort that has attended counseling under the Transition Assistance Program as implemented on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) a cohort that attends counseling under the Transition Assistance Program after the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor implement changes recommended in the report under section 136(b); and

(3) a cohort that has not attended counseling under the Transition Assistance Program.

(b) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date that is one year after the date of the initiation of the study under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the three subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a progress report of activities under the study during the immediately preceding year.

(c) FINAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report of final findings and recommendations based on the study.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The final report under paragraph (1) shall include information regarding the following:

(A) The percentage of each cohort that received unemployment benefits during the study under subsection (a).

(B) The numbers of months members of each cohort were employed during the study.

(C) Annual starting and ending salaries of members of each cohort who were employed during the study.

(D) How many members of each cohort enrolled in an institution of higher learning, as that term is defined in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(E) The academic credit hours, degrees, and certificates obtained by members of each cohort during the study.

(F) The annual income of members of each cohort.

(G) The total household income of members of each cohort.

(H) How many members of each cohort own their principal residences.

(I) How many dependents members of each cohort have.

(J) The percentage of each cohort that achieves a successful outcome for the Transition Assistance Program, as determined under section 136(a)(7).

(K) Other criteria the Secretaries and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration determine appropriate.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

**TITLE V—DEBORAH SAMPSON**

**SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Deborah Sampson Act of 2020”.

**Subtitle A—Improving Access for Women Veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**SEC. 5101. OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) CHIEF OFFICER OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.—Subsection (a) of section 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph (10):

“(10) The Chief Officer of Women’s Health.”.

(b) ORGANIZATION OF OFFICE AND ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of the following new sections:

**“§ 7310. Office of Women’s Health**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Under Secretary for Health shall establish and operate in the Veterans Health Administration the Office of Women’s Health (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(2) The Office shall be located at the Central Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(3)(A) The head of the Office is the Chief Officer of Women’s Health (in this section referred to as the ‘Chief Officer’).

“(B) The Chief Officer shall report to the Under Secretary for Health.

“(4) The Under Secretary for Health shall provide the Office with such staff and other support as may be necessary for the Office to carry out effectively the functions of the Office under this section.

“(5) The Under Secretary for Health may reorganize existing offices within the Veterans Health Administration as of the date of the enactment of this section in order to avoid duplication with the functions of the Office.

“(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Office include the following:

“(1) To provide a central office for monitoring and encouraging the activities of the Veterans Health Administration with respect to the provision, evaluation, and improvement of health care services provided to women veterans by the Department.

“(2) To develop and implement standards of care for the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department.

“(3) To monitor and identify deficiencies in standards of care for the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department, to provide technical assistance to medical facilities of the Department to address and remedy deficiencies, and to perform oversight of implementation of such standards of care.

“(4) To monitor and identify deficiencies in standards of care for the provision of health care for women veterans provided through the community pursuant to this title and to provide recommendations to the appropriate office to address and remedy any deficiencies.

“(5) To oversee distribution of resources and information related to health programming for women veterans under this title.

“(6) To promote the expansion and improvement of clinical, research, and educational activities of the Veterans Health Administration with respect to the health care of women veterans.

“(7) To provide, as part of the annual budgeting process, recommendations with respect to the amounts to be requested for furnishing hospital care and medical services to women veterans pursuant to chapter 17 of this title, including, at a minimum, recommendations that ensure that such amounts either reflect or exceed the proportion of veterans enrolled in the system of patient enrollment of the Department established and operated under section 1705(a) of this title who are women.

“(8) To provide recommendations to the Under Secretary for Health with respect to modifying the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system, or successor system, to ensure that resource allocations under such system, or successor system, reflect the health care needs of women veterans.

“(9) To carry out such other duties as the Under Secretary for Health may require.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—(1) If the Under Secretary for Health determines not to implement any recommendation made by the Chief Officer with respect to the allocation of resources to address the health care needs of women veterans, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such determination by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Under Secretary for Health receives the recommendation.

“(2) Each notification under paragraph (1) relating to a determination with respect to a recommendation shall include the following:

“(A) The reasoning of the Under Secretary for Health in making the determination.

“(B) An alternative, if one is selected, to the recommendation that the Under Secretary for Health will carry out to fulfill the health care needs of women veterans.

“(d) STANDARDS OF CARE.—For purposes of carrying out the functions of the Office under this section, the standards of care for the provision of health care for women veterans from the Department shall include, at a minimum, the following:

“(1) A requirement for—

“(A) at least one designated women’s health primary care provider at each medical center of the Department whose duties include, to the extent practicable, providing training to other health care providers of the Department with respect to the needs of women veterans; and

“(B) at least one designated women’s health primary care provider at each community-based outpatient clinic of the Department who may serve women patients as a percentage of the total duties of the provider.

“(2) Other requirements as determined by the Under Secretary for Health.

“(e) OUTREACH.—The Chief Officer shall ensure that—

“(1) not less frequently than biannually, each medical facility of the Department holds a public forum for women veterans that occurs outside of regular business hours; and

“(2) not less frequently than quarterly, each medical facility of the Department convenes a focus group of women veterans that includes a discussion of harassment occurring at such facility.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ has the meaning given that term in section 7310A(h) of this title.

“(2) The term ‘facility of the Department’ has the meaning given the term ‘facilities of the Department’ in section 1701(3) of this title.

“(3) The term ‘Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system’ means the resource allocation system established pursuant to section 429 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–204; 110 Stat. 2929).

### “§ 7310A. Annual reports on women’s health

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than December 1 of each year, the Chief Officer of Women’s Health shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the matters under subsections (b) through (g).

“(b) OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

“(1) actions taken by the Office of Women’s Health established under section 7310 of this title in the preceding fiscal year to improve the provision of health care by the Department to women veterans;

“(2) any identified deficiencies related to the provision of health care by the Department to women veterans and the standards of care established in such section and the plan of the Department to address such deficiencies;

“(3) the funding and personnel provided to the Office and whether additional funding or personnel are needed to meet the requirements of such section; and

“(4) other information that would be of interest to the appropriate congressional committees with respect to oversight of the provision of health care by the Department to women veterans.

“(c) ACCESS TO GENDER-SPECIFIC SERVICES.—

(1) Each report under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the access of women veterans to gender-specific services under contracts, agreements, or other arrangements with non-Department medical providers entered into by the Secretary for the provision of hospital care or medical services to veterans.

“(2) The analysis under paragraph (1) shall include data and performance measures for the availability of gender-specific services described in such paragraph, including—

“(A) the average wait time between the preferred appointment date of the veteran and the date on which the appointment is completed;

“(B) the average driving time required for veterans to attend appointments; and

“(C) reasons why appointments could not be scheduled with non-Department medical providers.

“(d) MODELS OF CARE.—(1) Each report under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the use by the Department of general primary care clinics, separate but shared spaces, and women’s health centers as delivery of care models for women veterans.

“(2) The analysis under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The number of facilities of the Department that fall into each delivery of care model described in such paragraph, disaggregated by Veterans Integrated Service Network and State.

“(B) A description of the criteria used by the Department to determine which such model is most appropriate for each facility of the Department.

“(C) An assessment of how the Department decides to make investments to modify facilities to a different model.

“(D) A description of what, if any, plans the Department has to modify facilities from general primary care clinics to another model.

“(E) An assessment of whether any facilities could be modified to a separate but shared space for a women’s health center within planned investments under the strategic capital investment planning process of the Department.

“(F) An assessment of whether any facilities could be modified to a separate or shared space or a women’s health center with minor modifications to existing plans under the strategic capital investment planning process of the Department.

“(G) An assessment of whether the Department has a goal for how many facilities should fall into each such model.

“(e) STAFFING.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the staffing of the Department relating to the treatment of

women, including the following, disaggregated by Veterans Integrated Service Network and State (except with respect to paragraph (4)):

“(1) The number of women’s health centers.

“(2) The number of patient aligned care teams of the Department relating to women’s health.

“(3) The number of full- and part-time gynecologists of the Department.

“(4) The number of designated women’s health care providers of the Department, disaggregated by facility of the Department.

“(5) The number of health care providers of the Department who have completed a mini-residency for women’s health care through the Women Veterans Health Care Mini-Residency Program of the Department during the one-year period preceding the submittal of the report and the number of mini-residency training slots for such program that are available during the one-year period following such date.

“(6) The number of designated women’s health care providers of the Department who have sufficient women patient loads or case complexities to retain their competencies and proficiencies.

“(f) ACCESSIBILITY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the accessibility and treatment options for women veterans, including the following:

“(1) An assessment of wheelchair accessibility of women’s health centers of the Department, including, with respect to each such center, an assessment of accessibility for each kind of treatment provided at the center, including with respect to radiology and mammography, that addresses all relevant factors, including door sizes, hoists, and equipment.

“(2) The options for women veterans to access mental health providers and primary care providers who are women.

“(3) The options for women veterans at medical facilities of the Department with respect to clothing sizes, including for gowns, drawstring pants, and pajamas.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘gender-specific services’ means mammography, obstetric care, gynecological care, and such other services as the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

(2) REFERENCES TO HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES.—The references to health care and the references to services in sections 7310 and 7310A of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), are references to the health care and services included in the medical benefits package provided by the Department as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7309A the following new items:

“7310. Office of Women’s Health.

“7310A. Annual reports on women’s health.”.

(c) INITIAL REPORT.—The Chief Officer of Women’s Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit the initial report under section 7310A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b), by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 5102. WOMEN VETERANS RETROFIT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prioritize the retrofitting of existing medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs with fixtures, materials, and other outfitting measures to support the provision of care to women veterans at such facilities.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan to address deficiencies in environment of care for women veterans at medical facilities of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An explanation of the specific environment of care deficiencies that need correcting.

(B) An assessment of how the Secretary prioritizes retrofitting existing medical facilities to support provision of care to women veterans in comparison to other requirements.

(C) A five-year strategic plan and cost projection for retrofitting medical facilities of the Department to support the provision of care to women veterans as required under subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to appropriations and the plan under (b), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$20,000,000 to carry out subsection (a) in addition to amounts otherwise made available to the Secretary for the purposes set forth in such subsection.

**SEC. 5103. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OF CARE STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a policy under which the environment of care standards and inspections at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs include—

(1) an alignment of the requirements for such standards and inspections with the women's health handbook of the Veterans Health Administration;

(2) a requirement for the frequency of such inspections;

(3) delineation of the roles and responsibilities of staff at each medical center who are responsible for compliance;

(4) the requirement that each medical center submit to the Secretary and make publicly available a report on the compliance of the medical center with the standards; and

(5) a remediation plan.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report certifying in writing that the policy required by subsection (a) has been finalized and disseminated to all medical centers of the Department.

**SEC. 5104. PROVISION OF REINTEGRATION AND READJUSTMENT SERVICES TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS IN GROUP RETREAT SETTINGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb);

(B) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II);

(C) in the matter preceding subclause (I), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by striking "Counseling" and inserting "(i) Counseling"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(ii)(I) Except as provided in subclauses (IV) and (V), counseling furnished to an individual under subparagraph (A) may include reintegration and readjustment services described in subclause (II) furnished in group retreat settings.

"(II) Reintegration and readjustment services described in this subclause are the following:

"(aa) Information on reintegration of the individual into family, employment, and commu-

"(bb) Financial counseling.

"(cc) Occupational counseling.

"(dd) Information and counseling on stress reduction.

"(ee) Information and counseling on conflict resolution.

"(ff) Such other information and counseling as the Secretary considers appropriate to assist the individual in reintegration into family, employment, and community.

"(III) In furnishing reintegration and readjustment services under subclause (I), the Secretary shall offer women the opportunity to receive such services in group retreat settings in which the only participants are women.

"(IV) An individual described in subparagraph (C)(v) may receive reintegration and readjustment services under subclause (I) of this clause only if the individual receives such services with a family member described in subclause (I) or (II) of such subparagraph.

"(V) In each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, the maximum number of individuals to whom integration and readjustment services may be furnished in group retreat settings under this subclause (I) shall not exceed 1,200 individuals."

(b) REQUEST FOR SERVICES.—Subsection (a)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking "Upon" and inserting "(A) Upon";

(2) by striking "paragraph (1)(B)" and inserting "paragraph (1)(B)(i)"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) Upon the request of an individual described in paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall furnish the individual reintegration and readjustment services in group retreat settings under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) if the Secretary determines the experience will be therapeutically appropriate."

**SEC. 5105. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS.**

(a) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into one or more agreements with public or private entities to provide legal services to women veterans.

(b) FOCUS.—The focus of an agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall be to address the following unmet needs of women veterans as set forth in the most recently completed Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans (CHALENG for Veterans) survey:

(1) Child support.

(2) Prevention of eviction and foreclosure.

(3) Discharge upgrades.

(4) Financial guardianship.

(5) Credit counseling.

(6) Family reconciliation assistance.

**SEC. 5106. COMPTROLLER GENERAL SURVEYS AND REPORT ON SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR VERY LOW-INCOME WOMEN VETERANS.**

(a) SURVEYS.—

(1) SURVEY OF WOMEN VETERANS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall survey women veterans who have received or are receiving supportive services provided under section 2044 of title 38, United States Code, to determine satisfaction with the ability of such services to meet the specific needs of such veterans.

(2) SURVEY OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Comptroller General shall survey eligible entities receiving financial assistance under such section and other partners of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including veterans service organizations and the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, on the view of such entities and partners regarding—

(A) whether the Department is meeting the needs of women veterans through the provision of supportive services under such section; and

(B) any additional supportive services that may be required to meet such needs.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide supportive services to women veterans under section 2044 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A review of how the Department determines which categories of supportive services would be beneficial to women veterans who receive services under such section.

(B) A description of the challenges women veterans who have children face in accessing supportive services under such section, including with respect to accessing—

(i) homeless shelters with their children;

(ii) homeless shelters that have restrictions on male children; and

(iii) affordable child care.

(C) A description of how the Department identifies eligible entities under such section that can provide supportive services to meet the needs of women veterans, including eligible entities with experience in—

(i) intimate partner violence;

(ii) legal matters pertaining especially to women veterans, including temporary restraining orders and child care orders;

(iii) supportive services for children; and

(iv) the evaluation of which categories of services would be beneficial to women veterans who receive such services under such section.

(D) A description of how much the Department spends, from funds appropriated to carry out such section and funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136), on supportive services specifically for women veterans, and in particular, on the services described in subparagraph (A).

(E) The results of the surveys conducted under subsection (a).

(F) A review of the resources and programming offered to woman veterans under such section.

(G) An assessment of such other areas as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

**SEC. 5107. PROGRAMS ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.**

(a) ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**"§ 1709C. Assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care**

"(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to provide, subject to subsection (b), assistance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c) to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive health care services described in subsection (c)(2).

"(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—Assistance may be provided to a qualified veteran under this section for receipt of child care only during the period that the qualified veteran—

"(1) receives the types of health care services described in subsection (c)(2) at a facility of the Department; and

"(2) requires travel to and return from such facility for the receipt of such health care services.

"(c) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who—

"(1) is the primary caretaker of a child or children; and

"(2)(A) receives from the Department—

"(i) regular mental health care services;

"(ii) intensive mental health care services; or

"(iii) such other intensive health care services that the Secretary determines that provision of

assistance to the veteran to obtain child care would improve access to such health care services by the veteran; or

“(B) is in need of regular or intensive mental health care services from the Department, and but for lack of child care services, would receive such health care services from the Department.

“(d) LOCATIONS.—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of the Deborah Sampson Act of 2020, the Secretary shall carry out the program at each medical center of the Department.

“(e) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1) Child care assistance under this section may include the following:

“(A) Stipends for the payment of child care offered by a licensed child care center (either directly or through a voucher program) that shall be, to the extent practicable, modeled after the Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 630 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-67; 115 Stat. 552).

“(B) Direct provision of child care at an onsite facility of the Department.

“(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

“(D) Collaboration with facilities or programs of other Federal agencies.

“(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) In providing child care assistance under this section, the child care needs of the local area shall be considered and the head of each medical center may select the type of care that is most appropriate or feasible for such medical center.

“(3) In the case that child care assistance under this section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 205(e) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2020” and inserting “the date of the enactment of the Deborah Sampson Act of 2020”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1709B the following new item:

“1709C. Assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.”

(b) PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing, subject to paragraph (2), assistance to qualified veterans described in paragraph (3) to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive readjustment counseling and related mental health services.

(2) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—Assistance may be provided to a qualified veteran under the pilot program for receipt of child care only during the period that the qualified veteran receives readjustment counseling and related health care services at a Vet Center.

(3) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this subsection, a qualified veteran is a veteran who—

(A) is the primary caretaker of a child or children; and

(B)(i) receives from the Department regular readjustment counseling and related mental health services; or

(ii) is in need of regular readjustment counseling and related mental health services from the Department, and but for lack of child care services, would receive such counseling and services from the Department.

(4) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in not fewer than three Read-

justment Counseling Service Regions selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

(5) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Child care assistance under the pilot program may include the following:

(i) Stipends for the payment of child care offered by a licensed child care center (either directly or through a voucher program) that shall be, to the extent practicable, modeled after the Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 630 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-67; 115 Stat. 552).

(ii) Payments to private child care agencies.

(iii) Collaboration with facilities or programs of other Federal agencies.

(iv) Such other forms of assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(B) LOCAL AREA.—In providing child care assistance under the pilot program, the child care needs of the local area shall be considered and the head of each Vet Center may select the type of care that is most appropriate or feasible for such Vet Center.

(C) USE OF STIPEND.—In the case that child care assistance under the pilot program is provided as a stipend under subparagraph (A)(i), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.

(6) DURATION.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(7) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the findings and conclusions of the Secretary regarding the pilot program, and shall include such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(8) VET CENTER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Vet Center” has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 5108. AVAILABILITY OF PROSTHETICS FOR WOMEN VETERANS FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) ACCESS AT EACH MEDICAL FACILITY.—Section 1714(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) Any veteran” and inserting “(a)(1) Any veteran”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) In furnishing prosthetic appliances under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure women veterans are able to access clinically appropriate prosthetic appliances through each medical facility of the Department.”

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the availability from the Department of Veterans Affairs of prosthetics made for women veterans, including an assessment of the availability of such prosthetics at medical facilities of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a list of all devices classified by the Department as prosthetic devices, including a breakdown of whether a device is considered gender-neutral or gender-specific;

(B) for gender-neutral devices, a breakdown of sizing;

(C) the average time it takes for a woman veteran to receive a prosthetic device after it is prescribed, disaggregated by Veterans Integrated

Service Network and medical center of the Department;

(D) the total number of women veterans utilizing the Department for prosthetic services, disaggregated by facility of the Department;

(E) an assessment of efforts by the Department on research, development, and employment of additive manufacture technology (commonly referred to as 3D printing) to provide prosthetic items for women veterans;

(F) the results of a survey with a representative sample of not fewer than 50,000 veterans (of which women shall be overrepresented) in an amputee care program on satisfaction with prosthetics furnished or procured by the Department that replace appendages or their function; and

(G) such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.

**SEC. 5109. REQUIREMENT TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enhance the capabilities of the women veterans call center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to respond to requests by women veterans for assistance with accessing health care and benefits furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary.

**SEC. 5110. STUDY ON INFERTILITY SERVICES FURNISHED AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the infertility services offerings at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the following:

(A) The availability of infertility services at facilities of the Department and through laws administered by the Secretary for the provision of non-Department care.

(B) The demand for such services from eligible individuals.

(2) Identification of potential challenges in accessing infertility services for eligible individuals.

(3) An analysis of Department resources for the furnishing of infertility services, including analysis of Department workforce and non-Department providers.

(4) Development of recommendations for the improvement of infertility services under laws administered by the Secretary to improve eligible individuals’ access, delivery of services, and health outcomes.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “eligible individual” means an individual who is a veteran who is eligible for and enrolled in the health care system of the Department under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 5111. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BY RESERVISTS FOR COUNSELING AND TREATMENT RELATING TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, including members of the National Guard, should be able to access all health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not just Vet Centers, to receive counseling and treatment relating to military sexual trauma.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “military sexual trauma” has the meaning given such term in section 1164(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 5501(a) of this title.

(2) VET CENTER.—The term “Vet Center” has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of such title.

**Subtitle B—Increasing Staff Cultural Competency**

**SEC. 5201. STAFFING OF WOMEN'S HEALTH PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one full-time or part-time women's health primary care provider whose duties include, to the extent possible, providing training to other health care providers of the Department on the needs of women veterans.

**SEC. 5202. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PRIMARY CARE AND EMERGENCY CARE CLINICIANS IN WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE MINI-RESIDENCY PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs \$1,000,000 for each fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to provide opportunities for participation in the Women Veterans Health Care Mini-Residency Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for primary care and emergency care clinicians.

(b) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall be in addition to amounts otherwise made available to the Secretary for the purposes set forth in such subsection.

**SEC. 5203. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN VETERAN TRAINING MODULE FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and make available to community providers a training module that is specific to women veterans.

(b) TRAINING MATERIALS PROVIDED.—Under the training module established and made available to community providers under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide to community providers the same training materials relating to treatment of women veterans that is provided to health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that all health care providers treating women veterans have access to the same materials to support competency throughout the community.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF TRAINING MODULE.—The Secretary shall administer the training module established under subsection (a) to community providers through an internet website of the Department.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the establishment of the training module under subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the utilization by community providers of the training module; and

(2) the effectiveness of the training module.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMUNITY PROVIDER.—The term “community provider” means a non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care provider who provides preauthorized health care to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) PREAUTHORIZED HEALTH CARE.—The term “preauthorized health care” means health care provided to a veteran that is authorized by the Secretary before being provided.

**SEC. 5204. STUDY ON STAFFING OF WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAM MANAGER PROGRAM AT MEDICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND TRAINING OF STAFF.**

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the use of the Women Veteran Program Manager program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine—

(1) if the program is appropriately staffed at each medical center of the Department;

(2) whether each medical center of the Department is staffed with a Women Veteran Program Manager; and

(3) whether it would be feasible and advisable to have a Women Veteran Program Ombudsman at each medical center of the Department.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that all Women Veteran Program Managers and Women Veteran Program Ombudsmen receive the proper training to carry out their duties.

**SEC. 5205. STUDY ON WOMEN VETERAN COORDINATOR PROGRAM.**

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on the Women Veteran Coordinator program of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study completed under paragraph (1).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection (a)(1) shall identify the following:

(1) If the program described in such subsection is appropriately staffed at each regional benefits office of the Department.

(2) Whether each regional benefits office of the Department is staffed with a Women Veteran Coordinator.

(3) The position description of the Women Veteran Coordinator.

(4) Whether an individual serving in the Women Veteran Coordinator position concurrently serves in any other position, and if so, the allocation of time the individual spends in each such position.

(5) A description of the metrics the Secretary uses to determine the job performance and effectiveness of the Women Veteran Coordinator.

**SEC. 5206. STAFFING IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR PEER SPECIALISTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHO ARE WOMEN.**

(a) ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall commence an assessment of the capacity of peer specialists of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are women.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the following:

(A) The geographical distribution of peer specialists of the Department who are women.

(B) The geographical distribution of women veterans.

(C) The number and proportion of women peer specialists who specialize in peer counseling on mental health or suicide prevention.

(D) The number and proportion of women peer specialists who specialize in peer counseling on non-mental health related matters.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the assessment required by subsection (a) has commenced, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report detailing the findings of the assessment.

(c) STAFFING IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after submitting the report under subsection (b), the

Secretary, in consultation with the Inspector General, shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan, based on the results of the assessment required by subsection (a), to hire additional qualified peer specialists who are women, with special consideration for areas that lack peer specialists who are women.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The peer specialist positions included in the plan required by paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be non-volunteer, paid positions; and

(B) may be part-time positions.

**Subtitle C—Eliminating Harassment and Assault**

**SEC. 5301. EXPANSION OF COVERAGE BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

(a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR COUNSELING AND TREATMENT.—Section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training” and inserting “duty, regardless of duty status or line of duty determination (as that term is used in section 12323 of title 10)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training” and inserting “duty, regardless of duty status or line of duty determination (as that term is used in section 12323 of title 10)”; and

(2) by striking “veteran” each place it appears and inserting “former member of the Armed Forces”;

(3) by striking “veterans” each place it appears and inserting “former members of the Armed Forces”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) In this section, the term ‘former member of the Armed Forces’ includes the following:

“(1) A veteran.

“(2) An individual described in section 17201(b) of this title.”

(b) INCLUSION OF TREATMENT FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, to include care for physical health conditions, as appropriate,” after “counseling and appropriate care and services”; and

(ii) by striking “overcome psychological trauma” and inserting “treat a condition”; and

(iii) by striking “mental health professional” and inserting “health care professional”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “overcome psychological trauma” and inserting “treat a condition”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and other health care professionals” after “mental health professionals”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “and other health care professionals” after “mental health professionals”.

**SEC. 5302. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON WOMEN VETERANS BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS.**

Section 542(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph (C):

“(C) an assessment of the effects of intimate partner violence on women veterans; and”.

**SEC. 5303. ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§533. Anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary, acting through the Office of Assault and Prevention of the Veterans Health Administration, shall establish a comprehensive policy to end harassment and sexual assault, including sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, throughout the Department.

“(2) The policy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A process for employees and contractors of the Department to respond to reported incidents of harassment and sexual assault committed by any non-Department individual within a facility of the Department, including with respect to accountability or disciplinary measures.

“(B) A process for employees and contractors of the Department to respond to reported incidents of harassment and sexual assault of any non-Department individual within a facility of the Department.

“(C) A process for any non-Department individual to report harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraph (A), including an option for confidential reporting, and for the Secretary to respond to and address such reports.

“(D) Clear mechanisms for non-Department individuals to readily identify to whom and how to report incidents of harassment and sexual assault committed by another non-Department individual.

“(E) Clear mechanisms for employees and contractors of the Department to readily identify to whom and how to report incidents of harassment and sexual assault and how to refer non-Department individuals with respect to reporting an incident of harassment or sexual assault.

“(F) A process for, and mandatory reporting requirement applicable to, any employee or contractor of the Department who witnesses harassment or sexual assault described in subparagraph (A) or (B) within a facility of the Department, regardless of whether the individual affected by such harassment or sexual assault wants to report such harassment or sexual assault.

“(G) The actions possible, including disciplinary actions, for employees or contractors of the Department who fail to report incidents of harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraph (A) or (B) that the employees or contractors witness.

“(H) On an annual or more frequent basis, mandatory training for employees and contractors of the Department regarding how to report and address harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), including bystander intervention training.

“(I) On an annual or more frequent basis, the distribution of the policy under this subsection and anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault educational materials by mail or email to each individual receiving a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary.

“(J) The prominent display of anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault messages in each facility of the Department, including how non-Department individuals may report harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) at such facility and the points of contact under subsection (b).

“(K) The posting on internet websites of the Department, including the main internet website regarding benefits of the Department and the main internet website regarding health care of the Department, of anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault banners specifically addressing harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(b) POINTS OF CONTACT.—The Secretary shall designate, as a point of contact to receive reports of harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2)—

“(1) at least one individual, in addition to law enforcement, at each facility of the Department

(including Vet Centers under section 1712A of this title), with regard to that facility;

“(2) at least one individual employed in each Veterans Integrated Service Network, with regard to facilities in that Veterans Integrated Service Network;

“(3) at least one individual employed in each regional benefits office;

“(4) at least one individual employed at each location of the National Cemetery Administration; and

“(5) at least one individual employed at the Central Office of the Department to track reports of such harassment and sexual assault across the Department, disaggregated by facility.

“(c) ACCOUNTABILITY.—(1) The Secretary shall establish a policy to ensure that each facility of the Department and each director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network is responsible for addressing harassment and sexual assault at the facility and the Network.

“(2) The policy required by paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a remediation plan for facilities that experience five or more incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or combination thereof, during any single fiscal year; and

“(B) taking appropriate actions under chapter 7 or subchapter V of chapter 74 of this title.

“(d) DATA.—The Secretary shall ensure that the in-take process for veterans at medical facilities of the Department includes a survey to collect the following information:

“(1) Whether the veteran feels safe at the facility and whether any events occurred at the facility that affect such feeling.

“(2) Whether the veteran wants to be contacted later by the Department with respect to such safety issues.

“(e) WORKING GROUP.—(1) The Secretary shall establish a working group to assist the Secretary in implementing policies to carry out this section.

“(2) The working group established under paragraph (1) shall consist of representatives from—

“(A) veterans service organizations;

“(B) State, local, and Tribal veterans agencies; and

“(C) other persons the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) The working group established under paragraph (1) shall develop, and the Secretary shall carry out—

“(A) an action plan for addressing changes at the local level to reduce instances of harassment and sexual assault;

“(B) standardized media for veterans service organizations and other persons to use in print and on the internet with respect to reducing harassment and sexual assault; and

“(C) bystander intervention training for veterans.

“(4) The working group established under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an annual report on harassment and sexual assault described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2) in facilities of the Department.

“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Results of harassment and sexual assault programming, including the End Harassment program.

“(B) Results of studies from the Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network of the Department relating to harassment and sexual assault.

“(C) Data collected on incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

“(D) A description of any actions taken by the Secretary during the year preceding the date

of the report to stop harassment and sexual assault at facilities of the Department.

“(E) An assessment of the implementation of the training required in subsection (a)(2)(H).

“(F) A list of resources the Secretary determines necessary to prevent harassment and sexual assault at facilities of the Department.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘non-Department individual’ means any individual present at a facility of the Department who is not an employee or contractor of the Department.

“(2) The term ‘sexual harassment’ means unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening in character.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 532 the following new item:

“533. Anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy.”.

(c) DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—Section 1720D(f) of such title is amended by striking “repeated.”.

(d) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall commence carrying out section 533 of such title, as added by subsection (a), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 5304. PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTING VETERANS WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of assisting former members of the Armed Forces who have experienced or are experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault in accessing benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, including coordinating access to medical treatment centers, housing assistance, and other benefits from the Department.

(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) in collaboration with—

(1) intimate partner violence shelters and programs;

(2) rape crisis centers;

(3) State intimate partner violence and sexual assault coalitions; and

(4) such other health care or other service providers that serve intimate partner violence or sexual assault victims as determined by the Secretary, particularly those providing emergency services or housing assistance.

(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary may conduct the following activities:

(1) Training for community-based intimate partner violence or sexual assault service providers on—

(A) identifying former members of the Armed Forces who have been victims of, or are currently experiencing, intimate partner violence or sexual assault;

(B) coordinating with local service providers of the Department; and

(C) connecting former members of the Armed Forces with appropriate housing, mental health, medical, and other financial assistance or benefits from the Department.

(2) Assistance to service providers to ensure access of veterans to intimate partner violence and sexual assault emergency services, particularly in underserved areas, including services for Native American veterans (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code).

(3) Such other outreach and assistance as the Secretary determines necessary for the provision of assistance under subsection (a).

(e) INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT OUTREACH COORDINATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to effectively assist veterans who have experienced intimate partner

violence or sexual assault, the Secretary may establish local coordinators to provide outreach under the pilot program required by subsection (a).

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATOR KNOWLEDGE.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each coordinator established under paragraph (1) is knowledgeable about—

(A) the dynamics of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, including safety concerns, legal protections, and the need for the provision of confidential services;

(B) the eligibility of veterans for services and benefits from the Department that are relevant to recovery from intimate partner violence and sexual assault, particularly emergency housing assistance, mental health care, other health care, and disability benefits; and

(C) local community resources addressing intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

(3) **LOCAL COORDINATOR ASSISTANCE.**—Each coordinator established under paragraph (1) shall assist intimate partner violence shelters and rape crisis centers in providing services to veterans.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(B) Such recommendations for continuing or expanding the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **INTIMATE PARTNER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “intimate partner” means a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that may be characterized by the partners’ emotional connectedness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and sexual behavior, identity as a couple, and familiarity and knowledge about each other’s lives.

(B) **CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.**—In this paragraph, the term “close personal relationships” includes the following:

- (i) A relationship between married spouses.
- (ii) A relationship between common-law spouses.
- (iii) A relationship between civil union spouses.
- (iv) A relationship between domestic partners.
- (v) A relationship between dating partners.
- (vi) A relationship between ongoing sexual partners.

(2) **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.**—The term “intimate partner violence” includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercive tactics by a current or former intimate partner.

**SEC. 5305. STUDY AND TASK FORCE ON VETERANS EXPERIENCING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

(a) **NATIONAL BASELINE STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall conduct a national baseline study to examine the scope of the problem of intimate partner violence and sexual assault among veterans and spouses and intimate partners of veterans.

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include a literature review of all relevant research on intimate partner violence and sexual assault among veterans and spouses and intimate partners of veterans;

(B) examine the prevalence of the experience of intimate partner violence among—

- (i) women veterans;
- (ii) veterans who are minority group members (as defined in section 544 of title 38, United States Code, and including other minority populations as the Secretary determines appropriate);

(iii) urban and rural veterans;

(iv) veterans who are enrolled in a program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code;

(v) veterans who are in intimate relationships with other veterans; and

(vi) veterans who are described in more than one clause of this subparagraph;

(C) examine the prevalence of the perpetration of intimate partner violence by veterans; and

(D) include recommendations to address the findings of the study.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such study.

(b) **TASK FORCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the study under subsection (a), the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a national task force (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”) to develop a comprehensive national program, including by integrating facilities, services, and benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs into existing networks of community-based intimate partner violence and sexual assault services, to address intimate partner violence and sexual assault among veterans.

(2) **LEADERSHIP.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall lead the Task Force in collaboration with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) **CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.**—In carrying out this section, the Task Force shall consult with—

(1) representatives from veteran service organizations and military service organizations;

(2) representatives from not fewer than three national organizations or State coalitions with demonstrated expertise in intimate partner violence prevention, response, or advocacy; and

(3) representatives from not fewer than three national organizations or State coalitions, particularly those representing underserved and ethnic minority communities, with demonstrated expertise in sexual assault prevention, response, or advocacy.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Task Force shall include the following:

(1) To review existing services and policies of the Department and develop a comprehensive national program to be carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, to address intimate partner violence and sexual assault prevention, response, and treatment.

(2) To review the feasibility and advisability of establishing an expedited process to secure emergency, temporary benefits, including housing or other benefits, for veterans who are experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

(3) To review and make recommendations regarding the feasibility and advisability of establishing dedicated, temporary housing assistance for veterans experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

(4) To identify any requirements regarding intimate partner violence assistance or sexual assault response and services that are not being met by the Department and make recommendations on how the Department can meet such requirements.

(5) To review and make recommendations regarding the feasibility and advisability of providing direct services or contracting for community-based services for veterans in response to a sexual assault, including through the use of sexual assault nurse examiners, particularly in underserved or remote areas, including services for Native American veterans.

(6) To review the availability of counseling services provided by the Department and

through peer network support, and to provide recommendations for the enhancement of such services, to address—

(A) the perpetration of intimate partner violence and sexual assault; and

(B) the recovery of veterans, particularly women veterans, from intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

(7) To review and make recommendations to expand services available for veterans at risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter by October 1 of each year, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congress a report on the activities of the Task Force, including any recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

(f) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The Task Force shall not be subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN.**—The term “Native American veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **STATE.**—The term “State” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

**Subtitle D—Data Collection and Reporting**

**SEC. 5401. REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS AND SERVICES AND DISAGGREGATION OF SUCH DATA BY GENDER, RACE, AND ETHNICITY.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) collect and analyze data on each program of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides a service or benefit to a veteran, including the program carried out under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) disaggregate such data by gender, race, and ethnicity, when the data lends itself to such disaggregation; and

(3) publish the data collected and analyzed under paragraph (1), except for such cases in which the Secretary determines that some portions of the data would undermine the anonymity of a veteran.

**SEC. 5402. STUDY ON BARRIERS FOR WOMEN VETERANS TO RECEIPT OF HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a comprehensive study of the barriers to the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs encountered by women who are veterans.

(b) **SURVEY.**—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) survey women veterans who seek or receive hospital care or medical services provided by the Department as well as women veterans who do not seek or receive such care or services;

(2) administer the survey to a representative sample of women veterans from each Veterans Integrated Service Network; and

(3) ensure that the sample of women veterans surveyed is of sufficient size for the study results to be statistically significant and is a larger sample than that of the study specified in subsection (c)(1).

(c) **USE OF PREVIOUS STUDIES.**—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall build on the work of the studies of the Department titled—

(1) “National Survey of Women Veterans in Fiscal Year 2007–2008”; and

(2) “Study of Barriers for Women Veterans to VA Health Care 2015”.

(d) **ELEMENTS OF STUDY.**—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct research on the effects of the following on the women veterans surveyed in the study:

(1) The barriers associated with seeking mental health care services, including with respect to provider availability, telehealth access, and family, work, and school obligations.

(2) The effect of driving distance or availability of other forms of transportation to the nearest medical facility on access to care.

(3) The effect of access to care from non-Department providers.

(4) The availability of child care.

(5) The satisfaction of such veterans with the provision by the Department of integrated primary care, women's health clinics, or both, including perceptions of quality of care, safety, and comfort.

(6) The understanding and perceived accessibility among such veterans of eligibility requirements for, and the scope of services available under, hospital care and medical services.

(7) The perception of such veterans of personal safety and comfort in inpatient, outpatient, and behavioral health facilities.

(8) The gender sensitivity of health care providers and staff to issues that particularly affect women.

(9) The effectiveness of outreach for health care services available to women veterans.

(10) The location and operating hours of health care facilities that provide services to women veterans.

(11) The perception of such veterans of the motto of the Department.

(12) Such other significant barriers as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) DISCHARGE BY CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a qualified independent entity or organization to carry out the study and research required under this section.

(f) MANDATORY REVIEW OF DATA BY CERTAIN DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the head of each division of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in paragraph (2) reviews the results of the study conducted under this section.

(B) SUBMITTAL OF FINDINGS.—The head of each division specified in paragraph (2) shall submit findings with respect to the study under this section to the Under Secretary of the Department with responsibilities relating to health care services for women veterans.

(2) SPECIFIED DIVISIONS.—The divisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Office of the Under Secretary for Health.

(B) The Office of Women's Health established under section 7310 of title 38, United States Code.

(C) The Center for Women Veterans under section 318 of such title.

(D) The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans established under section 542 of such title.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study required under this section.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the findings of the head of each division of the Department specified under subsection (f)(2); and

(B) recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

**SEC. 5403. STUDY ON FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF OFFERING PARENTING STAIR PROGRAM AT ALL MEDICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the Parenting STAIR program to all medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs and including such program as part of care for military sexual

trauma for affected members and former members of the Armed Forces.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall assess—

(1) staffing needed to offer the Parenting STAIR program at all medical centers of the Department;

(2) any additional infrastructure or resources (such as child care during the program) needed for the expansion of the program; and

(3) such other factors relevant to the expansion of the program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report detailing—

(A) the current number and locations of all facilities of the Department offering the Parenting STAIR program; and

(B) the number of veterans served by such program in the most recent fiscal year or calendar year for which data is available.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report detailing—

(A) the results of the study conducted under subsection (a);

(B) an update on how many veterans have used the Parenting STAIR program since its development in fiscal year 2017, disaggregated by year, including the locations in which veterans have used such program; and

(C) a determination on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the Parenting STAIR program to all medical facilities of the Department offering care for military sexual trauma.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The term "affected members and former members of the Armed Forces" means members and former members of the Armed Forces who are parents and have experienced military sexual trauma.

(2) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term "military sexual trauma" has the meaning given such term in section 1164(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 5501(a) of this title.

(3) PARENTING STAIR PROGRAM.—The term "Parenting STAIR program" means the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs that consists of a five-session, parenting-specific treatment protocol based on skills training in affective and interpersonal regulation (commonly referred to as "STAIR"), which is a cognitive behavioral therapy that has been identified as a promising practice for treating post-traumatic stress disorder, including chronic and complicated forms, among individuals with co-occurring disorders.

**Subtitle E—Benefits Matters**

**SEC. 5501. EVALUATION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS RELATING TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

(a) SPECIALIZED TEAMS TO EVALUATE CLAIMS INVOLVING MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—subchapter VI of chapter 11 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**"§ 1164. Specialized teams to evaluate claims involving military sexual trauma**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish specialized teams to process claims for compensation for a covered mental health condition based on military sexual trauma experienced by a veteran during active military, naval, or air service.

"(b) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that members of teams established under sub-

section (a) are trained to identify markers indicating military sexual trauma.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'covered mental health condition' means post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or other mental health diagnosis described in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association that the Secretary determines to be related to military sexual trauma.

"(2) The term 'military sexual trauma' means, with respect to a veteran, a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment during active military, naval, or air service."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"1164. Specialized teams to evaluate claims involving military sexual trauma."

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2021, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter through 2027, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on covered claims submitted during the previous fiscal year to identify and track the consistency of decisions across regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of covered claims submitted to or considered by the Secretary during the fiscal year covered by the report.

(B) Of the covered claims listed under subparagraph (A), the number and percentage of such claims—

(i) submitted by each sex;

(ii) that were approved, including the number and percentage of such approved claims submitted by each sex;

(iii) that were denied, including the number and percentage of such denied claims submitted by each sex; and

(iv) that were developed and reviewed by a specialized team established under section 1164(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(C) Of the covered claims listed under subparagraph (A) that were approved, the number and percentage, disaggregated by sex, of claims assigned to each rating percentage.

(D) Of the covered claims listed under subparagraph (A) that were denied—

(i) the three most common reasons given by the Secretary under section 5104(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, for such denials; and

(ii) the number of denials that were based on the failure of a veteran to report for a medical examination.

(E) The number of covered claims that, as of the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, are pending and, separately, the number of such claims on appeal.

(F) For the fiscal year covered by the report, the average number of days that covered claims take to complete, beginning on the date on which the claim is submitted.

(G) A description of the training that the Secretary provides to employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration, or such contractors or other individuals as the Secretary considers appropriate, specifically with respect to covered claims, including the frequency, length, and content of such training.

(H) Whether all covered claims are subject to second level review until the individual rater of the Veterans Benefits Administration adjudicating such covered claims achieves an accuracy rate of 90 percent on decisions of such covered claims.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED CLAIMS.—The term "covered claims" means claims for disability compensation submitted to the Secretary based on a covered mental health condition alleged to have



been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

(B) COVERED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.—The term “covered mental health condition” has the meaning given such term in section 1164(c) of title 38, United States Code.

(C) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “military sexual trauma” has the meaning given such term in such section.

**SEC. 5502. CHOICE OF SEX OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR ASSESSMENT OF CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION RELATING TO DISABILITY RESULTING FROM PHYSICAL ASSAULT OF A SEXUAL NATURE, BATTERY OF A SEXUAL NATURE, OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VI of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 5501 of this title, is further amended by inserting after section 1164, as added by section 5501, the following new section:

**“§ 1165. Choice of sex of medical examiner for certain disabilities**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that a veteran who requires a medical examination from a covered medical provider in support of a claim for compensation under this chapter for a mental or physical health condition that resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment may designate the sex of the medical provider who provides such medical examination.

“(b) COVERED MEDICAL PROVIDERS.—For purposes of this section, a covered medical provider is any medical provider who is employed by the Department or is under any contract with the Department to provide a medical examination or a medical opinion when such an examination or opinion is necessary to make a decision on a claim.

“(c) NOTICE.—Before providing any medical examination for a veteran in support for a claim described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the veteran of the veteran’s rights under subsection (a).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title, as amended by section 5501 of this title, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1164 the following new item:

“1165. Choice of sex of medical examiner for certain disabilities.”

**SEC. 5503. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN CERTAIN REPORT ON DENIED POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER CLAIMS RELATED TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House a report on the progress of the Secretary in implementing the recommendations from the report of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs entitled “Denied Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Claims Related to Military Sexual Trauma” (17–05248–241).

**TITLE VI—REPRESENTATION AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION MATTERS**

**SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Financial Refuge for Every Elderly Veteran Act of 2020” or the “FREE Veteran Act of 2020”.

**SEC. 6002. PLAN TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS RECEIVING PENSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF METHOD FOR SOLICITATION AND COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a method for systematically

soliciting and collecting information on complaints received, referrals made, and actions taken by the pension management centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs and any other relevant components of the Department, in cases of potential financial exploitation of individuals receiving pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

**(b) PLAN TO ASSESS AND ADDRESS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and periodically update a plan—

(A) to regularly assess the information solicited and collected under subsection (a) to identify trends of potential financial exploitation of the individuals described in subsection (a) across the Department; and

(B) to outline actions that the Department can take to improve education and training to address those trends.

(2) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter until the date that is six years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the plan most recently developed or updated under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Comptroller General of the United States; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 6003. OVERPAYMENTS OF PENSION TO VETERANS RECEIVING PENSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR CLAIMS PROCESSORS.—As the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers necessary, but not less frequently than once every three years until the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall update guidance and training curriculum for the processors of claims for pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, regarding the evaluation of questionable medical expenses on applications for pension, including by updating such guidance with respect to what constitutes a questionable medical expense and by including examples of such expenses.

(b) IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING.—The Under Secretary shall develop a method for identifying and tracking the number of individuals who have received overpayments of pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not later than October 31 of each fiscal year beginning thereafter until the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(1) The number of individuals who received overpayments of pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The five most common reasons for overpayments described in paragraph (1).

(3) The number of veterans who had to repay overpayments described in paragraph (1).

(4) The number of veterans for whom the Secretary waived a requirement to repay an overpayment described in paragraph (1).

(5) The total dollar amount of overpayments described in paragraph (1).

(6) The total dollar amount of repayments of veterans for overpayments described in paragraph (1).

(7) The average dollar amount of repayments described in paragraph (6).

**SEC. 6004. EVALUATION OF ADDITIONAL ACTIONS FOR VERIFYING DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY VETERANS ON APPLICATIONS FOR VETERANS PENSION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of requiring the processors of claims for pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, to take additional actions to verify that the direct deposit information provided by an individual on an application for pension is for the appropriate recipient; and

(2) identify such legislative or administrative actions as the Under Secretary considers appropriate to ensure that payments of pension are provided to the correct recipients.

**(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the evaluation and identification under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The findings of the Under Secretary with respect to the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1).

(B) The actions identified under subsection (a)(2).

(C) A plan for implementing any administrative actions identified under subsection (a)(2).

(D) A rationale for not implementing any actions evaluated under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) but not identified under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

**SEC. 6005. ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF VETERANS RECEIVING PENSION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on efforts to address the financial exploitation of individuals receiving pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(1) The number of individuals who received pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, who have been referred by any component of the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Office of Inspector General of the Department as likely or proven victims of financial exploitation.

(2) The number of referrals and reports relating to the financial exploitation of such individuals made by the Department of Veterans Affairs to—

(A) the Consumer Sentinel Network of the Federal Trade Commission; and

(B) the Department of Justice.

(3) A description of the actions taken as a result of such referrals and reports against—

(A) individuals recognized by the Secretary as agents or attorneys under section 5904 of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) individuals not so recognized.

**SEC. 6006. NOTICE REGARDING FEES CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH FILING AN APPLICATION FOR VETERANS PENSION.**

The Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that every paper or electronic document relating to the receipt of pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, that is available to individuals who apply for such pension, including educational forms about or applications for such pension, includes a notice that the Department does not charge any fee in connection with the filing of an application for such pension.

**SEC. 6007. OUTREACH PLAN FOR EDUCATING VULNERABLE VETERANS ABOUT POTENTIAL FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION RELATING TO THE RECEIPT OF PENSION.**

(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.**—The Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall develop, in collaboration with veterans service organizations, an outreach plan for educating vulnerable individuals about potential financial exploitation relating to the receipt of pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives the plan developed under subsection (a).

(c) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "veterans service organization" means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

**TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS**

**Subtitle A—Administrative and Other Matters**

**SEC. 7001. MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROTOCOL FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAM OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

Section 111A(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" before "The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, the Secretary shall develop and establish a national protocol for the administration of medical examinations for volunteer drivers to participate in the program described in paragraph (1).

"(B) In developing the protocol required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with such persons as the Secretary determines have an interest in the program described in paragraph (1).

"(C)(i) The Secretary shall implement the protocol by first conducting a one-year pilot program using the protocol.

"(ii) After conducting the pilot program required by clause (i), the Secretary shall assess the pilot program and make such changes to the protocol as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(iii) After making changes to the protocol under clause (ii), the Secretary shall implement the protocol in phases during the course of one year."

**SEC. 7002. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL AND INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**"§ 547. Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs**

"(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—(1) The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary on matters relating to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native American veterans.

"(2) The advisory committee established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the 'Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs' (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

"(3) The Committee shall facilitate, but not supplant, government-to-government consultation between the Department and Indian tribes or tribal organizations.

"(4) The Secretary shall consult with Indian tribes or tribal organizations in developing a charter for the Committee.

"(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—(1) The Committee shall be comprised of 15 voting members selected by the Secretary from among individuals nominated as specified under this subsection.

"(2) In selecting members under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that—

"(A) at least one member of each of the 12 service areas of the Indian Health Service is represented in the membership of the Committee nominated by Indian tribes or tribal organizations;

"(B) at least one member of the Committee represents the Native Hawaiian veteran community nominated by a Native Hawaiian Organization;

"(C) at least one member of the Committee represents urban Indian organizations nominated by a national urban Indian organization; and

"(D) not fewer than half of the members are veterans, unless the Secretary determines that an insufficient number of qualified veterans were nominated under paragraph (1).

"(3) No member of the Committee may be an employee of the Federal Government.

"(c) **TERMS; VACANCIES.**—(1) A member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years.

"(2) The Secretary shall fill a vacancy in the Committee in the same manner as the original appointment within 180 days.

"(d) **MEETINGS.**—(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Committee shall meet in-person with the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, not less frequently than twice each year and hold monthly conference calls as necessary.

"(B) During a public health emergency (as defined in section 20003 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136)), meetings under subparagraph (A) may be conducted virtually.

"(2)(A) Representatives of relevant Federal agencies may attend meetings of the Committee and provide information to the Committee.

"(B) One representative of the Office of Tribal Government Relations of the Department shall attend at each meeting of the Committee.

"(C) Representatives attending meetings under this paragraph shall not be considered voting members of the Committee.

"(D) A representative attending a meeting or providing information under this paragraph may not receive additional compensation for services performed with respect to the Committee.

"(e) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—(1) The Committee may establish subcommittees.

"(2) The Secretary may, in consultation with the Committee, appoint a member to a subcommittee established under paragraph (1) who is not a member of the Committee.

"(3) Such subcommittees may enhance the function of the Committee, but may not supersede the authority of the Committee or provide direct advice or work products to the Department.

"(f) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Committee are as follows:

"(1) To advise the Secretary on ways the Department can improve the programs and services of the Department to better serve Native American veterans.

"(2) To identify for the Department evolving issues of relevance to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native American veterans relating to programs and services of the Department.

"(3) To propose clarifications, recommendations, and solutions to address issues raised at tribal, regional, and national levels, especially regarding any tribal consultation reports.

"(4) To provide a forum for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and the Department to discuss issues and proposals for changes to Department regulations, policies, and procedures.

"(5) To identify priorities and provide advice on appropriate strategies for tribal consultation

and urban Indian organizations conferring on issues at the tribal, regional, or national levels.

"(6) To ensure that pertinent issues are brought to the attention of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in a timely manner, so that feedback can be obtained.

"(7) To encourage the Secretary to work with other Federal agencies and Congress so that Native American veterans are not denied the full benefit of their status as both Native Americans and veterans.

"(8) To highlight contributions of Native American veterans in the Armed Forces.

"(9) To make recommendations on the consultation policy of the Department on tribal matters.

"(10) To support a process to develop an urban Indian organization confer policy to ensure the Secretary confers, to the maximum extent practicable, with urban Indian organizations.

"(11) To conduct other duties as recommended by the Committee.

"(g) **REPORTS.**—(1) Not less frequently than once each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress such recommendations as the Committee may have for legislative or administrative action for the upcoming year.

"(2) Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a recommendation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written response to the recommendation.

"(3) Not less frequently than once every two years, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the activities of the Committee during the previous two years.

"(4) The Secretary shall make publicly available on an Internet website of the Department—

"(A) each recommendation the Secretary receives under paragraph (1);

"(B) each response the Secretary submits under paragraph (2); and

"(C) each report the Secretary receives under paragraph (3).

"(h) **COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5 while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

"(i) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT EXEMPTION.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Committee.

"(j) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

"(1) The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

"(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

"(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

"(2) The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

"(3) The term "Native Hawaiian organization" means any organization that—

"(A) serves the interests of Native Hawaiians;

"(B) has Native Hawaiians in substantive and policymaking positions within the organization;

"(C) has demonstrated experience working with Native Hawaiian veterans; and

"(D) shall include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

"(4) The term "Native American veteran" has the meaning given such term in section 3765 of this title.

"(5) The term "Office of Hawaiian Affairs" means the Office of Hawaiian Affairs established by the constitution of the State of Hawaii."

“(6) The term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 3765 of this title.

“(7) The term ‘urban Indian organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 546 the following new item:

“547. Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs.”

(b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory committee required by section 547 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the advisory committee required by such section, the Secretary shall appoint members under subsection (b)(1) of such section.

(d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the advisory committee required by such section, such advisory committee shall hold its first meeting.

(e) REPORT ON RELATION TO OFFICE OF TRIBAL AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the first meeting held by the advisory committee required by such section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on whether and to what extent the activities of the advisory committee improve the function of the Office of Tribal and Government Relations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, aid the decisions of the Secretary, and whether and to what extent the activities of the advisory committee duplicate function of the Department performed before the enactment of this Act.

(2) REVIEW BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall—

(A) give the advisory committee an opportunity to review the report required by paragraph (1) before submitting the report under such paragraph; and

(B) include in the report submitted under such paragraph such comments as the advisory committee considers appropriate regarding the views of the advisory committee with respect to the report.

#### SEC. 7003. PREFERENCE FOR OFFERORS EMPLOYING VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 8128 the following new section:

##### “§8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans

“(a) PREFERENCE.—(1) In awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, the Secretary may give a preference to offerors that employ veterans on a full-time basis.

“(2) The Secretary shall determine such preference based on the percentage of the full-time employees of the offeror who are veterans.

“(b) ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES FOR MISREPRESENTATION.—(1) Any offeror that is determined by the Secretary to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of the employees of the offeror for purposes of subsection (a) may be debarred from contracting with the Department for a period of not less than five years.

“(2) If the Secretary carries out a debarment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) commence debarment action against the offeror by not later than 30 days after determining that the offeror willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of the employees of the offeror as described in paragraph (1); and

“(B) complete debarment actions against such offeror by not later than 90 days after such determination.

“(3) The debarment of an offeror under paragraph (1) includes the debarment of all principals in the offeror for a period of not less than five years.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8128 the following new item:

“8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans.”

#### SEC. 7004. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WHO PERFORM STATE ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 4303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by inserting “State active duty for a period of 14 days or more, State active duty in response to a national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), State active duty in response to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170),” after “full-time National Guard duty,”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (15) as paragraph (16); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph (15):

“(15) The term ‘State active duty’ means training or other duty, other than inactive duty, performed by a member of the National Guard of a State—

“(A) not under section 502 of title 32 or under title 10;

“(B) in service to the Governor of a State; and

“(C) for which the member is not entitled to pay from the Federal Government.”

#### SEC. 7005. REPAYMENT OF MISUSED BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6107(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “In any case in which a fiduciary described in paragraph (2)” and inserting “In any case not covered by subsection (a) in which a fiduciary”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act regarding the misuse of benefits by a fiduciary.

#### SEC. 7006. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Any amounts so transferred after September 30, 2016, shall be available without regard to fiscal year limitations, notwithstanding section 1535(d) of title 31.”

#### SEC. 7007. REPORT AND PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS CERTAIN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report outlining the plan the Secretary has developed and the actions the Secretary has taken to address the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office (GAO-19-157SP) regarding—

(1) acquisition management; and

(2) managing risks and improving health care.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include each of the following:

(1) Root causes of the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(2) Corrective actions and specific steps to address each root cause, including—

(A) the progress of the Secretary in implementing those actions and steps; and

(B) timelines and milestones the Secretary determines feasible to complete each corrective action.

(3) Resources the Secretary determines are necessary to implement corrective actions, including—

(A) funding;

(B) stakeholders;

(C) technology; and

(D) senior officials responsible for implementing the corrective actions and reporting results.

(4) Metrics for assessing progress in addressing the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(5) Key outcomes that demonstrate progress in addressing the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(6) Obstacles to implementation of the plan that the Secretary identifies.

(7) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislation or funding the Secretary determines necessary to implement the plan.

(8) Any other information the Secretary determines is relevant to understanding the progress of the Department toward the removal of the areas of concern from the High Risk List.

(c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

(1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once each year during the implementation period under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an update regarding implementation of each element of the plan under subsection (b).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.—The implementation period described in this paragraph begins on the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (a) and ends on the earlier of the following dates:

(A) The date on which the Comptroller General removes the last area of concern for the Department from the most recent High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office.

(B) The date that is 8 years after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan required under subsection (a).

#### SEC. 7008. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PERTAINING TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less than once during each of the subsequent 3 years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the implementation of priority recommendations of the Comptroller General that pertain to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(1) The progress of the Secretary in implementing all open priority recommendations of the Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) An explanation for each instance where the Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not fully implemented, an open priority recommendation of the Comptroller General for the Department.

(3) A summary of the corrective actions taken and remaining steps the Secretary plans to take to implement open priority recommendations of the Comptroller General.

(c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT CERTAIN REQUIRED REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The report under this section shall not be construed to supplant any report or written statement required under section 720 of title 31, United States Code.

**SEC. 7009. CLARIFICATION OF METHODS USED TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING.**

Section 8127(k)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “and any other” and inserting “or any other”.

**SEC. 7010. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN NOTICE TO PERSONS FILING CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH ON STANDARD FORM 95.**

Not later than 90 days after the date on which a person submits to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a claim for damage, injury, or death on Standard Form 95, or any successor form, the Secretary shall provide to such person notice of each of the following:

(1) The benefit of obtaining legal advice concerning such claim.

(2) The employment status of any individual listed on the form.

(3) If the claim involves a contractor that entered into an agreement with the Secretary, the importance of obtaining legal advice as to the statute of limitations regarding the claim in the State in which the claim arose.

**Subtitle B—Matters Relating to the Chief Financial Officer of Department of Veterans Affairs**

**SEC. 7101. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) **SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.**—The term “subordinate chief financial officer” —

(A) includes—

(i) the chief financial officer of the Veterans Health Administration, the chief financial officer of the Office of Community Care within the Veterans Health Administration, and all chief financial officers of Veterans Integrated Service Networks within the Veterans Health Administration;

(ii) the chief financial officer of the Veterans Benefits Administration and all chief financial officers of organizational subdivisions representing business lines within the Veterans Benefits Administration;

(iii) the chief financial officer of the National Cemetery Administration; and

(iv) the chief financial officer of the Office of Information and Technology; and

(B) does not include the Inspector General.

**SEC. 7102. PLANS FOR ADDRESSING MATERIAL WEAKNESSES AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the three subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) an action plan, including steps, related timelines, costs, progress, status of implementation, and any updates for fully addressing the material weaknesses of the Department discussed in the Management’s Discussion and Analysis section of the financial statements of the Department submitted to Congress under section 3515 of title 31, United States Code for the year preceding the year during which the report is submitted; and

(2) a plan outlining the steps the Secretary plans to take to address the recommendations of auditors related to entity-level internal controls and to provide sufficient authority to the Chief Financial Officer of the Department to carry out the requirements of section 902 of title 31, United States Code.

**SEC. 7103. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ATTESTATION.**

Concurrent with the submittal to Congress of the President’s budget request under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2022 and each of the next three subsequent fiscal years, the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees each of the following:

(1) A certification of the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer for internal financial controls of the Department.

(2) An attestation that the Chief Financial Officer has collaborated sufficiently with the subordinate chief financial officers of the Department to be confident in the financial projections included the budget request and supporting materials.

**SEC. 7104. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with the responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the recruitment, selection, and training of personnel to carry out agency financial management functions pursuant to section 902(a)(5)(C) of title 31, United States Code, the Chief Financial Officer or the designee of the Chief Financial Officer within the Office of Management of the Department shall—

(1) participate in the interview and selection panels of all subordinate chief financial officers; and

(2) give input into the performance plans and performance evaluations of all subordinate chief financial officers.

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The requirements under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**Subtitle C—Servicemembers Civil Relief**

**SEC. 7201. CLARIFICATION OF DELIVERY OF NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF LEASES OF PREMISES AND MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PURPOSES OF RELIEF UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 305(c)(2) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) by electronic means, including—

“(i) the direct delivery of material to an electronic address designated by the lessor (or the lessor’s grantee) or the lessor’s agent (or the agent’s grantee);

“(ii) the posting of material to a website or other internet or electronic-based information repository to which access has been granted to the lessee, the lessor (or the lessor’s grantee), or the lessor’s agent (or the agent’s grantee); and

“(iii) other electronic means reasonably calculated to ensure actual receipt of the material by the lessor (or the lessor’s grantee) or the lessor’s agent (or the agent’s grantee).”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to delivery of notice of lease terminations on or after the date the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 7202. TECHNICAL CORRECTION REGARDING EXTENSION OF LEASE PROTECTIONS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS UNDER STOP MOVEMENT ORDERS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL, NATIONAL, OR GLOBAL EMERGENCY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 305(b) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(b)), as amended by Public Law 116-158, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C)(ii), by striking “Secretary of Defense” and inserting “Secretary concerned”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C)(ii), by striking “Secretary of Defense” and inserting “Secretary concerned”.

(b) **RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stop movement orders issued on or after March 1, 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7105, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7105, as amended, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

H.R. 7105, as amended, was introduced by Representative MIKE LEVIN, chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, and the bill before us today contains several crucial improvements that will better the lives of veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, the first title of this bill contains legislation from Representatives LEVIN, UNDERWOOD, SABLAN, BROWNLEY, WEXTON, and LEE to improve the Forever GI Bill. These provisions will ensure that institutions of higher learning are more accountable to student veterans.

These provisions will improve oversight of colleges and universities, provide more flexibility for veterans to use their benefits, and improve information sharing with students so that they can make a more informed decision on where to continue their education.

Further, building off my Student Veterans Coronavirus Response Act from earlier in the year, this legislation includes immediate COVID-19-related relief, from Representative CUNNINGHAM, to student veterans. His legislation will extend housing benefits to student veterans, provide more flexibility when using their education benefits during the pandemic, and modernize apprenticeship programs to allow them to continue effectively during COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, to better serve those veterans who are experiencing homelessness, this legislation includes contributions from Representatives PANNETTA, PETERS, WILD, BEATTY, and BROWNLEY to provide more veterans with access to the HUD-VASH program, including veterans with children and women veterans, and to provide legal services to homeless veterans.

Recognition of service and sacrifice is a priority of mine, and I thank Representative Cox for his bill that awards benefits to military advisers who served in Vietnam immediately prior to the Vietnam war. This group of advisers faced hostilities in the years preceding the formal declaration of war in Vietnam, and some lost their lives. The Military Assistance Advisory Group will now have greater access to certain wartime benefits.

Mr. Speaker, similarly, this legislation expands benefits for certain veterans, including Medal of Honor recipients. Thanks to Representative LAMB's legislation, those veterans and their survivors will now receive a greater amount of special pension.

My priority next Congress is to bring more veterans with toxic exposures into VA and create an easier process to get these veterans benefits. One group I have heard a lot about is K-2 veterans, who served at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan. These servicemembers slept in tents above soil that glowed and oozed, and, unsurprisingly, many later fell ill.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support inclusion of legislation that partners with the Centers for Disease Control to study these exposures and resulting health effects.

For veterans who have passed away, burial benefits ease the burden on grieving families. This legislative package expands these benefits, creating greater access. Representative DELGADO's legislation makes counties eligible for VA grants to build and operate veteran cemeteries, bringing a veteran's final resting place closer to home for rural communities.

Representative SABLAN's legislation works to expand those grants, which are also available to States, territories, and Tribal governments, to cover increasing costs of cemetery operations.

This legislative package includes several provisions from numerous healthcare-related bills, and I will just take a minute to highlight a few.

I am really delighted we are able to include Representative GALLEGO's Native American PACT Act, which prohibits VA from collecting copays from a veteran who is a member of an Indian Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7105, as amended, also includes innovative ideas like Representative KAPTUR's the Vet HP Act, which seeks to expose undergraduate students considering careers in medicine to directly experience VA's healthcare environment.

In addition, this package includes language requiring State veterans homes to provide VA with reoccurring reports on COVID-19 cases and related issues in the facility. This is one more way that VA and Congress can ensure veterans in State veterans homes have the resources they need during this public health emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased this end-of-year package includes the Deborah Sampson Act, introduced by

Representative JULIA BROWNLEY, the chairwoman of the Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee. Title V is named after Deborah Sampson, a Revolutionary War veteran from Massachusetts who served in the Continental Army for 17 months and was wounded in battle more than once.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah Sampson was neither the first nor the only woman to serve in the Continental Army, nor was she the first woman to be granted a pension by Congress, but she was the most persistent. Over 38 years, Congress granted her a pension, backpay; and, ultimately, her husband was granted a survivor's pension after her death. It is because of similar persistence by women warriors who followed in Deborah Sampson's footsteps that we are considering this legislation today.

Among the numerous provisions included in this legislation—perhaps the most important—relate to eliminating sexual harassment and assault.

Today, nearly one in four new recruits joining the military is a woman; and, as a result, women veterans are the fastest growing demographic in the veterans community, and VA must be prepared to welcome them.

Unacceptably, at least one in four women veterans experience sexual and gender harassment at VA facilities. This must end.

Mr. Speaker, last week, both the VA OIG and the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee issued reports that emphasized the need to do more to address the toxic culture that exists at the Department of Defense and at VA. No veteran, caregiver, employee, contractor, or other public visitor should experience sexual harassment or assault at VA.

H.R. 7105, as amended, requires VA to develop a comprehensive policy that includes bystander intervention, mandatory reporting mechanisms for employees, confidential reporting mechanisms for veterans, and holds leadership accountable for addressing sexual harassment and assault at VA facilities.

This bill also includes provisions put forward by Representative PAPPAS that require new rules for how VA collects debts owed by beneficiaries to avoid unnecessary harm to veteran credit ratings, as well as to prevent many overpayments from happening due to eligibility changes.

Mr. Speaker, finally, the bill before us improves the protections offered by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act for veterans and their families. The included legislation from Representatives BUSTOS and ROSE provides additional protections to ensure that veterans aren't disadvantaged by their service to our Nation and that they are allowed more flexibility and protections for their employment and leases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 7105, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

This legislation is a culmination of 2 years of bipartisan work by the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. It contains provisions that will provide veterans and their families with improved access to care, compensation, education, housing, and burial benefits that they have earned and will result in a Department of Veterans Affairs that is better able to meet their needs.

I am proud that one of my last votes in Congress will be in support of this bill. I am also humbled that it bears my name and that of my friend, former Senator Johnny Isakson from Georgia. It was a pleasure to work with Senator Isakson as the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee before his retirement last year.

Our shared passion for serving our fellow veterans led to the creation and passage of landmark veterans' legislation, including the MISSION Act, the Forever GI Bill, the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act.

I am honored to share this recognition with him, and I thank our colleagues for recognizing our work in this way. It would take more time than I have to list every worthy proposal in this bill and thank every lawmaker, Republican and Democrat alike, who sponsored them.

The many provisions included in this omnibus bill will support veterans and families from the time they transition out of the military to the time they are interred in a VA, State, Tribal, or private cemetery and at multiple critical touchpoints in between.

For transitioning veterans, it will authorize a review of the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP; allow TAP to be provided at off-base locations; and support community organizations that are supporting servicemembers as they transition.

For student veterans, it will expand the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program to student veterans working on their medical degrees; require schools to provide all student veterans with in-state tuition, regardless of when they left Active Duty; make improvements and increase funding for the VET TEC pilot program to connect veterans with careers in the technology industry; strengthen oversight of schools that use the GI Bill; expand the restoration of benefits to students whose schools close in the middle of a term; and ensure that more servicemembers and veterans can take advantage of the improved benefits available through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For veterans with service-connected disabilities, it will ensure that claims

for disability compensation include pertinent information from veterans' private providers by requiring the VA to reinstate public-facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires, or DBQs, and issue a report detailing whether an alternative disability exam process would better serve veterans and, if so, implement it.

For women veterans, it will ensure that the VA healthcare system is more prepared for and responsive to their needs and help it instill a culture that is more welcoming, inclusive, and safe.

For veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma, it will streamline benefits and make it easier to get the care and compensation they deserve.

For veterans struggling with homelessness or housing insecurity, it will increase funding for transitional housing providers; improve case management services in the HUD-VASH voucher program; provide additional funding and flexibility to allow service providers to care for those with children and meet rising demands associated with COVID-19; authorize grant funding for legal services; and support those leaving the criminal justice system.

For veterans worried about their finances, it will address a major root cause of veteran debt by allowing veterans to remove dependents from the eBenefits system.

For veterans concerned about the general management and operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, it will improve VA's work with Congress and the Government Accountability Office to address high-risk service lines and improve VA's overall efficiency and effectiveness; and strengthen financial management across the Department, which is more important now than ever before as VA's budget approaches \$250 billion a year and total liabilities surpass \$4 trillion.

For veterans who are providing critical care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic, it will provide a time-limited presumption of exposure to help streamline benefits for those who develop long-term disabilities associated with exposure to COVID-19 as a result of their service during this unforgettable moment in history.

For veterans at the end of their lives, it will create a single burial benefit for non-service-connected veterans by raising the cost of the non-service-connected burial allowance to match the allowance for veterans who pass away in a VA facility; allow VA to pay for certain burial transportation costs for families who choose to lay their loved ones to rest in a State or Tribal veterans cemetery; and permit VA to replace a veteran's VA-furnished headstone in a private cemetery to add memorial inscriptions for eligible family members.

Finally, for veterans' survivors, it will extend GI Bill survivor benefits to the families of servicemembers who died of a service-connected injury

while in the Reserves, and it will address an inequity in Federal benefits for surviving spouses by allowing them to retain their eligibility for VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation if they remarry after the age of 55.

I can go on and on; but, suffice to say, there is something in this bill for just about every one of our Nation's veterans and their loved ones.

I am very grateful to every Senator and Member of Congress who has introduced one of the various pieces of legislation in this package, including Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY of California; my good friend and incoming Ranking Member MIKE BOST from Illinois; Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS from Florida; General JACK BERGMAN from Michigan; Congressman JIM BANKS from Indiana; Congressman ANDY BARR from Kentucky, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER from Illinois; Congressman DOUG LAMALFA from California; and Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON from Texas.

This bill would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and support of numerous individuals and organizations, including VA; our partners in the veteran service organization community; the Women Veterans Task Force; committee members from both sides of the aisle, particularly the chairs and ranking members of our Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, on Economic Opportunity, on Health, and on Oversight and Investigations; our colleagues on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee; and last, but certainly not least, my good friends and fellow Veterans' Affairs Committee leaders: Chairman TAKANO, Chairman MORAN, and Ranking Member TESTER.

Serving in the United States Army, Second Infantry Division, as I did, was a defining moment in my life. Helping to serve my fellow veterans in Congress these past 12 years along such an esteemed group of lawmakers who I am proud to call friends has been a honor of a lifetime.

The 116th Congress has been one for the history books in more than one way. I hope that it will end on a high note today by passing this important bill and providing that, despite all of the challenges before us at this particular moment in time, Congress can still come together on a bipartisan basis to enact meaningful legislation on behalf of some of our most deserving constituents, the men and women who have so bravely defended our freedoms and the families and caregivers who support them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), my good friend and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7105, the John-

ny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

In addition to including the Deborah Sampson Act, a key piece of legislation that will improve healthcare and access to VA services and benefits for women veterans, this legislation also includes the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, which I introduced, along with Congressman PAUL COOK from California, to expand employment opportunities for our veterans.

The BRAVE Act is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will authorize the VA Secretary to give preference to contractors with high concentrations of full-time veteran employees when awarding Federal contracts.

First, this will reward companies that actively hire and invest in veterans. Second, it will create an incentive for other companies to do the same, which, in, turn will help bring more veterans into their workforce with good paying jobs, the types of opportunities that give veterans and their families the stability they need as they transition to civilian life.

Most importantly, as more and more companies hire more and more veterans, they will ultimately see that investing in veterans is just good for business. That is what the real incentive should be.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for including the BRAVE Act in this bipartisan bill package, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7105 today.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my good friend and new ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I have been in Mr. BOST's district many times. I know his passion. He is a former marine. I guess once a marine, always a marine, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I stand in full support of H.R. 7105, and I am proud to be the sponsor of several provisions included in today's veterans' omnibus bill.

The first is a provision that would modernize the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance program by increasing the maximum coverage from \$10,000 to \$40,000; ensuring that veterans cannot be denied coverage for any preexisting condition; removing the requirement that veterans apply for coverage within 2 years of receiving an award of service connection; and requiring premiums to cover the long-term cost of the program, like the VA has with other life insurance programs.

Once the modernization program goes into effect, the outdated program would be sunset for new applicants.

Another provision of mine will authorize a pilot program to extend license portability to certain nonphysician providers who perform disability exams under contract with the VA. As a result, contract vendors will be able to schedule a veteran's exam sooner.

This is critical, as the VBA focuses its efforts on reducing the backlogs of disability exams that has been caused by the pandemic.

Additionally, this bill will address a problem that occurred when a veteran has a change in their dependency status, but the VA does not take immediate action to reduce the veteran's benefits payments. As a result, the veteran may incur an overpayment that the veteran must pay back. My provision would allow a veteran to remove their dependent from their award through eBenefits within 60 days of the veteran's input and without VA approval.

This package also includes another one of my bills, H.R. 7445, which would expand eligibility for VA home loans programs to certain members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right and logical that members of the National Guard and Reserve who perform Federal Active Duty be given the same benefits as their full-time Active Duty counterparts.

Before I close, I would like to thank Ranking Member ROE for his leadership on the committee these past 4 years, both as ranking member and as chairman. He has done a great job of representing the veterans of this Nation and making sure that his focus and the committee's focus is kept on what is best for them.

I want to thank him for how he treats and works with each member of the staff, as well as each Member, to guide us through. Remember, under his guidance, we have enacted several pieces of legislative accomplishments, including appeals reform, the MISSION Act, and the Forever GI Bill.

Now, as the full committee ranking member, I hope to follow in his footsteps, and I hope I can do him proud and continue our work to improve benefits and services for our veterans and their families.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend, who is also a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and is the Chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot allow our veterans to fall into homelessness, end up jobless, or go without the basic services that they deserve. These challenges have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am proud to lead the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act so that we can do right by our veterans during this pandemic and beyond.

This legislation includes several of my bipartisan bills. It includes the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act and the Homeless Veteran Coronavirus Response Act to lift veterans out of homelessness.

It includes the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder

Transition Improvement Act to ease the transition to civilian life and help veterans build meaningful careers.

It includes the Protect the GI Bill Act and the Pandemic Assistance for Student Veterans Act to help veterans make the most of their GI Bill benefits.

It includes the Brian Tally VA Employment Transparency Act to protect veterans' legal rights.

This legislation will make a real difference for veterans across the country, and I am proud of the bipartisan progress we are making today.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), my good friend who represents the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I think General BERGMAN is the highest ranking officer who has served in the U.S. Congress, a marine.

□ 1445

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

I consider the word "optimism" to mean hope that actually includes a plan, and I have sincere optimism that the bipartisan legislative package before us today will serve as a blueprint for the great work we can achieve in the next Congress by working together. More importantly, I have confidence that it will make a positive difference in veterans' lives.

For example, H.R. 7105 includes my legislation, the GI Bill Planning Act of 2019, which will give military enlistees greater ability to consider which GI Bill benefits are right for them.

Just think, in the heat of the first 2 weeks of their boot camp, 70 percent of enlistees decide to pay \$1,200 upfront to opt into their Montgomery GI Bill benefit, but 97 percent actually end up using the more robust post-9/11 GI Bill. By delaying this Montgomery GI Bill opt-in decision 6 months and responsibly ending new enrollment in 10 years, we will actually save recruits money and ensure they are more informed on their future education benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for including not only my bill but several other major measures that I have co-lead to improve VA transparency in benefits decisions, as well as increase accountability in the Department's efforts to address programs that are at a high risk of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7105, and I wish Dr. ROE fair winds and following seas.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), my good friend, who is also a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7105.

I am proud that this bill includes the Chuck Osier Burial Benefits Act, which

would require the VA to furnish an urn or a plaque if a deceased eligible veteran was not interred in a traditional cemetery. All veterans deserve to be honored for their service, regardless of how their families choose to lay them to rest.

It is named in honor of Chuck Osier, an Air Force veteran from Sherrill, New York, who passed away in 2015. Because Chuck was not interred in a traditional cemetery, his family could not honor him with a VA-furnished marker.

His widow, Donna, has been working with Members of Congress from central New York for years to get this fixed. I am proud to stand here for Chuck and Donna and finally get this bill passed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for our Nation's veterans and their families.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), my good friend, my neighbor just north of me in Kentucky, and a very, very prominent member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

Let me start by thanking my good friend, the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, a former chairman of this committee, for his service to this country, not just as a veteran himself, but also leading this committee and being a tireless champion of the men and women who have served our country in uniform, through all of his accomplishments on this committee.

I am so grateful for what you have done for our veterans and, on a personal note, as a mentor to me and so many others, leading the way, showing your patriotism. You are going to be missed here, but we appreciate your friendship.

I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that the two bipartisan bills I introduced this Congress are included in this comprehensive veterans package: an amended version of my bill, H.R. 7795, the Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020, which I introduced with my Democratic colleague, Representative ELAINE LURIA from Virginia; and H.R. 5772, the Veteran STEM Scholarship Enhancement Act, which I introduced and later worked on with Representative LAUREN UNDERWOOD from Illinois.

My bill, the Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020 will make it easier for veterans to file their disability claims by requiring the VA to restore the availability of disability benefits questionnaires, or DBQs, to their publicly available website so that a veteran can use their own personal healthcare provider when filing for benefits. This bill also cuts red tape and bureaucracy by preventing a veteran's claim from being rejected just

because the VA changed a line on a form.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my constituent, retired Master Gunner Sergeant Kenneth Gilliam, a 30-year Marine Corps veteran, and Kentucky Sixth District Veterans Coalition member retired Chief Warrant Officer Denny Hart, who were the inspiration for this legislation.

My other bill, the Veteran STEM Scholarship Enhancement Act allows the VA to more quickly process veteran scholarship applications for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship by lifting the requirement for priority groups among eligible veterans applying for the scholarship unless the VA determines that it is nearing the scholarship's yearly funding limit.

This bill also prevents the Rogers STEM scholarship from counting toward the 48-month limit a veteran can—

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, this bill also prevents the Rogers STEM scholarship from counting toward the 48-month limit a veteran can receive GI benefits.

I have seen veterans in my district in central and eastern Kentucky, especially at Eastern Kentucky University, take advantage of this important scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my vote for this package that delivers for our Nation's veterans. I thank, again, my colleagues for working in a bipartisan way to shepherd this very important package of veteran advocacy legislation to fruition.

Once again, I thank my good friend for his distinguished service in this body, Dr. PHIL ROE. Thank you, sir. It has been an honor serving with you on this subcommittee especially.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend who is also a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for getting this important legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7105, a crucial piece of veterans legislation that aptly bears the name of our distinguished ranking member, Dr. ROE.

The bill now includes three pieces of legislation that I introduced to ensure VA is able to fulfill its mission of supporting all those who have borne the battle. These three provisions will help improve the quality of care and address deficiencies that frustrate and even harm our veterans.

The first requires VA to address bureaucratic waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement identified by the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List.

A second provisions honors the sacrifices of our female veterans by ensuring they have access to properly fitted prosthetic items, just as their male counterparts do.

The third focuses on punitive debt collection practices by VA against our veterans, many of whom have done everything right. This provision sets limits on when VA may initiate collection proceedings and even gives our veterans the ability to update crucial benefit information online.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House and Senate committees for getting this bipartisan bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation today.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), who served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. He has been a tireless advocate for veterans during that time.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, there would not be a Texas if it were not for Tennessee.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, how can a Texan respond to that in the 3 minutes that has been allotted to me?

Mr. Speaker, I will say, with all sincerity, what an incredible man, what a great statesman and a leader for this country. For all things good about our veterans and the promises that we have made and the services that we render to them, Dr. PHIL ROE, what a hero and what a great mentor to many of us.

I join the many who have benefited from your friendship and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman TAKANO's friendship, and I thank him for his leadership and his love for our veterans. Our country's character, I think we would say, could be measured in a few ways. One of them is how we treat those who we send off to battle.

In addition to being the right thing to do—that is, deliver on the promises we make to our veterans—it is also good national security policy. It is more than just recruiting the right people and providing the best training. If we are going to maintain the greatest fighting force in all the world, we need to make sure we do right by our Active Duty military men and women as they transition to civilian life and being veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on title IV of this piece of legislation. It is the Transition Assistance Improvement Act that I have worked on for a few years now. It is named after my dear friend from high school, Bill Mulder, Chief Petty Officer Navy SEAL Bill Mulder. I love saying his name.

He is a warrior's warrior. He, too, gave his life for this country. He suffered and struggled with the wounds of battle that you can't easily see. Let's put it that way.

I am so grateful to Chairman TAKANO and Chairman ROE, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, especially Representative MIKE LEVIN, for helping shepherd this along and hon-

oring Bill Mulder and his family and, in doing so, passing this legislation that will engage our Active Duty military earlier in the process, before they venture out as civilians, to equip them and empower them with education and opportunities for employment and to connect them with their brothers and sisters, fellow veterans in the community.

All the component parts of this, I think, will end up with lives saved, less Bill Mulders, in terms of his final chapter, and less pain for wives of military personnel, like Sydney Mulder.

To Sydney, let me say thank you for your sacrifice.

To Bill's children, Nina, Jake, and Sam, thank you for what you guys represent in military families. Your dad is a true American hero. His legacy will not stop here. It will live on in you, and it will live on in the lives that it changes because of this piece of legislation.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, thank you for indulging me.

God bless the Mulder family. God bless those who serve our great country.

I pray to God that this will help make an impact on the real lives of our veterans as they transition and maximize their greatest God-given potential as civilians once again. That is the way this ought to work, and I know that is our desire.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas and his devotion to Bill Mulder and his memory.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my good friend, a longtime friend to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his dedication and leadership to move these import veterans provisions through Congress.

Included in this package is my bill, the Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Health Professionals Act. The VET HP Act will create a 1-year pilot program to allow pre-med students to gain clinical observation experience at VA medical centers. I thank the chairman for his leadership in helping include this.

This legislation will not only increase opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to gain the clinical observation time they need for medical school, but it will also allow them the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of veterans' specific health needs and experiences, which we just heard about, while connecting them with the VA medical system.

In identifying and training future physicians interested in serving veterans, this legislation will, hopefully, help fill some of the estimated 30,000



medical vacancies at the Department of Veterans Affairs by creating a viable pipeline of future physicians.

Mr. Speaker, one of our highest responsibilities as a Congress is to ensure our veterans receive the timely, highest quality care they deserve from trained professionals. I am pleased that this bill, the VET HP Act, with the leadership of Chairman TAKANO and with my sponsorship as well, will directly support these priorities.

□ 1500

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), a champion and a staunch advocate, who is unparalleled in her support for our Nation's 22 million veterans.

Under the Speaker's leadership, the House has passed the largest increases in veterans funding in history, including investments in mental health services, Agent Orange disability, healthcare benefits, economic and educational opportunities, as well as job training.

She understands we must build up, not tear down, the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has upheld the sacred pledge that, just as the military leaves no one behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind here at home.

This Congress, with her support, we have continued to preserve the sacred trust of our men and women in uniform and the 200,000 servicemembers who become veterans each year.

Mr. Speaker, I am, of course, referring to the Speaker of this great House from the great State of California, the Honorable NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his great leadership. He makes us so proud as the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I proudly rise in support of H.R. 7105, a strong bipartisan package of legislation that strives to meet our responsibilities to honor the service and sacrifice of those who don the uniform.

The strength of this package and its support across the aisle is a testament to the outstanding leadership of Chairman MARK TAKANO. We are very proud of him as a Californian and as a Member of this House.

The bill has been an all-hands-on-deck effort, and I salute the many Members whose provisions and perspectives have strengthened it:

Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, the chair of the Health Subcommittee and the Women's Veterans Task Force, who has worked tirelessly to achieve gender equity at VA, including, now, through the landmark Deborah Sampson Act included in this omnibus;

Congressman MIKE LEVIN, the pride of our freshman class, who introduced this omnibus as chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity,

who has been a champion for the financial security of our veterans on everything from the GI Bill to antihomelessness initiatives.

And to you, Mr. Ranking Member ROE, thank you for your leadership and your friendship and prioritizing our veterans. I am so proud that this bill is named for you. Congratulations to you, and thank you.

I also recognize former Senator Johnny Isakson. What a great person he is. What a great Member of the Senate he has been. I enjoyed being with him when we were saluting our veterans at Normandy, when he made that visit there and made us all so proud.

Johnny was always bipartisan, reaching across the aisle for our veterans, and it was a joy to serve in this House as he served as a Senator. But I want him to know that he is very missed and, again, recognized for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, last year, many Members were blessed to be able to travel to Europe to mark 75 years of the Normandy landing and the Battle of the Bulge on another visit.

At the commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, almost 1 year ago this day, I met a veteran in his nineties who urged us to pray for peace. He spoke for the veterans who were gathered there in a program with the King of Belgium and the President of Germany. It was very interesting. The Secretary of Defense spoke, but the veteran spoke for the veterans, and he talked about the camaraderie and the band of brothers and all that, but at the end, he said: Pray for peace.

In that same spirit of peace, hope, and respect, this Congress has honored our veterans and their families and caregivers with transformative action: from the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act to expand protections for those devastated by exposure to Agent Orange, to ending the cruelly unfair widows tax and kiddie tax—remember that?—to passing the COMPACT Act to combat veteran suicide, to investing nearly \$20 billion in VA readiness in pandemic research.

Now the House is building on this bipartisan momentum with this omnibus, which includes provisions from nearly 60 House-passed bills.

This bill strengthens veterans' education, investing nearly \$350 million in improving GI benefits for surviving family members, increasing work study options and fellowship opportunities for veterans, securing benefits for those who cannot complete courses due to the pandemic, and more.

It safeguards veterans' benefits, including by modernizing the benefit system with commonsense reforms, investing in benefits for surviving spouses, and improving eligibility for housing and home loan assistance for National Guard and Reserve members.

This bill protects veterans' health, improving care for those exposed to the coronavirus and burn pits, improving VA's scheduling process, and increas-

ing reporting from State veterans' homes in light of COVID outbreaks.

This bill is focused on justice, equality, and opportunity, and we are particularly proud of the steps taken to help servicemembers transition to the civilian workforce and to improve services and VA access for Native American veterans, including eliminating their copays.

House Members can take pride in the inclusion of Congresswoman BROWNLEY's Deborah Sampson Act, a crown jewel in this package and the most comprehensive women veterans bill in over a decade.

This bill improves the health, benefits, education, and VA support system for women veterans, including by requiring VA to create the antiharassment and antiassault policy, improving women-specific primary healthcare, expanding access to childcare, and strengthening mental health initiatives.

This bill could not be more timely. Last week, the VA inspector general's report revealed the appalling coverup and discrediting of a woman veteran who works on the task force that created this legislation at the hands of Secretary Wilkie and top VA officials.

It is a profound injustice for any patriot with the courage to serve to have to experience having his or her voice silenced and integrity questioned. Congress will not relent until every servicemember, every veteran, every woman can live free from the fear of assault or abuse.

This package was drafted—this is what I am so proud of, because, on a regular basis, we meet with the veteran service organizations, and it is their opportunity to tell us what their priorities are. There are so many issues that needed to be addressed. Some of them I have already mentioned here that have been addressed over time and right now. But their wisdom and their experience and their patriotism really helps shape our agenda.

Thank you, Mr. TAKANO, for listening and for acting upon the knowledge and values they give us.

This package was drafted in consultation with leading veterans groups, and we are proud to have the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Military Officers Association of America, Student Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, the National Military Family Association, Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America, the Association of the U.S. Navy, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans Education Success, just to name a few. The list goes on.

As we send this package to the President's desk, House Democrats are ready to take further action to honor our veterans in the next Congress, working alongside the Biden-Harris administration.

Just as the military pledges to leave no one behind on the battlefield, we solemnly promise to leave no veteran

behind. That is particularly personal to me, having four brothers who served in the armed services, an uncle who died in World War II, but also a daughter who is so committed to our veterans that practically every day she will say to me: What did you do for our veterans today? And not just on Veterans Day.

As we send this package, recognize that our work on behalf of veterans, their families, and their caregivers must be bipartisan and of the highest priority. I urge the passage of this bill.

And as I say to those VSOs when they come in: Understand this; for you and to honor you, we pledge to always work as much as possible in a bipartisan way.

That is the way they would want us to do so. That is why I am particularly proud, Congressman ROE, to recognize your leadership, and I am so happy that this bill is named for you and for Johnny Isakson, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I once again voice my appreciation for Mr. TAKANO for his great leadership. I thank him.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am sure Christine Pelosi is going to be tweeting in just a few moments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), my good friend and member of the Armed Services Committee and senior member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and salute Mr. TAKANO and Mr. ROE for their fine work.

In particular, I want to foot stomp section 2011, which instructs GAO to conduct an independent analysis of the VA's 1-year manifestation rule, which has unfairly blocked benefits for three debilitating conditions caused by Agent Orange dioxin used in the Vietnam war.

In a nutshell, veterans are required to show these illnesses manifested themselves within 1 year of exposure in order to get VA help. Only one problem: 50 years ago, when servicemembers were handling this poison, the U.S. Government never disclosed how dangerous it was. When its toxicity was finally recognized decades later, the 1-year clock to prove manifestation had long expired. It is the ultimate catch-22.

Section 2011 would not exist but for the tireless work of Vietnam veteran Gerry Wright from Andover, Connecticut, who has crisscrossed America rounding up support for abolishing this rule—no lobbyists, no super-PACs, just old-fashioned citizen activism.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Gerry. He is a true patriot.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), my good friend.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE and my Michigan colleague, JACK BERGMAN, with whom I worked on this legislation, for bringing this bill to the floor, which includes my legislation, the Transparency For Wounded Warriors Act.

This legislation will improve the Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program, known as TSGLI, which provides financial support to help servicemembers recover from severe injuries.

This issue came to me 7 years ago as a result of an injury suffered by Sergeant First Class Cameron Corder from Clio, Michigan, my neighbor just a few miles away from where I live, who sustained a severe back injury while on Active Duty serving as a flight medic in Afghanistan.

Despite his traumatic injury, the Army repeatedly denied his TSGLI claims, and for years my staff and I fought all the way to the top rungs of the military to try to get Cameron his benefits. Finally, in November of 2017, after years of denials, Cameron received those benefits.

His experience, though, was a clear case of bureaucratic harm suffered by a Wounded Warrior. His treatment was unacceptable. This legislation will, hopefully, ensure that it won't happen to other servicemembers.

I am pleased that the House has included this bill in this bipartisan package. When it comes to my constituents and veterans, I don't give up until I win.

I thank my friend Chairman TAKANO, and I especially thank Dr. ROE. I very much enjoyed serving with you and look forward to staying connected to you in some fashion.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7105. This important package includes a bill I authored, H.R. 4908, the Native American Veteran PACT Act.

Native people have fought in every American war since the American Revolution, more than a century before they were even granted citizenship.

When I served in Iraq, I fought alongside Navajo marines, some of the best marines you will ever meet. I have witnessed, firsthand, Native communities' tradition of service to America, which is why I introduced the PACT Act, to make sure America keeps its promises to these heroes.

The PACT Act would prohibit the VA from charging copays to Native American veterans. The United States Government has a treaty obligation to provide healthcare to Native Americans free of charge.

□ 1515

Despite this, the VA has long charged Native veterans unconstitutional copayments for their care. That should end today.

Now more than ever, in the midst of a health crisis that has been disproportionately affecting Native people, we need to make sure that Native veterans have access to the healthcare they are due, both as veterans and as members of Tribal nations.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important provision to uphold our trust responsibility and to vote "yes" on the underlying package.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), my good friend.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Mr. TAKANO, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7105. This legislation incorporates two bills I was proud to introduce.

The first bill is my bipartisan Fairness for Local Veteran Cemeteries Act, an easy bipartisan fix to allow localities to honor our Nation's veterans.

As the law is currently written, only State-run veteran cemeteries are eligible for the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Cemetery Grants. This cripples counties and States that don't have State-operated veteran cemeteries, including New York, Florida, Alaska, and Oregon, where veteran cemeteries are operated by counties or county-equivalents.

Our bill will ensure counties and localities can use Federal funds to help run veteran cemeteries.

H.R. 7105 also incorporates my Improving Benefits for Underserved Veterans Act, which would require the VA to publish a report on veterans' benefits, disaggregating by sex or minority group member status. This is an important step in leveling the playing field for women and minority veterans.

The men and women of the armed services dedicate their lives to defending our Nation and its values. I am proud to support this legislation that helps our Nation provide better care for our veterans and protect their final resting place.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND), my good friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to put on their masks.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the daughter of two veterans, I am proud that my bill with Representative MIKE GALLAGHER, the Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act, will be included in this package.

All veterans deserve the best care that our country can give, but there are gaps in services for Native American veterans.

The advisory committee established by this bill will ensure that we look at and remedy the specific barriers Native American veterans face so they will have access to the same care that other veterans have.

For these reasons and many more, I am thankful for the inclusion of my bill today and look forward to seeing its implementation by President-elect Biden.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) has expired.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious today, with the minority leader, the Speaker, and numerous, numerous distinguished Members coming to speak, the importance of this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his work on this. I thank all the Members who, in a bipartisan way, brought this extremely important bill to fruition.

I certainly appreciate the honor of having this bill named after Senator ISAKSON and myself, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7105, the Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, includes my bill helping get more funding for operations and maintenance to locally-run, veterans cemeteries nationwide.

My legislation, H.R. 5487, increases the amount the VA can grant for this purpose each year from \$5 million to \$10 million. As more veterans choose to be buried close to their home, more states, territories, and tribal governments are applying for funding from the VA to help cover the costs of operating and maintaining local veterans cemeteries.

And, while the list of applications grows, the amount the Department can award has not. Under current law, no more than \$5 million can be awarded per year to meet the needs of over 100 cemeteries.

H.R. 5487, the Veterans Cemetery Grants Improvement Act updates that authorization by a modest \$5 million. The Act will help veteran cemeteries in every state, territory, and tribal nation, remain the dignified and well-maintained resting places our veterans deserve.

I know in my own district, the Northern Mariana Islands, the veterans cemetery, built with federal funds, faces challenges in this respect. Veterans' families have come to me for help and this bill responds.

I know my co-sponsor, Representative STEIL, shares this concern for the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in his district, as do other Members for the cemeteries that serve their constituents.

And I know the members of this House are committed to honoring our nation's veterans and their families, who have sacrificed so much to ensure our country remains safe and free.

I thank Chairman TAKANO and Senator TESTER for all their support to include into H.R. 7105 this important measure.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 7105.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 7105.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR VETERAN CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2216) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for the family caregiver program, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2216

*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 "Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act" or the "TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act".

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF CAREGIVER PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

##### (a) FORMAL RECOGNITION OF CAREGIVERS.—

###### (1) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report regarding the feasibility and advisability of formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans by identifying any caregiver of a veteran in the electronic health record of the veteran.

(B) CAREGIVERS RECOGNIZED.—The recognition of caregivers described in subparagraph (A) shall include recognition of—

(i) any family caregiver who is approved as a provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(ii) any caregiver of a covered veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under subsection (b) of such section.

(C) TIMELINE.—If the Secretary determines that formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans as described in subparagraph (A) is feasible and advisable, the report required by such subparagraph shall include a timeline for implementing such recognition.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary determines that formally recognizing all caregivers of veterans as described in paragraph (1)(A) is feasible and advisable, the Secretary shall implement such recognition in accordance with the timeline included in the report required by such paragraph.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS, EXTENSION OF BENEFITS, AND DISCHARGE FROM FAMILY CAREGIVER

PROGRAM.—Section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(12)(A) The Secretary shall notify the individuals described in subparagraph (C) regarding decisions affecting the furnishing of assistance under this subsection using standardized letters, as the Secretary determines such notifications and letters to be appropriate.

“(B) A notification provided under subparagraph (A) shall include the elements required for notices of decisions under section 5104(b) of this title to the extent that those elements apply to such notification, unless, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act, the Secretary determines that it would not be feasible to include such elements in such notifications and submits to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the reasons for such determination.

“(C) The individuals described in this subparagraph shall include—

“(i) an individual who submits an application for the program established under paragraph (1);

“(ii) an individual determined by the Secretary to be an eligible veteran pursuant to such an application; and

“(iii) a family caregiver of an eligible veteran who is—

“(I) approved as a provider of personal care services under paragraph (6)(B); or

“(II) designated as a primary provider of personal care services under paragraph (7)(A).

“(13)(A) If the Secretary determines that a veteran receiving services under the program established under paragraph (1) is no longer eligible for such program solely because of improvement in the condition of the veteran—

“(i) the effective date of discharge of the veteran from the program shall be not earlier than the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Secretary provides notice of such lack of eligibility under paragraph (12)(A) to the relevant individuals described in paragraph (12)(C); and

“(ii) the Secretary shall extend benefits under the program established under paragraph (1) for a family caregiver of the veteran described in paragraph (12)(C)(iii), including stipends under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(V), if such an extension is determined appropriate by the Secretary, for a 90-day period following discharge of the veteran from the program.

“(B) This paragraph shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary—

“(i) to prescribe regulations addressing other bases for—

“(I) the discharge of a veteran from the program established under paragraph (1); or

“(II) the revocation of the designation of a family caregiver of a veteran as a primary provider of personal care services under paragraph (7)(A); or

“(ii) to provide advance notice and extended benefits under the program, as appropriate, if another basis for discharge of a veteran described in subclause (I) of clause (i) or revocation of a designation described in subclause (II) of such clause applies.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 2216.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2216, Senator PETERS' bill, the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act.

This legislation clarifies certain elements of VA's program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers and the general caregiver program.

The bill formally recognizes a veteran's primary caregiver in the veteran's medical record and requires standardization in letters determining program eligibility.

Additionally, it extends the benefits of the comprehensive program for 90 days after a veteran has been determined to no longer be clinically eligible. This will allow the family caregivers, who have likely forgone or minimized their own careers in order to care for veterans, the means and necessary time to transition back to the workforce without worrying about how to pay the bills. This is an unnecessary stress on those who have already been through so much.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support S. 2216, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2216, the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act.

Just as our Nation's veterans are heroes, so are their caregivers. When a servicemember or veteran is seriously injured in service to our country, their family caregiver serves as an irreplaceable source of support and care during recovery and beyond.

They are just as vital a part of the veteran's care team as the veteran's doctors and nurses. They deserve respect, recognition, and support for all the work they do for their veteran loved ones and the personal sacrifices that work requires of them.

Since the Department of Veterans Affairs' family caregiver program was created by Congress in 2012, caregiver support services—including a monthly stipend, respite care, training, and healthcare, if needed—have been offered to eligible caregivers of post-9/11 veterans.

We expanded the family caregiver program to include caregivers of pre-9/11 veterans in the MISSION Act 2 years ago, and those caregivers began receiving benefits through the program in October.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't say the Dole Foundation and Senator Dole had a great influence on this.

Along with expanding the family caregiver program to caregivers of veterans of all eras, VA also made several programmatic changes, which I hope will ensure the program works better for every single veteran and caregiver in need of it. However, it may also result in some caregivers who were formerly eligible for the program to no longer be eligible for it because their veteran loved one had sufficiently recovered as to no longer require the same level of caregiving services.

To help individuals under those circumstances, this bill would require the VA to notify veterans and caregivers of medical decisions and determinations that may affect their eligibility for the family caregiver program and to extend the caregiver benefits on a temporary basis to those who are deemed ineligible for the program, ensuring that they have time to adjust to life without the support it provides them.

It would also require VA to list the names of caregivers in veterans' electronic health records to ease communication between providers and caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Senator GARY PETERS from Michigan and Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, my fellow Tennessean, for introducing this bill, as well as Congressman ANDY BIGGS from Arizona for sponsoring the House companion to it. I thank each of them for their leadership on this issue and their commitment to caring for caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I will be proudly supporting this bill today, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

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

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend, who is the House sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the ranking member for all of his work here on this bill and so many others to benefit the lives of our veterans and their families. I appreciate it very much.

I strongly support S. 2216, the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act, and, as the sponsor of H.R. 6571, the House companion of this legislation.

Family caregivers assume enormous responsibilities by caring for our wounded veterans, including many who are among our most vulnerable.

I introduced this legislation because one of my constituents, Ms. Sharon Grassi, came to us with her concerns related to the VA's family caregiver program. Sharon is the mother and caregiver of her son Derek, a 100-percent disabled veteran who served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat medic. Since Derek's departure from the service, Sharon has dedicated her life to securing the well-being of her son.

Sharon told our office countless stories of her struggles attempting to gain access to her son's VA medical records, even something as simple as a much-needed copy of an MRI.

As many caregivers know, having timely access to medical records is extremely important to move forward in the recovery process of the patient. Sharon has had issues getting access to these records because the VA does not formally recognize family caregivers in the health records of the veteran.

Today, we are one step closer to fixing this issue by requiring the VA to report to Congress on the feasibility and the advisability of recognizing family caregivers in the electronic health records of the veteran.

I will continue to work with my House and Senate colleagues and the VA to ensure that no family caregiver goes through the same bureaucratic nightmares as Sharon has.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the caregivers who support our wounded veterans every day, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and all the veterans service organizations that voiced their strong support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my colleague from Tennessee, Dr. ROE, for his service in Congress and his strong support of our Nation's veterans. I will say I respect him. His leadership and expertise will be missed in the Halls of this Congress.

Thank you, Dr. ROE.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes".

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a couple of minutes of personal privilege before I do close.

This will be the last couple of days I am here on the House floor, and I would like to thank the constituents of the First Congressional District of Tennessee who have supported me overwhelmingly for the past 12 years. I cannot thank you enough.

I have made so many great friends as I have traveled those 12 counties in rural east Tennessee, and I couldn't be prouder of them. Certainly, my prayers are with them now during this COVID epidemic.

This was a year like no one ever expected, Mr. Speaker. I think we will all look back years from now, and history will judge us on how we did now.

I want to thank my family and friends that I have had. I would not be here without them.

During this past 12 years, I have had, obviously, some personal issues. My wife died of cancer during the 12 years I was here. I lost a very dear personal friend not 6 weeks after that. My mother died a year after that. And a year after that, I was diagnosed with cancer myself, and I am a cancer survivor.

I want to thank the people in this body and in this House for the personal support that they gave me and uplifted me, the Congressional Prayer Breakfast, and just many friends, as Mr. BIGGS talked about, that would stop and speak to you and lift you up. I don't think people see that.

I want to thank my staff. I have had an incredible staff since I have been here. I am amazed at the insight and work that these young people do on both sides of the aisle. It is just amazing. We would not get this legislation completed. You see this big, thick binder right here. It is these staff members that put this together, do the hard work, and bring us together. And I can't thank them enough.

And my colleagues: I have met and made some amazing friends that will last a lifetime here.

I remember, and I will pass this along, an old coach told me this once. We were at a Boy Scout camp and I was a counselor there. One of the scouts ran up and said: "Coach, Coach, we have a problem down at shower house number 2."

And he said: "What is it?"

The scout said: "Well, the toilet is stopped up."

And the coach, I will never forget this, he said: "We don't have problems here. We have opportunities."

So, basically, we have had a lot of opportunities, I have, since I have been here.

I have been able to serve on some committees, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which I have been a member since day one; the Education and Labor Committee, which I had the privilege of serving as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. I served a term on the Agriculture Committee. I served on the Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans. I have co-chaired the GOP Doctors Caucus for the past several terms.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, I mean this sincerely. No one person does any of these things. It does take a team effort. And that team effort, you heard it today, you heard both sides of the aisle contribute to this piece of legislation that we just passed by voice vote.

We were able to pass in a bipartisan way the MISSION Act, which will fundamentally change—it is a very complex act that will fundamentally change how veterans get their care and improve the quality of care for our veterans.

The Forever GI Bill—Mr. Speaker, when I got out of the Army in 1975, I was able to use the GI Bill, and I know it paid me \$300 a month for 2 years. It sunsetted at 10 years. This Congress fully paid for that.

These young people now, these men and women who have served this country, can use that benefit the rest of their lives and that benefit can be transferred. It is an incredible help to

families now with the high cost of education.

We had an SGR, the sustainable growth rate repeal, and Medicare reform, the Medicare wage index reform.

We passed the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

With Whip HOYER, we passed an EpiPen bill so that they can be put in schools around the country. And I can tell you, after that happened, in my own district about 3 years ago, a student had an anaphylactic reaction. She did not know she had a problem. And a life was saved because of that.

I think if I did anything in Congress—and I want to thank Mr. HOYER for his help with that. We have another asthma bill that is getting hot lined in the Senate, to show you can do bipartisan work across the aisle.

That is just a few of the things that we were able to succeed and do. These are, again, not done by any one person. They are done as a team. And I want to thank everyone who helped make my time here in Congress successful.

I can tell you, it is one of the great privileges of my life to serve in the House of Representatives, in the greatest deliberative body in the world, the United States Congress. It is an honor I will never forget, Mr. Speaker.

I will finish by saying that I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and, graciously, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would just like to take a few moments to say even more words of praise for my colleague, Dr. PHIL ROE, my ranking member. We have served on two committees coterminously: the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which you chaired and which I now chair and which we have been both ranking members; and the Education and Labor Committee.

It is sort of a fate of coincidence, but it has been an absolute pleasure to be your colleague, sir. I wish you well in this next chapter of your life.

I especially want to take note of the example you set by organizing the congressional delegation trip to Afghanistan. I believe it was either my first term or my second term in Congress. What an honor that was to travel with you and a bipartisan delegation to serve turkey dinner during Thanksgiving. I never forgot that lesson.

I vowed that if I ever became chairman of the committee, that we would do the same thing, we would continue that tradition of serving our troops who cannot be with their families during the holiday season.

That spirit of service carried into the work that you have done and I have done together, with all the Members. We say it is a team effort. It is a special part of the Congress that we have staff that interact with each other, not primarily in an antagonistic mode. There are differences, but we work them out and we work them out bicommentally.

I note that Mr. Towers is going to go work on the other side, and I say that with all great affection. Some things will change, some things will stay constant.

This behemoth, it is more than 300 pages of legislative text. That is a testament to the spirit of wanting to do right.

I want to congratulate my own staff director, Ray Kelley, for that amazing work of both he and Jon and their counterparts in the Senate. This could not be the work of PHIL ROE and myself alone. It was the work of incredible leadership at the staff level.

I could go on and name every staff person. I have 28–29 staffers, and they all have performed magnificently to produce, I think, this incredible holiday gift to America's veterans and to America.

So PHIL ROE, thank you for, together, this gift that our teams have created for our country. Thank you for the gift you have been to our country.

And my final word to you is, on your next chapter, Godspeed.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2216.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

#### CRISIS STABILIZATION AND COMMUNITY REENTRY ACT OF 2020

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3312) to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3312

*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 "Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS STABILIZATION.

(a) PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after part NN the following:

#### "PART OO—CRISIS STABILIZATION AND COMMUNITY REENTRY PROGRAM.

#### "SEC. 3051. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants under this part to States, for use by State and local correctional facilities, for the purpose of providing clinical

services for people with serious mental illness and substance use disorders that establish treatment, suicide prevention, and continuity of recovery in the community upon release from the correctional facility.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this part shall be used to support—

“(1) programs involving criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, community-based organizations that focus on reentry, and community-based behavioral health providers that improve clinical stabilization during pre-trial detention and incarceration and continuity of care leading to recovery in the community by providing services and supports that may include peer support services, enrollment in healthcare, and introduction to long-acting injectable medications or, as clinically indicated, other medications, by—

“(A) providing training and education for criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, and community-based behavioral health providers on interventions that support—

“(i) engagement in recovery supports and services;

“(ii) access to medication while in an incarcerated setting; and

“(iii) continuity of care during reentry into the community;

“(B) ensuring that offenders with serious mental illness are provided appropriate access to evidence-based recovery supports that may include peer support services, medication (including long-acting injectable medications where clinically appropriate), and psycho-social therapies;

“(C) offering technical assistance to criminal justice agencies on how to modify their administrative and clinical processes to accommodate evidence-based interventions, such as long-acting injectable medications and other recovery supports; and

“(D) participating in data collection activities specified by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

“(2) programs that support cooperative efforts between criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, and community-based behavioral health providers to establish or enhance serious mental illness recovery support by—

“(A) strengthening or establishing crisis response services delivered by hotlines, mobile crisis teams, crisis stabilization and triage centers, peer support specialists, public safety officers, community-based behavioral health providers, and other stakeholders, including by providing technical support for interventions that promote long-term recovery;

“(B) engaging criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies and community-based behavioral health providers, preliminary qualified offenders, and family and community members in program design, program implementation, and training on crisis response services, including connection to recovery services and supports;

“(C) examining health care reimbursement issues that may pose a barrier to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of crisis response services and interventions that promote long-term engagement with recovery services and supports; and

“(D) participating in data collection activities specified by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

“(3) programs that provide training and additional resources to criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, and community-based behavioral health providers on serious mental illness, suicide prevention strategies, recovery engagement strategies, and the special health and social

needs of justice-involved individuals who are living with serious mental illness.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—The Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that serious mental illness treatment and recovery support services provided under this grant program incorporate evidence-based approaches that facilitate long-term engagement in recovery services and supports.

“(d) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘behavioral health provider’ means—

“(1) a community mental health center that meets the criteria under section 1913(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-2(c)); or

“(2) a certified community behavioral health clinic described in section 223(d) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note).

**“SEC. 3052. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To request a grant under this part, the chief executive of a State, or such agency as the chief executive may designate, shall submit an application to the Attorney General—

“(1) in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require;

“(2) that includes assurances that Federal funds received under this part shall be used to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for activities funded under this part; and

“(3) that describes the coordination between State criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies and community-based behavioral health providers, preliminary qualified offenders, and family and community members in—

“(A) program design;

“(B) program implementation; and

“(C) training on crisis response, medication adherence, and continuity of recovery in the community.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR PREFERENCE WITH COMMUNITY CARE COMPONENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall give preference to a State that ensures that individuals who participate in a program, funded by a grant under this part will be provided with continuity of care, in accordance with paragraph (2), in a community care provider program upon release from a correctional facility.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the continuity of care shall involve the coordination of the correctional facility treatment program with qualified community behavioral health providers and other recovery supports, pre-trial release programs, parole supervision programs, halfway house programs, and participation in peer recovery group programs, which may aid in ongoing recovery after the individual is released from the correctional facility.

“(3) COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDER PROGRAM DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘community care provider program’ means a community mental health center or certified community behavioral health clinic that directly provides to an individual, or assists in connecting an individual to the provision of, appropriate community-based treatment, medication management, and other recovery supports, when the individual leaves a correctional facility at the end of a sentence or on parole.

“(c) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Each application submitted for a grant under this part shall include a description of how the funds made available under this part will be coordinated with Federal assistance for behavioral health services currently provided by the Department of Health

and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**“SEC. 3053. REVIEW OF STATE APPLICATIONS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make a grant under section 3051 to carry out the projects described in the application submitted under section 3052 upon determining that—

“(1) the application is consistent with the requirements of this part; and

“(2) before the approval of the application, the Attorney General has made an affirmative finding in writing that the proposed project has been reviewed in accordance with this part.

“(b) APPROVAL.—Each application submitted under section 3052 shall be considered approved, in whole or in part, by the Attorney General not later than 90 days after first received, unless the Attorney General informs the applicant of specific reasons for disapproval.

“(c) RESTRICTION.—Grant funds received under this part shall not be used for land acquisition or construction projects.

“(d) DISAPPROVAL NOTICE AND RECONSIDERATION.—The Attorney General may not disapprove any application without first affording the applicant reasonable notice and an opportunity for reconsideration.

**“SEC. 3054. EVALUATION.**

“Each State that receives a grant under this part shall submit to the Attorney General an evaluation not later than 1 year after receipt of the grant in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may reasonably require.

**“SEC. 3055. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.**

“For purposes of carrying out this part, the Attorney General is authorized to award not more than \$10,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Department of Justice for State and local law enforcement activities for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”.

(b) NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 2992(c)(3) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10652(c)(3)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, which may include interventions designed to enhance access to medication.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support S. 3312, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020. Today, with this bill, the House takes additional affirmative steps to promote the successful reentry into their communities of individuals leaving correctional facilities.

The bill provides funding to State, local, and community organizations to provide incarcerated and recently released individuals with mental health and substance abuse treatment. Providing continuity of care in relation to mental health and substance abuse treatment when individuals are released from correctional facilities is a critical bridge back into their communities; but continuity of care of this sort is seldom available to returning citizens. This bill addresses that gap.

At a series of hearings this Congress, the Judiciary Committee has explored the many challenges that recently released individuals face. These returning citizens confront a myriad of barriers that hamper reentry. Unfortunately, many struggle with mental health and substance abuse. Navigating reentry, which is already daunting, can be made even more difficult due to these additional challenges.

Because the need is great, the reach of this bill is broad. The grants awarded by S. 3312 improve mental health and substance abuse treatment during pretrial detention, throughout incarceration, and upon return to the community. Eligible grantees include juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, and community-based behavioral health providers.

The bill's keen focus on the provision of care by local, community-based providers is deliberate, as this is consistent with long-term reentry success. This is why I am particularly supportive of this provision of the bill that implements a preference for grantees that provide community-based care and promote policies that reduce the number of technical probation violations.

Also notable in S. 3312 is the broad panoply of mental health services that it incorporates. These include peer support, enrollment in long-term healthcare programs, and introduction to clinically proven medications. This bill recognizes that no single reentry solution will work for every returning individual.

The programs authorized in S. 3312 would further promote much-needed cooperative efforts among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health agencies, and community-based behavioral health providers.

The programs receiving funding under this bill would engage relevant stakeholders in the formulation of program design, implementation, training on services, and examination of healthcare reimbursement issues that may pose a barrier to ensuring long-term financial sustainability of these programs.

The holistic approach to reentry that this bill adopts has consistently been shown to promote successful reentry and offer better long-term solutions.

In recent years, Congress passed the hallmark Second Chance Act and a number of other bills, including H.R. 8161, the One Stop Community Reentry Program Act, focused on promoting

successful reentry and, in turn, supporting public safety. Like those bills, S. 3312, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act, is a necessary tool to ensure that proper services reach people involved in the criminal justice system.

Finally, I thank our colleague, Representative DAVID TRONE, for championing the companion bill in the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3312, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020. I was proud to introduce this House companion bill, this bipartisan piece of legislation, with Representatives RUTHERFORD, TRONE, ARMSTRONG, DEAN, and SCANLON.

The Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act authorizes grants for State and local correctional facilities to partner with community mental health and behavioral health providers to provide clinical services for people with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

When I served as a district judge in southwestern Pennsylvania, many of those who came before my bench were suffering from untreated and undiagnosed mental illness. In fact, according to a 2012 Bureau of Justice Statistics survey, approximately 1 in 7 State and Federal prisoners, and 1 in 4 jail inmates met the threshold for serious psychological distress in the 30 days prior.

S. 3312 ensures that we provide these individuals with treatment, suicide prevention, and tools for long-term recovery upon release from a correctional facility. By ensuring continuity of mental healthcare, we can facilitate successful reentry, which is critical to reducing recidivism; in turn, improving public safety and saving taxpayer dollars.

I want to, again, thank my fellow sponsors in the House, as well as Senators CORNYN and BLUMENTHAL, for prioritizing this important issue.

I am proud to support this bipartisan, bicameral bill that will give law enforcement the tools that they need to keep our communities safe, while also ending the revolving door between prison and the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 3312, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and good friend from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, as a former sheriff with over 40 years of experience in law enforcement, I understand the issues people face as they leave and transition from incarceration to a free society. Throughout my time in law enforcement, I saw many individuals—too many individuals—re-offend time and time again, often with the same offenses involving substance abuse and mental health issues.

Part of the problem back then was, when a prisoner was released from State prison, literally all we gave them was a blue bag for their valuables and a bus ticket home. And we wondered why they failed and returned to a life of crime—not much for rehabilitation.

So, when I became the sheriff of Jacksonville, I partnered with the Florida Secretary of Corrections and community groups to implement programs that provided continued treatment and services to individuals during and after they left prison because those exiting prison systems face numerous challenges as they go back to their communities, often with little or no support from friends or family.

As my colleague just mentioned, the Bureau of Justice Statistics calculates that one in seven individuals in State and Federal prisons, and one in four individuals in jails, experience serious psychological distress. Their battles with psychological distress and substance abuse do not stop when they exit prison. In fact, they are exacerbated upon their release. Indeed, during this transition phase, that support is often needed the most.

Today's bipartisan legislation would streamline mental health and medical services for these individuals, preventing a lapse of care between prison and society, and, instead, creating a continuum of care for those at greater risk of relapse.

The Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act establishes a warm handoff of care between law enforcement, community-based groups, and mental health specialists. The partnership between law enforcement and community groups is critical as they both share a common goal to lower recidivism and ensure people can thrive and succeed when they return back to their communities.

By offering grants through the Department of Justice, States and communities would be able to provide medication-assisted treatment, counseling, and other transition services that are prioritized for those who need it most.

This bipartisan legislation is supported by the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Council for Behavioral Health, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Treatment Advocacy Center.

I am proud to support this initiative as a member of the congressional bipartisan Opioid Task Force, as a member of the Mental Health Caucus, and also as a proud member of the Law Enforcement Caucus, because as a sheriff, I have seen firsthand and know the success a bill like this can accomplish.

This bill is going to save lives, it is going to save money, and it is going to reduce crime. With a renewed focus on those people in greatest need, we can work together to ensure that pattern of recidivism can become a problem in the past rather than one that will be shouldered by future generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, which, again, Mr. Speaker, is going to save lives, save dollars, and reduce recidivism.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, once again, I would like to urge my colleagues to support S. 3312, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 represents a significant step toward ensuring that incarcerated people receive appropriate mental health and substance abuse care while in a correctional facility and that those services are available upon their reentry into the community.

I am encouraged by the bipartisan and bicameral support for this bill. I, again, thank Representative TRONE, as well as Senators CORNYN and BLUMENTHAL and my colleague from the Judiciary Committee, Representative RESCHENTHALER.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of S. 3312, the "Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act," bipartisan legislation that ensures people experiencing a mental health crisis receive appropriate care while in a correctional facility.

Specifically, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act would authorize \$10 million in grants to communities to create collaborative programs involving justice agencies and community-based behavioral health providers, including Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).

Mr. Speaker, this legislation addresses the challenges faced by many person during their period of incarceration and as they seek to reenter the community.

This includes access to proper medication and additional training for law enforcement officers so they can address the needs of our most vulnerable individuals.

The bill also calls for a warm handoff between law enforcement and community mental health clinics upon re-entry into the community to ensure the best possible start.

It would also create a national technical assistance center to serve communities around the country.

Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act grants would support community-level crisis response programs, including collaboratively designed crisis response services and technical support programs that promote medication adherence and continuity of care.

This grant funding will also support targeted training programs related to medication adherence and continuity of care; including the purchase and use of long-acting antipsychotic medications to support adherence.

Importantly, the infusion of funding will strengthen local agency and provider capacity to reduce suicides during incarceration.

Finally, the legislation establishes a national technical assistance center to support justice and mental health agencies, community behavioral health providers, CCBHCs, and other stakeholders in developing training and treatment approaches for justice-involved persons with mental illness, as well as payment strategies that promote best-practices with respect to care for this vulnerable group of persons.

This legislation is strongly supported by and has earned the endorsement of The National Council, which is another reason why I strongly support this bipartisan, common-sense criminal justice reform and urge all Members to join me in voting to pass S. 3312, the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3312.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 3312

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) to correct the enrollment of S. 3312, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### S. CON. RES. 52

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That in the enrollment of S. 3312, an Act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(1) in section 3051(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “, for use by State and local correctional facilities,” and insert “, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and community-based nonprofit organizations”;

(2) in section 3051(b)(1)(B) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “offenders” and insert “individuals”;

(3) in the section heading for section 3052 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”;

(4) in section 3052(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “, or such agency as the chief executive may designate,” and insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”;

(5) in section 3052(a)(3) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), after “State” insert “, Tribal, or local”;

(6) in section 3052(b)(1) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act—

(A) after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”;

(B) after “facility” insert “and adopt policies that focus on programming, strategies, and educational components for reducing recidivism and probation violations”;

(7) in the section heading for section 3053 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”;

(8) in section 3054 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”.

#### AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all that follows after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That in the enrollment of S. 3312, an Act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(1) in section 3051(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “, for use by State and local correctional facilities,” and insert “, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and community-based nonprofit organizations”;

(2) in section 3051(b)(1)(B) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “offenders” and insert “individuals”;

(3) in the section heading for section 3052 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”;

(4) in section 3052(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “, or such agency as the chief executive may designate,” and insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”;

(5) in section 3052(a)(3) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), after “State” insert “, Tribal, or local”;

(6) in section 3052(b)(1) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act—

(A) after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”;

(B) after “facility” insert “and adopt policies that focus on programming, strategies, and educational components for reducing recidivism and probation violations”;

(7) in the section heading for section 3053 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and



Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”;

(8) in section 3054 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”; and

(9) amend section 3055 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, to read as follows:

**“SEC. 3055. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.**

“Subject to the availability of appropriations, for purposes of carrying out this part, the Attorney General is authorized to award not more than \$10,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Department of Justice for these purposes for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

Ms. BASS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**MISSING PERSONS AND UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS ACT OF 2019**

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2174) to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer’s Law and Kristen’s Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2174

*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 “Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**

(a) JENNIFER’S LAW.—Jennifer’s Law (34 U.S.C. 40501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 202 (34 U.S.C. 40501) and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 202. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award grants to eligible entities described in paragraph (2) to enable the eligible entities to improve the transportation, processing, identification, and reporting of missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrants.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Eligible entities described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) States and units of local government.

“(B) Accredited, publicly funded, Combined DNA Index System (commonly known as ‘CODIS’) forensic laboratories, which demonstrate the grant funds will be used for DNA typing and uploading biological family DNA reference samples, including samples from foreign nationals, into CODIS, subject to the protocols for inclusion of such forensic DNA profiles into CODIS, and the privacy protections required under section 203(c).

“(C) Medical examiners offices.

“(D) Accredited, publicly funded toxicology laboratories.

“(E) Accredited, publicly funded crime laboratories.

“(F) Publicly funded university forensic anthropology laboratories.

“(G) Nonprofit organizations that have working collaborative agreements with State and county forensic offices, including medical examiners, coroners, and justices of the peace, for entry of data into CODIS or the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (commonly known as ‘NamUs’), or both.”;

(2) in section 203 (34 U.S.C. 40502)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “a State” and inserting “an entity described in section 202”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “State” and inserting “applicant”;

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

“(1) report to the National Crime Information Center and, when possible, to law enforcement authorities throughout the applicant’s jurisdiction regarding every deceased unidentified person, regardless of age, found in the applicant’s jurisdiction;”;

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) collect and report information to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) regarding missing persons and unidentified remains.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR BIOLOGICAL FAMILY REFERENCE SAMPLES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any suspected biological family DNA reference samples received from citizens of the United States or foreign nationals and uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (commonly referred to as ‘CODIS’) by an accredited, publicly funded CODIS forensic laboratory awarded a grant under this section may be used only for identifying missing persons and unidentified remains.

“(2) LIMITATION ON USE.—Any biological family DNA reference samples from citizens of the United States or foreign nationals entered into CODIS for purposes of identifying missing persons and unidentified remains may not be disclosed to a Federal or State law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes.”; and

(3) by striking section 204 (34 U.S.C. 40503) and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 205. USE OF FUNDS.**

“An applicant receiving a grant award under this title may use such funds to—

“(1) pay for the costs incurred during or after fiscal year 2017 for the transportation, processing, identification, and reporting of missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrants;

“(2) establish and expand programs developed to improve the reporting of unidentified persons in accordance with the assurances provided in the application submitted pursuant to section 203(b);

“(3) hire and maintain additional DNA case analysts and technicians, fingerprint examiners, forensic odontologists, and forensic anthropologists, needed to support such identification programs; and

“(4) procure and maintain state of the art multi-modal, multi-purpose forensic and DNA-typing and analytical equipment.”.

(b) KRISTEN’S ACT.—Section 102 of Kristen’s Act (34 U.S.C. 40504 note) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.**

“To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act”.

**SEC. 3. RESCUE BEACONS.**

Section 411(o) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(o)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RESCUE BEACONS.—Beginning in fiscal year 2019, in carrying out subsection (c)(8), the Commissioner shall purchase, deploy, and maintain not more than 170 self-powering, 9–1–1 cellular relay rescue beacons along the southern border of the United States at locations determined appropriate by the Commissioner to mitigate migrant deaths.”.

**SEC. 4. REPORTING ON NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM (NAMUS) PROGRAM.**

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this act, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the number of unidentified person cases processed;

(2) CODIS associations and identifications;

(3) the number of anthropology cases processed;

(4) the number of suspected border crossing cases and associations made;

(5) the number of trials supported with expert testimony;

(6) the number of students trained and professions of those students; and

(7) the turnaround time and backlog.

**SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS.—

(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding all unidentified remains discovered, during the reporting period, on or near the border between the United States and Mexico, including—

(A) for each deceased person—

(i) the cause and manner of death, if known;

(ii) the sex, age (at time of death), and country of origin (if such information is determinable); and

(iii) the location of each unidentified remain;

(B) the total number of deceased people whose unidentified remains were discovered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the reporting period;

(C) to the extent such information is available to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the total number of deceased people whose unidentified remains were discovered by Federal, State, local or Tribal law enforcement officers, military personnel, or medical examiners offices;

(D) the efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to engage with nongovernmental organizations, institutions of higher education, medical examiners and coroners, and law enforcement agencies—

(i) to identify and map the locations at which migrant deaths occur; and

(ii) to count the number of deaths that occur at such locations; and

(E) a detailed description of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Missing Migrant Program, including how the program helps mitigate migrant deaths while maintaining border security.

(2) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 30 days after each report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish on the website of the agency the information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) during each reporting period.

(b) RESCUE BEACONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the use of rescue beacons along the border between the United States and Mexico, including, for the reporting period—

(1) the number of rescue beacons in each border patrol sector;

(2) the specific location of each rescue beacon;

(3) the frequency with which each rescue beacon was activated by a person in distress;

(4) a description of the nature of the distress that resulted in each rescue beacon activation (if such information is determinable); and

(5) an assessment, in consultation with local stakeholders, including elected officials, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners, of necessary additional rescue beacons and recommendations for locations for deployment to reduce migrant deaths.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the report required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the same committees that describes—

(1) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection collects and records border-crossing death data;

(2) the differences (if any) in U.S. Customs and Border Protection border-crossing death data collection methodology across its sectors;

(3) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection's data and statistical analysis on trends in the numbers, locations, causes, and characteristics of border-crossing deaths compare to other sources of data on these deaths, including border county medical examiners and coroners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(4) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection measures the effectiveness of its programs to mitigate migrant deaths; and

(5) the extent to which U.S. Customs and Border Protection engages Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, foreign diplomatic and consular posts, and nongovernmental organizations—

(A) to accurately identify deceased individuals;

(B) to resolve cases involving unidentified remains;

(C) to resolve cases involving unidentified persons; and

(D) to share information on missing persons and unidentified remains, specifically with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extra-

neous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2174, the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act, a bipartisan measure aimed at assisting State and local governments to locate missing people and identify human remains.

This bill not only authorizes grant funding to States and localities for such purposes, but it also improves the Federal Government's data collection procedures and expands Customs and Border Protection's response to the tragic rise in migrant deaths along our southern border.

These changes bring much-needed financial relief to local jurisdictions nationwide and provide a modicum of dignity and consolation to the families of those who have perished.

Sadly, there is a pressing need for this legislation. The process by which States and localities and law enforcement agencies must tackle these issues exacts a financial and emotional toll. When remains are found, their identification by State and local law enforcement and medical examiners, often supported by crime and forensic laboratories, provides decedents and their survivors with dignity and respect.

But bringing closure to these families is costly. State and local entities must transport, preserve the remains, perform autopsies, attempt DNA testing, and conduct forensic examinations. These tasks can be particularly burdensome on small jurisdictions that often have to rely on State support to carry out these complex tasks.

That is why the grant program that this bill authorizes is so important. While the need for this support is greatest along our southern border, the grant funds authorized by S. 2174 will support jurisdictions nationwide to carry on this critical work.

S. 2174 also contains a number of provisions that will strengthen the Federal Government's efforts to identify missing and unidentified people. Notably, the bill would create a bridge between States and localities and a Federal database to help match reports of missing people with unidentified remains.

Importantly, the bill authorizes Customs and Border Protection to install up to 170 self-powering cellular relay rescue beacons along the southern border that will help stranded migrants call for help should they find themselves injured or in need of emergency services.

A broad coalition of stakeholders have endorsed S. 2174, including the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies; the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC; and the Christian Life Commission. This broad swath of support speaks to

the need for the legislation and bolsters the bipartisan nature of the bill.

I want to thank Representative VICENTE GONZALEZ for his leadership on this issue and his tireless work on behalf of his House companion to this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, while I support this legislation, I strongly believe in ensuring justice for all victims and their families. I want to be absolutely clear that the continued crisis at our border requires more from Congress.

S. 2174 provides resources to law enforcement and related entities tasked with processing the remains of those who tragically died while making the dangerous journey to enter this country illegally.

But Congress should be doing more to secure our borders and to prevent these tragic deaths in the first place. I am concerned about the burdens this bill places on our already strained U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Under this bill, CBP is charged with documenting information about individuals who died at the border, reporting on the causes of their deaths, and mapping their final locations. I truly fear that these reports may be used by open-border advocates to malign the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol when those advocates inevitably decide to play politics and start to argue that CBP is not doing enough to mitigate migrant deaths.

In reality, to prevent future deaths at the border, we need to make it absolutely clear that no one should embark on this dangerous journey because illegal entry is simply not an option. We must fix our broken immigration system, which incentivizes people to cross our border illegally. Strong border security and interior enforcement is the best way to stop loss of life.

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

□ 1600

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2174, the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act, which gives local law enforcement the tools they need to address a devastating issue that is draining resources in rural communities in south Texas and across the southwest border.

Border communities are currently shouldering the cost of identifying and recovering the remains of migrants who tragically perished while migrating to the United States. This affects our citizens, ranchers, and farmers.

The Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act is a bipartisan, bicameral effort that will give local law

enforcement access to Federal dollars and will help free up local resources for rural healthcare, education, broadband, and other key services that are, tragically, needed in these areas.

This is a critical bill to help address issues that are symptomatic of a larger problem. Unless we invest time and resources to address the root cause of migration from Central America, we will continue to witness these tragic deaths in our border region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Brooks County Sheriff Benny Martinez, Jim Hogg County Sheriff Erasmo Alarcon, Jr., and Duval County Sheriff Romeo Ramirez, to name a few. These men have been on the front lines of this issue and continue their work to identify who has died.

I also acknowledge the Southern Border Communities Coalition, the Church World Services, and the Texas Civil Rights Project for their work to raise awareness about this issue and help build support for this bill. Without the support of this large cross section of stakeholders, we would not be here passing this legislation today.

For the families that have lost their loved ones, this bill is an opportunity to bring closure. I know many of you may not find the answers you seek, but there is a much better chance because of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the bipartisan support for this bill, I request that all my colleagues vote in support of this important effort.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, while I support this bill, I think Congress must do more to secure our borders.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the assistance provided by this bill will help bring peace of mind to the families of missing persons by taking meaningful steps to improve the identification of remains.

I applaud the bipartisan and bicameral support for this bill. I thank Representatives GONZALEZ and HURD for their efforts in the House, as well as Senators CORNYN and HARRIS for championing the bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee and a member representing a state on the nation's southern border, I rise in strong support of S. 2174, the "Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019," sponsored by the senior senator from Texas, Sen. CORNYN, and Sen. KAMALA HARRIS, the next Vice-President of the United States and the first woman and person of color to win election to that high office.

I support the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act because it is bipartisan legislation that will help prevent migrant deaths on the Southwest border and will help border counties and nonprofit organizations locate and identify missing migrants.

Mr. Speaker, migrants seeking a better and safer life in the United States who attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border between ports of entry are often faced with difficult terrain and extremely dangerous conditions.

The temperature in barren border sections of Arizona's Sonoran Desert, for example, can reach over 104 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and drop to below freezing in the winter.

Since 1998, the U.S. Border Patrol has reported 7,505 migrant deaths on the border, most due to dehydration, drowning, and exposure to extreme heat or cold.

For more than two decades, over one migrant a day has died while attempting to enter without authorization, a misdemeanor offense under Federal law.

The actual number dead is likely much higher than that, as the statistics only report those who have been positively identified by border patrol agents.

The bodies of migrants tragically lost during attempted border crossings become increasingly difficult to identify after exposure to the desert for prolonged periods.

The continuing loss of life on the border is unacceptable and allowing many of the dead to remain unidentified is inhumane, families of border crossers unsure of their loved ones' fate and depriving them of the opportunity unable to say goodbye.

The legislation before us would create grants for humanitarian and state actors to report and identify missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrant border crossers.

The bill also provides resources for rescue beacons, which have been used effectively to rescue migrants who are in danger.

Mr. Speaker, the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act would authorize the Attorney General to provide grants to various entities to report, process, and identify missing persons and unidentified remains.

Entities eligible for the grants would include state and local governments, humanitarian aid groups, nonprofit organizations, forensics and toxicology laboratories, and medical examiners' offices.

This funding will improve reporting of missing persons to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), databases used to identify border crossers who have lost their lives.

Additionally, the legislation authorizes the purchase and implementation of up to 170 self-powered "rescue beacons" in isolated border regions to prevent further migrant deaths.

Rescue beacons are tools used by U.S. Border Patrol in desolate border areas to rescue migrants in distress.

They are 30 to 40 feet tall, solar-powered, and satellite-connected.

They are equipped with a 9–1–1 cellular relay, a strobe light, and a multilingual instructional placard to help migrants alert border patrol personnel to a distress call.

Not long ago, on Christmas Eve, 2017, a distress call from a rescue beacon allowed border patrol agents to rescue a migrant family near Lukeville, Arizona, representing three of hundreds of lives that have been saved by the beacons since they were first implemented in the late 1990s.

As of November 12, 2019, there were 34 rescue beacons situated in desolate border

areas; this bill would increase the total number of beacons by 600 percent.

The bill clarifies privacy protections concerning the use of biometric data in the reporting and identification of missing persons and unidentified remains and provides that any piece of biometric evidence handled by an entity receiving grant funding be used for the sole purpose of identifying missing persons and unidentified remains.

Finally, S. 2174 requires the Attorney General, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) each to submit annual reports on use of grant funding and on programs implemented to save migrant lives and identify the dead.

Mr. Speaker, the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act would make an immediate impact, both by saving lives on the border and by allowing the families of those who have lost loved ones to gain closure.

I strongly support this bipartisan, common-sense reform that would enable the United States to lessen the loss of life on our southern border and treat those dying or crossing between ports of entry with dignity and humanity.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass S. 2174, the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2174, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### ONE SMALL STEP TO PROTECT HUMAN HERITAGE IN SPACE ACT

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1694) to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct lunar activities to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1694

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center carrying Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins.

(2) July 20, 2019, marked the 50th anniversary of the date on which the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the Moon and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on a celestial body off the Earth.

(3) The landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft and humanity’s first off-world footprints are achievements unparalleled in history, a direct product of the work and perseverance of the more than 400,000 individuals who contributed to the development of the Apollo missions on the shoulders of centuries of science and engineering pioneers from all corners of the world.

(4) Among the thousands of individuals who have contributed to the achievements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as “NASA”) are African-American women such as Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden, who made critical contributions to NASA space programs. Katherine Johnson worked at NASA for 35 years and calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 landing and the trajectories for the spaceflights of astronauts Alan Shepard and John Glenn. Katherine Johnson, together with many other individuals the work of whom often went unacknowledged, helped broaden the scope of space travel and charted new frontiers for humanity’s exploration of space.

(5) The landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft was made on behalf of all humankind, and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were accompanied by messages of peace from the leaders of more than 70 countries.

(6) The lunar landing sites of the Apollo 11 spacecraft, the robotic spacecraft that preceded the Apollo 11 mission, and the crewed and robotic spacecraft that followed, are of outstanding universal value to humanity.

(7) Such landing sites—

(A) are the first archaeological sites with human activity that are not on Earth;

(B) provide evidence of the first achievements of humankind in the realm of space travel and exploration; and

(C) contain artifacts and other evidence of human exploration activities that remain a potential source of cultural, historical, archaeological, anthropological, scientific, and engineering knowledge.

(8) On July 20, 2011, NASA published the voluntary guidance entitled “NASA’s Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts”.

(9) In March 2018, the Office of Science and Technology Policy published a report entitled “Protecting & Preserving Apollo Program Lunar Landing Sites & Artifacts”.

(10) Article one of the “Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,” commonly known as the “Outer Space Treaty,” states “[o]uter space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.”

(11) Article eight of the Outer Space Treaty states, “[a] State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on a celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to the Earth.”

(12) Article nine of the Outer Space Treaty states, “[i]n the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty,” and continues, “[i]f a State Party to the Treaty has reason to believe that an activity or experiment planned by it or its nationals in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, would cause potentially harmful interference with activities of other States Parties in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, it shall undertake appropriate international consultations before proceeding with any such activity or experiment. A State Party to the Treaty which has reason to believe that an activity or experiment planned by another State Party in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, would cause potentially harmful interference with activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, may request consultation concerning the activity or experiment.”

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as commercial enterprises and more countries acquire the ability to land on the Moon, it is necessary to encourage the development of best practices to respect the principle of due regard and to limit harmful interference to the Apollo landing site artifacts in acknowledgment of the human effort and innovation they represent, as well as their archaeological, anthropological, historical, scientific, and engineering significance and value; and

(2) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should continue to develop best practices to respect the principle of due regard and limit harmful interference with historic Apollo lunar landing site artifacts.

**SEC. 3. BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO APOLLO HISTORIC LUNAR LANDING SITE ARTIFACTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall—

(1) add the recommendations in subsection (b) as a condition or requirement to contracts, grants, agreements, partnerships or other arrangements pertaining to lunar activities carried out by, for, or in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(2) inform other relevant Federal agencies of the recommendations described in subsection (b); and

(3) encourage the use of best practices, consistent with the recommendations in subsection (b), by other relevant Federal agencies.

(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED.**—The recommendations described in this subsection are—

(1) “NASA’s Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of

U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts” issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on July 20, 2011, and updated on October 28, 2011; and

(2) any successor recommendations, guidelines, best practices, or standards relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(c) **EXEMPTION.**—The Administrator may waive the conditions or requirements from subsection (a)(1) as it applies to an individual contract, grant, agreement, partnership or other arrangement pertaining to lunar activities carried out by, for, or in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration so long as—

(1) such waiver is accompanied by a finding from the Administrator that carrying out the obligation of subsection (a)(1) would be unduly prohibitive to an activity or activities of legitimate and significant historical, archaeological, anthropological, scientific, or engineering value; and

(2) the finding in paragraph (1) is provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 30 days prior to the waiver taking effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. 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 S. 1694, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1694, the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act.

First, I thank Senators PETERS and CRUZ for their leadership in the Senate on this important legislation, as well as Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS and Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics Ranking Member BABIN, along with myself, for introducing the companion bill in the House of Representatives, which we are all cosponsors of.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all recognize the incredible accomplishments of the United States and our leadership in space and particularly when, 51 years ago, our Nation sent Apollo 11 on its journey to the Moon and back, when some 650 million people tuned in to watch this historic first Moon landing and see astronaut Neil Armstrong take humankind’s first step onto the lunar surface.

Now, half a century later, the rugged boot print of Neil Armstrong’s and Buzz Aldrin’s feet and their walk on

the Moon remain at Tranquility Base. The first American flag to be planted on the Moon's surface still marks the site of their landing, as do the scientific hardware and other items that Armstrong and Aldrin left behind.

These objects and others from the Apollo era tell the story of humankind's extraordinary journey to the Moon. They have historical, archaeological, and inspirational value, and it is up to us to work to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, following the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, the One Small Step Act both recognizes the achievements of the Apollo program and takes important measures to preserve our Nation's human heritage in space, heritage such as the rover tracks, footprints, scientific experiments, and spacecraft hardware, among others, at these lunar landing sites.

Now, today, as more and more actors enter the space arena, including other nations and commercial entities with plans to carry out lunar activities, and we as a nation are working our way to send humans back to the Moon and then on to Mars as part of our deep space exploration program, it is more important today than ever that we take action to protect the historic artifacts that memorialize our first exploration of the Moon and the advancements achieved by the Apollo program. The One Small Step Act does this by taking timely action based on guidance from NASA.

In 2011, our Nation's space agency released recommendations on how to preserve the first lunar landing sites. Their report states that future visits to the Apollo landing sites "could impose significant disturbance risks to these sites, thus potentially destroying irreplaceable historic, scientific, and educational artifacts and materials."

The act we are considering today requires action to follow this report's recommendations. S. 1694, the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act, directs the NASA Administrator to include in its contracts, grants, and agreements lunar activities carried out by, for, or in partnership with conditions and requirements of its 2011 recommendations about how to protect and preserve the historic and scientific value of U.S. Government lunar artifacts.

The One Small Step Act further directs the NASA Administrator to inform other relevant Federal agencies of the recommendations in the 2011 NASA report.

The bill we are considering today makes changes to the language originally passed by the Senate last year. It recognizes NASA's central role in working with partners on lunar activities and ensures they follow best practices regarding U.S. lunar landing site artifacts. This approach strikes an important balance in preserving lunar heritage sites, while not imposing regulatory framework.

Further, this act builds on NASA's work through the Artemis Accords to

establish principles and set positive examples of responsible behavior, including "to preserve outer space heritage, which they consider to comprise historically significant human or robotic landing sites, artifacts, spacecraft, or other evidence of activity on celestial bodies in accordance with mutually developed standards and practices."

Mr. Speaker, NASA's Apollo program was an inspiration to so many across this country and around the world. Its lunar landing artifacts are of cultural, historic, archaeological, and scientific significance for all of humanity, beyond just the United States.

The Senate is prepared to pick up this version of their bill as soon as it passes the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act and to ensure that this important legislation is enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I thank the Committee on Foreign Affairs for helping us to bring this bill to the floor today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 14, 2020.

Chairman ELIOT L. ENGEL,

Committee on Foreign Affairs,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ELIOT: I am writing to you concerning S. 1694, the "One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act," which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs on July 19, 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this bill. I recognize that S. 1694 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I appreciate that your Committee will waive further consideration of the bill and that this action is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims over this subject matter.

I will make sure to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record and will support the appointment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference. Thank you for your cooperation on this legislation.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, December 14, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: I am writing to you concerning S. 1694, One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act. I recognize that the bill contains provision that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In an effort to work cooperatively and to expedite the consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs will waive referral of S. 1694. This, however, is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Foreign Affairs over this legislation or its subject matter.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional

Record. Additionally, I ask that you support the appointment of Committee on Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1694, the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act.

As an original cosponsor of the House companion bill, H.R. 3766, I certainly appreciate the importance of respecting the historic significance of the Apollo missions.

Mr. Speaker, I represent Johnson Space Center, or JSC, the home of NASA's Mission Control and the men and women who made the Apollo missions possible. JSC has a long history of developing spacecraft and conducting missions in space.

From the very earliest Mercury missions that put the first Americans in space through *Gemini* and *Apollo* missions, as well as the space shuttle and International Space Station era, Houston has been the anchor of our Nation's human spaceflight program. As NASA develops the next generation of human spaceflight capabilities, Houston and JSC will remain America's tether to deep space.

But while it is important to recognize and respect the accomplishments of the past, we should not simply rest on our laurels. We have a lot more to do.

Mr. Speaker, America does not look longingly in the rearview mirror of history. We stand on the shoulders of giants and carry the torch lit by those before us farther into the unknown. The bill before us correctly balances these two competing interests: respecting the past and enabling the future.

The Outer Space Treaty, drafted at the dawn of the space age, lays out important principles for all spacefaring nations. It calls for establishing the Principle of Due Regard, which respects the activities of actors in space and creates a process for signatories to the treaty to undertake appropriate consultations before any action that would potentially cause harmful interference with another party to the treaty.

More importantly, the treaty establishes, in its opening article, the overarching principle that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all states without discrimination of any kind on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

This bill directs NASA to continue developing recommendations and best practices that protect this freedom while also respecting the Principle of Due Regard and informing the practice of consultation ahead of potentially harmful interference with the Apollo landing artifacts. The bill also calls on

NASA to include these recommendations in all contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and partnerships.

The bill does not create any additional regulatory authority. Instead, the bill offers a carrot rather than a stick. If the private sector wants to leverage the vast experience and resources that NASA offers, they simply must abide by NASA's own internal policies.

NASA is not a regulatory agency, and this bill does not grant any other agency any new power or mechanism to influence commercial space activities. This will allow our Nation's emerging and vibrant commercial space sector to continue to innovate, while also respecting the rich archaeological, anthropological, historical, scientific, and engineering accomplishments of the Apollo program.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LUCAS, Senator PETERS, Senator CRUZ, and Chairwoman JOHNSON for working with me to get this bill across the finish line.

I also thank Chairwoman KENDRA HORN for her leadership over the last 2 years. Her tenure as chairwoman for the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics was marked by significant change and accomplishments for our Nation's space program.

Her steady and fair treatment for all Members' interests should serve as a shining example to this distinguished body. She will be missed, and I wish her the very, very best in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend swift passage of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by first thanking Ranking Member BABIN, as well as Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS and Senators PETERS and CRUZ, for their work on this.

Particularly, I thank Ranking Member BABIN. It has truly been an honor to be able to work with his on these issues and to do so in a constructive way that advances policy that is good for the United States, for discovery, for innovation, and for our leadership in a way that we can come together.

Space is one of those areas where it is and should be bipartisan, where we can come together for the best interests of our Nation, to continue to advance discovery and to encourage innovation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does just that. It finds the right balance between preserving the heritage of the Apollo era, for a reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together to work, to advance technology, to do what has never been done before, while not placing too much burden on our ability to move forward into the future and advance that discovery.

Our Nation's space program has long served as a source of inspiration and

innovation and helped make sure that we, as a nation, are a leader in technology, innovation, and discovery.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage swift passage of this bill. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yea," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support House passage of S. 1694, the "One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act."

I want to thank Senator PETERS and Senator CRUZ for initiating this legislation in the Senate. I also want to extend my appreciation to House Science Committee Ranking Member LUCAS, and Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Chairwoman HORN and Ranking Member BABIN for joining me in cosponsoring the House companion bill. We all share the goal of protecting human heritage in space, and it is fitting that we are working together to seek passage of the "One Small Step" legislation.

More than 50 years ago, the world watched in awe as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the lunar surface and became the first humans to set foot on another planetary body. Prior to their successful landing, NASA implemented a series of tests, including robotic landings and human in-space test programs in preparation for the Apollo human landings. The culmination of those precursor efforts resulted in the safe and successful *Apollo 11* lunar landing, a moment that changed the course of humanity.

Apollo human landing missions explored a total of 6 sites on the Moon, leaving indicators of human presence, including rover tracks, footprints, and scientific experiments and spacecraft hardware, among other lunar landing site artifacts. Those artifacts that remain imprinted in the lunar dust and on the surface of the Moon are cultural, historic, scientific, and archeological artifacts. The bill we are considering today, the "One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act," directs the NASA Administrator to take important actions toward preserving those artifacts.

The United States led the way in lunar exploration with humans and we must also lead the way in setting examples and guiding responsible behaviors in outer space, including behaviors related to our lunar landing site artifacts. Congress and the American taxpayers made possible the United States' historic and momentous Apollo lunar landings by authorizing the program and investing four percent of the nation's federal spending at the time to successfully carry it out. It is incumbent upon the House of Representatives to honor these historic lunar artifacts and to honor America's investment and commitment to making the Apollo program a success. The direction in the One Small Step bill will put into law our commitment toward preserving America's human heritage in space.

*Apollo* remains an inspiration; it brought the world together during a period of unique challenges and resulted in long-lasting benefits to Americans. As we plan and prepare to send Americans into deep space once again, and as other nations and actors become increasingly capable of lunar activity, honoring and preserving *Apollo's* historic and cultural significance must be prioritized. In doing so, we celebrate American ingenuity and the awe-inspiring, humanity-changing achievements of which we are capable.

In closing, I want to also extend my support of S. 2472, the "Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act" to honor an American hero in our space program. I urge my colleagues to support passage of both S. 1694, the "One Small Step Act" and S. 2472, "the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1694, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NEIL A. ARMSTRONG TEST FACILITY ACT

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2472) to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2472

*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 "Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Neil A. Armstrong, through his own definition, was first and foremost as a test pilot.

(2) A native of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Armstrong began his inspiring career in space exploration in Cleveland, Ohio, at what is now the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center.

(3) Becoming the first human to land a spacecraft, and then set foot upon, the moon, represents the greatest dream of any test pilot.

(4) Therefore, it is fitting that the premier aeronautics and space test station in Ohio should be renamed in his honor.

#### SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF NASA JOHN H. GLENN RESEARCH CENTER AT PLUM BROOK STATION, OHIO, AS NASA JOHN H. GLENN RESEARCH CENTER AT THE NEIL A. ARMSTRONG TEST FACILITY.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, is hereby redesignated as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the station referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "NASA John H. Glenn Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility".

(c) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the relationship between the Plum Brook Station and the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2472, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2472, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act.

NASA astronaut and *Apollo 11* spacecraft commander Neil Armstrong inspired all of humanity by taking “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” touching down on a planetary body hundreds of thousands of miles away as a part of the *Apollo 11* Moon landing mission. He is a national hero, a naval aviator, and one of many early pioneers of human space exploration.

Mr. Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, and started his NASA career in 1955, at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics—or NACA—Lewis Research Center, now the NASA Glenn Research Center.

This legislation recognizes his significant achievements, service, and contributions to the Nation by renaming the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

NASA’s Plum Brook Station, located in Sandusky, Ohio, is home to world-class test facilities, where NASA and the international space community perform complex, critical ground tests of space vehicles and systems.

Just this year, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle finished its final campaign of environmental testing at Plum Brook Station as NASA prepares to return humans to deep space exploration.

Mr. Armstrong returned to his home State of Ohio after his service to the Nation and NASA. It is truly appropriate that a world-class aerospace test facility in the State of Ohio be named for a native son and one of the world’s most accomplished and dedicated pilots.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 2472, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act, to honor an American hero.

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2472, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act. This legislation would simply rename the NASA Plum Brook Station testing facility in Sandusky, Ohio, after Neil Armstrong.

I want to first thank the esteemed Senator PORTMAN from the great State of Ohio for his work on this legislation and his many years of service to our State.

Additionally, I want to thank my colleague from across the aisle, and another fellow Ohioan, Congresswoman KAPTUR, for her efforts on this as well. Ms. KAPTUR is a tremendous leader within our State. While we may be on opposite sides of the aisle, we have always found ways to work together on behalf of northern Ohio.

On July 20, 1969, the world watched in wonder as Neil Armstrong became the first man to ever set foot on the Moon. Born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, Armstrong was the embodiment of a dedicated American. Serving as a naval aviator during the Korean war and participating in various test pilot programs, he was never one to shy away from a challenge. His courage was reflective of not only himself, but also that of the United States as we raced to beat Soviet Russia to the Moon. It is why, today, we move to honor Armstrong’s legacy by renaming the Plum Brook Station at NASA’s John Glenn Research Center to the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

A staple of northern Ohio and a continuing symbol of American ingenuity, Plum Brook is home to an array of projects for supporting our country’s endeavors into the unknown. Ranging from the world’s most powerful space environment simulators to full-scale testing for launch vehicles, Plum Brook is critical to NASA’s mission. Renaming Plum Brook after one of our State’s greatest heroes is a fitting way to memorialize Neil Armstrong’s legacy within the State of Ohio and to inspire the next generation of leaders in our quest to explore the universe.

This legislation has already passed the United States Senate via unanimous consent and has the full support of the entire Ohio congressional delegation.

I thank Senators PORTMAN and BROWN on this bill. I also thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their help in bringing this bill to the floor today so that it can reach the President’s desk.

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

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR). It is very fitting that we have another Ohioan to speak on this bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2472, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act.

Congresswoman HORN, you have been a trusted and valued colleague and have ably served our Nation and your constituents. I want to express my deep appreciation for your assistance on today’s legislation and for your friendship as you served so honorably in this Congress. In the busy days before the end of the session, Ohio is truly grateful for your assistance in getting this bill to the finish line. We can’t thank you enough.

Mr. Speaker, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act renames the NASA Plum Brook Station after a true American hero, who happened to be a Buckeye, an Ohioan.

Our State is known for aviation, for its flight milestones, for its courageous heroes and inventors. The Plum Brook Station, located in Sandusky, Ohio, is a true asset to American excellence in space exploration. The facilities at the site are second to none. They contain the Space Environments Complex, with the world’s largest space test chamber.

In its In-Space Propulsion building, it has a space chamber where you can fire an upper stage rocket. There is also a world-class clean-air hypersonic wind tunnel that even the Department of Defense didn’t know about, and a space chamber to test equipment to simulate planetary surface conditions.

Imagine what someone like Neil Armstrong had to learn in order to be successful in that history-making flight.

These capabilities enable our scientists to prepare for the rigors of space exploration.

The Plum Brook Station and test facility is a national asset. Today, it is being renamed after an American pioneer in human history. This year, Plum Brook Station finished testing the ORION spacecraft that will fly the Artemis I mission. This mission will eventually return a person to the Moon.

Fifty-one years after Neil Armstrong captivated the world with his famous words that united humankind and allowed us to dream for a common purpose, the Nation turns our attention back to this test facility. How humble it was when he said, “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my deep appreciation to Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ’s partnership on this bill. I am pleased to see him managing the Republican time today. I couldn’t be happier. He and his staff have been able to be collegial partners in securing a floor vote, and I thank him for that. I also thank our colleagues in the other body who have helped as well.

I, along with the people of Ohio, are also extremely grateful to Chairwoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; Ranking Member LUCAS; our Senate colleagues, Senators BROWN and PORTMAN, for their bicameral partnership on today’s legislation. This is the way Congress should work.

In these days of uncertainty for our society and planet, renaming the

NASA test facility at Sandusky, Ohio, for Neil Armstrong offers a reminder to the world of our common purpose that can give us the giant leaps that lie ahead for humankind. Indeed, America must continue reaching for the stars and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 2472, the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act. The Buckeye State is honored to have been the home of American hero Neil Alden Armstrong.

From the Wright brothers to the namesake of this legislation, Ohio boasts a rich history as leaders in the aerospace industry.

Born in northwest Ohio, Neil Armstrong made history on July 21, 1969, as he uttered the words: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

As the first human being to step foot on the Moon, Neil Armstrong inspired generations of Americans to literally follow in his footsteps.

The United States owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Armstrong for his service at NASA through multiple space exploration programs, as well as the U.S. Navy.

The Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act would honor this American hero by bestowing his name on a critical NASA test facility station in Armstrong's home State of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Neil Armstrong's heroism not only inspired a generation during the Apollo era, but also continues to inspire generations today as we look forward to the Artemis program.

As America looks to send the first woman and next man back to the Moon, and as we look to Mars and beyond, renaming Plum Brook Station would be a great gesture of thanks for Armstrong's service to the Nation.

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

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Mr. GONZALEZ for his work on this legislation and to say how much of a privilege it has been to be able to serve with him and work with him on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. Indeed, this is one among many ways that we have proven that there is still the ability to

work together to achieve common ends.

To my colleague, Ms. KAPTUR from Ohio, thank you for your friendship and support. It is an honor to be able to work on issues that acknowledge and recognize the accomplishments of those heroes in the Apollo program who showed us what it means to come together to achieve something that has never been done before.

□ 1630

As we recognize Neil Armstrong with this renaming of this facility, it is in honor of perhaps one of the most well-known quotes of all time. Because of the magnitude of that accomplishment, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," was only made possible through the innovation and the effort of Neil Armstrong and so many others across this Nation who invested in the Apollo program.

As an Oklahoman, although we cannot claim Neil Armstrong but can claim a rich heritage in the aerospace arena and have astronauts at every phase of the Apollo program, I can think of no more appropriate recognition of Neil Armstrong than to name this facility after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge a "yes" vote. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2472.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR VETERAN CAREGIVERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2216) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for the family caregiver program, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

YEAS—380

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adams           | Doggett         | Krishnamoorthi  |
| Aderholt        | Doyle, Michael  | Kuster (NH)     |
| Aguilar         | F.              | Kustoff (TN)    |
| Allen           | Emmer           | LaHood          |
| Allred          | Engel           | LaMalfa         |
| Amash           | Escobar         | Lamb            |
| Amodei          | Eshoo           | Lamborn         |
| Armstrong       | Español         | Langevin        |
| Arrington       | Estes           | Larsen (WA)     |
| Axne            | Evans           | Larson (CT)     |
| Babin           | Ferguson        | Latta           |
| Bacon           | Finkenauer      | Lawrence        |
| Balderson       | Fitzpatrick     | Lawson (FL)     |
| Banks           | Fleischmann     | Lee (CA)        |
| Barr            | Fletcher        | Lee (NV)        |
| Barragán        | Fortenberry     | Levin (CA)      |
| Bass            | Foster          | Levin (MI)      |
| Beatty          | Fox (NC)        | Lieu, Ted       |
| Bera            | Frankel         | Lofgren         |
| Bergman         | Fudge           | Long            |
| Beyer           | Fulcher         | Lowenthal       |
| Biggs           | Gabbard         | Lowe            |
| Bilirakis       | Gaetz           | Lucas           |
| Bishop (GA)     | Gallagher       | Luetkemeyer     |
| Bishop (NC)     | Gallego         | Luján           |
| Blumenauer      | Garamendi       | Luria           |
| Blunt Rochester | García (CA)     | Lynch           |
| Bonamici        | García (IL)     | Malinowski      |
| Bost            | García (TX)     | Maloney,        |
| Boyle, Brendan  | Gianforte       | Carolyn B.      |
| F.              | Gohmert         | Maloney, Sean   |
| Brindisi        | Golden          | Massie          |
| Brooks (AL)     | Gomez           | Mast            |
| Brooks (IN)     | Gonzalez (OH)   | Matsui          |
| Brown (MD)      | Gooden          | McAdams         |
| Brownley (CA)   | Gosar           | McBath          |
| Buck            | Gottheimer      | McCarthy        |
| Bucshon         | Graves (MO)     | McCaul          |
| Budd            | Green (TN)      | McClintock      |
| Burchett        | Green, Al (TX)  | McCollum        |
| Burgess         | Griffith        | McEeachin       |
| Bustos          | Grijalva        | McGovern        |
| Butterfield     | Grothman        | McKinley        |
| Calvert         | Guthrie         | McNerney        |
| Carbajal        | Haaland         | Meeks           |
| Cárdenas        | Hagedorn        | Meng            |
| Carson (IN)     | Hall            | Meuser          |
| Carter (GA)     | Harder (CA)     | Mfume           |
| Cartwright      | Harris          | Miller          |
| Case            | Hartzler        | Moolenaar       |
| Casten (IL)     | Hastings        | Moore           |
| Castor (FL)     | Hayes           | Morelle         |
| Castro (TX)     | Heck            | Moulton         |
| Chabot          | Hern, Kevin     | Mucarsel-Powell |
| Chu, Judy       | Herrera Beutler | Mullin          |
| Ciçilline       | Hice (GA)       | Murphy (FL)     |
| Cisneros        | Higgins (LA)    | Murphy (NC)     |
| Clark (MA)      | Higgins (NY)    | Nadler          |
| Clarke (NY)     | Hill (AR)       | Napolitano      |
| Clay            | Himes           | Neal            |
| Cleaver         | Hollingsworth   | Neguse          |
| Cline           | Horn, Kendra S. | Newhouse        |
| Clyburn         | Horsford        | Norcross        |
| Cohen           | Houlihan        | Norman          |
| Cole            | Hoyer           | Nunes           |
| Comer           | Hudson          | O'Halleran      |
| Conaway         | Huffman         | Ocasio-Cortez   |
| Connolly        | Huizenga        | Omar            |
| Cooper          | Hurd (TX)       | Palazzo         |
| Correa          | Jackson Lee     | Pallone         |
| Costa           | Jacobs          | Palmer          |
| Courtney        | Jayapal         | Panetta         |
| Cox (CA)        | Jeffries        | Pappas          |
| Craig           | Johnson (GA)    | Pascarell       |
| Crawford        | Johnson (LA)    | Payne           |
| Crenshaw        | Johnson (OH)    | Pence           |
| Crist           | Johnson (SD)    | Perlmutter      |
| Crow            | Johnson (TX)    | Perry           |
| Cuellar         | Jordan          | Peters          |
| Cunningham      | Joyce (OH)      | Peterson        |
| Davids (KS)     | Joyce (PA)      | Phillips        |
| Davidson (OH)   | Kaptur          | Pingree         |
| Davis (CA)      | Katko           | Pocan           |
| Davis, Danny K. | Keating         | Porter          |
| Davis, Rodney   | Keller          | Posey           |
| Dean            | Kelly (IL)      | Pressley        |
| DeFazio         | Kelly (MS)      | Price (NC)      |
| DeGette         | Kelly (PA)      | Quigley         |
| DeLauro         | Kennedy         | Raskin          |
| DelBene         | Khanna          | Reed            |
| Delgado         | Kildee          | Reschenthaler   |
| Demings         | Kilmer          | Rice (NY)       |
| DeSaulnier      | Kim             | Rice (SC)       |
| Deutch          | Kind            | Richmond        |
| Diaz-Balart     | King (NY)       | Riggleman       |
| Dingell         | Kirkpatrick     | Rodgers (WA)    |



Roe, David P. Smith (WA)  
 Rose (NY) Smucker  
 Rose, John W. Soto  
 Rouda Spanberger  
 Rouzer Speier  
 Roy Stanton  
 Roybal-Allard Stefanik  
 Ruiz Steil  
 Ruppertsberger Steube  
 Rush Stevens  
 Rutherford Stivers  
 Sánchez Suozzi  
 Sarbanes Swalwell (CA)  
 Scalise Takano  
 Scanlon Taylor  
 Schakowsky Thompson (CA)  
 Schiff Thompson (MS)  
 Schneider Thompson (PA)  
 Schrader Thornberry  
 Schrier Tiffany  
 Schweikert Timmons  
 Scott (VA) Tipton  
 Scott, Austin Titus  
 Scott, David Tlaib  
 Serrano Tonko  
 Sewell (AL) Torres (CA)  
 Shalala Torres Small  
 Sherman (NM)  
 Sherrill Trahan  
 Sires Trone  
 Slotkin Turner  
 Smith (MO) Underwood  
 Smith (NJ) Upton

Lawrence (Kildee)  
 Lawson (FL) Pascrell  
 (Demings) (Pallone)  
 Lieu, Ted (Beyer) Payne  
 Lofgren (Jeffries) (Wasserman  
 Lowenthal Schultz)  
 (Beyer) Peters (Kildee)  
 Lowey (Tonko) Peterson  
 McEachin (McCollum)  
 (Wexton) Pingree  
 McNeerney (Raskin)  
 (Raskin) Pocan (Raskin)  
 Meng (Clark (MA)) Porter (Wexton)  
 (MA)) Price (NC)  
 Moore (Beyer) (Butterfield)  
 Mucarsel-Powell (Wasserman  
 (Wasserman Schultz)  
 Nadler (Jeffries) Roybal-Allard  
 (Garcia (TX))  
 Napoliitano Ruiz (Dingell)  
 (Correa) Rush  
 Neguse (Underwood)

Schakowsky (Kelly (IL))  
 Schneider (Casten (IL))  
 Schrier (Spanberger)  
 Serrano (Jeffries)  
 Sewell (AL) Titus (Connolly)  
 (Cicilline) Sires (Pallone)  
 Smith (WA) (Courtney)  
 Spier (Scanlon)  
 Titus (Connolly)  
 Vargas (Correa)  
 Veasey (Beyer)  
 Watson Coleman (Pallone)  
 Welch (McGovern)  
 (McGovern) Wild (Scanlon)  
 Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

after the Nation's highest military court disregarded Congress' intent and incorrectly applied a 5-year statute of limitations on Harmony's case.

To fix this loophole, I introduced Harmony's Law to ensure that convicted rapists are held accountable. I also worked with the Solicitor General in the Supreme Court to hear Harmony's case and overturn this massive miscarriage of justice.

Madam Speaker, last week, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in Harmony Allen's favor. The Court's 8-0 decision is a monumental one, and it serves a justice to Harmony that was long overdue. It also prevents the potential early release of hundreds of convicted rapists, making this a victory for all victims of military sexual assault.

MARKING A DAY OF HOPE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, associate myself with the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019, a very vital act for dealing with families who have lost loved ones, as well as the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act, S. 3312, which deals with helping people who are incarcerated adjust back to the community.

I believe that we had a day of hope yesterday in Houston and around the world. In fact, it was not only yesterday, but it was Monday. That is when the first vaccines began to come to the Nation.

I went to the public hospital system, and I became part of UPS—that is, Pfizer vaccines that I was able to lift at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital and then walk that vaccine to the pharmacy so that people would have hope. Then, I went to Ben Taub Hospital—the public health system, again—and watched people from all backgrounds get vaccinated.

This is a day of hope. We must continue, but we must continue to walk carefully. We must continue to stay distant, get testing, and wear our masks.

There is hope. I am delighted to have been able to be there to say to our constituents that there is hope, Madam Speaker.

JUSTICE FOR HARMONY ALLEN

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

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, Harmony Allen is a veteran who was raped by her Air Force instructor while serving our country.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate justice for Harmony Allen.

Now, for two decades, Harmony has been fighting for justice. Despite being convicted in 2017, her rapist was set free on a misconstrued technicality

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF GEORGIA'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise to alert the Chamber to three legislative activities that I am pursuing on behalf of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District and a transportation and infrastructure bill that I will be introducing later this week.

The first will seek to eliminate qualified immunity in police misconduct cases. The second piece of legislation is a constitutional amendment that concerns forced labor. The third piece of legislation is one that would expunge all records of nonviolent offenders impacted by the war on drugs and other various crime bills for any State and local government that is the recipient of Federal crime dollars.

Later this week, I will be introducing legislation to commission a study on a vital transportation corridor in Georgia, which would connect Campbellton Road to the businesses that are right to make greater metro Atlanta their home.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support my pieces of legislation and this project.

RECOGNIZING COHO BREWING COMPANY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Coho Brewing Company in Cape May Court House in south Jersey. Coho was founded by Karen Buckingham in January 2019, inspired by her passion for craft beer.

The brewery's interior design is inspired by all our law enforcement and first responders. Karen hosted fundraisers and cornhole tournaments to raise money for the State police and K-9 units. Each of Coho's beer cans has a

NOT VOTING—49

Abraham Granger  
 Baird Graves (LA)  
 Bishop (UT) Guest  
 Brady Holding  
 Buchanan King (IA)  
 Byrne Kinzinger  
 Carter (TX) Lesko  
 Cheney Lipinski  
 Clou Loeb sack  
 Collins (GA) Loudermilk  
 Curtis Marchant  
 DesJarlais Marshall  
 Duncan McHenry  
 Dunn Mitchell  
 Flores Mooney (WV)  
 Gibbs Olson  
 Gonzalez (TX) Roby

Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rooney (FL)  
 Ryan  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Shimkus  
 Simpson  
 Smith (NE)  
 Spano  
 Stauber  
 Stewart  
 Wagner  
 Walker  
 Wright  
 Yoho

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded to put on their masks.

□ 1733

Mr. CLINE changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Allred (Wexton) Dean (Scanlon)  
 Axne (KS) Davids DeFazio (KS)  
 Barragan (Beyer) DeGette (Blunt)  
 Bera (Aguilar) Rochester)  
 Blumenauer DelBene  
 (Beyer) (Cicilline)  
 Bonamici (Clark DeSaulnier  
 (MA) (Matsui)  
 Brownley (CA) Deutch (Rice  
 (Clark (MA)) (NY))  
 Cárdenas Doggett (Raskin)  
 (Cisneros) Doyle, Michael  
 Case F. (Cartwright)  
 (Cartwright) Escobar (Garcia  
 Cleaver (Davids (TX))  
 (KS) Finkenauer  
 Cohen (Beyer) (Underwood)  
 Cooper (Himes) Fletcher  
 Costa (Correa) (Raskin)  
 Craig Frankel (Clark  
 (McCollum) (MA))  
 Davis (CA) Garamendi  
 (Scanlon) (Sherman)

Gomez (Aguilar) Grijalva (Garcia  
 (IL))  
 Hastings (Wasserman  
 Schultz)  
 Heck (Kildee)  
 Jayapal (Raskin) Johnson (TX)  
 (Jeffries)  
 Kennedy (McGovern)  
 Kilmer (Kildee)  
 Kim (Davids (KS))  
 Kind (Beyer)  
 Kirkpatrick (Stanton)  
 Kuster (NH) (Bustos)  
 Lamb (Panetta)  
 Langevin  
 (Lynch)

blue line in honor of our first responders. She has also turned part of her tasting room into a brew-tique, which gives clothes and goods to those in need.

Madam Speaker, I thank Karen for all she does for the south Jersey community and for our first responders,

God bless Karen, God bless America, and God bless our first responders.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. PHIL ROE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impressive career of my good friend, Dr. PHIL ROE, who is retiring at the end of this Congress.

A veteran himself, Dr. ROE served honorably as chairman and ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he worked on preventing veteran suicide, increasing patient access to care, and providing agency accountability.

Dr. ROE has been a strong leader of our GOP Doctors Caucus, providing strong insight, a steady hand, and a lot of patience as we have debated critical legislation affecting patients and providers.

Over the years, I have been blessed enough to call Dr. ROE a dear friend. He showed me what life in rural Tennessee was like; he has regaled us with his guitar skills; he has made us laugh; and he has been a source of wisdom for all of us.

It has also been a pleasure to get to know his beloved wife, Clarinda, who I know is looking forward to having him around more often.

I know that I can speak on behalf of all of my colleagues when I say thank you for your service, PHIL. Good luck in retirement, and God bless you.

□ 1745

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, who is retiring from the United States Senate after 18 years in office. My friend, Senator ALEXANDER, has led a strong career representing Tennesseans at the State and Federal levels.

Senator ALEXANDER was Governor of Tennessee from 1979 to 1987. As Governor, he revamped the economy by cutting regulations to attract new businesses and jobs and reformed our public education curriculum.

Following two terms as Governor, Senator ALEXANDER was president of the University of Tennessee and served as Secretary of Education in President

George Herbert Walker Bush's administration. He returned to elected office in 2002, winning Tennessee's open U.S. Senate seat.

In Congress, Senator ALEXANDER demonstrated strong leadership and legislated in the best interests of all Tennesseans. Among his many achievements are the SUPPORT Act, comprehensive legislation to fight the opioid epidemic, and, as of late, the Great American Outdoors Act, which will preserve the Smokies and other national parks for years to come.

Senator ALEXANDER and I are fond of the same quote from our friend Alex Haley: "Find the good and praise it."

There is a lot of good in LAMAR ALEXANDER, and I thank him for his many years of service.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). Members are reminded to put on their masks.

#### AMERICA'S CONFIDENCE IN OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, America's confidence in our electoral system has suffered an egregious blow this cycle. Of the many credible concerns surrounding this year's process, Dominion voting machines have neared the top of the list. From crashing during a recount in Georgia to several errors in Antrim County, Michigan, it is clear that Dominion's authority on vote counting is in question. There needs to be a fully independent audit of Dominion's voting machines.

No, this is not an attempt to overturn an election; this is about making sure, moving forward, all Americans have faith in our elections, whether it is the constitutional actions setting election process in place or transparency in the tabulation of the vote.

Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I have stressed that every legal vote must be counted, but we must also ensure those who count our votes, whether a person or a machine, are also fully complying with the law.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND CORRUPTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-173)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2020.

The prevalence and severity of human rights abuse and corruption that have their source, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States, continue to threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Human rights abuse and corruption undermine the values that form an essential foundation of stable, secure, and functioning societies; have devastating impacts on individuals; weaken democratic institutions; degrade the rule of law; perpetuate violent conflicts; facilitate the activities of dangerous persons; undermine economic markets; and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 16, 2020.

#### NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local business in my congressional district and congratulate them as they celebrate their 125th anniversary this year.

To my constituents in the 11th District, when they hear the words "New Holland," they often think of a great borough with about 6,000 residents located in Eastern Lancaster County. But when others across the globe hear the words "New Holland," it often means to them high quality, agricultural machinery.

New Holland Agriculture, which is a brand of CNH Industrial, was founded 125 years ago in New Holland, Pennsylvania, by a gentleman named Abe Zimmerman. What Mr. Zimmerman began as a small machine shop in 1895 would eventually grow to become a global leader in agricultural equipment, from tractors to harvesting.

The company became known for technological innovations, particularly

the development of the first automatic hay baler nearly 80 years ago. The company's hay tools plant still operates in New Holland, Pennsylvania, where they produce approximately 30 models of balers, which are exported to 45 countries around the world. New Holland Agriculture has 800 dealerships in North America and nearly 5,000 more across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly thankful for and proud of the hard work by the company's nearly 1,000 full-time employees in New Holland, Pennsylvania. Many of them I know personally and are some of my closest friends.

I particularly want to mention my father-in-law, Jim Greiner, who spent his entire career at New Holland. He retired after 45 years as a project engineer and had a great career there.

I am thankful for how New Holland has given back to the community, particularly working to support STEM education in my congressional district. The organization recently hosted an externship program for local educators to provide a hands-on learning experience for teachers to see how New Holland's employees use STEM every day at the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to New Holland North America on their 125th anniversary. I am certain that Mr. Abe Zimmerman, who founded the company so long ago, could not have envisioned how the business would grow to support agriculture across the globe but would be very, very proud of what his company has accomplished. I wish them continued success as they navigate the next 125 years in business and thank them for having a positive impact on the community that I represent.

IN HONOR OF FRONTLINE WORKERS AND  
SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to honor the brave men and women in my district and across America who have been working hard to combat COVID-19.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, doctors, nurses, and medical professionals in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health centers have committed long hours away from their families to put the needs of others before their own. They have worked without pause to keep our community healthy and to care for those in need.

Throughout this pandemic, farmers, producers, truck drivers, and manufacturers have also worked without pause to provide for us all. The farmers and agriculture producers in my district adjusted to changes in supply chain operations to keep our Nation fed. Truck drivers and logistics professionals ensured deliveries of essential goods and personal protective equipment were delivered, and delivered on time.

Educators have also faced significant challenges this year, but they have continued to provide students with the best education possible in these circumstances. Adapting to the chal-

lenges of remote instruction, educators in school districts had to adjust quickly to make sure students are still receiving that quality education. America's teachers always rise to the occasion, and they have done so once again.

Madam Speaker, we also honor the brave servicemembers in the United States Armed Forces who are away from their families for this upcoming holiday season, and we pray for their continued safety. We must also hold their families in our hearts as they, too, serve our Nation with bravery while their loved ones are abroad.

Madam Speaker, lastly, I thank everyone here in the Capitol working hard to put safety measures in place so we can be here in Washington to serve and work for the American people. I know that brighter days lie ahead for our neighbors and nations. Therapeutics and vaccines are going to help us turn the corner on this virus.

Please keep your loved ones and neighbors in mind. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing this holiday season.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 17, 2020, at noon for morning-hour debate.

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. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5047. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to conduct an annual audit of properties leased to private parties, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-655). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5013. A bill to apply the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to small businesses to the same extent as such Act applies to consumers, to require the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to define "small business" for purposes of such Act, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 116-656). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hijacking our Heroes: Exploiting Veterans Through Disinformation on Social Media (Rept. 116-657). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3948. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to extend the provisions of that Act to cover a debt collector who is collecting debt owed to a State

or local government, to index award amounts under such Act for inflation, to provide for civil injunctive relief for violations of such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-658). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3068. A bill to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-659, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Education and Labor discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3068 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 8974. A bill to increase the principal obligation limits for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act for residences in eligible metropolitan cities and urban counties; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 8975. A bill to prohibit the usage of exploitative and deceptive practices by large online operators and to promote consumer welfare in the use of behavioral research by such providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 8976. A bill to clarify access to courts of the United States for persons seeking redress for a violation of a constitutional right by the United States or any agent, person, or entity acting in the name of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 8977. A bill to require employers to provide training to employees whose jobs are in danger of being changed or replaced due to technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 8978. A bill to establish the Office for the Equitable, Transparent, and Accountable Puerto Rico Reconstruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8979. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to eliminate qualified immunity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8980. A bill to provide for the resentencing and expungement of nonviolent offenses for individuals adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 8981. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of anatomical gifts and organ transplants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8982. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Federal Open Market Committee to establish interest rates on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve Bank by depository institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8983. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to exclude the audits of privately held, non-custody brokers and dealers that are in good standing from certain requirements under title I of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8984. A bill to ensure that the operations of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System remain independent from the credit policy of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 8985. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make an exception to the 100 shareholder S corporation limitation in the case of shareholders whose shares were acquired through certain crowd-funding or small public offerings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr.

LAMALFA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COX of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 8986. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 4th Street in Petaluma, California, as the "Lynn C. Woolsey Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8987. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to incentivize the manufacture of certain medicines in the United States and to enhance the security of the United States pharmaceutical supply chain, 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. KIM (for himself, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 8988. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the base erosion minimum tax rate for taxable years ending in 2020; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. EMMER):

H.R. 8989. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct a study on the feasibility, benefits, and costs of using a distributed ledger system in the post-trade clearing and settlement process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 8990. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to permit default investment arrangements in annuities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 8991. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the use of voting systems in elections for Federal office whose hardware and software components are not manufactured and maintained in the United States or which are produced by foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 8992. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain succession reforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 8993. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out an intelligence and cybersecurity diversity fellowship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NOR-TON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KIL-DEE, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 8994. A bill to amend the Department of Education Organization Act to permit appeals of certain determinations made by the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education made with respect to complaints filed between March 5, 2018, and November 18, 2018; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 8995. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish programs for carbon dioxide capture, transport, utilization, and storage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HALL:

H.J. Res. 106. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Ms. SHERRILL):

H. Res. 1266. A resolution expressing appreciation and support for essential employees with disabilities during the current pandemic, and beyond; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are sub-

mitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 8974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 8975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 8976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8977.

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.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 8978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 8981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 1, Article I Section 8 Clause 3, Article I Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 8986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 8987.  
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. KIM:  
H.R. 8988.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LYNCH:  
H.R. 8989.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NORCROSS:  
H.R. 8990.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. POSEY:  
H.R. 8991.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Miss RICE of New York:  
H.R. 8992.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:  
H.R. 8993.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:  
H.R. 8994.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. VEASEY:  
H.R. 8995.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 (relating to interstate commerce)

By Mr. HALL:  
H.J. Res. 106.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article V 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. 788: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 1685: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 1992: Mr. KILMER and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 2054: Mr. CRIST.  
H.R. 2168: Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 2482: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 2625: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 2775: Ms. DEAN.  
H.R. 2848: Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 3104: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 3107: Ms. SANCHEZ and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 3138: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 3225: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 4022: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.  
H.R. 4052: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. GOMEZ.  
H.R. 4092: Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 4729: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 4758: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 4823: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 4836: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H.R. 4961: Ms. HAALAND.  
H.R. 5091: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 5141: Mr. RUSH and Mr. GALLEGRO.  
H.R. 5200: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 5234: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 5297: Mr. DUNN.  
H.R. 5548: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H.R. 5861: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 6359: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 6364: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
H.R. 6644: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 6703: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. LAMB.  
H.R. 7078: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 7380: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 7663: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 7876: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 7886: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. HURD of Texas.  
H.R. 8082: Mrs. MILLER.  
H.R. 8096: Mr. RYAN and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 8179: Mr. RYAN and Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 8361: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 8429: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 8485: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 8565: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 8637: Mr. BERA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 8702: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CORREA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 8743: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 8769: Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 8778: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 8782: Ms. SHALALA and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 8791: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 8793: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 8805: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 8809: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 8812: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 8824: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 8830: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 8867: Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 8904: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 8907: Mr. WALTZ.  
H.R. 8908: Ms. NORTON and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 8912: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 8933: Mr. RYAN.  
H.R. 8956: Ms. NORTON.  
H. Con. Res. 115: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H. Res. 114: Mr. BUDD and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H. Res. 1183: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Res. 1192: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H. Res. 1221: Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CROW.

H. Res. 1222: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H. Res. 1234: Ms. PRESSLEY.  
H. Res. 1246: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H. Res. 1257: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H. Res. 1265: Mrs. LESKO.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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No. 213

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, our hope for the years to come, today, teach our lawmakers to do things Your way, embracing Your precepts and walking in Your path. Inspire them to trust You for safety. As they receive guidance from You and follow Your leading, replace anxiety with calm, confusion with clarity, and pessimism with hope.

Lord, guide our Senators to find workable solutions for the problems of our Nation and world.

You are our God, and the good things we have come from You.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute in morning business, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we all know that, without a doubt, 2020 has been a difficult year. But for me it was an important year to continue fighting for Iowans and listening to Iowans.

This year I completed my 40th year of my 99 county meetings that included

a Q&A in every one of those counties. This annual tradition keeps me in touch with the grassroots of Iowa and allows me to bring their ideas to the policymaking tables here in Washington, DC.

With all the twists and turns this year took, my county meetings were more beneficial than ever. I just want to mention a couple of these twists and turns.

The twist and turns involved the big devastating windstorm we called the “derecho” that went through central Iowa, destroying 800,000 acres of crops. Those twists and turns involved dealing with all the issues coming from COVID-19.

One thing I know for sure, Iowans are very resilient people. So I look forward to continuing these county meetings and the Q&A’s involved with them at the beginning of the new year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Democratic leader and I worked into the evening alongside the Speaker of the House and the House Republican leader. We made major headway toward hammering out a targeted pandemic relief package that would be able to pass both Chambers with bipartisan majorities. We committed to con-

tinuing these urgent discussions until we have an agreement, and we agreed we will not leave town until we have made law.

The American people need more help. It is that simple. Further targeted relief is now months overdue. We need vaccine distribution money. We need to re-up the Paycheck Protection Program to save jobs. We need to continue to provide for laid-off Americans. Congressional leaders on both sides are going to keep working until we get this done.

### TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, it is both my honor and unhappy duty to offer one more parting tribute to a distinguished Senator who will leave us at the end of the 116th Congress.

My good friend the senior Senator from Kansas, PAT ROBERTS, is preparing to close out the longest congressional tenure the Sunflower State has ever seen.

When PAT arrived in Washington as a freshman House Member, he was a young man among giants—Byrd, Stevens, Dole. But over the past four decades, the name “Roberts” has come to define its own iconic brand of heartland statesmanship.

PAT is the first to admit he didn’t establish that name all on his own. He inherited it from another great Kansan. Charles Wesley Roberts was a marine, a journalist, and a leader in Republican politics.

So get ready to experience some *deja vu*, because at age 16, our future colleague got to attend the 1952 convention that nominated Kansas’s own General Eisenhower. That early taste of politics planted a seed.

PAT earned his own Marine Corps commission. In fact, he served with the first contingent to return to Iwo Jima, where his father had fought 15 years earlier.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Then he decided to ply another family trade. Like generations of Roberts men, including an abolitionist newspaperman three generations back, he took up journalism.

Only then did PAT bring his talents here to Washington, to Senator Frank Carlson's office. He impressed, and by the next time his next boss, Keith Sebelius, announced his retirement, PAT was running out of excuses not to go on and run himself.

Campaigning in Kansas's "Big First" district required countless road trips across nearly half the State. But listening to neighbors, building relationships, and earning trust came naturally. PAT's district elected him no fewer than eight times, and the whole State sent him here to the Senate another four.

Before long, every small-time diner in Western Kansas was filled with people who saw PAT not just as an elected official but as a trusted friend. The way I hear it, you walk into a restaurant or a coffee shop with PAT, and you budget about 15 minutes of conversation before you even make it to your table. Many of those conversations revolve around one particular line of work. There is a reason why no less an authority than Bob Dole would later dub this man "Mr. Agriculture."

When Republicans retook the House majority in 1994, they knew who had to chair the Ag Committee. The rest is history for our colleague, for his State, and for farmers and growers all across America.

The 1996 farm bill that PAT shepherded included "Freedom to Farm," landmark legislation that set a new tone for the way American farmers would compete in a global market.

Now, today, we know that PAT would later become the only American ever to chair the Ag Committee in both the Senate and the House. But on this side of the dome, he tackled a few other assignments first.

PAT had already helped clean up some ethics messes in the House, and so his discretion and integrity landed him on the Senate Ethics Committee. In short order, he was chairing it.

Then came the Intelligence Committee gavel and, with it, more sensitive challenges. Our trusted marine had to conduct oversight and ask hard questions in the wake of September 11 and the Iraq invasion. He oversaw essential reports and helped shape reform.

But we couldn't keep the Kansan away from his top passion for long. So it wasn't long before Mr. Agriculture was chairing the committee with the most importance of all to his constituents back in Kansas.

Chairman ROBERTS has been a constant voice and a consistent champion for the men and women of this country who get their hands dirty, grow crops, raise livestock, and, as our colleague likes to say, "feed a troubled and hungry world."

Even in polarized times, the Ag Committee has largely remained a haven

for bipartisan work. That is partly the nature of an issue set where divisions tend to be more regional than ideological, but it is also because of the skilled, thoughtful, and genial consensus-builder we have had at the center of the dais.

Two years ago, because of the chairman, the farm bill conference report passed by an overwhelming margin of 87 to 13—87 votes for our farm bill. By my count, that was the eighth farm bill our colleague had a hand in. It turns out that experience actually matters, or, as our colleague likes to say, "it takes a long time to do big things"—"a long time to do big things."

That is true of multiyear farm bills. It is true of the advances PAT has pushed forward on geopolitical issues like food security. It is true of other important projects that our friend has taken under his wing, like the crusade to make certain that President Eisenhower receives the monument he deserved here in Washington. This pandemic may have changed the unveiling ceremonies this year, but it is only fitting that Ike persevered. That is thanks to a quarter century of work from PAT ROBERTS.

There is a reason the people of Kansas have rehired our colleague time after time, and it is not just for his entertaining wit, although I will have more on that subject in just a moment. It is because, when their Senator sees a way to strengthen his home State or his country, he keeps at it until he gets it done.

In short, PAT has spent decades making sure that it is not just places like Manhattan, NY, but also Manhattan, KS, that get the attention and support they deserve.

In fact, thanks to PAT, Manhattan, KS, is the home for our Nation's historic new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. He played the long game and spent years getting his State ready to make the pitch. This state-of-the-art research facility will come online at K-State, next to another important research facility that happens to be named Pat Roberts Hall.

He has looked out for Fort Riley and its essential missions. He has helped devastated communities like Greensburg rebuild after disaster. In every way imaginable, Kansas has had its champion.

PAT's voice has been a powerful presence in these halls. But in rare moments when he hasn't been getting results, the voice has, of course, been making us laugh. PAT is one of the best humored Senators in a long time—not funny, humorous.

It is not just PAT's quick wit or his punch lines themselves that take the cake. The best part is just the unpretentious fearlessness with which he will go after a good laugh in almost any situation.

It is a daunting task to try to convey PAT's winsome humor as a third party. It is a package deal. The words, the

voice, the expression all work together. But I will share just one example.

Several years back, PAT and I were both attending a formal dinner honoring Bob Dole and Howard Baker. PAT had been asked to offer some remarks in Bob's honor. Apparently, he decided a conventional toast would just simply not cut it; the fancy evening would need shaking up.

It so happened that PAT had recently attended Kennedy Center Honors that honored Neil Diamond. So when PAT took the podium at that dinner, with that famous tune "Sweet Caroline" stuck in his head, he wound up leading the audience in the world premiere sing-along of the new original song "Sweet Robert Dole . . . Bob, Bob, Bob." A little unusual, sure, but somehow it was the perfect contribution. It literally brought the house down.

So we have here a senior Senator from a State that expects greatness from its representatives. They gave America a young man from Abilene who led the fight against tyranny in Europe and became President. They gave us another son from Russell who fought in that fight, came home, became Senate majority leader, and ran for President.

But let's add one more name to that distinguished company. Historians certainly will. There is a third Kansas statesman from Holton who belongs on that list: Eisenhower, Dole, and ROBERTS.

In his own farewell speech, PAT quoted his first boss in Washington, Senator Carlson. He said:

There are no self-made men or women in public office. It is your friends and family who make you what you are.

Well, more than all the bills he has passed, above all the outcomes he willed into reality, PAT says his family is his "crowning achievement." So I must conclude by thanking PAT's "magnolia blossom," Franki, for her generosity in lending PAT to us all these years and everything she has done to make it possible. And the Senate thanks his three kids and their eight grandchildren for making do with less of our colleague's time than they deserve.

So PAT, we know we are going to laugh less without you. I am afraid we are not going to get as much done without you.

But you have made us better for knowing you, the Senate better for having you, and Kansas and your country so much better for your devoted service.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY  
LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as we rapidly approach the end of the session, Senators are working in earnest to finish a bipartisan government funding bill as well as an emergency Federal relief package.

Over the past several weeks, the bipartisan Gang of 8 came together to provide a framework for an agreement on emergency COVID relief. That framework has been the basis of discussions between the four congressional leaders: Speaker PELOSI, Leader MCCARTHY, Leader MCCONNELL, and myself. Secretary Mnuchin has been in our talks as well, representing the President.

Yesterday we had two very long and very productive meetings. Our final discussion stretched late into the evening.

As we race the clock to reach a final accord before the end of the year, we are close to an agreement. It is not a done deal yet, but we are very close.

Now, for Democrats, this has always been about getting the American people the relief they need in the time of an acute national crisis, of an emergency to so many Americans. This has been about delivering a lifeline to Americans who were laid off, through no fault of their own, families struggling to pay the rent and put food on the table, small businesses hanging on for dear life.

This has been about saving our schools, our healthcare system, and delivering the resources to produce and distribute the vaccine that should finally, finally help our country turn the corner and defeat this evil disease.

We are on the precipice of achieving these goals. We Democrats would have liked to go considerably further, but this won't be the last time Congress speaks on COVID relief. Right now, we must address this emergency over the short term. But make no mistake, we will work in the future to provide additional relief as the country requires, but we need to provide a platform to build on. We need to address this emergency right now.

At the end of one of the most difficult years in recent American history, a vaccine has given us all a reason for hope. Let's give the country another reason. The finish line is in sight. Everyone wants to get this done. Let's push through the few final meters and deliver the outcome that the American people very much need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

TECHNOLOGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet held our final hearing of the 116th Congress. The title of yesterday's hearing was "Bet on the Rest: Expanding American Entrepreneurship Outside Traditional Hubs," and it focused on examining where venture capital is being invested in this country and where it is not, with an eye to exploring ways to expand investment to other parts of the country.

Over the past 50 years, venture capital has come to play an essential role in advancing American entrepreneurship. Venture capitalists have provided key funding for startups that have gone on to become some of America's most profitable companies. Many of the technologies and services we rely on today would not be around if venture capitalists hadn't been willing to take a risk on innovation.

However, venture capital investment in the United States has traditionally been highly concentrated in certain areas of the country. In 2019, California-based companies received 50 percent of all venture-backed investment in the United States. Just three States—California, New York, and Massachusetts—accounted for almost 75 percent of all venture-backed investment in the country.

There are a lot of valid reasons for this investment concentration. However, this geographic imbalance also means that a majority of regions within the United States are often shut out from the kind of investment that creates jobs, revitalizes communities, and enables the pursuit of the American dream.

Without greater access to capital in underserved regions, the flow of talent,

wealth, and opportunity will continue to move to only a handful of coastal cities, and the full reach and diversity of American ingenuity will go unrealized. Fortunately, there are a lot of individuals in the private sector who are already working to address this issue and expand venture-backed investment to other areas of the United States, and we had the opportunity to hear from some of them yesterday. I was very grateful for their input. We were very pleased to have a South Dakota entrepreneur among our panelists.

I am committed to making sure that the Federal Government serves as a help, not a hindrance, to the expansion of venture capital investment. I took the reins of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet at the start of the 116th Congress, and I am very proud of the work we have done over the past 2 years. We have had a very active Congress, holding eight hearings in Washington, DC, as well as a hearing in my home State of South Dakota. These hearings have explored everything from broadband investment in rural America to the way the social media companies filter information on their platforms.

I have introduced several bills over the past 2 years that have been informed by our work at the committee, including the PACT Act, the TRACED Act, the Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, and the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act.

A priority of mine over the past several years has been ensuring that America stays at the head of the next wave of internet technology, which is 5G. In addition to the tremendous technological benefits that will result from 5G, staying at the forefront of the 5G revolution will bring tremendous economic investment and create a lot of great American jobs.

I spent a lot of time working on this issue when I was chairman of the Commerce Committee, and heading up the Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee in this Congress has allowed me to continue to focus on 5G.

Last year, I introduced the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act along with the ranking member of the subcommittee, Senator SCHATZ. Our legislation would help expedite the deployment of the small cells that are a key part of 5G infrastructure.

This year, I introduced the Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act to address another part of the 5G equation, and that is ensuring that we have the workforce in place to handle the demands of installing and maintaining 5G technology.

As a resident of a rural State, ensuring access to broadband internet in rural communities has long been a priority of mine. I introduced legislation this year to direct funds from radio spectrum auctions to expand rural broadband access. I am continuing my work to ensure that rural communities get access to 5G technology.



Now, 5G has the potential to offer tremendous benefits to rural communities, from expanded access to telehealth services to precision agriculture technologies, and I am committed to ensuring that rural communities are not left behind in the 5G revolution.

Pretty much every American has been forced to deal with annoying and illegal robocalls. These calls are a major nuisance, and too often, they are more than a nuisance. Every day, vulnerable Americans fall prey to even more sophisticated scammers and have money or their identities stolen.

I have worked on this issue for years, and in 2019 I introduced the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act, along with Senator MARKEY. While this legislation won't stop every robocall, the TRACED Act provides tools to discourage illegal robocalls, protect consumers, and crack down on offenders. I am very proud that last December, the President signed our legislation into law.

More and more, Americans get news and information from social media sites, and particularly during this past election cycle, a lot of questions have arisen about the ways that social media platforms are filtering the information that we see. Internet platforms have actively cultivated the notion that they are merely providing the technology for people to communicate and to share their thoughts and ideas, but the reality is somewhat different. Sites like Facebook and Twitter make use of sophisticated content-moderation tools, algorithms, and recommendation engines to shape the content that we see on these platforms.

Now, content moderation can certainly improve the user experience. Most of us would prefer that YouTube recommend videos that match our interest. The problem is, the content moderation has been and largely continues to be a black box, with consumers having little or no idea how the information they see has been shaped by the sites they are visiting.

Last year, I chaired a subcommittee hearing on this issue, and the information we gathered helped inform two pieces of bipartisan legislation that I introduced this Congress—the Filter Bubble Transparency Act and the Platform Accountability and Consumer Transparency Act, or the PACT Act. Both of these bills would increase transparency around the content-moderation process so that users have a better sense of how the information presented to them is being filtered. The Filter Bubble Transparency Act and the PACT Act go a long way toward making social media and other sites more accountable to consumers, and I will continue to work to advance these legislative efforts here in the Senate.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to chair this subcommittee over the past Congress and for the opportunity it has given me to work on the important issues and the legislation

that I have mentioned. I want to thank the subcommittee's ranking member, Senator SCHATZ, for all the work he has done to make our committee so effective. I look forward to continuing to work with all my subcommittee colleagues to advance the 5G revolution, address the challenges presented by the internet age, and to make life better for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2828

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to make a unanimous consent request on a piece of legislation on which my Eastern Oregon constituents have done an extraordinary job with respect to building a coalition that brings people together on a contentious issue. It deserves enormous credit, and I will describe their efforts here shortly.

I also want to thank, as we begin, Senator BARRASSO. Senator BARRASSO will be taking on a new role in January on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He and I have worked together often, and I have appreciated his talking with me on this matter as he begins to look to his new duties in January.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2828, the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I do appreciate the work the Senator from Oregon has done on this public lands bill. I know the amount of effort that has gone into this legislation is significant. Locally driven public lands bills take an incredible amount of time to get right.

This legislation has gone through intensive local stakeholder involvement, very similar to what we have done in Wyoming with the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative in my home State. The Wyoming Public Lands Initiative was spearheaded by our Wyoming County Commissioners Association. This initiative was started in order to resolve, through local negotiations, the status of so-called "temporary" wilderness study areas in Wyoming that have now, seemingly, become permanent.

I recognize and understand that public lands negotiations often result in

compromise. This give-and-take is a good thing, for it lets people closest to the issue have a significant voice. So I appreciate the efforts the stakeholders on the ground in Oregon have made to get this bill to where it is today. However, I believe additional work is still needed.

I would let my friend from Oregon know that I will work with him and any other Senators with public lands issues before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We may not always agree on a given outcome, but I am committed to having those discussions with Members of this body.

For this reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I know my colleague does have other business that he has to get to, but before he attends to that, I just want to thank him for spending time with me already on this issue. I am going to outline the extraordinary effort that was made by my constituents.

I think we all know—and I am going to discuss it—that in the West, very often, citizens feel nobody is listening to them, that nobody cares about them. The Senator and I have talked about this. This is kind of a question of, How do you empower them with a framework that can help them but also serve as a model for the country?

So a big thanks to my colleague, and I am looking forward to working with him on this and other matters next year.

What Senator BARRASSO and I are discussing is the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, known in our part of the county as the Malheur CEO Act. The bill has been in the works since late 2018. Back then, when a group of ranchers and business people who live in Malheur County, OR, came to see me, they came to talk about this incredible part of Oregon they call home. It is wide open country, and not many people live there, but those who do want to make sure they have a say in how it is going to be preserved and managed for the future.

When I say this bill has been in the works since 2018, that is not the whole story, because the fact is that the groundwork for this bill has been in the making for decades, and it is only recently that an incredible coalition of Oregonians from across the political spectrum has come together to make it possible for us to propose this legislation.

As I touched on with Senator BARRASSO, in rural areas of the West, like Malheur County, there is often a feeling that people from thousands of miles away, particularly in DC, think that they somehow know better than rural citizens about what is good for those rural communities. I guess I would sum it up as: In rural areas, there is the sense that somehow, often, elites just look down on them; that nobody is listening; that people in power

consider them kind of simple cowboys who care little about saving land, air, and water.

Now, I have townhall meetings in every county in Oregon. I had 970 of them until earlier this spring when we couldn't do them in person due to the pandemic. So we started doing them virtually. I know from all of those townhall meetings that constituents in Eastern Oregon are actually working every day to try to propose common-sense, practical policies to preserve special places for their kids and their grandkids. They know that they are working for all Americans because all Americans own public lands. Eastern Oregonians believe—and I think it is a very powerful point—that nobody cares more about protecting Oregon's natural treasures than those who live every day in those communities and are always thinking about what the future is for their kids and their grandkids.

I will repeat that.

Folks in rural Oregon know that the land is public land, that it belongs to all Americans, and they know that their communities' futures depend on keeping the lands healthy and usable. The ranchers of Malheur County want to be active participants in improving and keeping the ecological health of our public lands, and with this legislation that we are discussing today, they will have a real shot at doing just that.

The fact is that, in some parts of the West, there have been bad actors who have abused the land for their own gain and flouted the law in a dangerous way. For example, in 2016, a heavily armed group of extremists that was not from Oregon, led by members of the Bundy family, stormed the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and occupied it for weeks. There was a standoff that people all over the country saw, between them and Federal, State, and local law enforcement. There was one death. Further south, in Nevada, the Bundys have not only stolen millions of dollars' worth of grazing fees from the American people, they also basically pushed aside basic environmental standards laid out by the Taylor Grazing Act, leading to degraded landscapes.

Now, in Malheur County, just a few hours of wide open spaces east of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that the extremists took over, our ranchers and our small business people, to their great credit, said: We are going to take a different path, a better path. In Malheur County, you don't have the Bundys breaking the law. Our Malheur County ranchers are committed to being better and doing better, but that doesn't mean they aren't skeptical of people coming in and changing the rules when it comes to public lands surrounding their communities.

So, in 2018, the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition from Malheur County came to Washington to meet with me. Senator BARRASSO will be interested in this. This group of ranchers and small

business people came to me with a very improbable request for a Democratic U.S. Senator: Would I be willing to work with them to pass land management legislation that could serve as an alternative to a designation as a national monument?

I thought this would be the point my colleagues would be interested in: I asked one member of the group if they had come to me because they thought I might take leave of my senses and say yes to their request. When I asked them, the person who was looking at me said: Yes, that is what we thought, Ron.

Looming over the discussion was the history of this wonderful part of Eastern Oregon. I am not going to take my colleagues through a long discussion of the history of the Taylor Grazing Act, as it goes all the way back to 1932. So I will just start with the fact that in this area, Malheur County makes up most of the Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management, which, of course, is part of the Department of the Interior. The Vale District was the poster child for "scientific grazing management" in the 1960s and early 1970s under the Taylor Grazing Act. Did it live up to its potential? I would say it didn't because its efforts really were not adequately funded, and it lacked the consistent monitoring or the adaptive management needed to make it work on the ground, and that raises the question: What results are really at issue?

The Taylor Grazing Act is about turning cattle out onto public lands and attempting to assure they don't destroy the land, but where is the act when it comes to fighting invasive weeds and actually improving soil health and responding to climate change and the effects of rangeland fires? In looking at what happened over the decades—the 1930s, the 1960s, the 1970s—this bill says we are going to answer those questions for 2020.

The Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition from Malheur County wanted to work together. I was glad that they came with their improbable request. I said we have got one chance here on our watch to bring people together, to come up with a sensible proposal. And when they indicated they wanted to work with me, I basically said: How could I refuse?

Knowing the violence that can erupt in the West when people become closed off, when people just refuse to talk, that is when you have a prescription for trouble. As long as we are talking, as long as we are coming together, as long as we are sitting with each other and maybe just having a coffee, a tuna fish sandwich, you have an opportunity to come up with solutions. That is why I agreed to this.

I agreed, in effect, to try to match the courage of these ranchers and business people in coming forward, and I said: If they are going to be willing to think through how to do this, I am going to join them.

Now, the other area I want to touch on is—I said at the get-go and I think this has implications for dealing with public lands in the West. I said that there has got to be three requirements to help us all protect the land and preserve the ranching way of life.

First, we would have to bring everybody to the table—environmentalists, ranchers, local folks, and we would have to bring some of the folks from the more metropolitan area as well. That is because, in effect, when I said that, they said: OK. You know your way around legislation. We will try to find common ground.

And there is common ground on the key question. In every nook and cranny of Oregon, there are people who care about our natural treasures in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Malheur County may keep its clock on Idaho time, but it is enormously loved all across our State. In my view, that alone ought to be a reason, after decades and decades of differences with respect to how to manage these treasures, that alone is a reason to work together.

The second rule of our discussions was all about we weren't going to litigate this with the press and outside groups every time somebody had a little question, any kind of a dispute. So, in effect, we had set it up so that other groups, environmental and ranchers, there was going to be a lot of opportunity for folks to have their say.

And the third rule was that there would be an understanding that we would respect our environmental laws. That was also very pivotal. So, in March of 2019, we got our group together in the conference room at the National Guard Armory in Ontario, OR, and those were the things that we wanted to start with that we thought gave us a chance to build this coalition that could lead to passing legislation to manage these treasures. So we got ranchers, environmentalists, local businesses, and we meet, essentially, every other Monday for months and months.

I also want to thank the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State parks, fish and wildlife management agencies, local Tribe representatives, all of whom put in enormous amounts of time offering information, expertise, and good will. I met with local county officials, as well, relearning their thoughts with respect to roads and water infrastructure and their most important local economic needs. So that is what really led to this legislation.

Finally, what we said is that we have to make sure that people have an opportunity to also talk, sort of, a little bit offline. So after these sessions, we always found a way to make it to a gathering place somewhere where people could just have a soda, perhaps something a little bit stronger, and we could just take the time informally to talk about what we thought the future was for this incredible part of the world.

Now, in closing up, I want to mention that I think land designation discussions pit people against one another in the West if you do it the traditional sort of way. We needed some unity if we were going to come together on a bill. So that is why we wanted to make sure everybody had a shared understanding of how this would be addressed.

I particularly want at this time to commend Sarah Bittleman, who is sitting here with me, who, month after month after month, call after call after call, email after email after email, always tried to keep this on focus.

I also want to mention at this time our inspiration was the late Mary Gautreaux, who was in our office for over two decades. She was the spirit of this effort. She lived in Portland. Yet she was beloved—beloved—by the people of rural Oregon, the people of Malheur County. So with Sarah and Mary as the energy behind this, we really set out to build this coalition, which has gotten us to this point. It was a coalition driven on the fact that people would take the time to do this right.

When I brought it to the attention of Senator BARRASSO, who obviously will play a key role in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee next year, the first thing he wanted to hear about was the kind of groundwork that had been laid for local input, for local stakeholders. I described to him much of what we have been talking about.

So I introduced the Malheur CEO Act in November of 2019. It was part of a legislative hearing in 2020, and let me just very quickly describe a couple of elements of it. It works this way: It includes range land management enhancements, loop roads to focus tourist travel and build the local economy, and about a million acres of wilderness designation. It also moves around a million acres of land now being studied into multiple-use management.

The bill implements a few key strategies: a plan to let ranchers do range improvements, irrigation systems, removing water-sucking juniper, and replacing invasive weeds with native grasses and improve the ecological health of the range land.

So here are the pictures to my left. The first is a picture of rangeland being overrun by weeds. The second shows rangeland in a native, healthy condition.

Now, the bill also establishes a Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee advisory group so on an ongoing basis it can advise BLM on land management. And the bill also provides substantial funding for the BLM so it can finish environmental soil surveys and carry out environmental policies associated with this bill and monitor the implementation of the bill.

The bill includes funding for the study and designation of three loop roads designed to improve the visitor experience, keep visitors out of trouble, and drive more traffic to the small

retail businesses, which I think we all understand desperately—desperately—need our attention.

I also want to thank at this point, while I am on floor, Senator GRASSLEY. He and I have led the bipartisan effort on the Finance Committee.

I see Senator MANCHIN here. He knows how strongly we feel about getting the small businesses the deductibility associated with these PPP loans.

I bring this up only by way of saying that we are grateful to Senator GRASSLEY for working with me. He is the chair of the Finance Committee. I am the ranking Democrat, but Senator MANCHIN and others deserve credit for helping us get that proposal moving, and we made it clear we have to get that in before we go home. Part of it is our concern for the small retail businesses that we saw in the Owyhee.

Finally, the bill provides for amenities at the Owyhee Reservoir with a marina. That is also good for the local economy. Recreation is a big economic engine in our part of the world.

And the last point I will just mention is the bill is a compromise. Everybody had to make some concessions.

There are folks who feel that the environmental groups got too much here. There are folks who feel the ranchers and the small business people got too much. But the fact is, all sides said: We have some core values and some core priorities. Let's see if we can address the core values and core priorities on both sides of this so that this spectacular portion of Eastern Oregon could be protected and preserved and we could respect and empower the people who call it home and work so hard to make a living there.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent to put into the RECORD the names of all the people who worked so hard on this effort—our Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition. They are ranchers; there are folks on various kinds of environmental organizations and groups; and they deserve incredible credit for being willing to put in the time and effort on something that seemed so improbable.

Finally, I want to thank my partner here in the Senate, Senator MERKLEY. He has been terrific as we worked on this. We both share a love of the land in Eastern Oregon.

Now it is up to the U.S. Senate to get this passed. It isn't going to happen today, unfortunately, but I want the Senate to know I am going to stay at it until this gets done. I think it will be of enormous benefit for rural Oregon. I think it will be of enormous benefit for our State, and I think it will be a model for how our country brings people together, particularly as it relates to issues where we have been polarized in the past.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition members who sat through most of the meetings:

Steve Russell, chair/rancher  
 Andy Bentz, former sheriff and Cliff Bentz's brother  
 Linda Bentz, rancher and Cliff and Andy's sister-in-law  
 Elias Eiguren, rancher  
 Mark Mackenzie, rancher  
 Jaime Yturriondobeitia, rancher  
 Paulette Pyle, local consultant and former advocate

And members of the environmental community who also sat through all or most of the meetings that lead to S. 2828

Tim Davis, Friends of the Owyhee  
 Ryan Houston and Corie Harlan, Oregon Natural Desert Association

David Moryc, American Rivers  
 Nicole Cordan, Pew Charitable Trust  
 Liz Sullivan, Northwest Sports Fishermen  
 With special thanks to Brent Grasty and Don Gonzalez at the Bureau of Land Management without whose expertise many of our discussions would have been a lot shorter.

Mr. WYDEN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I would like permission to basically be able to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking all of the Members—and I mean all of the Members—who have worked so diligently to produce this product.

This is the product we produced with the so-called Gang of 8, but it turned into a bigger gang than that because more and more people want to work in a bipartisan way in the Senate. I have said: It is alive and well; we just have to exercise it more.

We did that. We brought over the bicameral group, the Problem Solvers, and they were tremendously instrumental in being involved in this process. I am so pleased to have that bicameral work, bipartisan work. We need more of it, and we are going to basically demand more of it. But with this product right now, as the "four corners" are working, this is the template they have used.

Leader SCHUMER has said that this is what they have used because the legislative language has already been produced. There might be some tweaks to it, but there are so many people.

Let me tell you how it started. My dear friend Senator DURBIN is here. After the election, we called each other back and forth, a few of us, saying: Something has to be done. Nothing is moving. People are hurting.

We heard that all during the election, and they couldn't figure out why we hadn't done anything. I had no good explanation because, basically, the two leaders on both sides of the aisle were locked, and I said we didn't know how to break it. The only way we could break it is by doing something showing we could come together.

We did that. We did that in a way that—we had a dinner. Senator MARK WARNER from Virginia said: Let's have a dinner. Senator LISA MURKOWSKI said: Come to my house. So we go to

LISA MURKOWSKI's house, and there were eight of us. We had four R's and four D's, and we grew from there. On our side, there was Senator MARK WARNER, Senator DICK DURBIN, Senator JEAN SHAHEEN, myself. On the Republican side, there was Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, Senator BILL CASSIDY, and Senator MITT ROMNEY. From there, it grew. Then we brought the bipartisan group over—Congressman JOSH GOTTHEIMER and Congressman TOM REED and the Problem Solvers—and we kept growing from there, and we had more Senators coming in. So we got input from every quadrant we could possibly in order to do what we did, but it took quite a while.

The biggest hurdle we had was how much we could agree that we need as an emergency. Democrats were at 1.2, 1.3. The Republicans were at 5 or 6. We couldn't move off of that, and it took us a while to say: Let's look at emergencies and everything that basically is going to run out of time in December and be nullified. People are going to lose their lifelines.

We started putting all those figures together and came up with the \$900 billion figure. That is where 908 came from. I understand they are still at the 900, which we appreciate very much. I am hopeful that we can help break that deadlock and be a part of this, but there is so much more that has to be done, and there is so much more need out there that will need to be done. We must all come together behind President-Elect Joe Biden to make sure that we do it and look at the need of America, not the greed of America.

Trust me, if you are sending checks, everyone is in line, but if you are really getting to the people who are on the frontline, they need it.

I have people who have said and we have all said: We are not going to go home. We can't go home until we do something. Guess what. If we don't do anything, a lot of people won't have a home to go to this holiday season. They truly won't. They are being evicted. They are losing their lifeline. They are losing their shelter.

Food assistance—my goodness. Think about all the people in need. Have you ever seen the lines of people whom you have never seen before, who have never been to a food give-out or a food bank or a food line?

These are the things that we addressed, and we addressed them in the most compassionate way. That is our job.

I understand that our four corners are very close to a deal. I think it will be done. I know it will be done because we have to do it. Failure is not an option. So we are going to work very hard to continue to do that.

Let me tell you, we have unemployment assistance for people who lost their jobs, food assistance, shelter assistance. We have small business debt relief. We have student loan forbearance. We have so many other things,

and people are depending on us. We include \$300 a week. I am not sure what the final bill will be on the safety net realm there. We had \$13 billion for food assistance. We had SNAP benefits, helping people who are falling into that chasm of welfare who need help, and \$35 billion for healthcare providers. We had 20 percent set aside for the rural hospitals and rural clinics. We had \$16 billion for testing and tracing, and I understand they are increasing that, which is needed; \$12 billion for community development financial institutions; \$5 billion for emergency funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment and mental health services; \$82 billion for education, including \$20 billion for basically higher education; \$10 billion to support childcare; \$10 billion for broadband, including \$3 billion for education and distance learning; and \$45 billion in emergency funding for transportation. There are so many needs that we have out there.

We have a second bill too. I am understanding that was a little bit more controversial, but I can tell you one thing: There was no controversy on the first bill—\$748 billion; 100 percent Democrats and Republicans—all had input to make that happen.

Again, I say the staffs have worked a yeoman's job over day and night for the last month. They have done a terrific job.

Now for State and local, I really believe personally there is a need because I have seen the frontline workers and the amount of revenue we might lose for people not to have those services that are essential. They are depending on it. We might lose it because the States or the localities don't have the revenue. So we have to come back and address that. If we don't do it now, we have to do it as soon as President-Elect Joe Biden takes over, look at it again to try to help those in need, and we will do that.

So we have come together. We have come together. Also what we are saying is the money that the Governors and everyone has left over, they are going to be able to have extensions on how that is used, and we have some direction.

We want to make sure that the locals have some opportunities too. Some of the local communities and local municipalities or local counties did not get the revenue that they should have gotten in the first tranche of money, so we are hoping that is taken care of also.

So all these protections that we put in there, we are trying to help. We are trying to get a pathway forward to bring our economy back, to make sure we are able to. But this is the product that got it all going, and this is the group of people who made it happen, the bipartisan group who worked day and night, and I can't thank them more. I couldn't be more proud to be with a group whom I consider true Americans who stepped up to the plate and got something done when we didn't think it could be done.

But, again, I want to thank all of my colleagues, my Republican colleagues and friends and Democratic colleagues who worked so hard, and everybody who is going to benefit. I think it can be a merry Christmas. It can be a much happier Christmas for sure when we all go home and look at our constituents and say "We have done everything we can to get you through the most challenging time," which will be the first quarter of 2021, and this bill is an emergency bill that goes through April 1.

I would note—oh, we are ready to go. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postclosure time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Crytzer nomination?

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Ex.]

YEAS—48

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Ernst      | Portman    |
| Barrasso  | Gardner    | Risch      |
| Blackburn | Graham     | Roberts    |
| Blunt     | Grassley   | Romney     |
| Boozman   | Hawley     | Rounds     |
| Braun     | Hoeben     | Rubio      |
| Burr      | Hyde-Smith | Sasse      |
| Capito    | Inhofe     | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy   | Johnson    | Scott (SC) |
| Collins   | Kennedy    | Shelby     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Thune      |
| Cramer    | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Crapo     | Moran      | Toomey     |
| Cruz      | Murkowski  | Wicker     |
| Daines    | Paul       | Young      |

NAYS—47

|              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Heinrich  | Rosen      |
| Bennet       | Hirono    | Sanders    |
| Blumenthal   | Jones     | Schatz     |
| Booker       | Kaine     | Schumer    |
| Brown        | Kelly     | Shaheen    |
| Cantwell     | King      | Sinema     |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar | Smith      |
| Carper       | Leahy     | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Manchin   | Tester     |
| Coons        | Markey    | Udall      |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez  | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth    | Merkley   | Warner     |
| Durbin       | Murphy    | Warren     |
| Feinstein    | Murray    | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand   | Peters    | Wyden      |
| Hassan       | Reed      |            |

NOT VOTING—5

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Enzi    | Harris   | Perdue |
| Fischer | Loeffler |        |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid

upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the President's action.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Ex.]

#### YEAS—56

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Grassley   | Risch      |
| Barrasso  | Hawley     | Roberts    |
| Blackburn | Hoeven     | Romney     |
| Blunt     | Hyde-Smith | Rounds     |
| Boozman   | Inhofe     | Rubio      |
| Braun     | Johnson    | Sasse      |
| Burr      | Jones      | Scott (FL) |
| Capito    | Kelly      | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Shelby     |
| Collins   | King       | Sinema     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Tester     |
| Cramer    | Manchin    | Thune      |
| Crapo     | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | Moran      | Toomey     |
| Daines    | Murkowski  | Whitehouse |
| Ernst     | Paul       | Wicker     |
| Gardner   | Portman    | Young      |
| Graham    | Reed       |            |

#### NAYS—39

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Feinstein  | Peters     |
| Bennet       | Gillibrand | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Hassan     | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Heinrich   | Schatz     |
| Brown        | Hirono     | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Kaine      | Shaheen    |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar  | Smith      |
| Carper       | Leahy      | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Markey     | Udall      |
| Coons        | Menendez   | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley    | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Murphy     | Warren     |
| Durbin       | Murray     | Wyden      |

#### NOT VOTING—5

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Enzi    | Harris   | Perdue |
| Fischer | Loeffler |        |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Iowa.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1762

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, much ink has been spilled the past few years over the threat of foreign influence in our politics. It is a topic I have spoken about many times on this floor. This issue has become highly politicized, but it requires bipartisan agreement to address.

It is increasingly clear that our adversaries will stop at nothing to influence political discourse in our country. We can all agree that there is a real need to improve our Nation's foreign influence laws. Fortunately, the Senate has a real opportunity today to finally do something about it.

In 1938, Congress passed the Foreign Agents Registration Act, referred to by the acronym "FARA." It did this in 1938 to expose Nazi propaganda and identify foreign attempts to influence policymakers and the American public. The bill was last updated in 1966. And it now requires those who lobby on behalf of foreign governments and interests to register their affiliations and activities with the Justice Department.

FARA reflects the fundamental principle that transparency brings accountability. Until recently, however, the law had been seldom used, and few on K Street paid much attention to the necessity of registering under this act if they were lobbying for a foreign country. Of course, that was not due to a lack of foreign influence efforts.

Given FARA's important transparency provisions, its lack of enforcement was shocking to me, and that is the problem that these several legislators sponsoring this legislation are trying to correct.

I first raised concerns about lackluster FARA enforcement in April 2015 when a former Clinton White House staffer and a lawyer for a Georgian political party failed to register as for-

eign agents. I also raised concerns about work for Ukrainians by Paul Manafort and the Podesta Group. I raised concerns when the firm behind the discredited Steele dossier failed to register for its lobbying work to repeal U.S. sanctions against Russia. I even subpoenaed Manafort to testify at a Judiciary Committee hearing on lax FARA enforcement. I praised Mueller for dusting off the law that had been ignored for so long.

I have conducted FARA oversight without regard to power, party, or privilege. Americans expect equal application of the law no matter which political party someone is affiliated with. I am an equal opportunity overseer. FARA ought to be better enforced and equally enforced. That is why my office worked thoroughly to expose holes in the existing FARA law and found ways to shore it up.

My bipartisan Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act is the product of years of oversight and policy work. The bill requires the Justice Department, for the first time, to craft a comprehensive FARA enforcement strategy and to release advisory opinions to promote transparency. It gives FARA investigators new tools, including civil investigative demand authority, to help identify violations.

The bill appropriately limits those in the Justice Department who can use this authority, and it provides essential due process protections. In fact, it is based on identical authorities in the False Claims Act, which I sponsored now 35 years ago, which for years has helped to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

The bill also enhances penalties for FARA violations to deter future abuses. It requires foreign agents to immediately disclose their clients. That way, policymakers know the true sources and can make the most informed decisions.

Finally, it requires a review of the Lobbying Disclosure Act exemption to determine whether it has been abused to conceal foreign influence efforts.

Legitimate interests engaging in legitimate conduct shouldn't bear an unnecessary burden. That is why our bill strikes a real and right balance. But we must also ensure that FARA's exemptions haven't created loopholes for foreign governments to hide their true intentions.

I am pleased to have support from the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and the chairman and vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee. We have bipartisan support on the Foreign Relations Committee, including from Senators SHAHEEN, RUBIO, MURPHY, and YOUNG, who have all worked to shine light on foreign influence, and we now have the signoff of the chairman of that committee, along with support from this administration. Groups like the Project on Government Oversight and another group that goes by the name of Issue One endorse the measure, saying

it “directly addresses structural weaknesses of FARA.”

This is a truly bipartisan bill with common ground where it is usually tough to find it. The Senate should send a clear signal today that it is serious about shining a light on foreign influence by passing this bill.

Before I make a UC request, I would like to ask one of the leaders in this area, Senator CORNYN, to make comments. Then I will make the UC request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me start by thanking Chairman GRASSLEY for his leadership on this. This has been a bipartisan endeavor, and we look forward to working with Senator MENENDEZ, the Senator from New Jersey, who says that he supports the spirit of what we are trying to do. I will let him speak for himself in describing it, but let me just tell you what brings me to this issue.

It is an experience we had in 2016 when we tried to pass the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. This provided a carve-out in the doctrine of sovereign immunity that would allow Americans to sue foreign governments for financing terrorist attacks on American soil. If that sounds familiar, it is exactly what they believe happened on 9/11—that a foreign government financed a terrorist attack, taking the lives of their loved ones on 9/11.

When we tried to pass the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, I got called by a former colleague here in the Senate who happened to be representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They were doing everything they could to prevent the passage of the bill. I know they were working the phones, trying to get anybody else they could get to object to the ultimate unanimous passage of the bill and the overruling of President Obama’s veto.

Next, we were met with not only lobbying but veterans who were enticed to come to Washington, DC, and stay at a local, pricey hotel to try to lobby Congress to make the argument that somehow this was hurtful to our veterans who had served in the military. It didn’t make any sense to me then, and it doesn’t make any sense to me now.

What I am suggesting is that our rivals around the world will use a number of creative ways to try to influence us by lobbying. That is why the Foreign Agents Registration Act that we are talking about here is so important.

We have even seen a recent report of a Chinese intelligence officer trying to influence a Member of the U.S. Congress. Fortunately, according to public reports, he got a defensive briefing, as you should under those circumstances, and was able to break off that relationship, according to published reports.

We know that the Communist Party of China is investing in things like the Confucius Institutes around our institutions of higher learning to try to in-

fluence the education of our next generation of leaders.

In other words, the Communist Party of China and other countries will stop at nothing to try to influence the policies that come out of this body and out of Congress and out of Washington, DC, and bend them in their favor.

So I am an enthusiastic supporter of what the Senator from Iowa is trying to do. I look forward to working for maybe even something better than what we are proposing right now, and I understand the Senator from New Jersey is committed to doing that.

This is a serious problem, and I will bet you there are a number of ways that foreign governments—not just China but other countries around the world—try to influence policies here in America, and we don’t even know they are doing it. Reforming the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Lobbying Disclosure Act is so important to make sure that people have to file for full transparency when representing a foreign government.

I appreciate the leadership of my friend, the Senator from Iowa, and I look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle to try to get this done.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have two sentences before I ask unanimous consent.

I think by passing the bill, this will give the Senate an opportunity to send a clear signal that it is serious about shining a light on foreign influence. Opposing it, in fact, would only help our foreign adversaries continue to hide what they are really doing.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 1762 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, let me thank Senator GRASSLEY for his work on this issue, and I agree with him that our current foreign regime is in need of updating. I look forward to working with him and Senator CORNYN and with Senators WHITEHOUSE and SHAHEEN, who both came to speak to me about this, as well as with Chairman RISCH and the cosponsors of this legislation, on engaging in a comprehensive effort to do just that.

FARA, the Foreign Agents Registration Act, is perhaps the most critical tool we have for shining a light on foreign influence efforts in the United States. Its aim is to ensure that the public knows the source of foreign-directed efforts that are intended to influence American public opinion, policy, and laws.

I agree with the Senator that the past few years have demonstrated that

changes are sorely needed to FARA, but they also demonstrate that the statute may need more than a few tweaks.

And before we have determined exactly what the most needed reforms are, it seems shortsighted to provide additional enforcement tools before we have figured out what that regime should look like.

Indeed, adopting ad hoc changes rather than looking at more comprehensive reform could actually create more problems down the road. Many have noted that FARA’s definitions and requirements are broad and sow confusion over exactly when and under what circumstances an individual must register and report covered activities. There is no denying the nature of lobbying, influence efforts, and communication methods have dramatically changed since FARA was enacted in 1938 or even revised in 1966.

We live in a dramatically more interconnected and complex world today. Foreign influence efforts and disinformation have made their way into the top echelons of U.S. Government and this very body. It seems only prudent that we step back and examine whether there are blind spots in the current FARA regime.

There are a number of bills pending in both the House and the Senate that propose reforms to FARA. Some propose a new unit altogether for reviewing and enforcing FARA violations. Others propose additional disclosure and registration requirements, significant changes to the current FARA exemptions, or more electronic reporting. Yet none of those have been given thorough or, indeed, any consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the committee of jurisdiction.

There are also a number of concerns about the current FARA regime, as well as how it has been applied, that deserve consideration. Some nonprofit organizations, for example, have raised serious concerns about how FARA could be applied to them and are seeking additional changes to this bill to ensure it is not weaponized.

And as other countries, such as Russia and Hungary, adopt their own versions of FARA laws and look to use them to crack down on civil society groups and nonprofits, we should be especially concerned about the signal that any potential weaponizing of FARA sends.

The past few years have shown how critical it is that we not adopt a patchwork approach but that we get it right.

The disturbing rise of foreign influence campaigns that use a variety of measures to mask who is the ultimate source or beneficiary should serve as an alarm bell for all of us. So before this body passes any tweaks or new tools and adds to the current patchwork of FARA regulations and exemptions, I think we should take a step back and take a comprehensive look, and we have not done that.

So, respectfully, these changes should not pass this body without careful consideration by the committee of jurisdiction. A committee markup is the appropriate vehicle for considering such changes to assess the ramifications of the changes in this bill and to see if other changes are warranted.

I stand ready and willing to work with Chairman RISCH, Senator GRASSLEY, and other colleagues to make any needed changes to FARA, but because of all of these concerns that I have, I would object today to passing this bill out of the Senate without first giving the committee the opportunity to consider it and other potential reforms.

I urge my colleagues to give us the opportunity to work through this together and ensure the Foreign Assets Registration Act is fit for the 21st century. And because of that, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Of course I am disappointed, but I know that Senator MENENDEZ is a serious legislator, and if what we have to do to do something in this area is work into the next Congress on this issue, I look forward to continuing to work for it.

The reason I am kind of disappointed is the fact that we had two Democratic bills and two Republican bills. I introduced my first bill in 2017, and it took a lot of work to put together the bill that I asked unanimous consent on, to work out the differences with several different approaches, and I thought that we had taken everything into consideration, particularly bringing together people from the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee that had interest in this legislation as well.

Maybe another reason I am disappointed out of that hard work that so many people put into this is the fact that on the part of particularly our Democratic colleagues, we have heard so much over the years, lecturing about foreign influence, and that is why I thought it would be easy to move forward today, and I am sorry it is not, but I look forward to January and starting over again and working with Senator MENENDEZ to get this job done. Hopefully, it will not take 3 years more to get something done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I look forward to working with the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from Iowa. As I said, this is a very serious problem for the U.S. Government, and, thus, for the American people.

One of our greatest assets is also one of our greatest vulnerabilities. We are an open society. Our adversaries are not, and, thus, they use things like the internet for information warfare, whereas we see it as a valuable tool to do business, to stay in touch with our families, and to communicate with one another. Our adversaries are deter-

mined, and they are relentless, so I hope that just this little colloquy today will help alert more of our colleagues about the importance of our working together to address this. I look forward to being part of that process.

Nothing happens very quickly around this place. Sometimes you have to work on things for years to get them done.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, speaking of working hard to solve problems, my hope is that we are closing in on our ability to pass the next COVID-19 relief bill. As the Presiding Officer knows, we have been at this for a while.

It has been since March that we passed the CARES Act, and we have tried a number of times to try to pass additional relief for our small businesses and individuals, provide more resources to our frontline healthcare workers—make sure that they have the PPE, the testing and that the vaccine that is now here can be deployed in a way that as many Americans who can get the vaccine as possible will do so.

Again, we know that the intervening election has been a problem because some people saw benefits to not solving the problem, and that would somehow gain them advantage at the ballot box. And still, today, there are still disagreements over a handful of controversial provisions, but as we enter the final days of the 116th Congress, it is now time to break that stalemate.

There is no doubt in my mind that every Member of this body has a little different vision about what the next relief package should look like, but as the old saying goes, we shouldn't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The search for compromise—which is really part of our job description here—on some of the most controversial measures has left us emptyhanded, and it is time to set aside those pieces that we can't agree on and make progress on the ones we can.

First and foremost is funding for vaccine distribution that I alluded to a moment ago. Last week, the FDA approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, and the process of vaccinating our frontline healthcare workers is already underway. And there is a good chance that by this time next week, millions of doses of a second approved vaccine will be en route to hospitals across the country.

There is no question that the race to develop an effective COVID vaccine has been a success. It has really been nothing short of a miracle. Now it is critical we take additional actions to ensure the race to distribute the vaccine is successful as well.

We have been waiting and planning for a vaccine all year, but the funding Congress provided in the CARES Act to help execute the nationwide distribution project has run dry. While the cost of the vaccine itself is already covered, there are a host of other expenses that come with vaccinating tens of mil-

lions—maybe hundreds of millions—of people.

States are dipping into their other sources of funding to ensure they have the capabilities to carry out this widespread effort, but it takes specialized equipment from ultralow temperature freezers to store the vaccine, to masks and gloves and other PPE to protect those administering it, and it is easy to see that the costs add up quickly.

So the time for politicking and campaigning is over. Now is the time for us to solve this problem and ensure that this vaccine distribution program goes off without a hitch. This is the silver bullet we have been praying for and hoping for, and it would be shameful if our partisan dysfunction in Congress stood in the way of the success of Operation Warp Speed.

Second, we must support the men and women whose livelihoods have been upended by the pandemic. We all know that. We have done a lot, but we need to do more.

We didn't know in March how long this virus would last, how many lockdowns would ensue.

In April, as businesses closed doors to stop the spread of the virus, our nationwide unemployment rate skyrocketed to 14.7 percent. Tens of millions of Americans simply had no way to earn a paycheck, cover their bills, or even put food on their table. Many relied on the bolstered unemployment insurance benefits provided through the CARES Act, which helped cover bills and expenses until they were able to resume their jobs.

Fortunately, our economic engine did not remain stalled for long. That is not only due to what we have done here but what the Federal Reserve has done. And over the past several months, the unemployment rate has gradually ticked down and reached 6.7 percent in November.

I have no doubt that we will continue to rebuild our economy and put more people back to work who are eager to get back to work. But the reality is, it is going to take a while.

There are still workers with no way to earn a paycheck, and unless we take action, they are sure to face an even more dire economic strain in the days ahead. The day after Christmas—the day after Christmas—two key programs from the CARES Act expire, which will leave millions of Americans without the jobless benefits that they and their families need to survive. It would be a shame, it would be embarrassing and, frankly, just flat negligent on our part if we did not intervene to make sure that we establish a continuum of support for these folks who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without work.

These are the same people who, again, through no fault of their own, had the rug pulled out from under them earlier this year, and we can't leave them hanging. We have to help.

Third, we need to continue supporting our small businesses. Congress

invested \$670 billion in the Paycheck Protection Program. Every time I say a number like that—or \$3 trillion—I still have to pinch myself that we are spending the money. We need to spend this money in order to meet this pandemic, but the Paycheck Protection Program, in particular, has been a lifeline for America's small business owners, especially in my State.

Texas received more than \$41 billion through more than 417,000 individual PPP loans. This has given our businesses the resources they need to stay afloat and stay connected to their employees until things can return to whatever the next normal is.

But we know the process is happening much faster for some businesses than others. It is interesting: A number of businesses, I would say, are flourishing during the pandemic—it is really, really interesting—while others are just flat on their backs or nonexistent.

Many small businesses that have already received PPP loans are still operating at a significant loss. They are unable to bring in enough revenue to keep their businesses and employees above water, and they need more assistance. Again, that is because of a lack of demand or because of restrictions governments have placed on people in the interest of public health—some of them seemingly pretty arbitrary. I won't go down that path here. But these folks need help.

Currently, those businesses aren't eligible for a second draw of the PPP, and unless we want Main Streets across the country to turn into ghost towns, that needs to change. We need to reopen the PPP with additional funding for the hardest hit businesses to receive a second loan. This is the most effective way of keeping Americans connected with their employers and more small businesses on track for a strong postpandemic recovery.

There are a number of other businesses—small businesses—that didn't qualify for the PPP which need our assistance, too. Things like small, independent music venues are the best example of a critical Main Street industry that is dying under the current COVID restrictions.

That is why I worked with our friend from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR, to introduce the Save Our Stages Act, which will keep independent venues across America from closing their doors for good. This wouldn't just apply to live music venues in Austin, TX. This would apply to symphonies and, potentially, Broadway. This would apply across the board.

I am proud to say that 56 of our colleagues have cosponsored the Save Our Stages Act, making it one of the most widely supported stimulus proposals before the Senate.

Again, I know the Presiding Officer has had his shoulder to the grindstone on this topic for a long time now. We still have a lot of work to do, but we don't have much time.

Beyond these three goals, there is a lot more I would like to see in the re-

lief bill, and I guarantee all 535 Members of Congress would like to see more for other things in the relief bill. But the fact of the matter is, we have been unable to reach an agreement on a bill that includes the most controversial priorities, and it is time to take action where we can act and where we do have consensus and come back next year and try to do more and try to do better.

Each of these areas I just mentioned—support for vaccines, our workers, and small businesses—have that sort of strong bipartisan support. So I think all 100 of us—whether Republicans, Independents, or Democrats—should be able to line up behind a bill that supports these goals. Over the last several days, we have seen more bipartisan communication and cooperation than we saw in months—in the months leading up to this point, certainly since March. And I hope we are able to reach an agreement and pass another relief bill before gaveling out. As a matter of fact, I heard the majority leader say we are not leaving until we do, and I agree with that.

The American people have repeatedly called on Congress to provide support for those hit hardest by this pandemic, and we simply cannot and will not let them down.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUNT). The Senator from Arkansas.

DEBORAH SAMPSON ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a significant legislative victory the Senate delivered for women veterans that will eliminate barriers to care and services that many women face when accessing the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA estimates that women make up approximately 10 percent of our Nation's veteran population. That number is expected to increase to more than 16 percent within the next 25 years. As a result, the number of women veterans receiving healthcare from the VA has more than tripled since 2000.

The changing face of our military requires us to reexamine how we can best serve these veterans. The VA has been slow to modernize its delivery of healthcare and benefits to support their needs. Women veterans are more likely to face homelessness, unemployment, and go without needed medical healthcare. They are reluctant to turn to the VA for help. More than 50 percent of women veterans believe they are not entitled to or eligible for VA care. We must do more to fulfill our promise.

We need to create a culture at the VA that welcomes women veterans and makes them feel like they belong. It is long overdue, and we need to update the belief that when a woman seeks care at the VA, it is because her husband is the veteran. So often, it is not uncommon for a veteran employee to pass a woman in line and ask, you know, is her husband around.

Arkansans have shared with me suggestions for improvement that include:

expanding care options women can access at the VA to reduce the need for referrals to community care, increasing trained medical professionals who specialize in women's health issues, and enhancing privacy in exam rooms. These are reasonable steps that the VA can implement to ensure equitable access to services.

The good news is, we are one step closer to making these upgrades a reality, thanks to Senate passage of the Deborah Sampson Act. The Veterans' Affairs ranking committee member, JON TESTER, and I introduced this legislation, fittingly, named after a Revolutionary War veteran who disguised herself as a man to help defeat the British. In her spirit, we must do more to address the gender disparities at the VA.

We used the recommendations we heard from veterans in Arkansas, Montana, and all across the country to develop our legislation to eliminate the barriers to care. The Deborah Sampson Act creates a dedicated Office of Women's Health at the VA, expands the reintegration and readjustment group, counseling retreats for women veterans and their families, and improves call center services.

It increases the number of gender-specific providers and coordinators in VA facilities, trains clinicians, and retrofits VA facilities to bolster privacy and improve the environment. It provides access to legal services for women veterans and expands childcare for veterans receiving healthcare at the VA.

These are just a few of the improvements this bill requires the VA to implement so we can better serve the needs of women veterans.

I appreciate the leadership of Senator TESTER and the support of veterans service organizations and encourage Members of Congress to support this legislation. I applaud the Senate for advancing the legislation and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to quickly approve this bill so we can ensure women who serve in uniform receive the care and services that they so earned.

Also, as always, I want to thank the staffs of myself and Senator TESTER who worked so hard in this regard, and, simply, this would not have become law without their tremendous efforts.

So, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Wyoming.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to ask our Democratic colleagues to join us Republicans in providing immediate relief—relief in the fight against coronavirus and economic relief for the people of this country.

Americans don't ask much of their government, but they are asking us for something right now. No. 1, they are asking to help control the spread of the coronavirus, and, No. 2, they are asking to help with an economic recovery.



America and Americans shouldn't have to choose between staying open and staying healthy. We need both, and Congress needs to provide a path beyond the pandemic.

A path forward, as the Presiding Officer knows, is something Republicans have been proposing now for a long time. We have done it, first, with the CARES Act, and we need to do it right now with additional coronavirus and economic relief legislation.

Our bill is practical. It supports our neighborhoods—men and women working on Main Street in our small towns and communities all across the country. We also need to provide unemployment help for those who, for no reason of their own, happen to find themselves out of work as a result of the pandemic. We need to get the vaccine to as many Americans as we can as quickly and safely as we can, especially during this holiday season, when we are really looking at a medical miracle.

Now, what we have seen from the other side is gridlock—no path forward on the economy, no path forward on coronavirus. We have seen them play politics with the pandemic. House and Senate Republicans have tried now 40 times—40 different times—to get something accepted that can be sent to provide that relief for the American public. The Democrats, each and every time, blocked it. The gridlock must end today.

Mr. President, I would like to spend just a moment on this historic vaccine discovery. It is, to me as a doctor, comparable to insulin, comparable to the vaccine for polio, and comparable to penicillin as an antibiotic. It is going to be that dramatic in terms of the change in the world.

As we gather on the floor today, planes, trucks, UPS, and Federal Express are all taking vaccines across the country to many, many locations—over 636 this first week. So it is not just a scientific triumph. It is also a logistical triumph.

Every newspaper in the country yesterday, I believe, had a picture of somebody receiving the vaccine, receiving the shot in that local community. It is a remarkable time for our Nation. As Christmas packages are being delivered, so is this great hope for people receiving the vaccine.

All told, this week, there were 3 million doses distributed to people around the country, in 636 sites. In my State alone, Wyoming, there are 5 different locations where the vaccine has arrived and over 5,000 people being vaccinated this week. By the end of the year, there will be 15,000. I am sure in the Presiding Officer's State of Indiana, there are more locations than that, more people being vaccinated. The frontline workers are getting it first, and that is the way we need to do it.

As part of the CARES Act—the Presiding Officer and I voted for it—\$10 billion went to help develop the vaccine and money spent to distribute the vaccine. But we need to do more. About

\$6 billion is additionally needed to help in a full distribution of the vaccine.

Well, I am ready to vote for that. I want to make sure we have that money so the vaccine, which has been amazing in terms of the speed of development, can also be deployed similarly to what was done.

This vaccine was done in an unprecedented scale—the number of people who are going to be vaccinated, the success, the timeline. A safe, effective, and powerful vaccine is truly astonishing. Never has a vaccine been developed or distributed faster.

It truly is this Senate, under the CARES Act, and this administration, under Operation Warp Speed, which stood this operation up and made it successful. So we are seeing the real effects as people are getting the shot.

When you think about it in the big picture—and you know this, Mr. President, from your background in business and contributing in your community—this is what we talk about when we talk about American ingenuity. It is why people around the world look to America for answers, because when things that are critical occur, it is America that finds the solutions, as we have done right now with this vaccine.

We have come together, public as well as private, over the last 8 months—the FDA—to approve a vaccine. It is interesting: Who should get it first—the doctors, the nurses? I know firefighters are getting it here in the District of Columbia. Firefighters have been getting it at home in Wyoming, and people like the healthcare providers, and then, of course, those who are most vulnerable, people who are in our nursing homes right now and in assisted living facilities, people who are most vulnerable. That is who ought to get it first.

I know when the time comes for me, I am going to get it. My wife is going to get it. We will be saying yes because I believe it is safe, I believe it is effective, and I believe it is the solution that gets us through this. It gets us through the disease, and it gets the economy back on track.

I talked to one of the doctors who runs the intensive care unit at Wyoming Medical Center. The healthcare personnel are exhausted. They have been working double shifts. If one gets sick, others have to pick up the workload, as more and more people show up in the hospitals and the emergency rooms with coronavirus. This is very welcome relief.

I talked to a physician who works in the emergency room. She is going to be vaccinated on Friday. So this is what we need.

It is so interesting. The pundits talk about the dark winters of the coronavirus surge, but for the healthcare providers in our home communities, they have to keep the doors open every day and keep the lights on and take care of these patients, one after another after another.

Once the first one came—and the wave hit different parts of the country

at different times—once the first patient came, they continued to come, and they are still coming today. That is why this vaccine is such a welcome relief and why, for the healthcare providers who have done such remarkable work, we can say this is their finest hour. They have kept us going, kept patients, offered of themselves, and now the vaccines have arrived.

We need to do more in this body. We have healthcare workers leading by example. We have folks in assisted living. Close to half of all the people who lost their lives because of coronavirus were residents of assisted living. But of those millions of healthcare workers, we need to make sure that the vaccines continue to flow to them and to all of society and to all people in this country.

It is by doing that, that we will put this disease behind us. We will be back to our strong, robust, and growing economy. Our kids will be back full time in school. The universities will be returning to the robust future that we know is ahead of them.

It is because of the work of this body, months ago, with the CARES Act.

But our work is not done. As we approach the Christmas holidays, there is more work to be done. I turn to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and say: Please, join us this holiday season to make sure that the American people, who don't ask for much, are able to continue to keep their lives on track, get back on track, and move forward into the year 2021 with a vaccine available to everyone and for a much better new year.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me say a few words on the coronavirus relief package that is now being negotiated. In my view, this bill of roughly \$900 billion has a number of enormously important provisions in it which will do a great deal of service and help for the American people.

We are talking about funding for vaccine distribution, which is a no-brainer. We have got to get that vaccine out to every State in this country if we are going to finally put an end to this horrific pandemic. We are talking about, in this bill, in this proposal, increased funding for education, healthcare, childcare, nutrition, housing, transportation, and many other very important areas.

I agree with all of that, but the problem is that, while this proposal addresses some of the major crises facing our country and the families of our country, there is simply not enough money in the proposal to deal with the unprecedented crises that we now face.

It is no secret to anybody that right now, at this moment in America, we face the worst set of crises that this country has seen for perhaps a hundred years. The pandemic is surging throughout America. More and more

people are being diagnosed with the virus. More and more people are ending up in hospital. More and more people are dying.

But it is not just a public health crisis that we are addressing; we are dealing with a terrible, terrible economic meltdown, where many, many millions of people have lost their jobs; they have lost their healthcare. People are working, in many cases, for fewer hours. Rather than 40 hours a week, they are working 30 hours a week—less income coming in.

So this bill has a lot in it that is good, but given the enormity of the crises that we face, it simply does not go anywhere far enough.

As the Presiding Officer may well remember, in May, in response to the crisis, the Democratic House passed a Heroes bill calling for \$3.4 trillion in new money to address the kind of crises that we are facing. And while that bill did not have everything that I wanted in it, it was a serious, serious step forward in addressing the multitude of crises facing our country. It was a \$3.4 trillion bill, passed in the House in May.

In July, the House came back and said: Well, we are not going to spend \$3.4 trillion; we are going to reduce it to \$2.2 trillion, and they passed what was called a Heroes 2 bill, which called for \$2.2 trillion in new money. Again, it did not go as far as I would want but was a very serious effort.

Among other things in that bill as well as the first Heroes bill, there was a provision to extend unemployment benefits for another 4 months and provide a \$600 supplementary check. And there were provisions in it to provide a \$1,200 direct payment to adults and \$500 to their children. That was the Heroes 2 bill for \$2.2 trillion.

Just a few months ago, the Trump administration, represented by Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin, proposed a \$1.8 trillion bill—\$1.8 trillion.

Today, the bill that is being negotiated calls for all of \$348 billion in new money. This is a \$900 billion bill, but most of the funding is carried over from the CARES Act—\$348 billion in new money. In other words, this is roughly 10 percent of what Democrats in the House passed in the first Heroes bill.

Now, I was a mayor for 8 years. I know a little bit about negotiating. I, frankly, don't know how you negotiate from \$3.4 trillion down to \$348 billion. You got 10 percent of what you originally started with.

This is not just numbers. What this is about is whether, in this moment of unprecedented crisis, when families are struggling to feed their children, when a half a million people are sleeping out on the street, when in the midst of this awful pandemic over 90 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured and can't go to the doctor in the midst of a pandemic, when they are sick, at a time when many, many millions of families are worried about getting

evicted from their apartments or their homes because they no longer have the income to pay their rent or pay their mortgage—that is the crisis that we are in right now. And, unfortunately, this proposal does not address that crisis to the degree that it should.

Now, that is the bad news. My hope—very sincere hope—is that when the Biden administration comes into office in late January, their very first priority will be to address the deficiencies and the inadequacies in this bill.

The American people today, the working class of this country today, are struggling in a way that we have not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. People are desperate. I will never forget, in my State, in my community, in my neighborhood, a few months ago—Burlington, VT—they shut down—the State shut down a highway, and hundreds and hundreds of automobiles lined up, one behind each other, in order to get emergency food distributed by Vermont National Guard—in my community.

That is going on all over this country, where States are in worse shape than the State of Vermont. People who have never, ever gone to an emergency food shelter are now lining up for emergency food packages in the United States of America, in the richest country in the history of the world, at a time, by the way, when a number of billionaires are doing phenomenally well.

So this bill, in my view, does not go anywhere near far enough in terms of addressing our crises, and I hope that as soon as the Biden administration comes into office, they will address those deficiencies.

Now, the good news—there is some good news, and I am happy, as we enter the holiday season, to say something that I think the American people are wanting to hear. And that is, when you ask the American people—and the pollsters do that. They say to the American people that we are in the midst of this terrible crisis; what do you think should happen?

Overwhelmingly, some 80 percent of the American people—overwhelmingly, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, they say that, in the midst of this emergency, we need the U.S. Government to respond to our pain because we don't want to get evicted; we don't want our kids to go hungry; we don't want to be saddled with incredible debt. The government has got to do something.

Eighty percent of the American people—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—understand that.

Then, when you ask them, “What is the most important thing that can be done?”—there is a long list of things—what they say is the most important thing that can be done is, in this moment, help my family out. Get me some money so I can pay my bills, so I don't get evicted, so I can feed my kids, so I can go to the doctor when I get sick. Get me a direct payment.

As you know, the CARES Act provided \$1,200 for every working-class adult in this country; that is, for an individual earning less than \$75,000 a year; for a couple, \$150,000; plus \$500 for their kids. That means, for a family of four—husband, wife, and two kids—that is \$3,400.

Now, you don't get rich with that, but when you get a check for \$3,400 for a family of four, it means that maybe you can pay your bills; maybe you can breathe a little bit easier; maybe, come Christmastime, you might actually be able to buy your kids a few gifts; maybe the fear of eviction is lessened just a little bit.

That is what we did in the CARES Act, and that is what I wanted in this bill. Now, a week ago, 10 days ago nobody here was talking about the need for direct payments, help for working families, despite the fact that that is the issue, the program that the American people most wanted. There are a lot of other important things that we are dealing with. That is what the American people wanted: Help us out. Let us make a decision. Get us some money in this time of need.

I am happy to say, working with people like Senator HAWLEY of Missouri; working with the Progressive Caucus in the House of Representatives; working with Senators GILLIBRAND, WARREN, MERKLEY, MARKEY, and WYDEN; working with PRAMILA JAYAPAL and many others in the House, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, RASHIDA TLAIB, ILHAN OMAR, RO KHANNA, and many others who have stood up in the House and said “We have to have direct payments,” I am happy to say that, as of now—and we are going to fight for more because this process is not over—the proposal, as I understand it, provides for a direct payment of \$600 for every working-class adult and \$600 for their kids. That means for a family of four, that would be \$2,400. That is half of what I wanted, but it is a step forward. I am going to do my best to make sure that we come as close to that \$1,200 as we possibly can.

Millions of our people today are living in desperation. Half of our workers are living paycheck to paycheck, while one out of four American workers today is either unemployed or making a starvation wage of less than \$20,000 a year. During the holiday season, over one-third of Americans expect to lose income—one-third—and are having a difficult time paying for basic household expenses. In America today, hunger is at its highest level in decades. More than half a million Americans are homeless, and over 30 million of our people are on the brink of eviction. By January 1, 12 million Americans will owe an average of \$5,800 in back rent.

As bad as this crisis is for the whole population, from coast to coast, it is worse for the African-American and Latino and Native American communities. During this pandemic, nearly 60 percent of Latino families and 55 percent of African-American families and

many, many, many Native American families have either experienced a job loss or a pay cut.

All across this country, working families are standing up and saying: You know what, we have served in the military. We are doing our best to raise our kids in this unprecedented moment in history. We need help.

I want to thank not only my friends in the Congressional Progressive Caucus in the House of Representatives—JAYAPAL, TLAIB, OMAR, OCASIO-CORTEZ, RO KHANNA, and many, many others—I also want to thank the millions of Americans who have stood up and demanded that the government respond to the needs of working families.

I want to thank the over 60 groups representing millions of working families, progressives, the elderly and young people, including Public Citizen, the Sunrise Movement, Social Security Works, Presente, and People's Action, for pushing a progressive agenda forward and for demanding that this government respond to the needs of our people.

So here we are, as this proposal continues to be negotiated. As I said earlier, it is my hope that not only do we make sure that unemployment benefits are extended for another 16 weeks at \$300 per week, it is my hope that we can see some light here and get to the \$1,200 direct payment that adults in this country desperately need. I am going to do my best in the coming days to make sure that happens. I hope the American people will join with me and get on the phones and call up their Members of the House and Members of the Senate and say that in this unprecedented moment in American history, government has to respond to the needs of working families.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote take place now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dawson nomination?

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Ex.]

YEAS—56

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Grassley   | Risch      |
| Barrasso  | Hawley     | Roberts    |
| Blackburn | Hoeben     | Romney     |
| Blunt     | Hyde-Smith | Rounds     |
| Boozman   | Inhofe     | Rubio      |
| Braun     | Johnson    | Sasse      |
| Burr      | Jones      | Scott (FL) |
| Capito    | Kelly      | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Shelby     |
| Collins   | King       | Sinema     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Tester     |
| Cramer    | Manchin    | Thune      |
| Crapo     | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | Moran      | Toomey     |
| Daines    | Murkowski  | Whitehouse |
| Ernst     | Paul       | Wicker     |
| Gardner   | Portman    | Young      |
| Graham    | Reed       |            |

NAYS—39

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Feinstein  | Peters     |
| Bennet       | Gillibrand | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Hassan     | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Heinrich   | Schatz     |
| Brown        | Hirono     | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Kaine      | Shaheen    |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar  | Smith      |
| Carper       | Leahy      | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Markey     | Udall      |
| Coons        | Menendez   | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley    | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Murphy     | Warren     |
| Durbin       | Murray     | Wyden      |

NOT VOTING—5

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Enzi    | Harris   | Perdue |
| Fischer | Loeffler |        |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of

Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

YEAS—54

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Graham     | Risch      |
| Barrasso  | Grassley   | Roberts    |
| Blackburn | Hawley     | Romney     |
| Blunt     | Hoeben     | Rounds     |
| Boozman   | Hyde-Smith | Rubio      |
| Braun     | Inhofe     | Sasse      |
| Burr      | Johnson    | Scott (FL) |
| Capito    | Jones      | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy   | Kelly      | Shelby     |
| Collins   | Kennedy    | Sinema     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Tester     |
| Cramer    | Manchin    | Thune      |
| Crapo     | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | Moran      | Toomey     |
| Daines    | Murkowski  | Whitehouse |
| Ernst     | Paul       | Wicker     |
| Gardner   | Portman    | Young      |

NAYS—41

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Gillibrand | Reed       |
| Bennet       | Hassan     | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Heinrich   | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Hirono     | Schatz     |
| Brown        | Kaine      | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | King       | Shaheen    |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar  | Smith      |
| Carper       | Leahy      | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Markey     | Udall      |
| Coons        | Menendez   | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley    | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Murphy     | Warren     |
| Durbin       | Murray     | Wyden      |
| Feinstein    | Peters     |            |

NOT VOTING—5

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Enzi    | Harris   | Perdue |
| Fischer | Loeffler |        |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4711

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come to the floor today and will soon ask unanimous consent for the passage of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020. This legislation is about standing up for the independence of our Federal judiciary and the safety of all of those who serve it.

Many of you already know the terrible tragedy that recently struck Federal District Judge Esther Salas and her family in New Jersey. This summer, an unhinged and violent individual showed up at Judge Salas's home, impersonating a package delivery driver. When her 20-year-old son Daniel Anderl answered the door, the assailant opened fire, taking the life of her only child and seriously wounding her husband Mark Anderl.

Unfortunately, this tragedy is not the first attack on a Federal judge. There was the 1979 murder of Judge John Wood in San Antonio, TX; the 1988 murder of Judge Richard Daronco in Pelham, NY; the 1989 murder of Judge Robert Vance in Mountain Brook, AL; the 2005 murder of the husband and mother of Judge Joan Lefkow in Illinois.

And there have been other attacks as well. In June, 2013, Chief Judge Timothy Corrigan was targeted by a gunman who purchased the address of his Florida home on the internet for a mere \$1.95—\$1.95. The gunshot missed his ear by less than 2 inches.

Just last month, a judge's address was circulated on social media, urging people to gather outside his home while the judge was hearing a high-profile case.

According to the U.S. Marshals Service, threats against Federal judges rose by 500 percent between fiscal years 2015 and 2019. This trend should worry all of us who care about our Constitution. An independent judiciary in which judges can render decisions without fear of retribution and violence is essential to the integrity of our democracy.

Indeed, the idea that any judge at any level of government could be intimidated undermines the very concept of the rule of law. We expect all Americans to have respect for the rule of law, even when they disagree with the outcome of a case or a particular ruling. Unfortunately, that is not always the case.

Some individuals delude themselves into believing that violence is the answer. We may not be able to eliminate hatred from someone's heart, but what we can do is make sure that the men and women who serve on our Federal bench do not make for such easy targets. That is why, after Daniel's murder, I made a personal commitment to Judge Salas. I told her that I would develop legislation, along with my colleague Senator BOOKER, to better protect the men and women who sit on our Federal judiciary, to ensure their inde-

pendence in the face of increased personal threats on judges, and to help prevent this unthinkable tragedy—unthinkable tragedy—from ever happening again to anyone else.

The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020 is a bipartisan, bicameral, and commonsense plan to safeguard the personal information of Federal judges and their families. And I want to thank my colleague Senator BOOKER, who has been there every step of the way, a member of the Judiciary, and Chairman GRAHAM—Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM—for leading this effort with me.

Our legislation makes it unlawful for data brokers to knowingly sell, trade, license, purchase, or otherwise provide personally identifiable information of a Federal judge or their family.

Since its introduction, we have worked with several stakeholders, including the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Marshals Office, the American Civil Liberties Union, among others. Together, we carefully updated legislative language in order to uphold the First Amendment right of the press to report on matters of public concern and balance that right with our urgent need to better protect the safety of Federal judges and their families.

Federal judges and their families will continue to be able to seek relief through the courts for the knowing and willful publication of their personal information, and the party responsible for the violation will have to pay the cost and reasonable attorney's fees.

The bill enjoys widespread support among judicial and attorney organizations, including the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Judicial Conference, the Federal Judges Association, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the American Bar Association, the National Hispanic Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and several others.

America's Federal judges must be able to render rulings without fearing for their lives or the lives of their loved ones. We must better protect Federal judges' personal information from those who would seek to do them harm. That is exactly what the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020 will do. This legislation will not bring Judge Salas's son back. But we must ensure, as Judge Salas said, that his death not be in vain.

As she recently wrote in the New York Times, "Daniel's death is speaking to us, but will we listen? For the sake of my brothers and sisters on the bench, Congress must act now. Every day that goes by without action leaves our federal judges, our justice system and our very democracy in danger."

We must protect the independence of our courts, the safety of our judges, and prevent this sort of tragedy from ever happening again. This is a commonsense bill. It will save lives, and I urge my colleagues to approve it without delay.

Before I ask for consent, I want to turn to my distinguished colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. CORY BOOKER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I come to the floor today in support of my senior Senator's unanimous consent request to pass the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act.

As Senator MENENDEZ pointed out, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. It is bicameral. It will take important steps to safeguard the personally identifiable information of Federal judges and their family members from individuals who wish to do them harm.

As Senator MENENDEZ said, it is named after Daniel Anderl, the son of Judge Esther Salas and Mark Anderl, who was senselessly murdered in July of this year by a hate-filled gunman. The gunman was able to access personal information, as Senator MENENDEZ said, by going to Judge Salas's information, getting it—including where she lived, the routes she took to work, and even her place of worship and her home address. As a result, Judge Salas and her husband have gone through something that no parent ever, ever should have to go through.

No person who takes on the responsibility of serving as a Federal judge should ever have to live in fear that they or their family could be targeted by someone wishing to do them harm, who is able to easily access their personal information. Passing this bill today in memory and in honor of Daniel Anderl will mark a commitment of this body to safeguarding the privacy and security of our Federal judges and their families so that we can make sure we are doing everything in our power to prevent this from happening to another family.

Our bill, as Senator MENENDEZ said, has broad support. It has been endorsed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Federal Judges Association, the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the Federal Bar Association, the National Association of Attorneys General, and others—people from all backgrounds, people from both parties, Independents. We have a unanimous chorus of support of people who believe that this is justice and will help keep judges safe.

James C. Duff, the Administrative Director of the U.S. Courts, said in his statement of support of this bill: "It is crucial in our system of justice that judges can decide cases without fear for their safety and that of their family." He is absolutely right.

I echo Senator MENENDEZ's request to pass the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 4711 and the Senate

proceed to its immediate consideration; further that the Menendez substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I agree that members of the judicial branch need better protection. In fact, I have been active in this issue for the last couple of years, and each time this has come forward, at the end of the year, with very little time to do the normal process, I have advocated that an amendment be added that would include protection of Members of Congress. I really think that it is important that we protect addresses for our judges, but it is also important that we do this for our elected officials.

In recent years, what has happened has taught us that the legislative branch needs better protection as well. That was clear in 2011, when Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was tragically shot while doing the most important part of the job—meeting with constituents.

Words cannot express how happy and inspiring it was to see Congresswoman Giffords here in the Chamber as her husband, Senator KELLY, was recently sworn in as a Member of the body. But words also cannot express the pain felt by the family of the people who were killed and wounded that day. That should have been a wakeup call to better protect Members of Congress and, in doing so, better protect the people around them.

But just a few years later, a shooter nearly killed Congressman STEVE SCALISE during baseball practice for the annual charity baseball game. I was there, and I said at the time that our lives were saved by the Capitol Hill police. Had they not been there, things might have gone much worse.

But the Capitol Hill police are not stationed at our homes where our families live while we serve in Washington. Extending the provision of this bill to the Members of Congress would better protect all of us—our families, our neighbors, and our constituents.

It is a very minor request that I am asking. It is an amendment that would not change anything or lessen anything about the bill. It is a very reasonable request, and I don't understand exactly why we can't make this bill better by applying it to both judges and Members of Congress.

My substitute amendment, which I will offer for unanimous consent, will make simple changes to the legislation. It would extend the same protections it would offer to the judicial branch to the legislative branch.

Second, the laudable goal of this legislation is to protect personally identi-

fiable information from being sold and posted online by data brokers. Allowing at-risk individuals to file private action against data brokers for declaratory and injunctive relief, plus reasonable attorney's fees, will achieve that goal.

I ask the Senator to modify his request to, instead, include my substitute amendment at the desk, and that my substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object to the modification, I appreciate the Senator's concern to expand the universe of people covered by this bill, including Members of Congress. While that is a laudable goal, I personally think it would be more appropriate to legislate that in another bill.

This bill is for the Federal judiciary because of the special threats they face and the importance of ensuring their independence in terms of being able to make judgments based on the law and the facts, not upon some fear that lurks outside of their home or outside of their chambers.

I also understand that the amendment would strip out—and if I am wrong, I would be happy to be corrected—would strip out the ability to seek redressing the court as it relates to the provision that we provide for judges. Without a threat of some damages, there is little incentive for a data broker to remove the personal identifiable information of a judge and his or her family. This is not about frivolous suits. This is about protecting the Federal judiciary.

In addition to that, we had made several good-faith efforts before we got to this point to address the concerns of my colleagues across the aisle. We actually had the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts engage in conversations directly with our colleagues.

My colleagues had concerns about a new grant program to States. Well, we changed that language to a report. Senator LEE was part of those concerns. To better understand the proper Federal role, we changed it to a report.

They don't want to deal with some of the questions that we had for the U.S. marshals. Again, this is about protecting the Federal judiciary. Guess what branch protects the Federal judiciary. The U.S. marshals. We changed that.

It never seems to be enough. It never seems to be enough. It is unfortunate that the Federal judiciary will pay the price of this recalcitrance, but I cannot, at this time, agree to the modification. Therefore, I object to it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, I would like to offer across the

aisle that we are willing to compromise with the Senator from New Jersey. We are willing to work with him on getting the bill passed. The only thing that we would like to do is to have it include Congress, as well.

The other points you had mentioned that you object to, as far as changing, I would be willing to discuss. I think there would be a middle ground.

I think this could be passed. When we pass something unanimously, there has to be a little give and take. No one gets their way. I am not saying that you can't have it. I am for your bill in general.

I think it ought to be expanded to Congress. We had at least two people shot. Gabby Giffords was shot. We had STEVE SCALISE shot. We had other threats. Congress is threatened and families are frightened.

I don't know about you, but, routinely, the sheriff and police have to come to our house for threats to my house. I am not alone. This happens to other people. There is no reason why we should do this only for one branch of government. They put the satellite picture of my House on the nightly news, basically pointing out where every crazy person in the world can go to find my house.

We do need to do something. This isn't a new request. I requested this a year ago when a very similar bill came up a year ago for special protections for the judiciary. I said, once again: Good idea, we should apply it to Congress.

We go forward a whole year, and now we are doing the same thing again, and nobody seems to be listening.

I will tell you that I am willing to compromise on this and willing to work with you to pass it, but I think we should extend it. It is not that hard. If we extend it to Congress and flip it back, then, I think it would pass unanimously in the House, as well. But I object to this version.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I just say to my colleague that I certainly am concerned about his safety and security and, for that fact, the safety and security of all of our colleagues. I appreciate his concern and understand it and look forward to working with him on that.

I will say that the other elements that Senator LEE had incorporated into his amendment just renders the security—whether for a Member of Congress or for the judiciary—useless, in which case, I don't want to give false security to anybody that they are being protected if, in fact, they don't have the wherewithal to do so.

I look forward to that opportunity.

I promised Judge Salas that her son's death will not be in vain. We may not have achieved this tonight with Senator BOOKER, but we are going to make this happen, hopefully, sooner rather than later. But we will make this happen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, last week, I came to this floor on two separate occasions with Senator SANDERS to talk about the need for direct assistance to working families in my State—in the State of Missouri—and all across this country. I said that I was willing to use every tool at my disposal to make sure that this body acted to give direct assistance to working people in need as part of COVID relief. I said then, and I say it again today, that working people should be first in line for COVID relief, not last. They should be the first consideration, not some afterthought.

I am pleased to report that we were told today, as negotiations are ongoing about a COVID relief bill, that direct assistance to working people and working families is in the bill, that working people will be getting assistance.

I want to say once again here on this floor, as that package continues to take shape, how important it is that working families be able to count on some relief and how important it is for this body to prioritize working people over government, over big businesses, over government programs, and to give assistance directly to the people themselves.

Look, people know how to spend their money and what is best for their own families. The quickest way to help people in need is to give them direct assistance and let them make the choices for their own families, for their own kids, not to have to wait in line for some program, not to have to talk to some bureaucrat but to be able to make their own choices direct, with assistance that comes direct to them. That is going to be in this bill, I understand.

I am sure as heck going to continue to fight to see that it is in the bill and that any relief that is passed by the Senate prioritizes working people with direct relief.

Some have questioned whether this is really necessary. Some have said: Well, it is not an emergency, and this bill is only for emergencies, and direct assistance isn't an emergency.

To that I say: Is it not an emergency that working people are having to line up for food—literally, line up for food—in this country, in this day and age, because they don't have enough money to go purchase nutrition for their own children?

Just think about what is happening in my own State.

Let me tell you about Monark Baptist Church in Neosho, MO, down in Southwest Missouri. They had a food distribution program. They have done this for years, by the way, but as COVID intensified this past year, they stood up their efforts. Neighbors came together and donated. They got all the food that they could. They went out there in Neosho, MO—not a huge town.

Monark Baptist Church went out and started distributing food.

Do you know they distributed food to hundreds of families for hours. When they had run out of the food, there were over 50 cars—not individuals, cars. Fifty cars were still in line, as far as the eye could see, having driven miles and miles around from neighboring counties to come for the help.

These are working people. These are not folks who want some handout. These are working people. These are proud people. These are people who don't want government to do stuff for them. They want to be able to get back up on their own feet and provide for themselves.

Government shut down their businesses and took away their jobs this past year and put them in this position of, in some cases, outright desperation.

Let me tell you about a gal from Kansas City, 22 years old. Her first name is Mars. I won't share her last name just for her own privacy. You know, she has talked to me and told me about her plight. She moved to Kansas City earlier this year, right around the time the pandemic started. She got an apartment. She was getting set up and getting going. Then, the pandemic hit. Then, the shutdown hit. Then, she lost her job. Then, she lost her plumbing. The water wouldn't work. She complained to the landlord. They wouldn't do anything. The ceiling collapsed. The landlord wouldn't do anything. Then she didn't have enough money to make rent, and, the other day, she woke up with a 10-day eviction notice out on her front door.

These are people who need help, not because they don't know how to work but because they do know how to work and the government has put them in the position that they are facing today. This pandemic has put them in the position they are facing today. What they want is the ability to get back up on their own two feet and to provide for themselves by the work of their own hands. That is what direct assistance to working families will do.

So to those who say it is not an emergency, I urge you to open your eyes and to look around at the people who are hurting, who are struggling, who are desperate for help.

I have heard that it is said: Well, it is not stimulative. What a word—direct assistance isn't stimulative, as if the American people are knobs and dials to be twisted and turned around to get a desired outcome, as if the economy is something to be micromanaged in Washington, DC.

I am not interested in stimulus. I am interested in helping working people survive. I am not interested in micromanaging this economy. I am interested in getting working people back up on their feet so they can manage their own lives. That is what this is about. That is why the need is so great. That is what we are trying to accomplish.

We have a chance to do this, to get this done, to get accomplished here

something that we can be proud of before Christmas, to send a message to the American people that they matter, to send a message to working people in my State and in every State in this Country that they matter and that we are here fighting for them; that we look forward to the day when they are back at work, ready to work, able to support themselves and their families, and that we are on the path to getting there.

That is the message that we can send. That is the message that we must send. I will not leave this body until it is accomplished.

I promise you this. If I have anything to say about it, we will not be leaving here before Christmas until direct assistance is on the way to the working people of this Nation.

I yield the floor.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. REED. Madam President, I want to take some time to thank and commend my colleagues who are departing the Senate. All of these Members have devoted themselves to serving the Nation and serving their States. We are all better off for their service.

Let me begin with my friend and colleague TOM UDALL. TOM inherited a family tradition of fighting for the American West and its citizens. His time in the Senate only added to the Udall legacy.

TOM has been one of our Chamber's leaders on conservation and the environment. He championed the creation of monuments and worked to block the Trump administration's harmful environmental policies. And, this year, he helped secure permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was pioneered by TOM's father, Stewart Udall.

TOM's commitment to the health of our Nation's environment has always been evident, and I was proud to hand off my role as the Democratic leader of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to TOM in 2015. During his tenure, funding for the Interior appropriations bill grew by 25 percent, and more than 100 anti-environmental riders were blocked. These victories would have been impossible without TOM's ability to connect with his fellow Members and get things done. They are also a testament to TOM's deep knowledge of America's lands and resources.

Of course, TOM's successes go beyond his environmental work. TOM has worked tirelessly to ensure our Nation's Native Americans receive the respect and support they are entitled to. He salvaged and ultimately passed bipartisan legislation updating the Toxic Substances Control Act for the first time since 1976, which was a big victory for public health. I was also pleased to work with TOM to pass legislation in 2016 to help reduce and prevent suicide among adolescents and young adults.

Finally, I am especially grateful for TOM's efforts to increase resources for

the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These Federal agencies are part of Rhode Island's late and great Senator Claiborne Pell's lasting legacy. They lift our spirits, tell our stories, and strengthen our sense of community. TOM's work in advancing these agencies has enriched our country and helped bring so many people together.

Thankfully, TOM has said that, while he is leaving the Senate, he is not retiring from public service. I know New Mexico and our country are better off for that. I wish TOM and his family the best as they go forward.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Madam President, let me turn now to my dear friend DOUG JONES. I have had the privilege to serve alongside DOUG JONES both on the Armed Services Committee and the Banking Committee during his time in the Senate.

DOUG has had a long and successful career helping those who need it most and doing what is right even if the price is. Yet I was still struck, time and again, by his dedication to the welfare of our servicemembers and veterans and their families—something I witnessed firsthand when we traveled together to visit servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan last year, and nowhere was DOUG's commitment to these Americans more apparent than in last year's National Defense Authorization Act.

DOUG was greatly troubled that thousands of Gold Star families were being unfairly shortchanged by certain laws related to survivor benefits. So, DOUG, like he has throughout his professional life, went to work to right an injustice. He introduced the bipartisan Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act and was the Democratic lead on the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act. I was proud to help DOUG enact these bills, which allow military widows and widowers and their children to receive the full survivor benefits they are entitled to, as part of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. DOUG's work on these issues has directly improved the lives of tens of thousands of Gold Star families who have given so much to our country.

Naturally, DOUG worked hard again this year to shape the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, and he shaped it for the better. The legislation includes a provision written by DOUG requiring a GAO audit of continuing efforts to ensure that racial and gender disparities in the military justice system are properly addressed and eliminated. He was also instrumental during the markup of the fiscal year 2021 NDAA when the committee voted to remove the names of Confederate soldiers from our military installations, and in the wake of the deadly shooting at Naval Air Station Pensacola, DOUG met with the family of a slain Navy ensign, Kaleb Watson, and subsequently fought for two specific provisions in the fiscal year 2021 NDAA

to require military installations to plan or conduct live emergency response training events to help prevent such tragic shootings in the future.

DOUG also continued his career-long fight for civil rights while in the Senate. He enacted the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act, which requires the review and release of unsolved civil rights case records to help deliver justice for the victims' families, and he has been a passionate defender of voting rights for all Americans.

DOUG has never been afraid to take a difficult vote or to speak out for what is right. We will miss DOUG's persistence and conscientiousness in the Senate. I salute him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Madam President, with respect to Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER, bipartisanship and compromise are synonymous, and they have also always been central to the success of this institution. No one has been more of a contributing factor to the successes we have had than LAMAR ALEXANDER, and he has embodied these principles during his time in the Senate.

I first had the privilege of working with him on the Joint Economic Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which he now chairs, and we have spent many years serving together on the Appropriations Committee.

LAMAR is focused more on getting things done than on making headlines. He worked across the aisle to pass landmark laws, including the Every Student Succeeds Act, the 21st Century Cures Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. He and I also worked together to enact laws that reduce infant deaths and make children's medications safer. These laws have improved the lives of countless Americans. They are a testament to LAMAR's work ethic and the influence he has in the Senate.

LAMAR has also not shied away from tackling contentious issues. I have always appreciated his willingness to take lonely positions, particularly with respect to his thoughtful work on matters such as immigration and government shutdowns.

I wish him well in the future. He has left an extraordinary legacy and example for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Madam President, PAT ROBERTS has had a distinguished career in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. His work has touched on many issues, but he has been particularly dedicated to preserving the strength of our national defense and ensuring the well-being of our servicemembers.

PAT's concern for the defense of our Nation is longstanding. He began his public service as a young man in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he has displayed the steadfast resolve emblematic of marines throughout his time in Congress.

I observed this commitment firsthand during our years serving and traveling together as part of the Senate Armed Services Committee. PAT successfully pushed for the creation of a more modern refueling and transport tanker for our Air Force. He helped secure improvements at Fort Leavenworth and created the first Senate caucus exclusively dedicated to supporting the U.S. Marine Corps.

As Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, PAT ably led the effort to build a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington, DC, and I am delighted that, after years of PAT's hard work and leadership—and I observed this firsthand during my few years as a member of the Commission—the memorial was officially opened and dedicated in September. That, too, will be a lasting tribute to PAT ROBERTS' work.

Beyond his defense work, PAT was greatly concerned with the well-being of our farmers. He is the only Member to have authored and enacted farm bills in both the House and the Senate. We also worked closely together to pass legislation upgrading our Nation's trauma centers to ensure that severely injured patients receive the best possible care.

PAT was always quick with quips and brought levity to this body. I thank him for his spirit and his lifelong service.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Madam President, MIKE ENZI has long served the people of Wyoming with distinction. MIKE and I spent many years working together on the Banking Committee and on the HELP Committee, which he chaired during some of my service on that committee. I have always appreciated his decency and thoughtfulness.

He spent his time in the Senate advancing his "80-20" approach to legislating. He sought to focus on the 80 percent of issues, where both sides could come to an agreement, rather than on the 20 percent of issues where he felt an agreement was unreachable. He worked quietly behind the scenes to get things done, and he got things done.

MIKE is one of the few U.S. Senators with an accounting background, and he and I worked closely together to bring greater awareness to financial literacy issues, as well as to create the Senate Financial Literacy Caucus to help Americans develop and maintain healthy financial habits.

I am also especially grateful for MIKE's support for legislation I led in 2010 updating museum and library services to better meet the needs of Americans. As the then-ranking member of the HELP Committee, MIKE played a pivotal role in securing the law's passage.

Our work together was of great importance, and I will miss his thoughtfulness and determination. I wish MIKE well in all of his future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Madam President, I also want to recognize CORY GARDNER. While we never served on the same committee, I had the pleasure of working with him on a number of issues.

We were able to come together with a group of our colleagues and pass a law designating 9-8-8 as a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. The designation will make it easier for people to access this critically important lifeline when they really need it. I thank CORY for his partnership and leadership on this issue.

CORY also worked diligently to secure the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act last summer. This law permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses a maintenance backlog on Federal parks and public lands. The Great American Outdoors Act is a real victory for the environment and conservation.

I thank CORY for his service and wish him the best as he leaves the Senate.

## TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, I also want to thank MARTHA MCSALLY for her service in this Chamber. MARTHA is a veteran of the Air Force and has always been a fighter. In fact, when you say “veteran of the Air Force,” you are really understating her role in the Air Force. She fought to become the first American woman to fly a fighter jet in combat. She fought to become the first American woman to command a fighter squadron in combat, and she continued fighting while a Member of the U.S. Senate.

Indeed, MARTHA was a steadfast champion for the well-being of our servicemembers, military families, and veterans during her time on the Armed Services Committee. She worked to include language in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act improving the effectiveness of sexual assault investigations in the military and strengthening support for victims.

MARTHA also played a key role in helping enact over 30 provisions in the fiscal year 2020 NDAA to address the systemic crisis of privatized housing and help remedy the mistreatment of military families, and she teamed with Senators TESTER and SULLIVAN to pass legislation enhancing the tools the Department of Veterans Affairs uses to meet the mental health needs of veterans. These accomplishments are only a few examples of the important work MARTHA did here, but they illustrate her wholehearted commitment to bettering the lives of those who do so much for our country.

I attribute all of this great success and achievement—first woman fighter pilot, first woman to lead a squadron in combat, and more—to a simple reason. MARTHA was born and raised in Warwick, RI, right next to my hometown of Cranston, RI. MARTHA’s close relative was the mayor of Cranston. My dad worked as a custodian in the school system. He respected, admired,

and was a friend of Jim Taft. MARTHA’s father was also one of the most respected lawyers in Rhode Island, someone who was a tenacious and bright lawyer. That tradition is carried on by her brother Mark, whom I had the privilege and pleasure to know while I was practicing law in Rhode Island.

It is a wonderful family, and she has brought great distinction to not only the Senate, to not only the State of Arizona, but also to the State of Rhode Island. I wish her the very best going forward.

## TRIBUTE TO KAMALA HARRIS

Madam President, finally, while KAMALA HARRIS is not leaving the Senate entirely, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank her as she moves to her new role as Vice President of the United States and, according to the Constitution, as President of this body.

KAMALA is relentlessly determined to help and support the most vulnerable Americans. She has helped lead the charge to protect Dreamers, expand healthcare coverage, and reform our criminal justice system. KAMALA dedicated her Senate tenure to policies that make America a more equitable country and ensure equal opportunities and rights for communities of color.

KAMALA is also a former prosecutor, and she brought a prosecutor’s incisiveness and grit with her to this body.

She led the case against many of the Trump administration’s most harmful policies and nominees, and I know she will bring that tenacity to the Office of Vice President of the United States.

I also know that she will help guide and heal our Nation as we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish her well as she begins her new role, and I look forward to working with her and President-Elect Biden to meet the many challenges before us.

To all of my colleagues who are departing the Senate, I give you my greatest respect and admiration for your service to your States, to the Senate, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that the postcloture time on the Atchley nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, December 17; further, if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## TRIBUTE TO LINDA BEHNKEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is getting toward the end of the week here. We still have got a lot of work to do in the U.S. Senate, particularly on a relief package and end-of-the-year appropriations. So we are working hard on that.

But I also want to take the opportunity, given it is the end of the week, to do what I consider one of my favorite activities of the entire week each week in the Senate, and that is talking about someone in my State who is making a difference, helping out our communities and making Alaska one of the best States—the best State, in my view—in the country. This is the individual we call the Alaskan of the Week.

So I want to do an acknowledgment to some of our Hill reporters who have taken an interest in the “Alaskan of the Week” each week. I think sometimes because they recognize it is finishing up the week. We are not yet done yet, though. We have a lot of work to do. But I also appreciate them reporting on it because it is just good to see stories about people who are doing good work for their State and their community.

What we try to do with this series, which we have been doing now for a number of years, is to talk about people who don’t always get the recognition that they deserve, people who are making a big difference. You know, Alaska, like really every other State in the country, is experiencing serious challenges right now as a result of COVID-19, but I am confident, just like the rest of the country, we will get through this more resilient than ever.

We have a saying. I certainly love this saying: Tough times don’t last, but tough people do. Americans, Alaskans, North Dakotans are tough, and we are going to get through this.

I would like to introduce our Alaskan of the Week, Linda Behnken, from the gorgeous city of Sitka, AK, in Southeast Alaska. The “Paris of the Pacific,” it is called, Sitka. A fun fact about Sitka, it is the largest city in the United States by land area, encompassing over 4,800 square miles, including water. That is big. The population is fairly big for our State. It is beautiful. If you haven’t been to Sitka, you have got to go. It is gorgeous.

Now, Linda—boy, talk about Linda. Linda is innovative, caring, and she has a deep and abiding commitment to our great State, her community, and to the profession that she has devoted her life to, one that is revered and so important in Alaska, and that is commercial fishing.

For more than 30 years now, Linda has been on a boat catching fish out of Alaska’s waters. It is the best seafood, mind you, in the world. No doubt about that one—wild Alaskan seafood. Not only is she a successful fisherman, which is, of course, a full-time job, she has also worked to ensure that Alaska continues to have sustainable fisheries.



We are what I call the superpower of seafood. Over 60 percent of all fish caught in the United States is harvested in Alaska's waters—6-0. That is huge. But we need to make sure we have oceans that are clean and sustainable and that the profession is safe and small fishermen can thrive and the young fishermen can enter the profession. That is what Linda has been focused on for her entire career in Alaska.

So for this work and so much more, including a huge role in helping needy families, particularly during this pandemic, Linda was recently awarded the prestigious Heinz Award for the Environment, named after the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. It is a very prestigious award.

Here is the thing. Linda didn't even apply for it. She didn't seek it. She was sought out and I believe shocked when she found out she received this very prestigious award that comes with a \$250,000 cash prize. Now, that is a big deal. I will say more about that cash prize in a minute.

Let me tell you a bit about Linda's story and how she came to be such a passionate steward of our fisheries, of our sea, and of our ocean. Born and raised in Connecticut, Linda headed to Alaska in 1982 during a summer break from college. She wanted to make some money. She heard that one of the ways she could do it was to fish in the great State of Alaska.

She took a ferry from Bellingham, WA, to Sitka, and she immediately fell in love with this gorgeous—and I mean gorgeous—community the minute she got off the boat. It took her about a month pounding the docks to find a deckhand job. There weren't a lot of women in this business then. She did eventually find not just a job but a wonderful community.

"The fishing community," she said, "is full of independent and resourceful people who are really there for each other" in their times of need. She also described how, when the fishing was done or when it was bad weather, people would gather around the docks. Some would light up the grill. Some would bring pie, a loaf of bread. Instruments would come out. Stories were told. Kids played. Linda said: "I found a sense of community that I really hadn't [found]" anywhere else.

So she loved it. She went back to the lower 48 to finish her undergraduate degree, but Alaska was always with her. She knew that she had found a home and a mission to help create more sustainable fisheries in the great State of Alaska.

To that end, she enrolled in a master's degree program in resource development at Yale and then came back to Alaska.

"What I saw going on in the ocean drove me to . . . graduate school." During that time, in the 1980s, she said that the way the fishing was managed wasn't working well for the smaller fishermen, nor was there much of an emphasis back then on sustainability.

When she came back to Alaska, she began to fish again, eventually buying her own small commercial fishing boat, which she now fishes with her husband and two sons who have themselves been fishing since a very, very young age.

I have always said that the Alaskan fisherman is the quintessential small business man and small business woman. It is often family businesses. They take huge risks. They create a great product. They work hard as can be. They are the quintessential small business men and women in America, and Linda proves the point.

She became the executive director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, which is an alliance of small-boat commercial fishermen committed to sustainable and safe fisheries.

Let me talk about safety on our waters in Alaska. Fishing, particularly in Alaska's waters, is one of the most dangerous jobs out there. Linda has had many harrowing stories—caught out fishing in the frigid waters for hours in the center of storms, man overboard, challenges, wind whisking away equipment. But all in all, it is much safer now than it used to be when Linda first started to fish. Then, when a certain fishery opened, everyone rushed out at once to get as much fish as possible regardless of the conditions. That has changed. Now fishing is a safer—but still dangerous—business in my great State.

Linda was also involved in limiting bigger commercial vessels from operating in the waters of Southeast Alaska and worked for more stringent environmental regulations on the cruise ship industry.

Among other things related to fisheries, she served 9 years on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is a founding member of the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, which promotes Alaska seafood, helps younger men and women enter the field, and helps feed the hungry from the bounty of the sea—all of which contributed to her winning the Heinz Award.

This pandemic that we are experiencing has negatively impacted so many lives, but it has also brought out some of the best in us in Alaska and in America, people across the country, reaching out to their neighbors, volunteering their time to do as much as they can.

This includes Linda. When she read early on in the pandemic that a grocery store in her area stopped accepting checks, she got to work. Working with her groups, the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust and the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, they began delivering food—fish—to people's doors, locally caught and processed seafood to those who were in need.

So far—get this—with their partners, they have provided over 400,000 pounds of delicious Alaska seafood. They brought in 400,000 pounds—wow—to children's programs, food pantries, women's shelters, Tribal organizations,

and military organizations. You get the picture. She is working hard. They have done amazing work. And I want to thank her and so many who worked with her for this great effort.

Something else that Linda did, a decision she made for her community. Earlier, I spoke about that cash prize that came with the Heinz Award—\$250,000. She took \$100,000 of that money, which was her prize money, and donated it back to the organization that she helped found, the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, to work on sustainable fisheries, combating climate change, and to help young fishermen enter the profession so we have sustainable fisheries going forward.

I am sure Linda probably heard the good news: Our legislation, my legislation, the Save Our Seas 2.0 legislation to clean up our oceans passed the Senate recently and is on its way to the President's desk for his signature. More good news.

As she said: "We won't have jobs if we don't take care of our fisheries." Keep them sustainable "and get young people into the profession." People like Linda—committed, organized, generous of spirit, hard-working, in love with what she does in her State and her community—will get us through this pandemic. These are the people in Alaska, in America. And it is people like her that will also ensure that Alaska remains the superpower of seafood, not just for America but for the world.

So, Linda, for all that you do, for all that you are going to continue to do, thank you, thank you, thank you. Great work, and congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

WESTERN SAHARA AND ABRAHAM ACCORDS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, 6 days ago, on the 10th, I came down to the floor after having discovered something that happened. I think it really was not intentional the way it happened, but I would like to share that with you and share the frustration that I have.

There is a situation that is taking place and has taken place for 30-some years in Western Sahara. This is an area where after a colonial period, the different colonies in there were attached to other countries. In the case of Western Sahara, that actually had been attached to Spain. It was called Spanish Sahara at that time. This was way back in pre-1966. One of the many good things that President Trump has done is that he has put together this program called the Abraham accords, and that is bringing the Arab population and the Jewish population in the Middle East together. This is something that Presidents have tried to do for a long period of time—both Democrat and Republican, not successful. And this has become successful because the thing that was announced just 6 days ago was that Morocco was going to salvage a relationship with Israel.

I don't know how many or what kind of detail went into that, but, inadvertently, I think, they agreed to something that Morocco has been trying to do for a long period of time, and that is, to have the United States recognize that they have rights to the land that is known as Western Sahara.

Now, as for Western Sahara, back after the colonial days, they started getting their independence in various parts of that world. They had been attached to Spain at that time. Well, anyway, what the President did—and I say I think this was inadvertently done—was to give Morocco claims to the land that rightly belongs to the Western Saharans.

Now, I think that he could have secured the agreement with Morocco without giving away and reversing 45 years of our longstanding foreign policy.

Now, I have to confess that when I came down to the floor last week, I was feeling shocked and deeply saddened by the announcement. The news about the United States recognizing Morocco's claim over Western Sahara took me by surprise because I had been involved in that issue for a long period of time. And we have had a policy in the United States since pre-1966 that we firmly supported the rights of the Saharans—the Western Sahara people—to their own land that was taken unfairly from them.

Now, this came as a surprise to me, and I came down to the floor. That was 6 days ago. And I want to tell you what has happened since that time, just to refresh the memory of those individuals.

There are a lot of people out there who are concerned about this.

Remember what happened historically and kind of a chronology of what happened in Western Sahara. First of all, in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly resolution agreed that a resolution of self-determination should be held, and that is, to allow the United Nations endorsing the idea that a resolution of self-determination be made for the population of Western Sahara. That was 1966, and we are in full agreement with that here in the United States.

Then, because of the fact that Morocco was trying to claim some ownership of the land that belonged to the people of Western Sahara, in 1975 the International Court of Justice denied Morocco the right to territory of Western Sahara. Now, this was the International Court of Justice. That is supposed to be a final thing.

And Morocco then invaded Western Sahara. Now, keep in mind that you have Morocco—a very, very wealthy country with all kinds of resources—taking on a group of people who had been sent out of their homes, out and living in the bush. I have been there several times. The conditions are just not livable conditions. And then, of course, they were invaded by Morocco as a result of the International Court of Justice decision.

Then, in 1991, the U.N. ceasefire mission began to provide a referendum of self-determination. So that is the United Nations coming in again and saying that they need to have the right of self-determination. That is something that was restated over and over again. Well, that was a ceasefire in 1991 that was supposed to stop all kinds of brutality and the bad things that were going on in that part of the world.

I became very close, many years ago, with James Baker. James Baker, back during the Bush 1 administration, was Secretary of State, and he was Secretary of Treasury, and he took this on, back during the first Bush administration, as a personal thing. He went and became familiar with this and tried to put together a special envoy to Western Sahara and worked at it for a long period of time. James Baker is still around and still committed.

I remember when I called James Baker—this was several years ago—and I said: I have been watching what you did—what you tried to do—in Western Sahara to free these people up, and I just want you to know that I have been there, I have seen it, and I agree with you, and I want to get your advice as to how we can best make this happen. All we want is a referendum of self-determination so people can decide for themselves what they want their land to be a part of.

So James Baker responded to me, and he said: That was one of the very few failures that we had during that administration.

He said: I was Secretary of State, and I worked hard on it and did everything I could, and I feel sorry. I wish you the best of luck.

Well, then, in 2004, the United States and Morocco signed a free-trade agreement. This is interesting because we signed the free-trade agreement with Morocco, and the agreement explicitly—explicitly—excluded Western Sahara because Morocco does not have sovereignty over it. So they agreed. They signed the same thing that we signed saying that that land did not belong to Morocco, and it was specifically agreed that it be excluded. That was the United States and Morocco way back in 2004.

So you have, in 1966, the United Nations making that declaration. In 1975, the International Court of Justice denied the right of the territory to Morocco; 1991, the ceasefire; 1997, then again, in 2004, the United States and Morocco signing a free-trade agreement—which all of this was agreed to.

So this isn't news for me. I have been involved in this issue for decades, as well, and I have visited the refugee camps in that area. About 10 years ago, I met with Aminatou Haidar. It was someone who would become well recognized and some of the abuses that had been taking place for a long time. She was here in Washington and came to my office. She is from that area, and she was here to accept an award from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for

Human Rights for her work on behalf of her people in Western Sahara. I remember her so well.

She had been arrested by Morocco for demonstrating peacefully in Western Sahara. She was in prison for 4 years. She was blindfolded the entire time for 4 years, and she was tortured and treated terribly, and she lost her eyesight as a result of that. And all that was for peacefully protesting on behalf of her homeland.

But it didn't stop her work. She kept fighting for her people, even facing arrest again. Additionally, 15 years ago, I did something that is kind of unusual here in Washington. People don't realize this—that Members of the House and the Senate don't always testify before the other body. And 15 years ago, they were having a hearing in the House on international affairs, and I asked if I could be a witness. So I went there and testified, and I gave the history that is similar to what I just stated—the history of what has been going on there—and why the referendum for self-determination was so necessary.

But I also called out a hidden part of this, and that is the lobbyists. You know, it seems like every time someone has a cause that is unjust, they go and hire all the lobbyists in Washington. We are having that right now with an organization in another subject area. But at that time, that was 2005, and at that time, the following lobbyists had been hired by Morocco: the Livingston Group, Tew Cardenas, Edelman public relations, Miller & Chevalier, Gabriel and company, Robert Holley, and Whiton Case. Those are seven lobbyists that were hired by Morocco.

And now, that hasn't changed. Today, right now, they are represented by JPC Strategies, Third Circle, and Neale Creek, and average over \$1 million each year.

So all these lobbyists in Washington have been hired by Morocco. And whom do the Western Saharans have to lift up their voices? They have no one—no one at all.

So, given my personal history, you can forgive me for being shocked and deeply saddened at having their future so harshly stolen from them after they spent three generations waiting for the promise of a referendum for self-determination.

I have to say this. I am quite sure that our President was not even aware of that. He is doing the right thing in terms of the accords that we are doing in that part of the world, bringing the Arabs and the Jews together. It is a good thing. But this is an issue that should never have come up or been a part of it, and I am quite sure that he was not aware of this.

So now, seeing the reactions around the world, it is clear that there is kind of a silver lining. I look at this as an opportunity. It is an issue that people are worn out on. We tried and tried and tried everything we could think of. And just from my coming to the floor 6

days ago, all these things have happened since that time. People have a new hope.

And remember, the conflict in Western Sahara is what we used to call a frozen, forgotten conflict. That has a finiteness to it. There is something about a “frozen conflict,” you know—that nothing more is going to happen. They called it a frozen conflict and made it easy for the rest of the world to let the status quo continue, leaving the Western Saharan people in limbo, waiting for a referendum that had been promised way back in 1966.

The forgotten conflict allowed Morocco to continue encroaching and getting away with human rights abuses like the one I just described—torturing that young lady for 4 years, causing her to go blind. So those were the unintended consequences of this arrangement that was made with Morocco.

So it has never been so clear to the international community. I have never seen the international community so united. Everybody is on our side on this thing—the side that we have had and will return to for some 30 years. The African Union said—this is just since the last 6 days: “The position of the African Union remains unchanged, in conformity with relevant AU”—that is the African Union—“and United Nations resolutions.”

On the United Nations: “The United Nations said Thursday its position was ‘unchanged’ on the disputed Western Sahara region after the United States recognized Morocco’s sovereignty there.”

That is the United Nations coming back again.

In a news article, the European Union indicated last Thursday that “the status of Western Sahara has not been determined and must be negotiated in a process led by the United Nations, after the President of the United States, Donald Trump, has recognized the Moroccan sovereignty.”

So the European Union is in full agreement with what we are about to try to do again.

The United Kingdom said: “Our position on the status of Western Sahara remains unchanged.”

It didn’t change them a bit what we did here in the United States.

Algeria. Algeria is right next door. I meant to bring a map down here to familiarize everyone with the area that we are talking about. Algeria said: “The conflict of Western Sahara is a question of decolonization which can only be resolved through the application of the international law and the well-established charter of the United Nations and the African Union in this matter, which provides for the authentic exercise by the Sahrawi people of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.”

That is Algeria. And, by the way, every one of the 52 nations in Africa is in full agreement with what we are talking about right now.

And James Baker hasn’t gone away. This is way back in the first Bush ad-

ministration. He was Secretary of State. This is his statement just the other day—yesterday, it was. He said:

While I strongly support the Abraham Accords, the proper way to implement them was the way it was done with the UAE, Bahrain and Sudan, and not by cynically trading off the self-determination rights of the people of Western Sahara. I agree with Senator JAMES INHOFE—

That is me—when he characterized this development as “shocking and deeply disappointing.” It would appear that the United States of America, which was founded first and foremost on the principle of self-determination, has walked away from that principle regarding the people of Western Sahara. This is very regrettable.

That is James Baker. Even more, these are other opinions. These are opinion pieces. This came out, and I just read them this morning.

David Keene—we all remember David Keene. He was with the Washington Times. He was with the American Conservative Union and with the NRA. His quote was this:

The United States has sometimes quite properly, given our interests, stayed out of controversies like this, but one is hard pressed to find another situation in which we have virtually announced that justice doesn’t matter and that those like the Western Saharans who have sought their rights peacefully rather than [by way] . . . [of] terrorism and . . . [guns] are fools.

John Bolton, in Foreign Policy, said: [T]he Polisario is at a crucial juncture. It would be fully justified if it chooses to return to the battlefield, but much depends on the positions of Algeria, Mauritania and others—and what resources are available.

Now, that gets back to the question of resources. We have unlimited resources by the very wealthy nation—one of the wealthiest nations in the world, Morocco.

Stephen Zunes—I got to know him a long time ago. He is a scholar with the University of San Francisco. He specializes in this area. This is his quote just in the last 2 days:

Morocco’s claim on Western Sahara is rejected by the United Nations, the World Court, the African Union and a broad consensus of international legal scholars that consider the region a non-self-governing territory that must be allowed an act of self-determination. This is why no country had formally recognized Morocco’s takeover—until now.

This is still Stephen Zunes. He said: “Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and other reputable human rights groups have documented widespread suppression of peaceful, pro-independence activists by Moroccan occupation forces, including torture, beatings, detention without trial and extrajudicial killings.

Still quoting the scholar, Stephen Zunes: “Since the Polisario”—Polisario, of course, are those fighting for their freedom and for their reclamation. “Since the Polisario proclaimed the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in 1976, 84 countries have recognized Western Sahara as an independent state.”

Everybody agrees with this. It is one of the few things in foreign policy where there is no opposition. They all agree with that self-determination for the Western Sahara people.

I am so saddened by the betrayal toward the people of Western Sahara for unilaterally recognizing Morocco’s claim. Yet I am seeing the unexpected results from the proclamation.

If highlighting the injustice of these people pushes the rest of the world to finally get them the referendum they deserve, it may be worth it, and that is what I am seeing right now. I remember so well—it has now been some three or four generations of Western Saharans and the little kids you see in the camps, in the refugee camps, living under conditions that we can’t even imagine in this country, but they are happy little kids. They carry around a sign. I don’t have the pronunciation in their language, but it says: “We will fight till we get back our homes.” These are little kids. They all know—the fourth generation of those who have been abandoned.

So I remember—and I called, and I found out—what was the year? Was it 2007? Yes, in 2007, Mark Powers and I—he has been with me on a lot of things in Africa that we have been interested in. He and I met with all of the elected leaders of the Western Saharans in a room that is out in the desert. We actually heard all their stories. They are all Muslims out there, and we all prayed together. We prayed to the Lord for mercy in this case. And I think that maybe it is closer than we thought it was.

That is what is happening right now. It is something that—we have to move back to our original position that we have held since 1966 in supporting people—the right for a referendum of self-determination.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOHNNY ISAKSON AND DAVID P. ROE, M.D. VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, tonight I am pleased to speak as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on the work we have accomplished with our colleagues in the House to deliver today meaningful benefits and reforms for our Nation’s veterans and to recognize the decades of service of two of our departing colleagues who are dedicated to the well-being of our veterans.

Today the House passed the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. This legislation is the culmination of more than 2 years

of bipartisan work, with input from all of our veteran service organizations, dozens of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, our partners at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the leadership of the former Senate and House VA Committee chairmen, Senator Isakson and Congressman ROE.

Among its many provisions, this legislation invests in the education and employment of veterans to make certain they have the tools necessary to achieve success after service through expanded opportunities to use their earned benefits for longer periods of time and more opportunities for job training.

This bill will also give the VA the tools necessary to serve veterans at risk of homelessness in a more meaningful way during the pandemic and require the VA to provide greater oversight and support to our State veterans' homes.

It also includes provisions from the Deborah Sampson Act, a landmark bill that makes clear women who serve their country in the Armed Forces must have a VA that is as effective for them as it is for the men who also have served.

As I mentioned, this bill is named after two public servants. Johnny Isakson was my predecessor as chairman, and I have worked hard to follow his example of bipartisanship in working with our VA Committee ranking member, Senator JON TESTER. Legislation like this bill is the result of many months of work by members of our staff, stemming from a desire from both sides of the aisle to better serve our Nation's veterans. The important relationships that exist between Senators, our House colleagues, and our staff members result in a bipartisan solution like the one that passed the House today and that passed the Senate just a few days before.

I would also like to thank Dr. PHIL ROE. I served with him in the House of Representatives. He is the current House Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member and its former chairman. I thank him for his partnership and his friendship as we worked together to serve veterans, since we both served on that committee in the House together.

The VA is making positive, measurable changes to better serve our veterans, and Congressman ROE and Senator Isakson deserve credit not only for being a big part of that change but also for being an example for the rest of us as to how we can work across the aisle and across the Capitol to improve the lives of our country's veterans and all of our fellow citizens.

I would also like to recognize Congressman ROE's counterpart, House VA Committee Chairman TAKANO, for seeing this bill to completion in the House of Representatives today.

I would like to thank my counterpart in the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Ranking Member JON TESTER, the Senator from Montana, for his hard

work this past year in helping to lead our committee's efforts to do the right thing for our Nation's veterans. This bill is a testament to his dedication to serving our veterans and to his staff's tireless work on veterans' behalf.

One more thank-you certainly rests with our SVAC members for providing so many legislative solutions to issues that we have heard from the VA, from our VSOs and from veterans in each of our home States. I know that making certain our veterans continue to receive care and benefits was foremost in their minds during this pandemic, and I would like to thank Senators BOOZMAN, CASSIDY, ROUNDS, TILLIS, SULLIVAN, BLACKBURN, CRAMER, LOEFFLER, and each of our Democratic colleagues on the committee for their contribution to this landmark legislation.

Our veteran service organizations often speak for veterans who cannot speak for themselves, and they help Members of this body understand the issues and concerns that veterans may be facing across the country in addition to our own home States. I thank all of the VSOs that have worked on this bill, for many years in many cases, meeting with me and with our committee staff, explaining issues and working closely with us to make certain we find the right solutions for our Nation's veterans. I hope each VSO—veteran service organization—and its members will benefit from this legislation following the President's signature. I hope they will benefit for decades to come.

Finally, I want to thank our team at the Senate VA Committee for everything they have put into this legislation.

Thank you to Senator TESTER's staff for all of your thoughtful work drafting the language to help address real issues that impact real veterans.

Thank you to my VA staff, who have put in the work conducting oversight and responding to casework so we can understand the needs of veterans in Kansas and across the country and make meaningful, lasting changes so they may experience the American dream that they once fought so hard to secure for each of us.

Thank you to Chelsey Ladd, Victoria Lee, Scott Nulty, Kevin Ryan, Thomas Wilson, Michele Payne, Barry Walker, Pauline Schmitt, Thomas Coleman, Asher Allman, Jake Vance, Mark Crowley, Brian Newbold, Lindsay Dearing, Emily Blair, Kelsey Baron, Tiffanii Woolfolk, and David Shearman.

Finally, I want to recognize my staff director, Caroline Canfield, who is ending her service with my office and with the Senate at the end of this month. She has served as a tremendous asset. She is a tremendous asset and a force multiplier as my military legislative assistant, as my lead appropriations staffer, and now as my VA Committee staff director.

Our Nation's veterans and our military members are better off because of

the work she has done throughout her career and because of her tenacious "never take no for an answer" approach to doing all things right.

Caroline, you will be missed, but you are always part of the team. You deserve our gratitude for what you have accomplished on behalf of our Nation's military men and women and on behalf of our veterans.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 867 and 868.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Anna Maria Ruzinski, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years; and Gregory Scott Tabor, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ruzinski and Tabor nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN2398 and PN2063.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Irving Bailey, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years (New Position); and Deven J. Parekh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years (New Position).

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the Bailey and Parekh nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO JAN BARAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I want to extend congratulations and best wishes to a friend, a skilled attorney in the areas of campaign finance and election law, and a devoted defender of the First Amendment.

After more than 35 years, Jan Witold Baran is retiring from the law firm Wiley Rein LLP at the end of the month. Throughout his distinguished career, Jan has successfully represented thousands of clients, including me. He has put his brilliance to work defending all Americans' rights to participate in our democracy and express themselves through voluntary contributions to the candidates of their choice, so that a few elite gatekeepers cannot control the public discourse in our country.

When you consider Jan's background, it is no surprise he is committed to preserving freedom. Jan was born in postwar Europe to a Flemish mother and Polish Catholic father. Before Jan was born, his father had survived 2½ years in concentration camps including Auschwitz, before he was liberated by American troops at Dachau. Jan's father was incarcerated because during his tenure as mayor of a small town in Poland, he refused to turn in his rifle to the Gestapo. Clearly a stubborn dedication to freedom under law is in Jan's bloodline.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the Baran family's immigration to America. I am sure his parents would be extremely proud of what their son has accomplished. A decorated scholar from Vanderbilt Law School; general counsel for the National Republican Congressional Committee; a trailblazing attorney at the FEC; general counsel to the 1988 campaign of President George H. W. Bush; counsel to the Republican National Committee.

President Bush appointed him to the Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform and as Ambassador and Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the World Administrative Radio Conference.

Jan Baran has been an integral part of legal teams that have defended Americans' political speech rights before the U.S. Supreme Court. He was part of my team when I challenged the constitutionality of the campaign finance law known as McCain-Feingold. From *McConnell v. FEC* to *Citizens United* and beyond, Jan was in the middle of these important battles. Through these episodes and many more, I personally have witnessed and appreciated Jan's candor, sharp legal mind, and strategic thinking.

Washington can be a transient place, but Mr. Baran has stayed in the fray for more than 40 years and given his best every day to uphold free speech and defend the Republic. I am not sure if the people of that small town in Poland know that the son of their wartime mayor's son built such a distinguished career in just one generation. His talent, perseverance, and commitment to his country are a credit to where Jan came from and the life he has led along the way. I extend my warm wishes to him and his wife Kathryn, their four children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.

### MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to the rapidly burgeoning Islamist insurgency in northern Mozambique, which is dragging that country into ever-increasing violence and chaos. In the past decade, Mozambique has taken steps to resolve a decades-long civil war and while peace remains elusive, with longstanding support from the United States, there has been progress. This progress, when coupled with the 2010 discovery of enormous natural gas reserves in the remote northern province of Cabo Delgado, could have changed the development course of the country. But a new conflict has emerged in Mozambique that threatens all of the potential gains for the citizens of the province and the entire country.

The origins of this extremist insurgency share traits with many others globally: a marginalized community's grievance against corrupt and distant rulers, fueled and brutally exploited by radical Islamist ideologues, has allowed extremism to take root and gain traction, while the innocent majority of the local population bears the cost. The extremists have proclaimed allegiance to ISIS and have rapidly developed increasingly sophisticated military capabilities; Mozambique's poorly trained security forces have proven unable to vanquish the group. It is an insurgency on the advance. It has seized entire towns and now controls considerable territory.

The insurgents, who have attracted foreign fighters and recently launched

attacks into neighboring Tanzania, have used horrific acts of terror—including systematic use of arson, murder, often including beheadings, and kidnapping—to force compliance with their aims. Their acts have effectively displaced more than 500,000 people in Cabo Delgado, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. In 1 week in November alone, more than 10,000 people fled to the port city of Pemba, many in rickety, unsafe boats. A significant of these internally displaced persons now languish in crowded, unsanitary conditions.

What can be done to solve this crisis? And what should be the role of the United States, which today appears to be retreating from Africa? This year has perhaps taught us more than any in recent memory that stability and security around the world can directly impact the stability and security of the United States. We have a sustained interest in helping to support innocent, suffering people and promoting stability.

The security aspect of the threat requires a security solution. However, the Mozambican security forces have demonstrated that they cannot effectively respond to this threat without assistance. It is clear that they lack proper training and equipment, and a substantial body of reporting has established that elements of these forces have frequently committed serious human rights abuses, as well as engaged in petty corruption targeting the local impoverished population. The Mozambican Government must take steps to ensure that state security forces are not only effective, but that they also engage in such a manner that earns the trust of the population they are charged with protecting.

The good news is that the international community has begun to respond. The U.S.'s counterterrorism coordinator recently visited Maputo to offer our assistance to the government. European countries have also pledged to assist with building Mozambique's security capacities. Any such counterterrorism support must include rigorous human rights training, as well as improvements in civil-military relations and effective intelligence-gathering. The government should also be pressed to reduce its reliance on local militias, who have even less training and accountability than government troops.

The humanitarian crisis also demands immediate action. Of the half million people who have been displaced, 41 percent are children. The provinces of northern Mozambique that host most of these newly displaced people are among the poorest in one of the world's least-developed countries and have little capacity to assist those affected by the crisis. In total, more than 1.3 million people in northern Mozambique are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection, according to the U.N. The international community must step up and fully fund

the modest request of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which has said that it requires \$254 million to provide humanitarian assistance through 2021.

Counterterrorism training and humanitarian assistance alone, however, are not enough to defeat ISIS in Mozambique. They are only tools to respond to the immediate crisis. To effectively address the root causes of the conflict—the social and economic inequalities that have allowed extremism to take hold and flourish—the Mozambican Government and international partners must assist in reaching the country's increasingly-alienated northern communities. The government must engage with its northern citizens and deliver what the majority of the population wants and expects: better governance and critical social services. The international community can help by collaborating and coordinating their engagement with the government on a package of development aid that helps to address poor governance, increases transparency and fights corruption, effectively delivers health and education services, and fosters job opportunities and local entrepreneurship. Mozambique and its international partners also must scale up programs aimed at countering extremist ideology and promoting defections from the insurgency.

Donors must also hold the government's feet to the fire on its obligation to invest in its own citizenry, including by insisting that the government develop its natural resources—notably the gas reserves in Cabo Delgado—in an equitable, transparent, manner that results in that a significant portion of prospective natural gas revenues being invested in the provinces that host Mozambique's gas resources.

As the conflict grows in scope and intensity, the United States will need to further develop a coordinated, inter-agency strategy, one which uses all the levers of American power—diplomatic, development, and defense—to address Cabo Delgado's military, humanitarian, and development crisis and to work with regional partners on to both inform and implement such a strategy.

The situation in Mozambique is dire, and unfortunately it has not attracted an appropriate level of attention from policymakers. It is tragic to see a country that seemed to be on the cusp of transformation dragged back into conflict. The situation is not hopeless. The United States and its partners can together effectively help Mozambique defeat this insurgency and support the Mozambican people's aspirations for a more hopeful future, but the situation is urgent. We must act now.

#### HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BENNIE G. ADKINS (RET.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, it is with sadness and humility that I ask this body to pause for a moment to remember and honor a great American and a

citizen of my home State, CSM Bennie G. Adkins, who died of complications related to the COVID-19 virus on April 17, 2020. He was laid to rest with full military honors this morning after a funeral service in the chapel at Arlington National Cemetery.

Command Sergeant Major Adkins, known to friends and family as "Bennie," received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 15, 2014, for acts of heroism during the Vietnam war. Although Bennie was recommended for the Medal of Honor at the time, he was instead given the next highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. In 2002, the Army began reviewing Distinguished Service Cross awards for possible upgrades, and finally, 48 years later, President Obama bestowed a well-deserved Medal of Honor upon Bennie Adkins.

As we know, the Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest medal for valor in combat. According to a statute passed in 1918, the President is authorized to present this award to "each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, shall hereafter, in action involving actual conflict with an enemy, distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." Other legislation authorizes the award within the other military departments as well.

In the history of this country, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,507 individuals. Fewer than 70 of those recipients are still alive today.

I point this out because I believe that when these heroes leave Active Duty and come home to live among us in our communities, their very presence in our midst lifts us all up. They inspire and embolden countless other acts of courage and sacrifice, both great and small, many of which we have seen in the recent weeks and months our Nation and our world have been battling the very virus that took Bennie Adkins' life.

So it is with gratitude and a deep sense of loss that we remember this extraordinary man.

The facts of the events that led to Bennie Adkins' recognition bear mention. However, as President Obama said when presenting Bennie with the Medal, "I have to be honest, in a battle and daring escape that lasted four days, Bennie performed so many acts of bravery we actually don't have time to talk about all of them." I will, therefore, attempt to summarize, combining information from the citation that accompanied the award, media accounts of the events, and quotes from Bennie's memoir.

When Camp A Chau was attacked by a large Viet Cong force early on March 9, 1966, then-Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense hostile fire to man a mortar position. Although wounded himself by incoming fire, Bennie briefly relinquished his mortar to a comrade and ran through

exploding mortar rounds in order to drag several wounded Americans to safety. During the battle, Bennie later recalled, bullets hit and killed one man he was carrying on his back. At another point, Adkins, a former baseball catcher, caught a North Vietnamese hand grenade in midair and flung it back at the enemy.

Over the course of 4 days, Bennie repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire while rescuing and helping evacuate his fellow soldiers, retrieving additional munitions, and repelling repeated waves of attacking enemy soldiers. Bennie suffered 18 wounds—including to an eye and his torso—but managed to kill an estimated 135 to 175 enemy troops.

Because of his efforts to carry a wounded soldier to an extraction point rather than leave him behind, Bennie and his group were unable to reach the last evacuation helicopter. Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered additional ammunition, and ran through intense fire back to the communications bunker. After being ordered to evacuate the camp, Adkins and the remaining small group destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, then fought their way out of the camp and into the jungle, where they evaded the pursuing North Vietnamese Army for 2 days.

Their escape was aided by the sawed-off shotgun Bennie carried as a sidearm and by the unexpected intervention of an Indonesian tiger. Trapped in the jungle, the group's radio damaged in the battle, Adkins managed to rig his shotgun as an antenna, enabling him to communicate their location to friendly forces. As the group endured a second night in the jungle waiting for help to arrive, the tiger, which had been hunting nearby, frightened off the enemy, giving Adkins and the others an opportunity to create a makeshift landing pad for a rescue helicopter the next morning.

The Medal of Honor citation concludes, "Sergeant First Class Adkins' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

Extraordinary indeed.

Remarkable as those details are, the facts of Bennie's postservice life are equally worthy of note.

Bennie and his wife Mary were married for more than 60 years—until she passed away in 2019. They don't give medals for that, but I know from observing my own parents' 60-plus years together that, no matter who the couple are, that kind of dedication, loyalty, and commitment are special.

After 20 years of service in the Army, Bennie retired and went back to school. He earned three degrees from Troy University—a bachelor's in finance and two master's degrees—and opened his own accounting firm in Auburn. Then, Bennie began deploying his

charisma, his wit, his way with people, and his resources to help others pursue their goals through education.

For several years, Bennie taught night classes at Alabama's Southern Union Junior College and Auburn University, as well as GED classes at the local jail. Later, he established The Bennie Adkins Foundation, which to date has provided about 50 educational scholarships to noncommissioned Special Forces officers.

Bennie's dedication to the service of his country and to his fellow Americans never waned. For many years he traveled extensively, in what he described as his fourth career, "trying to instill patriotism in our young people." And according to President Obama in 2014, "the first thing you need to know is when Bennie and I met in the Oval Office, he asked if he could sign back up. His lovely wife was not amused."

I know that for Bennie's family and his community, this is a loss impossible to describe or to measure. My wife Louise joins me in sending our sincerest condolences to Bennie's daughter Mary Ann Adkins Blake (David), to his sons Michael Adkins (Christine), and Keith Adkins (Jaime), and to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

To paraphrase his Medal of Honor citation, Bennie Adkins' extraordinary life reflects great credit upon himself, his family, and his country. May he rest in peace, and may God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING GENERAL  
CHARLES ELWOOD "CHUCK"  
YEAGER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an American hero and one of West Virginia's native sons who was larger than life and an inspiration for generations of Americans—General Charles Elwood "Chuck" Yeager. Chuck bravely served our Nation as a pilot for more than 30 years in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and Vietnam. When he became the first pilot to break the sound barrier he challenged each of us to test the limits of what is possible. I am grateful to have known this legendary West Virginian and to call him my dear friend.

Chuck truly embodied what it means to be from the Mountain State. Born in 1923 in rural Lincoln County, Chuck grew up the way many of us do in West Virginia—hunting and fishing and learning early to be respectful of nature and our fellow man. Like his father, A. Hal Yeager, who was a gaswell driller, Chuck showed an aptitude for mechanics, and by the time he was a teenager, he was able to assemble a car engine on his own. His work ethic and natural talent would serve him well throughout the rest of his remarkable life.

In 1941, Chuck enlisted in the Army Air Forces right out of high school and trained as a mechanic before heading to flight school. In 1944, he experienced

a harrowing encounter when his plane was shot down over German-occupied France. He and another American travelled on foot through mountainous terrain and snow toward neutral Spain. As they stopped to rest, the Nazis opened fire, wounding the man traveling with Chuck. Chuck carried him into Spain, where they met British forces. Despite the treacherous journey he had just endured, to everyone's astonishment, Chuck was determined to fly again. He climbed his way through the ranks, pursuing a return to combat duty, which was eventually granted. For his service, Chuck received the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal. He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian award, from President Ronald Reagan in 1985. There are so few Veterans left from the World War II era, and it is our responsibility and our privilege to recognize the service of these noble heroes.

In 1957, Chuck became an air squadron commander and then commander of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards in 1961. He also commanded a fighter wing and flew combat missions during the Vietnam war. He retired as an Air Force brigadier general in 1975, and in an honorary gesture, he was promoted to the rank of major general in 2005.

We all of course know the story of the day Chuck became the first pilot to break the sound barrier. On October 14, 1947, Chuck flew an orange Bell X-1 aircraft at nearly 700 mph and made history. Flying F-15 planes, he broke the sound barrier again on the 50th and 55th anniversaries of his pioneering flight, and he was a passenger on an F-15 plane in another breaking of the sound barrier to commemorate the 65th anniversary.

I knew Chuck very well and he was a dear friend to me and Gayle. As Governor, I was fortunate to host Chuck at least once a year for the One Shot Deer Hunt, which gives proceeds to helping the hungry. He told me so many incredible stories of his service, including all the intricate details of his legendary flight. I recall him telling me that the only reason he got to fly the Bell X-1 that day was because the previous pilot they asked wanted too much money. They offered Chuck an extra 60 dollars a month, and he jumped at the chance. Not only is the story true about Chuck pushing through with a broken rib, but he wasn't even supposed to break the sound barrier that day. He thought if he didn't go for it that first day, he wouldn't get another chance. Chuck truly had nerves of steel.

Long after his record-breaking flight, Chuck remained in our hearts as a symbol of patriotism and bravery. His life is full of tales of his bravery, his stoicism in the face of danger, and his determination to perform his duty no matter the cost.

The legacy Chuck leaves is such an important part of our heritage as West Virginians. Our little State has mined the coal that forged the steel that built the tanks and ships that keep our country the strongest in the world. It is an honor to remember Chuck as part of our military service heritage and our way of life that sinks deep into the roots of West Virginia's rich culture. I encourage all Americans to learn what they can about this legendary West Virginian.

Gayle and I are praying for Chuck's wife Victoria, daughters, Susan and Sharon, son, Don, and all who loved and admired him.

RECOGNIZING OREGON'S FIRST  
FEMALE EAGLE SCOUTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to be able to recognize Oregon's first female Eagle Scouts, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, or BSA. Evelyn Becker, Juliana Cimral, and Anya Kramer have demonstrated remarkable leadership, skill, and perseverance to earn this important distinction and have done it through an unprecedented pandemic.

For more than 100 years, the Eagle Scout rank has represented a tremendous accomplishment that is recognized in Oregon and across the country. To earn Scouting's highest honor, a Scout must demonstrate mastery of numerous skills and obtain a merit badge for each one, earn a position of responsibility within their troop, and complete a service project that will directly benefit their community. Until recently, girls and young women were not allowed to join BSA, but that finally changed for the better in February of 2019. Evelyn, Juliana, and Anya, Oregon's first three female Eagle Scouts, received their rank in October and will join others in receiving their official Eagle title in February 2021.

We can see examples of their skills and dedication to improving their community in the Eagle service projects they tackled. Juliana, a senior at Jesuit High School, employed her knowledge of and interest in bees and the importance these pollinators play in the food supply chain to build 25 bee houses that have increased the pollination and production of nearby gardens. Evelyn, a sophomore at Scappoose High School, built a fence to separate her local school from a busy highway and a bioswale to prevent children from falling into the water and to help improve the safety of her community. Anya, a freshman at Western Oregon University, spent months building a partnership between the West Linn Food Pantry and Period.org so that women in need would have access to feminine hygiene products, an often overlooked essential.

It has been exciting to see the BSA finally welcoming the other half of the population into their ranks. Each of these three women watched their brothers succeed in Boy Scouts while

growing up. When finally given the chance, they continued that family tradition of achievement. I am excited to see what new heights these outstanding Eagle Scouts and community leaders will reach. Many more will come after them, and our communities will be better for it.

Oregonians always take pride in serving our State and this great country, and these three Eagle Scouts are a great example of that. Today I say congratulations to the first women from Oregon to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish them many more years of success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CARMINE CANN, SR.

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, it is a great privilege of mine to rise and honor a pillar of strength in my home State of West Virginia, Carmine Cann, Sr., as we celebrate his 90th birthday on July 27, 2020.

Carmine has been like family to me for much of my life, and if there is anything to know about Carmine, it is that family is everything. It is one of the countless things I have always admired most about him, in addition to his unwavering devotion to our home State and his unparalleled knowledge of business and the law. Throughout my own life and career, I have always kept Carmine in the back of my mind—remembering to stay strong for my State and my family.

A native of Clarksburg, Carmine practiced law with his father upon graduating from West Virginia University College of Law. In 1954, their firm merged with another and became Young, Morgan and Cann, where he practiced until joining Flaherty's Clarksburg office in 2017.

Carmine served in the West Virginia Legislature for 8 years as a member of the House of Delegates. Throughout government circles, he was widely known for his keen political awareness. The Charleston Gazette dubbed him "Mighty Mouse" for his accomplishments in and behind the scenes. After choosing not to run for reelection, Carmine served the West Virginia Coal Association and West Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association as a governmental relations consultant for over 25 years.

Some of his awards and honors include St. Mary's Irish Legend in 2011, Italian American Man of the Year by the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival in 2005, and recipient of the Distinguished West Virginian Award in 1995.

Among his many roles in the community, Carmine is also well known as a founding member of the Italian Heritage Festival's Board of Directors. The Italian Heritage Festival is such a special event for me and for people not only in West Virginia but for people from across the country. The Italian

immigrants who came to this country didn't know where they were going, couldn't speak the language, and were unfamiliar with Appalachian culture. All they knew is that they had to work hard and were determined to provide a good life for their families. That is what the Festival represents, and those are the ideals that Carmine upheld. His lovely wife Florence, their 7 children, 25 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and their entire family, 73 people altogether, have all been active in this beloved festival. After Florence's passing, Carmine endowed the Florence Chico Cann Children's Creative Arts Program as well as the Children's Chorus. Carmine is committed to the beautiful North Central region of our State, and I know I join countless West Virginians in thanking him for his service to his community for so many years.

Carmine will tell you that much of his success is rooted in faith, and he is forever thankful for the blessings that his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has provided. He is never one to accept acclaim very well, instead deferring all praise and thanks to the Almighty. He is a shining beacon of his faith, family, community, and State.

Carmine's expertise has been sought-after by Senators, Congressmen, Governors, budding community leaders, and his friends and family. He has never been one to shy away from a friendly debate with those who have opposing views. Carmine has the greatest respect for all opinions—people from all walks of life. He is first and foremost an outstanding person, a gentleman in the old sense, and a true broker of compromise in a world so in need of that leadership and trust.

Carmine, despite that we aren't able to have a birthday party in your honor this year, I know this will still be a memorable occasion for you to reflect on your many accomplishments and experiences, while you enjoy the well wishes from your loved ones. You have provided so much happiness and wisdom to the lives of those around you, myself included. It is my wish that the memory of this special day remains with you just as your guidance and influence will remain in all the lives you have touched. I know that Florence, a true angel, is smiling down on you. Gayle and I are thinking fondly about you on this special day, and we sincerely appreciate your many years of loyal friendship.●

##### TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR PHILIP R. CANTRELL

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, it is an honor to rise today to recognize the unwavering service of a true West Virginian, CSM Phillip R. Cantrell, as he retires from Active military service and transitions to a new chapter of public service. Phillip Cantrell is simply the best of the best. He is humble, competent, compassionate, and a warrior scholar. He has served in the

toughest of environments, leading generations of men and women while having an immeasurable and positive influence on them. I know this because I was fortunate to have Phillip on my staff for a year as a congressional fellow and am fortunate to call him my friend.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell is retiring from his final assignment, where he served as the senior enlisted leader of the West Virginia National Guard, a duty that he assumed in 2018 where he advised the Adjutant General on all matters pertaining to the nearly 6,400 enlisted soldiers and airmen of the West Virginia National Guard. Before this assignment with the West Virginia National Guard, Phillip served in the toughest and most elite Active Army units, in combat and in peace. Phillip is the Soldier's Soldier, having trained a generation of leaders as a drill sergeant, led infantry units in combat as a first sergeant and command sergeant major, and paid reverence to our Nation's veterans as the command sergeant major of the Old Guard.

Growing up in Logan County, Phillip enlisted in the Active Army Infantry in May of 1988 as soon as he graduated high school. He attending infantryman training at Fort Benning, GA, and would add many qualifications along the way, including Master Jumpmaster, Air Assault, Combat Infantry, and Drill Sergeant Badges. He married his wife Sherry in June 1989, and they have been together through numerous deployments, traveling the world together to serve their country and State.

Anyone who has served in the military knows that the noncommissioned officer is the backbone of the Army. Throughout his career, Phillip has done the heavy lifting and served at every level of noncommissioned officer leadership, to include team and squad leaders, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, operations sergeant major and battalion and brigade command sergeant major.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell served in the 82nd Airborne Division from 1988 to 1996, participating in Operation Just Cause and Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm before being reassigned to Fort Leonard Wood to serve as a drill sergeant. Upon his completion of drill sergeant duty, he returned to the 82nd Airborne Division and Fort Bragg, where he was deployed on a peacekeeping mission to Kosovo with the 3/504th Infantry Regiment.

In 2005, while first sergeant of D Company, 2/505th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Command Sergeant Major Cantrell was deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and subsequently deployed two companies to Iraq in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was deployed to Iraq in one of the most dangerous locations during 2006–2007, the time period known as the surge, when troop deployments were unexpectedly extended from 12 months to 15 months.



My State director served on the ground with him in Iraq during this time and attests to his solid leadership, having seen him operate during the most challenging, life-and-death conditions. She called him “the best in a unit of the bests,” which is a testament to his leadership in the most difficult of conditions.

After his combat deployments to Iraq, he was promoted to sergeant major in 2008 and after completion of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy was assigned as the 8th Army Operations and Protection Sergeant Major in Yongsan, Korea.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell was then competitively selected to serve as the battalion command sergeant major of 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer and in 2012 was hand-selected as the brigade command sergeant major of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, “The Old Guard.” This hallowed unit is America’s oldest Active Duty infantry unit where only the best are selected to serve. The Old Guard is the official ceremonial unit of the Army, providing a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and performing countless commemorations at Arlington National Cemetery, amongst other missions. Phillip’s service at The Old Guard is of the highest caliber and reflects great credit upon his patriotism and abilities.

After serving as the most senior enlisted member of The Old Guard, Phillip was again competitively selected as an Army congressional fellow, an honor awarded to very few highly competitive servicemembers. That is where I really got the chance to know Phillip and see him in action when he served as a member of my staff for a year.

I have come to know Command Sergeant Major Cantrell well throughout the years as a valuable part of my team as an Army congressional fellow and can attest to his strength of character and profound leadership. It is a privilege to recognize him for his service to our State and Nation.

Following the year in my office, he was a congressional legislative liaison in the Army Senate Liaison Division, traveling around the world with congressional delegations.

Command Sergeant Major Cantrell holds a master’s degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University and a bachelor’s in human resource management from American Military University.

Because of Phillip’s career and his unique leadership talents, it is my greatest honor to recognize his service. When visitors come to West Virginia, I jump at the chance to tell them we have fought in more wars, shed more blood, and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We have always done the heavy lifting and never complained. We have mined the coal and forged the steel that built the guns, ships, and factories that have protected and continue to protect our country to this day.

I am so deeply proud of what West Virginians have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Command Sergeant Major Cantrell is a part of this legacy of excellence and an inspiration to all who will follow in his footsteps. I want to wish Phillip, his wife Sherry who has been with him every step of the way, along with his family and many friends, a heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes for future health and happiness.●

#### REMEMBERING MARK ALLEN GOUZD

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President I rise today to honor the life of a proud West Virginian and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, my cousin, Mark Allen Gouzd.

Put simply, Mark embodied what it means to be a West Virginian, and the legacy he has left is such an important part of our heritage. There is no greater accomplishment than being in a position to give back to your community, and his work in mine safety and rescue truly benefited our home State in a profound way that undoubtedly saved countless lives.

After graduating from Mannington High School and later Fairmont State College, Mark began his career in land surveying and eventually began working with Federal Number 2 Mines. As an instructor for the Mine Rescue Program, Mark diligently prepared miners for the rigors of working underground. The teams he trained always went on to perform well in local, State, and even national competitions. For the last few years, Mark worked as an extension agent for West Virginia University as the manager of mine rescue and emergency response training at WVU’s Doll’s Run facility. He also served as the WVU Collegiate Mine Rescue Team trainer.

Having experienced a coal mining tragedy within our own family, Mark’s work was especially admirable and came from a place of caring deeply for the people who keep our lights on, as well as their families. West Virginia suffered an immeasurable loss when 78 brave coal miners were killed in the Farmington No. 9 mine disaster 52 years ago. My dear uncle John Gouzd, one of my neighbors, and several high school classmates were in the mine that day. For days, we all sat around the company store waiting for updates about the fate of our loved ones. I will never forget the look on my mother’s face when she heard the news that her younger brother had died in the explosion. Our community and the entire State came together to mourn the lives we lost. For Mark and me, that disaster fueled our passion for promoting changes that would help keep our miners safe and also ensure their families were taken care of.

I always consider myself fortunate to have grown up around such strong, inspiring people. Marion County and our

home State as a whole is just special that way. I always respected and admired Mark for the strong, passionate leader he was. As a lifelong member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Mannington, Mark served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and choir member. The importance of faith and family was at the forefront of everything he set out to do, and it carried him through any hardships he faced.

He loved to work with his hands and found solace in gardening and working on his farm, and I know I join our entire family in remembering Mark as the hard-working, generous soul he was. His legacy lives on through our many loving memories of him as well as through the brave coal miners who learned from his lifesaving training.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by his loved ones. Gayle and I extend our condolences to his beloved wife of nearly 36 years, Lora; their sons, Zachary and his wife Kelly, and Jeremy and his wife Allie; and his grandson Oliver; as well as his parents Joe and Carole; his sisters, Christina and her husband Jack, and Cynthia and her husband Steve; his brother-in-law Remy Petrucci; and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Leonard and Judy Myers; in addition to his numerous nieces and nephews. Again, we extend our most sincere condolences from our family to theirs for our shared loss of this remarkable person. The unwavering love he had for our family, friends, and our home State will live on forever in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.●

#### REMEMBERING CASSIE JOHNSON

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of West Virginia’s finest. Patrolwoman Cassie Johnson of the Charleston Police Department represented the very best of who we are as a statewide community, and she was taken from us far too soon on December 3, 2020, at the age of 28. Cassie was the daughter of an ironworker; she shared her mother’s steely resolve and iron constitution.

Being a police officer in the city she loved and grew up in was a dream come true for Cassie. She was sworn in by Mayor Amy Goodwin in January of 2019 and had previously worked as a city humane officer. Cassie was born and raised in our State’s capital. She could have gone anywhere, and she chose to stay and protect and serve the community that made her who she was.

She was truly a beautiful person in every way. Growing up, Cassie was an athlete and particularly loved softball. She would one day find that the Little League field she played on as a child was on her beat, and so she watched over it with great care so the current generation of children could play in safety. One of the first things she did when she was assigned to the field was to clean up the drug paraphernalia to make it a safe place for kids. Because

of her efforts, children and their families have been able to enjoy the field as a clean, safe, fun place to play.

Cassie was an animal lover and dedicated her life to rescuing pets who had been cast aside, even taking an animal behavior class in Tennessee so she could better understand the language of dogs. Cassie's beloved dog, Emma, was a chocolate lab who passed away just a few months ago. Cassie grieved deeply for Emma because she had a special connection with her. Years ago, when Cassie was in high school, Emma had nine chocolate lab pups—in Cassie's bedroom. Her mom tells the story of taking the runt of the litter with her to pick Cassie up at school. When they got home, there were chocolate lab pups everywhere. That was just one of the many adventures Cassie had with Emma. No doubt, they are reunited again.

Cassie was a music lover, most likely because her mother sang her to sleep as a child. She was surrounded by instruments and music throughout her life. She loved to make the world beautiful, and that is also why she enjoyed decorating for the holidays. The weekend before she passed, she decorated her mother's house for Christmas, alongside her dear sister, Chelsea. One of the last actions she took the day of her passing was to wipe the snow from those holiday decorations because she always looked out for her mother any way she could.

Most importantly, Cassie was a genuinely good person and lived her whole life with West Virginia values. She worked hard and bought her own home at the age of 25. She was beloved in the community and in her profession, as evidenced in the tremendous outpouring of grief, support, and fellowship that followed her tragic passing. Her mother describes her as respectful and well-mannered throughout her whole life. Cassie will be deeply missed not only because of who she was but because we are all so keenly aware of and sorrowful for what might have been.

No one can ever take away what Cassie represented to the Charleston community and the entire Mountain State. Every one of our female leaders in West Virginia is the epitome of strength and advancement in their fields and serve as inspiring role models for the next generation, and that is due in great part to the women who broke ground in generations past. Because of their accomplishments, more young women like Cassie have, and will, blaze their own trails and continue to make our State and entire Nation proud. I have such tremendous respect for our police officers and all of our first responders. Cassie's compassion, courage, and selflessness will live on through the memories of those who knew and loved her, as well as through the countless lives she touched and inspired every day. She leaves us having made a profound impact in the community she loved as well as in the lives of those around her.

I had the tremendous and humbling honor of visiting with Cassie's family at her bedside in her final hours. It is clear to me that Cassie came from strong roots and that her life was filled with joy and love. She was a beloved daughter, sister, and a loyal friend, who adored her three dogs and all animals. True to her character, Cassie was an organ donor, and her final act of selflessness has given someone else a chance at life.

The Charleston Police Department has retired Cassie's unit number, 146. I know I join the entire Mountain State in mourning our shared loss of this bright, generous, vibrant spirit. Gayle and I extend our deepest condolences to Cassie's mother Sheryl, her sister Chelsea, her brother Terry, and all her family and friends, her colleagues with the Charleston Police Department, as well as the city of Charleston, and will forever keep them in our prayers.●

#### REMEMBERING DR. RICHARD HOWARD

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a proud West Virginian, noble veteran, a beloved son, brother, uncle, godfather, great-uncle, and a dear friend to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. It is a privilege to recognize the life and legacy of a very dear friend to myself and Gayle, Dr. Richard Howard, for his many years of dedicated service to the city of Charleston and beyond.

Born and raised in Charleston, WV, Richard attended West Virginia University, where he achieved many distinctions as a member of the National Blue Key, Helvetia, Sphinx and president of the freshman class in 1960. He received early acceptance into the West Virginia University School of Dentistry, earning his doctor of dental surgery degree in 1967. Put simply, when Richard put his mind to something, there was no stopping him from doing it at 100 percent.

That mentality worked in his favor as he joined the U.S. Air Force as a captain, stationed during the Vietnam era at Dover Air Force Base. Following his honorable discharge, Richard returned to Charleston to start his long-tenured career in dentistry. After a year as a partner with a local dental office, Richard set up his own practice as Howard Family Dentistry, later known as a joint venture with his brother as Howard and Howard Family Dentistry.

There is a lot to be said of someone who bravely serves our Nation, then returns home to continue giving back to the community that made them who they are. When visitors come to West Virginia, I jump at the chance to tell them we have fought in more wars, shed more blood, and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We have always done the heavy lifting and never complained. We have mined the coal and forged the steel that built the guns, ships, and factories

that have protected and continue to protect our country to this day. I am so deeply proud of what West Virginians have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish to protect the freedoms we hold dear. That is Richard's legacy, and his courage, loyalty, and humility will never be forgotten.

Richard was deeply involved in the community through the Kanawha Valley Dental Association, the West Virginia Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and was founder and twice-serving president of the Virginia Street Dental Study Club. He was a member of the Beni Kedem Shrine, the Legion of Honor, Shrine Jesters, a 32 degree Mason, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Charleston Symphony, the Charleston Community Music Association, and the West Virginia University Woodburn Circle of Honor. Richard was a major supporter of his church, St. George Orthodox Cathedral, of which he was knight in the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Richard had such a zest for life and was a true renaissance man in every sense of the word. Each challenge he took on, he conquered, and he did so with unparalleled generosity, humility, and leadership. When his father passed away, Richard truly stepped up as the family patriarch. He adored his siblings and his entire family, always willing to offer advice. He would be honest with you if you were wrong, but his judgment was always fair. His bright smile and vibrant personality made any occasion even more special. His accomplishments are endless and he was an inspiration to all. He is dearly missed.

Put simply, Richard represented the very best of West Virginia, which is saying quite a lot. In the Mountain State, if you are hungry you will be fed. If you are lost, someone will not only give you directions but will offer to drive you to your destination. That is just who we are, and that is who Richard was. We have lost a shining star in our home State's capital, but his impact on the lives of his patients and his passion for this special community will last forever. It was an honor to have known him and to call him my friend.

What is most important is that Richard lived a full and accomplished life, surrounded by dear friends and family. It is my hope that his loved ones are able to find peace, strength, and support in one another. I extend my condolences to his brother Dr. Edward E. Howard; sisters Jolene Howard, Janet M. Howard, Margaret Howard Teeter (Andrew), and Sabrina Howard Stump (James); nephew, Dr. Matthew D. Stump; and nieces Dr. Jacqueline H. Stump, Elizabeth Stevens Bloch (Tom), and great nephew Thomas M. Bloch III. Gayle and I, from our family to yours, extend to you our most sincere condolences for our shared loss of this wonderful person. The unwavering love

Richard had for his family, friends, community, our home State, and our great Nation will live on forever in the hearts of all who knew him.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
JAMES A. HOYER

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, it is an honor to rise today to recognize the legacy of MG James A. Hoyer of the West Virginia National Guard, a man whom I have worked with for decades and a man whom I am fortunate to call my friend.

General Hoyer assumed the duties as The Adjutant General, West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters-West Virginia in 2011, providing command guidance and vision to the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard of more than 6,500 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

Upon obtaining his undergraduate degree from the University of Charleston, he was commissioned in 1983 through a joint Reserve Officer Training Corps program with West Virginia State University. General Hoyer's military career began in the West Virginia National Guard as a Cavalry Officer. He attended the Special Forces Officer Qualification course and spent more than 14 years with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. General Hoyer led the development of the West Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and its Center for National Response—a national level operational and training capability for critical infrastructure protection and consequence response. General Hoyer's most recent assignment was Director, Joint Staff, of the West Virginia Joint Force Headquarters.

General Hoyer continued his education throughout his career, including West Virginia Graduate College in 1987, United States Army War College in 2004, and obtained his Federal/Department of Defense Identify Management Certificate from the Naval Post Graduate School in 2009.

Among his many awards, decorations and achievements, General Hoyer has earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Silver Hourglass and M Device), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, West Virginia Commendation Medal, West Virginia Emergency Service Ribbon, West Virginia State Service Ribbon, West Virginia Service Ribbon, West Virginia Counterdrug Ribbon, West Virginia

Distinguished Unit Award, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Thailand Parachute Badge.

I have seen firsthand how the Guard protects the citizens of West Virginia when we are in our most desperate hour of need and how the Guard protects our country when called upon to serve at the command and control of the President of the United States. As Governor, my most honored title was that of Commander-in-Chief of the Guard. I worked closely with Jim Hoyer and the Guard and did everything I could to increase capabilities for personnel, equipment, and facilities.

As U.S. Senator, I have the honor of serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee, as well as the Appropriations Committee, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as ranking member on the Senate Energy Committee. I continue to work hand-in-hand with Jim Hoyer to promote good policy for the Guard, the Department of Defense, and all of our Nation's heroes.

Throughout my time as Governor and as Senator, I have relied on the National Guard not only to do their mission but to provide solid advice so that I could form the best policies. I have truly counted on Jim Hoyer's sound guidance and military expertise every step of the way. Whether it was forming the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus, writing amendments on the Defense bill, preventing war in Syria, providing death gratuity benefits for families of the fallen during a government shutdown, or bringing more military assets like the C-130J to West Virginia, Jim Hoyer has been with me every step of the way.

The West Virginia National Guard fulfills its mission of "Delivering Freedom with Courage" every single day. I am so very proud of the Guard for serving our State and our Nation so courageously in times of need, and I am grateful for their unwavering service and selfless efforts to protect our homeland. This success is due in large part to the Guard's outstanding leadership, and I am grateful to General Hoyer for serving as a part of this legacy of excellence.

When visitors come to West Virginia, I jump at the chance to tell them we have fought in more wars, shed more blood, and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We have always done the heavy lifting and never complained. We have mined the coal and forged the steel that built the guns, ships, and factories that have protected and continue to protect our country to this day. I am so deeply proud of what West Virginians have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish to protect the freedoms we hold dear.

While General Hoyer is retiring and everyone is sure to miss his strong leadership, his dedication and commitment to excellence will leave a lasting legacy with the countless lives he has

touched. Again, I congratulate General Hoyer for his remarkable years of service and his outstanding dedication to protecting our great Nation. I am honored to wish good health and much happiness to him, his wife Amy, his sons Jacob and Drew, and his wonderful extended family in the days and years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WAYNE  
HARRELL

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, today I recognize the tremendous dedication of Jeremy Wayne Harrell, of Louisville, KY, the founder of an all-volunteer organization called the Veterans Club. Already nationally celebrated for its Equine Therapy Program and for efforts to create a recovery center for homeless veterans, this unique Kentucky nonprofit has made veteran isolation its singular focus during the coronavirus pandemic. A veteran himself, Mr. Harrell recognizes that social isolation created by the pandemic can amplify the sense of loneliness already experienced by many veterans as they transition into civilian life following multiple deployments. Mr. Harrell was recently honored by Metro Louisville government with its Distinguished Veteran and Citizen Award and by Humana as the winner of its Boots on the Ground Campaign Award. I am proud to represent veterans like Jeremy Harrell in the U.S. Senate and in particular to recognize him today for his steadfast commitment to our veterans and their families. The great work of the Veterans Club is an inspiration to us all to find and connect with those in our communities who struggle with a sense of isolation.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND CORRUPTION THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13818 OF DECEMBER 20, 2017—PM 62

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90

days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* its declaration, the President publishes in and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2020.

The prevalence and severity of human rights abuse and corruption that have their source, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States, continue to threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Human rights abuse and corruption undermine the values that form an essential foundation of stable, secure, and functioning societies; have devastating impacts on individuals; weaken democratic institutions; degrade the rule of law; perpetuate violent conflicts; facilitate the activities of dangerous persons; undermine economic markets; and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption.

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 16, 2020.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6130. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Housing Act Design and Construction Requirements; Adoption of Additional Safe Harbors" (RIN2529-AA99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (FRL No. 10018-13-OECA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6132. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of CCR; A Holistic Approach to Closure Part B: Alternate Demonstration for Unlined Surface Impoundments; Correction" (FRL No. 10017-88-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6133. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 10018-11-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6134. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to Maine" (FRL No. 10017-97-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6135. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Updates to 40 CFR Part 52 for Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 10017-82-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6136. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the activities of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6137. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and State Health Care Programs; Fraud and Abuse; Revision to Safe Harbors Under the Anti-Kickback Statute, and Civil Monetary Penalty Rules Regarding Beneficiary Inducements" (RIN0936-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6138. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Musculoskeletal Disorders" (RIN0960-AG38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6139. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; New Categories for Hospital Outpatient Department Prior Authorization Process; Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule; Laboratory Date of Service Policy; Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating Methodology; Physician-owned Hospitals; Notice of Closure of Two Teaching Hospitals and Opportunity to Apply for Available Slots, Radiation Oncology Model; and Reporting Requirements for Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to Report COVID-19 Therapeutic Inventory and Usage to Report Acute Respiratory Illness During the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" (RIN0938-AU12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6140. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector

General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraud and Abuse; Removal of Safe Harbor Protection for Rebates Involving Prescription Pharmaceuticals and Creation of New Safe Harbor Protection for Certain Point-of-Sale Reductions in Price on Prescription Pharmaceuticals and Certain Pharmacy Benefit Manager Service Fees" (RIN0936-AA08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6141. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing Legal Requirements Regarding the Equal Opportunity Clause's Religious Exemption" (RIN1250-AA09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6142. A joint communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6143. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6144. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6145. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6146. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual reports of the Attorney General relative to enforcement actions taken by the Department of Justice under the Lobbying Disclosure Act for the two semiannual reporting periods from 2017 through 2019, and the first semiannual reporting period of 2020, from January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and the Judiciary.

EC-6147. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6148. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2020"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6149. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on Investigation, Enforcement, and Implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Requirements"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6150. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Drain Cover Standard" (16 CFR Part 1450) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6151. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Section 201(a) of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6152. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Amendments to Brake System Safety Standards and Codification of Waivers" (RIN2130-AC67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6153. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 15, 73, and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for the Preservation of One Vacant Channel in the UHF Television Band for Use by White Space Devices and Wireless Microphones" (MB Docket No. 15-146, and 12-268) (FCC 20-175) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6154. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Alisos Canyon Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6155. A communication from the Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Part 74 of the Commission's Rules Regarding FM Translator Interference" (MB Docket No. 18-119) (FCC 20-141) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6156. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Market Data Infrastructure" (RIN3235-AM61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6157. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Derivatives by Registered Investment Companies and Business Development Companies" (RIN3235-AL60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6158. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Good Faith Determinations of Fair Value" (RIN3235-AM71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 4077. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-333).

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

Report to accompany S. 4054. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-334).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 5024. A bill to establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, Characterization Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 5025. A bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5026. A bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 5027. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to award grants to eligible State, Tribal, and territorial public health agencies to develop and administer a program for digital contact tracing for COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 5028. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require each authorized committee or leadership PAC of a former candidate for election for Federal office to disburse all of the remaining funds of the committee or PAC after the election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 5029. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out two grant programs to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5030. A bill to provide for negotiations for the establishment or designation of a trust fund administered by the international community for the prevention and reduction

of marine debris, including marine plastic pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5031. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5032. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5033. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support college students to meet satisfactory academic progress; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 5034. A bill to empower communities to establish a continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental or behavioral health crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5035. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 5036. A bill to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 5037. A bill to amend subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act to provide a hardship waiver for certain overpayments of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 5038. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the definition of a household under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 5039. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the automatic extension of certain deadlines in the case of taxpayers affected by Federally declared disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 803. A resolution designating room S-124 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room" and designating room S-115 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room", in recognition of their service to the Senate and the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 2006

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2227, a bill to decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2232

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2232, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 2666

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2666, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2886, a bill to prohibit the use of animal testing for cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

S. 3206

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 3206, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 3296

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3296, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made, and for other purposes.

S. 3471

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3471, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 3723

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3723, a bill to provide services to victims of sexual abuse who are incarcerated, and for other purposes.

S. 4012

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4012, a bill to establish a \$120,000,000,000 Restaurant Revitalization Fund to provide structured relief to food service or drinking establishments through December 31, 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4433, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 4867

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4867, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 4906

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4906, a bill to establish a portal and database to receive and maintain information regarding blocked railroad-highway grade crossings and to require the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate the requirements of the railroad-highway crossings program.

S. 5019

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5019, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5031. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I introduced the Progressive Consumption Tax Act of 2020.

We need a tax code that is fair for American families and for employers. We need a tax code that rethinks how our Nation collects the revenue that allows us to build our roads and bridges and keeps our Nation safe. We need a system that values our most vulnerable Americans, small businesses, and makes our U.S.-based businesses more competitive.

In our recent history, comprehensive tax reform has been out of grasp. Congressional leaders have long called for a 1986-style tax reform in which the tax code would be streamlined and simplified to broaden the tax base and lower income tax rates. The 2017 tax law was a representation of how hard this type of tax reform is. It kept in place much of what makes the tax code complicated and inefficient, did not secure permanent income tax rate reductions for working families, and it increased the deficit by nearly \$2 trillion. It is time we take a new approach.

As we look to the future and work towards the goal of a sustainable economy that works for all, my colleagues and I will need to think creatively about how to raise revenues and provide for the services the government must and can deliver.

Austere and regressive spending cuts are not the answer to the question of how to set the country on a sustainable path and support working families. Instead, we should look at ways to raise reasonable revenues and make the tax code work better for all. The Progressive Consumption Tax Act should be part of that conversation.

I introduced versions of this bill in the past to provide an opening for discussion and an opportunity to review legislative language for this type of comprehensive tax reform. Now more than ever it is critical Congress revisit the thinking about comprehensive tax reform that is lasting and progressive.

The 2017 tax law was constructed with many temporary policies that will require future action on tax policies as these provisions expire.

While some of those will be years from now, this conversation can never start early enough. We know that good ideas can take time to become mainstream. In a world where about 150

countries now have a consumption tax, it is time the U.S. join this mainstream thinking.

The legislation I have introduced today is an example of truly progressive, fiscally responsible, pro-growth tax reform could look like.

It also provides an opportunity for the U.S. to catch up with the rest of the world. All OECD countries except the U.S. have a consumption tax.

The Progressive Consumption Tax Act would put this country on a level playing field by providing for a progressive consumption tax, or PCT, at a rate of 10 percent. The PCT would generate revenue by taxing goods and services, rather than income.

The revenues collected by the PCT would eliminate an income tax liability for most households in this Nation. Lower income individuals, those currently eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, would receive rebates to cover the cost of their PCT burden, cementing the progressivity of this new system.

For those who do still have an income tax liability under this Act would have lower rates and a simplified income tax. Under current law, the top marginal income tax rate is 37 percent. Under the Progressive Consumption Tax Act, the top income rate would be just 28 percent.

The 2017 tax law reduced the corporate tax rate to 21 percent. This Act would further reduce that rate to 17 percent. Businesses would be more competitive and this would contribute to a pro-growth economy in the U.S., all while collecting reasonable revenues.

As we discuss this proposal, you will hear me say this over and over again: An overarching goal of the Progressive Consumption Tax Act is ensuring the tax code is progressive, meaning that those who make less in income don't have a higher tax burden than wealthy people. The provisions included in this Act—removing an income tax liability for most households and providing rebates—are meant to maintain progressivity in the tax code for families.

For those who worry that a consumption tax will bring in “too much” money, my legislation remains balanced. It is designed to raise stable and reasonable tax revenues. However, if more revenues than envisioned are collected under this legislation, a “circuit breaker” would return additional revenues to taxpayers. Again, we put money back into the hands of the taxpayers.

In 2017, I offered the Progressive Consumption Tax Act as an alternative to the tax legislation considered that year. While it would have been a responsible choice to enact then, it could still provide a fresh start now.

Since that law was passed, there has been increased interest in looking at ways to reform the nation's tax laws to tilt any benefit more towards those who were left behind and raise reasonable revenues. My colleagues in Con-

gress and stakeholders are searching for forward-looking ideas for how to modernize the tax code. I am excited that President-elect Biden has put forward tax reform proposals and Congressional leaders have done the same. The longer we wait to put this country in a better, more competitive, progressive position, the harder it will be.

That's why I am reintroducing the Progressive Consumption Tax this year. As this Congress closes and the new Congress convenes, I hope we will seriously consider the tax system in this country and consider the types of reforms proposed in the Progressive Consumption Tax Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of my bill appear in the RECORD following these remarks.

S. 5031

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act may be cited as the “Progressive Consumption Tax Act of 2020”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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

Sec. 1. Short title, etc.

#### TITLE I—PROGRESSIVE CONSUMPTION TAX

Sec. 101. Imposition of progressive consumption tax.

#### TITLE II—INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE TAX REFORM

##### Subtitle A—Individual Income Tax Reforms

Sec. 201. Individual income tax rate reductions and inflation adjustments.

Sec. 202. Family allowance amounts; repeal of personal exemption deduction.

Sec. 203. Repeal of limitations relating to itemized deductions.

Sec. 204. Restoration of certain deductions.

Sec. 205. Termination of separate treatment of capital gains.

Sec. 206. Repeals.

Sec. 207. Establishment of progressive tax rebate.

Sec. 208. Technical and conforming amendments.

##### Subtitle B—Corporate Tax Reforms

Sec. 211. Corporate income tax rate reduction.

#### TITLE III—REFUND OF EXCESS CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUE

Sec. 301. Refunds of excess consumption tax revenue.

#### TITLE I—PROGRESSIVE CONSUMPTION TAX

SEC. 101. IMPOSITION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSUMPTION TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D is amended by inserting before chapter 31 the following new chapter:

**“CHAPTER 30—PROGRESSIVE CONSUMPTION TAX**

“SUBCHAPTER A. IMPOSITION OF TAX

“SUBCHAPTER B. TAXABLE SUPPLY

“SUBCHAPTER C. CREDIT AGAINST TAX

“SUBCHAPTER D. ADMINISTRATION

“SUBCHAPTER E. DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES

**“Subchapter A—Imposition of Tax**

“Sec. 3901. Imposition of tax.

“Sec. 3902. Taxable amount.

**“SEC. 3901. IMPOSITION OF TAX.**

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—A tax is hereby imposed on every taxable supply.

“(b) AMOUNT OF TAX.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amount of the tax shall be 10 percent of the taxable amount.

“(2) SPECIAL RATE FOR EXPORTS.—The amount of the tax shall be zero with respect to the provision of any supply which is—

“(A) a supply of tangible personal property that is exported from the United States within 90 days after the provider gives an invoice for the supply, or

“(B) a supply, other than a supply of tangible personal property—

“(i) which is provided to a recipient that is not in the United States when the supply is performed or otherwise done, and

“(ii) the use of which takes place outside of the United States.

**“SEC. 3902. TAXABLE AMOUNT.**

“(a) AMOUNT CHARGED CUSTOMER.—For purposes of this chapter, the taxable amount for any taxable supply for which money is the only consideration shall be the price charged by the provider—

“(1) including all invoiced charges for transportation, and other items payable to the provider with respect to the supply, but

“(2) excluding the tax imposed by section 3901 with respect to the supply and excluding any State and local sales and use taxes with respect to the supply.

“(b) BARTER TRANSACTIONS.—For purposes of this chapter, the taxable amount for any taxable supply which includes consideration other than money shall be the fair market value of the consideration (including all invoiced charges for transportation and other items payable to the provider) plus the amount of any money paid in consideration.

“(c) IMPORTS.—For purposes of this chapter, the taxable amount in the case of any import shall be—

“(1) the customs value plus customs duties and any other duties which may be imposed, or

“(2) if there is no such customs value, the fair market value (determined as if the importer had sold the supply).

For purposes of this subsection, the customs value of any import shall include all invoiced charges for transportation and other items payable to the importer with respect to the supply.

“(d) SPECIAL RULE IN THE CASE OF SALES OF CERTAIN USED CONSUMER GOODS.—For purposes of this chapter, if—

“(1) a person acquires any tangible personal property in a transaction which was not taxable under this chapter, and

“(2) such property had been used by an ultimate consumer before such acquisition, the taxable amount in the case of any sale of such property by such person (determined without regard to this subsection) shall be reduced by the amount paid for such property by such person.

**“Subchapter B—Taxable Supply**

“Sec. 3911. Taxable supply.

“Sec. 3912. Supplies made in connection with the United States.

“Sec. 3913. Exempt supply.

**“SEC. 3911. TAXABLE SUPPLY.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this chapter, the term ‘taxable supply’ means—

“(1) the importation of property into the United States, and

“(2) any supply (other than an exempt supply)—

“(A) which is provided—

“(i) in the course of carrying on a trade or business,

“(ii) in the case of an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), in furtherance of the activities related to the purpose or function constituting the basis of its exemption under section 501, or

“(iii) in the case of a State, an Indian tribal government, a possession of the United States, or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the United States or the District of Columbia, in carrying out any activity that is not an essential governmental function,

“(B) for which consideration is provided in return, and

“(C) which is made in connection with the United States.

“(b) SUPPLY.—For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘supply’ means any supply whatsoever, including—

“(A) the sale or provision (including through renting, leasing, or licensing) of property,

“(B) the performance of services,

“(C) the grant, assignment, or surrender of real property,

“(D) the creation, grant, transfer, assignment, or surrender of any right,

“(E) financial supplies, and

“(F) an entry into, or release from, an obligation or agreement to perform or refrain from performing an act.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR SERVICES FOR EMPLOYER.—An employee’s services for the employer shall not be treated as a supply.

**“SEC. 3912. SUPPLIES MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED STATES.**

“(a) TANGIBLE PROPERTY.—For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The supply of tangible property is made in connection with the United States if—

“(A) the property is delivered or made available to the recipient in the United States, or

“(B) the property is assembled in or removed from any location in the United States.

“(2) REAL PROPERTY.—The supply of real property is made in connection with the United States if the real property is located in the United States.

“(b) SERVICES, INTANGIBLE PROPERTY, AND OTHER SUPPLIES.—For purposes of this chapter, the supply of anything other than tangible property or real property is made in connection with the United States if—

“(1) the supply is used, performed, or otherwise done in the United States, or

“(2) the supply is provided through a trade or business in the United States.

**“SEC. 3913. EXEMPT SUPPLY.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An exempt supply shall not be subject to tax under this chapter.

“(b) EXEMPT SUPPLY.—For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘exempt supply’ means—

“(A) the rental or leasing of residential real property,

“(B) any sale of qualified residential real property,

“(C) any financial supply,

“(D) any nonparticipating small supplier supply, and

“(E) any taxable supply (or category of such supplies) treated as an exempt supply under section 3932(b).

“(2) QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘qualified residential real property’ means residential real property—

“(A) which—

“(i) has previously been sold as residential real property, or

“(ii) has been continuously rented for 5 years or more, and

“(B) to which substantial renovations have not been made after the date of the enactment of this chapter.

“(3) NONPARTICIPATING SMALL SUPPLIER SUPPLY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘nonparticipating small supplier supply’ means any supply provided by a supplier during—

“(i) any taxable period during which such supplier was a nonparticipating small supplier, or

“(ii) the four-week period beginning on the first day after the close of the last calendar quarter in which such supplier was a nonparticipating small supplier.

“(B) NONPARTICIPATING SMALL SUPPLIER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘nonparticipating small supplier’ means any person for any taxable period if—

“(I) such person has aggregate taxable revenues of not more than \$100,000 for the four-calendar quarter period ending immediately before the taxable period, and

“(II) has not made an election under clause (iii) for such taxable period.

“(ii) TAXABLE REVENUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘taxable revenue’ means revenue from supplies which are taxable supplies, determined without regard to paragraph (1)(D).

“(iii) ELECTION.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, any person who meets the requirements of clause (i)(I) may make an election not to be treated as a nonparticipating small supplier for any taxable period.

“(C) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of determining aggregate taxable revenues under subparagraph (B)(i)(I), all members of the same controlled group of corporations (within the meaning of section 267(f)) and all persons under common control (within the meaning of section 52(b) but determined by treating an interest of more than 50 percent as a controlling interest) shall be treated as 1 person.

**“Subchapter C—Credit Against Tax**

“Sec. 3916. Credit against tax.

**“SEC. 3916. CREDIT AGAINST TAX.**

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—There shall be allowed as a credit against the aggregate amount of tax imposed by section 3901 with respect to all taxable supplies made by the taxpayer during the taxable period an amount equal to the aggregate amount of tax imposed by section 3901 on creditable acquisitions of the taxpayer during such taxable period.

“(b) CREDITABLE ACQUISITIONS.—For purposes of this chapter, the term ‘creditable acquisition’ means the acquisition or receipt of any supply which—

“(1) was subject to tax under section 3901 at the time it was provided to the taxpayer,

“(2) was used by the taxpayer—

“(A) in the course of carrying on a trade or business,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer exempt from tax under section 501(a), in furtherance of the activities related to the purpose or function constituting the basis of the exemption under section 501, or

“(C) in the case of a State, an Indian tribal government, a possession of the United



States, or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the United States or the District of Columbia, in carrying out any activity that is not an essential governmental function, and

“(3) except as provided in subsection (c), was not used by the taxpayer to make an exempt supply.

“(c) CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS RELATED TO FINANCIAL SUPPLIES.—

“(1) ACQUISITIONS BY QUALIFIED SMALL FINANCIAL SUPPLIERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Solely for purposes of subsections (b)(3) and (d)(1), a financial supply which is provided by a qualified small financial supplier shall not be treated as an exempt supply.

“(B) QUALIFIED SMALL FINANCIAL SUPPLIER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualified small financial supplier’ means any person for any month if, for the 12-month period ending with the month preceding such month, the amount of credits which, but for this paragraph, would be allowable to such person under subsection (a) for taxable supplies which are used for the purpose of making financial supplies does not exceed the lesser of—

“(I) \$150,000, or

“(II) 10 percent of the amount of credits allowable to such person under subsection (a) (determined without regard to this paragraph) for all taxable supplies during such 12-month period.

“(ii) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of determining the amount of credits for any period under clause (i), all members of the same controlled group of corporations (within the meaning of section 267(f) and all persons under common control (within the meaning of section 52(b) but determined by treating an interest of more than 50 percent as a controlling interest) shall be treated as 1 person.

“(2) PARTIALLY CREDITABLE ACQUISITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any partially creditable acquisition by a person other than a qualified small financial supplier—

“(i) subsection (b) shall be applied without regard to paragraph (3) thereof, and

“(ii) only 60 percent of the amount of tax imposed by section 3901 shall be taken account under subsection (a) in determining the amount of the credit under this section.

“(B) PARTIALLY CREDITABLE ACQUISITION.—For purposes of this section—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘partially creditable acquisition’ means the acquisition of any supply described in clause (ii) if such acquisition is used to provide a financial supply.

“(ii) SUPPLIES DESCRIBED.—A supply is described in this clause if such supply is a supply of—

“(I) banking or cash management services, including services related to issuing, closing, operating, and maintaining accounts, and the processing of account information and applications,

“(II) payment and fund transfer services, including for the operation of a payment system and processing account transactions,

“(III) securities transaction services for the provision, acquisition, or disposal of an interest in a security,

“(IV) loan and debt collection services, including mortgage brokerage services, services related to mortgage insurance and loan protection insurance, and loan application, management, and processing services,

“(V) capital markets, financial instruments, or fund management services,

“(VI) insurance services, including brokerage services, or

“(VII) such other services as the Secretary may specify in regulations.

“(d) EXEMPT SUPPLIES, ETC.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If acquisitions (other than partially creditable acquisitions) are used partly for a use which is not for an exempt supply and partly for an exempt supply, the credit shall be allowable only with respect to the acquisitions which are not used for an exempt supply.

“(2) PARTIALLY CREDITABLE ACQUISITIONS.—If partially creditable acquisition is used partly to provide a supply described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii) and partly for another use, subsection (c)(2) shall apply only with respect to acquisitions used to provide supplies described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii).

“(e) EXCESS CREDIT TREATED AS OVERPAYMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If for any taxable period the amount of the credit allowable by subsection (a) exceeds the aggregate amount of the tax imposed by section 3901 for such period, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment of the tax imposed by section 3901.

“(2) TIME WHEN OVERPAYMENT ARISES.—Any overpayment under paragraph (1) for any taxable period shall be treated as arising on the later of—

“(A) the due date for the return for such period, or

“(B) the date on which the return is filed.

#### “Subchapter D—Administration

“Sec. 3921. Provider liable for tax.

“Sec. 3922. Tax invoices.

“Sec. 3923. Time for filing return and claiming credit; deposits of tax.

“Sec. 3924. Treatment of related businesses, etc.

“Sec. 3925. Reports.

“Sec. 3926. Regulations.

#### “SEC. 3921. PROVIDER LIABLE FOR TAX.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the person providing the supply shall be liable for the tax imposed by section 3901.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR IMPORTS.—The person receiving the supply shall be liable for the tax imposed under section 3901—

“(1) in the case of any taxable supply described in section 3911(a)(1), and

“(2) in the case of any taxable supply which is not a supply of tangible property and which is—

“(A) performed or otherwise done outside the United States,

“(B) used in the United States, and

“(C) acquired for use—

“(i) in carrying on a trade or business in the United States,

“(ii) by an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), in furtherance of activities related to the purpose or function constituting the basis of its exemption under section 501, or

“(iii) by a State, an Indian tribal government, a possession of the United States, or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the United States or the District of Columbia, in carrying out any activity that is not an essential governmental function.

#### “SEC. 3922. TAX INVOICES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) SUPPLIES MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED STATES.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person providing a taxable supply shall give the recipient a tax invoice with respect to such supply.

“(2) CERTAIN SERVICES PERFORMED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of any taxable supply described in section 3921(b)(2), paragraph (1) shall not apply and the person receiving the taxable supply shall generate a tax invoice with respect to such supply.

“(3) IMPORTS.—In the case of any taxable supply described in section 3911(a), the Sec-

retary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, shall promulgate regulations governing the provision of tax invoices.

“(b) CONTENT OF INVOICE.—The tax invoice required by subsection (a) with respect to any supply shall set forth—

“(1) the name and, in the case of an invoice under subsection (a)(1), identification number of the provider,

“(2) the name of the recipient,

“(3) the date of the taxable supply,

“(4) the taxable amount with respect to the taxable supply,

“(5) the amount of the tax imposed by section 3901, and

“(6) such other information as may be prescribed by regulations.

“(c) NO CREDIT WITHOUT INVOICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), a taxpayer may claim a credit with respect to a creditable acquisition only if the taxpayer—

“(A) has in the taxpayer’s possession a tax invoice which meets the requirements of this section, and

“(B) is named as the recipient of the supply in such invoice.

“(2) EMPLOYEES OR OTHER AGENTS NAMED IN INVOICES.—To the extent provided in regulations, the naming of an employee or other agent of the recipient of the supply shall be treated as the naming of the recipient.

“(3) WAIVER OF INVOICE REQUIREMENT IN CERTAIN CASES.—To the extent provided in regulations, paragraph (1) shall not apply—

“(A) where the taxpayer can demonstrate that the failure to receive or to have in the taxpayer’s possession a tax invoice was without fault on the taxpayer’s part, or

“(B) to a taxable supply (or category of supplies) where—

“(i) the amount involved is de minimis, or

“(ii) the information required by subsection (b) can be reliably established by sampling or by another method and can be adequately documented.

“(d) TIME FOR FURNISHING INVOICE.—Any invoice required to be furnished by subsection (a) with respect to any supply shall be furnished not later than 15 business days after the tax point for such supply.

#### “SEC. 3923. TIME FOR FILING RETURN AND CLAIMING CREDIT; DEPOSITS OF TAX.

“(a) FILING RETURN.—Before the last day of the fourth week (third week, in the case of any taxpayer to which subsection (c)(2) applies) after the close of each taxable period, each person liable for tax under this chapter shall file a return of the tax imposed by section 3901 on taxable supplies having a tax point within such taxable period.

“(b) CREDIT ALLOWED FOR TAXABLE PERIOD IN WHICH RECIPIENT RECEIVES INVOICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a credit allowable by section 3916 with respect to a supply may be allowed only for the first taxable period by the close of which the taxpayer—

“(A) has paid or accrued amounts properly allocable to the tax imposed by section 3901 with respect to such supply, and

“(B) has a tax invoice (or equivalent) with respect to such supply.

“(2) USE FOR LATER PERIOD.—Under regulations, a credit allowable by section 3916 may be allowed for a period after the period set forth in paragraph (1).

“(c) TAXABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term ‘taxable period’ means a calendar quarter.

“(2) MONTHLY PERIOD FOR CERTAIN TAXPAYERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer who makes taxable supplies for any month in

excess of \$20,000,000, the term ‘taxable period’ means a calendar month.

“(B) ELECTION OF 1-MONTH PERIOD.—If the taxpayer so elects, the term ‘taxable period’ means a calendar month.

“(d) TAX POINT.—For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) CHAPTER 1 RULES WITH RESPECT TO PROVIDER GOVERN.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the tax point for any supply is the earlier of—

“(A) the time (or times) when any income from the provision of the supply should be treated by the provider as received or accrued (or any loss should be taken into account by the seller) for purposes of chapter 1, or

“(B) the time (or times) when the provider receives payment for the sale.

“(2) IMPORTS.—In the case of the importing of property, the tax point is when the property is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption in the United States.

“(e) MONTHLY DEPOSITS REQUIRED.—To the extent provided in regulations, monthly deposits may be required of the estimated liability for any taxable period for the tax imposed by section 3901.

“SEC. 3924. TREATMENT OF RELATED BUSINESSES, ETC.

“For purposes of this chapter, except as provided in sections 3913(b)(3)(C) and 3916(c)(1)(B)(ii) and in regulations established by the Secretary, the taxpayer may elect—

“(1) to treat as 1 person 2 or more businesses which may be treated under section 52(b) as 1 employer, and

“(2) to treat as separate persons separate divisions of the same business.

“SEC. 3925. REPORTS.

“The Secretary shall submit to Congress semi-annual reports on the implementation and administration of this chapter, including the amount of revenue collected from the tax imposed under this chapter and estimates of the revenue to be collected from such tax for future period.

“SEC. 3926. REGULATIONS.

“The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

“Subchapter E—Definitions and Special Rules

“Sec. 3931. Definitions.

“Sec. 3932. Special rules.

“SEC. 3931. DEFINITIONS.

“For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) BUSINESS.—The term ‘business’ includes—

“(A) a trade, and

“(B) an activity regularly carried on for profit.

“(2) BUSINESS DAY.—The term ‘business day’ means any day other than Saturday and Sunday and other than a legal holiday (within the meaning of section 7503).

“(3) EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘employee’ has the meaning such term has for purposes of chapter 24.

“(4) FINANCIAL SUPPLIES.—The term ‘financial supplies’ means the provision, acquisition, or disposal of any of the following: a bank account, a debit or credit arrangement, a mortgage, a superannuation fund, an annuity, insurance, a financial guarantee, an indemnity, currency, securities, or derivatives.

“(5) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ includes any governmental entity.

“(6) PROVIDE; PROVIDER.—The term ‘provide’, when used in reference to taxable supplies (other than in section 3911(a)(2)), includes the importation of property and the term ‘provider’ includes the importer of property.

“(7) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’, when used in a geographical sense,

includes a Commonwealth and any possession of the United States.

“SEC. 3932. SPECIAL RULES.

“(a) COORDINATION WITH SUBTITLE A.—For purposes of subtitle A—

“(1) TREATMENT OF CREDIT.—Any credit allowable to a taxpayer under section 3916 which is attributable to any supply shall be treated as a reduction in the amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer for such supply.

“(2) AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION FOR TAX.—The amount allowable as a deduction for the tax imposed by section 3901 shall be determined without regard to any credit allowable under section 3916.

“(3) COMPUTATION OF PERCENTAGE DEPLETION.—For purposes of sections 613 and 613A—

“(A) gross income shall be reduced by the amount of the tax imposed by section 3901, and

“(B) taxable income shall be determined without regard to any deduction allowed for such tax.

“(b) AUTHORITY TO ZERO RATE DE MINIMIS SUPPLIES, ETC.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations treating as an exempt supply any taxable supply (or category of such supplies) where—

“(1) the amount involved is de minimis, or

“(2) the revenue raised by taxing the supply is not sufficient to justify the administrative and other costs involved in the payment and collection of the tax.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for subtitle D is amended by inserting before the item relating to chapter 31 the following:

“CHAPTER 30. PROGRESSIVE CONSUMPTION TAX”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to supplies provided after December 31, 2021.

TITLE II—INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE TAX REFORM

Subtitle A—Individual Income Tax Reforms

SEC. 201. INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTIONS AND INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) MARRIED INDIVIDUALS FILING JOINT RETURNS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES.—Subsection (a) of section 1 is amended by striking the table and inserting the following:

Table with 2 columns: 'If taxable income is:' and 'The tax is:'. Rows include income brackets like 'Not over \$100,000' and 'Over \$100,000 but not over \$500,000' with corresponding tax rates and percentages.

(2) HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS.—Subsection (b) of section 1 is amended by striking the table and inserting the following:

Table with 2 columns: 'If taxable income is:' and 'The tax is:'. Rows include income brackets like 'Not over \$50,000' and 'Over \$50,000 but not over \$250,000' with corresponding tax rates and percentages.

(3) UNMARRIED INDIVIDUALS (OTHER THAN SURVIVING SPOUSES AND HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS).—Subsection (c) of section 1 is amended by striking the table and inserting the following:

Table with 2 columns: 'If taxable income is:' and 'The tax is:'. Rows include income brackets like 'Not over \$50,000' and 'Over \$50,000 but not over \$250,000' with corresponding tax rates and percentages.

(4) MARRIED INDIVIDUALS FILING SEPARATE RETURNS.—Subsection (d) of section 1 is

amended by striking the table and inserting the following:

Table with 2 columns: 'If taxable income is:' and 'The tax is:'. Rows include income brackets like 'Not over \$50,000' and 'Over \$50,000 but not over \$250,000' with corresponding tax rates and percentages.

(5) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1 is amended by striking subsections (i) and (j).

(b) INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS APPLIED BASED ON CPI.—Paragraph (3) of section 1(f) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The cost-of-living adjustment for any calendar year is the percentage (if any) by which—

“(i) the CPI for the preceding calendar year, exceeds

“(ii) the CPI for calendar year 2016, multiplied by the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

“(B) AMOUNT DETERMINED.—The amount determined under this subparagraph is the product of—

“(i) the amount obtained by dividing—

“(I) the C-CPI-U for calendar year 2016, by

“(II) the CPI for calendar year 2016, and

“(ii) the amount obtained by dividing—

“(I) the CPI for calendar year 2021, by

“(II) the C-CPI-U for calendar year 2021.

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR ADJUSTMENTS WITH A BASE YEARS AFTER 2016.—

“(i) BASE YEARS AFTER 2021.—For purposes of any provision of this title which provides for the substitution of a year after 2021 for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii), such subparagraph shall be applied without regard to ‘, multiplied by the amount determined under subparagraph (B)’.

“(ii) BASE YEARS AFTER 2016 AND BEFORE 2022.—For purposes of any provision of this title which provides for the substitution of a year after 2016 and before 2021 for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(I) subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be applied by substituting ‘C-CPI-U’ for ‘CPI’, and

“(II) the amount determined under subparagraph (B) shall be the amount obtained by dividing—

“(aa) the CPI for calendar year 2021, by

“(bb) the C-CPI-U for calendar year 2021.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATED TO RATE CHANGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 1(f) is amended by inserting ‘, except as provided in paragraph (7),’ after ‘for any calendar year’.

(2) UPDATED COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR NEW RATES.—Section 1(f) is amended by striking paragraphs (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR YEARS AFTER 2021.—

“(A) CALENDAR YEAR 2022.—In prescribing the tables under paragraph (1) which apply in lieu of the tables contained in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) with respect to taxable years beginning in calendar year 2022, the Secretary shall make no adjustment to the dollar amounts in any such table.

“(B) LATER CALENDAR YEARS.—In prescribing tables under paragraph (1) which apply in lieu of the tables contained in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022, the cost-of-living adjustment used in making adjustments to the dollar amounts in such tables shall be determined under paragraph (3) by substituting ‘2021’ for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.”.

(3) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Paragraph (2) of section 1(f) is amended—

(i) by striking “paragraph (8)” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “paragraph (7)(A)”, and

(ii) by striking “by adjusting” in subparagraph (C) and inserting “except as provided in paragraph (7)(A), by adjusting”.

(B) The heading of subsection (f) of section 1 is amended by striking “PHASEOUT OF MARRIAGE PENALTY IN 15-PERCENT BRACKET; ADJUSTMENTS” and inserting “ADJUSTMENTS”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

**“If the taxpayer is:**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Single or married filing separately .....          | \$50,000  |
| Married filing jointly or a surviving spouse ..... | \$100,000 |
| A head of a household .....                        | \$75,000. |

**The family allowance amount is:**

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘single or married filing separately’ means a taxpayer to whom subsection (c) or (d) of section 1 applies,

“(B) the term ‘married filing jointly or a surviving spouse’ means a taxpayer to whom subsection (a) of section 1 applies, and

“(C) the term ‘head of a household’ means a taxpayer to whom subsection (b) of section 1 applies.

“(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2022, each of the dollar amounts in the table under paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘2021’ for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(c) CROSS REFERENCES.—

“(1) For deductions of estates and trusts in lieu of the family allowance amount, see section 642(b).

“(2) For calculation of family allowance relating to nonresident aliens, see section 873(b)(3).

“(3) For determination of marital status, see section 7703.”.

(2) APPLICATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN RULES.—

(A) SOURCE RULES.—

(i) Section 861(b) is amended by striking “the standard deduction” and inserting “the family allowance”.

(ii) Section 862(b) is amended by striking “the standard deduction” and inserting “the family allowance”.

(B) THRESHOLD FOR REQUIREMENT TO MAKE RETURN.—

(i) Section 6012(a)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1)(A) Every individual—

“(i) having for the taxable year gross income which equals or exceeds the family allowance amount applicable to the individual under section 63, or

“(ii) in the case of individuals entitled to make a joint return (but only if the individual and the individual’s spouse had the same household as their home at the close of the taxable year), every individual whose gross income, when combined with the gross income of the individual’s spouse, equals or exceeds the family allowance amount applicable to taxpayers who are married filing jointly under section 63.

“(B) Every individual not described in subparagraph (A) who is taken into account as a dependent by another taxpayer under section

**SEC. 202. FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNTS; REPEAL OF PERSONAL EXEMPTION DEDUCTION.**

(A) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 63 is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 63. TAXABLE INCOME DEFINED.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subtitle, the term ‘taxable income’ means adjusted gross income minus—

“(1) the deductions allowed by this chapter (other than those taken into account in determining adjusted gross income), and

7706 for purposes of any provision of this title, but only if such individual’s gross income, when combined with the gross income of all individuals taken into account in determining the family allowance amount under section 63(b) of the taxpayer, equals or exceeds the family allowance amount applicable to the taxpayer under such section.”.

(i) Section 6012(a)(8) is amended by striking “is not less than the sum of the exemption amount plus the basic standard deduction under section 63(c)(2)(D)” and inserting “equals or exceeds the family allowance amount applicable to the estate under section 1398(c)(3)”.

(iii) Section 6012 is amended by striking subsection (f).

(C) OTHER RULES.—

(i) Section 1398(c) is amended—

(I) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT.—The family allowance amount under section 63(b) taken into account for the estate for the taxable year shall be the same as for a taxpayer who is single or married filing separately.”, and

(II) by striking “BASIC STANDARD DEDUCTION” in the heading and inserting “FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT”.

(ii) Section 6014 is amended—

(I) by striking “who does not itemize his deductions and who is not described in section 6012(a)(1)(C)(i)” in subsection (a) and inserting “who is not described in section 6012(a)(1)(B)”, and

(II) by striking subsection (b)(4) and inserting the following:

“(4) to cases where the taxpayer claims deductions in addition to the family allowance.”.

(b) PERMANENT REPEAL OF DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of subchapter B of chapter 1 is hereby repealed.

(2) DEFINITION OF DEPENDENT RETAINED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 152, prior to the repeal made by subsection (a), is hereby redesignated as section 7706 and moved to the end of chapter 79.

(B) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REQUIRED TO TREAT INDIVIDUAL AS DEPENDENT.—Section 7706, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REQUIRED.—No individual shall be treated as a dependent of the taxpayer under this section for a taxable year unless the taxpayer includes the TIN of such individual on the return of tax for the taxable year.”.

“(2) the family allowance amount.

“(b) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT.—For purposes of this subtitle—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The family allowance amount with respect to a taxpayer shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

(3) APPLICATION OF REPEAL TO CERTAIN RULES.—

(A) DETERMINATION OF DEPENDENT.—Section 7706, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) in subsection (d)—

(I) by striking “the exemption amount (as defined in section 151(d))” in subparagraph (1)(B) and inserting “\$4,150”, and

(II) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year beginning after 2018, the \$4,150 amount in paragraph (1)(B) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(c)(2)(A) for the calendar year in which such taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2017’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in clause (ii) thereof.”, and

(ii) in subsection (f)(6)(B)(i), by striking “the deduction under section 151(c)” and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63(b)”.

(B) NET OPERATING LOSS.—Section 172(d)(3) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT.—Taxable income under section 63 shall be determined without regard to paragraph (2) of section 63(a), relating to the family allowance amount. No deduction in lieu of such family allowance amount shall be allowed.”.

(C) SHORT TAXABLE YEARS.—

(i) Section 443(c) is amended—

(I) by striking “the exemptions allowed as a deduction under section 151 (and any deduction in lieu thereof) shall be reduced to amounts which bear the same ratio to the full exemptions” and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63 (and any deduction in lieu thereof) shall be reduced to an amount which bears the same ratio to the full family allowance amount”, and

(II) by striking “DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS” in the heading and inserting “FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT”.

(ii) Section 441(f)(2)(B)(iii) is amended by striking “of the deductions for personal exemptions as described in section 443(c)” and inserting “of the family allowance amount”.

(D) APPLICATION TO TRUSTS AND ESTATES.—

(i) Section 642(b)(2)(C) is amended—

(I) by striking “the exemption amount under section 151(d)” in clause (i) and inserting “the dollar amount in effect under section 7706(d)(1)(B)”, and

(II) by striking clause (iii).

(ii) Section 642(b)(3) is amended—

(I) by striking “the deductions allowed under section 151 (relating to deduction for personal exemption)” and inserting “the family allowance amount”, and

(II) by striking “PERSONAL EXEMPTION” in the heading and inserting “FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT”.

(E) PARTNERSHIP COMPUTATIONS.—Section 703(a) is amended—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1),

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) and by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of such paragraph as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E),

(iii) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2)(F) and inserting “, and”, and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) taxable income under section 63 shall be determined without regard to the family allowance amount.”.

(F) NONRESIDENT ALIENS.—

(i) Section 873(b) is amended—

(I) by striking “deductions” in the matter preceding paragraph (1), and

(II) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AMOUNT.—The family allowance amount under section 63(a)(2), except that the taxpayer shall be treated for purposes of section 63(b) as single or married filing separately unless the taxpayer is a resident of a contiguous country or is a national of the United States.”.

(ii)(I) The heading of section 873 is amended by striking “DEDUCTIONS” and inserting “DEDUCTIONS AND ALLOWANCES”.

(II) The item relating to section 873 in the table of sections for subpart A of part II of subchapter N of chapter 1 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 873. Deductions and allowances.”.

(iii) Section 874(b) is amended by striking “deduction for exemptions under section 151” and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63”.

(iv) Section 891 is amended by striking “deductions allowable under section 151 and under” and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63(a)(2) and the deductions allowable under”.

(G) FOREIGN TAX CREDIT.—Section 904(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND DEDUCTIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the taxable income in the case of an individual, estate, or trust shall be computed without regard to the family allowance amount under section 63(a)(2) or any deduction in lieu of such amount under section 642(b)(3).”.

(H) TREATMENT OF POSSESSIONS.—

(i) Section 931(b)(1) is amended by striking “the deduction under section 151, relating to personal exemptions” and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63(c)”.

(ii) Section 933 is amended—

(I) by striking “the deduction under section 151, relating to personal exemptions” in paragraph (1) and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63(c)”, and

(II) by striking “the deduction for personal exemptions under section 151” in paragraph (2) and inserting “the family allowance amount under section 63(c)”.

(I) CAPITAL LOSSES.—Section 1212(b)(2)(B)(ii) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) in the case of an estate or trust, the deduction allowed for such year under section 642(b).”.

(J) NET EARNINGS FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT.—Section 1402(a) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

(K) PAYROLL WITHHOLDING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 3402(f) is amended by striking subparagraph

(A) and all that follows and inserting the following:

“(A) the family allowance amount; and

“(B) any additional amounts to which the employee elects to take into account under subsection (m), but only if the employee’s spouse does not have in effect a withholding allowance certificate claiming such allowance.”.

(ii) FAMILY ALLOWANCE EXEMPTION AMOUNT.—Subsection (f) of section 3402 is amended—

(I) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively,

(II) by striking “paragraph (2)(C)” in paragraph (3)(B)(iii) and inserting “paragraph (3)(C)”, and

(III) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) FAMILY ALLOWANCE EXEMPTION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this section—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the term ‘family allowance exemption amount’ means the family allowance amount with respect to the taxpayer under section 63(b) for the taxable year in which the payroll period begins, prorated to the payroll period.

“(B) MARRIED EMPLOYEES.—If the employee is married filing jointly and the employee’s spouse is an employee receiving wages, the employee and the employee’s spouse may divide the family allowance amount determined under section 63(b) in the proportion of their choice for purposes of this paragraph, but the sum of the family allowance exemption amounts claimed by the employee and the employee’s spouse shall not exceed such family allowance amount.

“(C) EMPLOYEES WITH MORE THAN 1 EMPLOYER.—In the case of an employee that has withholding exemption certificates in effect with respect to more than 1 employer, the employee may divide the family allowance amount (or the employee’s share of such amount after the application of subparagraph (B), if applicable) determined under section 63(b) among employers in the proportion of the employee’s choice for purposes of this paragraph, but the sum of the family allowance exemption amounts claimed by the employee with respect to all employers shall not exceed such family allowance amount (or the employee’s share of such amount after the application of subparagraph (B), if applicable).”.

(iii) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(I) Paragraph (7) of section 3402(f), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(i) of this paragraph, is amended by striking “shall be entitled to only one withholding exemption” and inserting “shall be treated as single or married filing separately for purposes of determining the family allowance exemption amount”.

(II) Paragraph (8) of section 3402(f), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(i) of this paragraph, is amended by inserting “, except as provided in paragraph (2)(C)” after “with respect to one employer”.

(III) Paragraph (3) of section 3402(m) is amended by striking “deductions (including the additional standard deduction under section 63(c)(3) for the aged and blind)” and inserting “deductions”.

(IV) Paragraph (2) of section 3402(r) is amended striking “the sum of” and all that follows and inserting “the family allowance amount determined under section 63(b) for a taxpayer who is single or married filing separately.”.

(V) Section 6040(4) is amended by striking “section 3402(f)(2), (3), (4), and (5)” and inserting “paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 3402(f)”.

(L) JOINT RETURNS.—Section 6013(b)(3)(A) is amended by striking “has the meaning given

to such term” and all that follows and inserting “means the family allowance amount applicable to a taxpayer who is single or married filing separately under section 63(b).”.

(M) AMOUNTS SUBJECT TO LEVY.—

(i) Section 6334(d)(2)(A) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) 50 percent of the family allowance amount determined under section 63(b) with respect to the taxpayer for the taxable year in which such levy occurs, divided by”.

(ii) Section 6334(d) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1(f)(7) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 63(c)(4), section 68(b)(2) or section 151(d)(4)” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “subsection (g)(4)(B), section 63(b)(3), section 68(b)(2), or section 7706(d)(6)”, and

(B) by striking “sections 63(c)(4) and section 151(d)(4)(A)” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “sections 63(b)(3) and 7706(d)(6)”.

(2) Section 1(g)(4) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) and inserting the following:

“(I) \$500, plus”, and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 1988, the \$500 amount in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under subsection (f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting ‘1987’ for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.”.

(3) Section 1(g)(5)(A) is amended by striking “section 152(e)” and inserting “section 7706(e)”.

(4) Section 2(a)(1)(B) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”, and

(B) by striking “with respect to whom the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction for the taxable year under section 151” and inserting “whose TIN is included on the taxpayer’s return of tax for the taxable year”.

(5) Section 2(b)(1)(A)(i) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(i) by striking “section 152(c)” and inserting “section 7706(c)”, and

(ii) by striking “section 152(e)” and inserting “section 7706(e)”, and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “section 152(b)(2) or 152(b)(3)” and inserting “section 7706(b)(2) or 7706(b)(3)”.

(6) Section 2(b)(1)(A)(ii) is amended by striking “if the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction for the taxable year for such person under section 151” and inserting “if the taxpayer included such person’s TIN on the return of tax for the taxable year”.

(7) Section 2(b)(1)(B) is amended by striking “if the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction for the taxable year for such father or mother under section 151” and inserting “if such father or mother is a dependent of the taxpayer and the taxpayer included such father or mother’s TIN on the return of tax for the taxable year”.

(8) Section 2(b)(3)(B) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 152(d)(2)” in clause (i) and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”, and

(B) by striking “section 152(d)” in clause (ii) and inserting “section 7706(d)”.

(9) Section 36B(b)(2)(A) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(10) Section 36B(b)(3)(B) is amended by striking “unless a deduction is allowed under section 151 for the taxable year with respect

to a dependent” in the flush matter at the end and inserting “unless the taxpayer has a dependent for the taxable year (and the taxpayer included such dependent’s TIN on the return of tax for the taxable year)”.

(11) Section 36B(c)(1)(D) is amended by striking “with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to another taxpayer” and inserting “who is a dependent of another taxpayer”.

(12) Section 36B(d)(1) is amended by striking “equal to the number of individuals for whom the taxpayer is allowed a deduction under section 151 (relating to allowance of deduction for personal exemptions) for the taxable year” and inserting “the sum of 1 (2 in the case of a joint return) plus the number of individuals who are dependents of the taxpayer for the taxable year”.

(13) Section 36B(e)(1) is amended by striking “1 or more individuals for whom a taxpayer is allowed a deduction under section 151 (relating to allowance of deduction for personal exemptions) for the taxable year (including the taxpayer or his spouse)” and inserting “1 or more of the taxpayer, the taxpayer’s spouse, or any dependent of the taxpayer”.

(14) Section 42(i)(3)(D)(ii)(I) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(15) Section 45R(e)(1)(A)(iv) is amended—  
(A) by striking “section 152(d)(2)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”, and

(B) by striking “section 152(d)(2)(H)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)(H)”.

(16) Section 51(i)(1) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 152(d)(2)” in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”, and

(B) by striking “section 152(d)(2)(H)” in subparagraph (C) and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)(H)”.

(17) Section 72(t)(2)(D)(i)(III) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(18) Section 72(t)(7)(A)(iii) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”.

(19) Section 105(b) is amended—

(A) by striking “as defined in section 152” and inserting “as defined in section 7706”,

(B) by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)” and

(C) by striking “section 152(e)” and inserting “section 7706(e)”.

(20) Section 105(c)(1) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(21) Section 125(e)(1)(D) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(22) Section 129(c)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) who is a dependent of such employee or of such employee’s spouse, or”.

(23) Section 129(c)(2) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”.

(24) Section 132(h)(2)(B) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”, and

(B) by striking “section 152(e)” and inserting “section 7706(e)”.

(25) Section 139D(c)(5) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(26) Section 139E(c)(2) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(27) Section 162(1)(1)(D) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”.

(28) Section 170(g)(1) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(29) Section 170(g)(3) is amended by striking “section 152(d)(2)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”.

(30) Section 213(a) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(31) Section 213(d)(5) is amended by striking “section 152(e)” and inserting “section 7706(e)”.

(32) Section 213(d)(11) is amended by striking “section 152(d)(2)” in the matter following subparagraph (B) and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”.

(33) Section 220(b)(6) is amended by striking “with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to” and inserting “who is a dependent of”.

(34) Section 220(d)(2)(A) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(35) Section 223(b)(6) is amended by striking “with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to” and inserting “who is a dependent of”.

(36) Section 223(d)(2)(A) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(37) Section 401(h) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” in the last sentence and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”.

(38) Section 402(1)(4)(D) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(39) Section 409A(a)(2)(B)(ii)(I) is amended by striking “section 152(a)” and inserting “section 7706(a)”.

(40) Section 501(c)(9) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)”.

(41) Section 529(e)(2)(B) is amended by striking “section 152(d)(2)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”.

(42) Section 529A(e)(4) is amended—

(A) by striking “section 152(d)(2)(B)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)(B)”, and

(B) by striking “section 152(f)(1)(B)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)(B)”.

(43) Section 643(a)(2) is amended—

(A) by striking “(relating to deduction for personal exemptions)” and inserting “(relating to basic deduction)”, and

(B) by striking “DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL EXEMPTION” in the heading thereof and inserting “BASIC DEDUCTION”.

(44) Section 1361(c)(1)(C) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)(C)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(1)(C)”.

(45) Section 2032A(c)(7)(D) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(2)” and inserting “section 7706(f)(2)”.

(46) Section 5000A(b)(3)(A) is amended by striking “section 152” and inserting “section 7706”.

(47) Section 5000A(c)(4)(A) is amended by striking “the number of individuals for whom the taxpayer is allowed a deduction under section 151 (relating to allowance of deduction for personal exemptions) for the taxable year” and inserting “the sum of 1 (2 in the case of a joint return) plus the number of the taxpayer’s dependents for the taxable year”.

(48) Section 6103(1)(21)(A)(iii) is amended by striking “for whom a deduction is allowed under section 151” and inserting “who is taken into account as a dependent under section 7706 for purposes of any provision of this title”.

(49) Section 6213(g)(2)(H) is amended by striking “section 21 (relating to expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment) or section 151 (relating to allowance of deductions for personal exemptions)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(B), (b)(1)(A)(ii), or (b)(1)(B) of section 2 or section 36B(b)(3)(B)”.

(50) Section 7702B(f)(2)(C)(iii) is amended by striking “section 152(d)(2)” and inserting “section 7706(d)(2)”.

(51) Section 7703(a) is amended by striking “part V of subchapter B of chapter 1 and”.

(52) Section 7703(b)(1) is amended by striking “section 152(f)(1)” and all that follows and inserting “section 7706(f)(1) who is a dependent of such individual for the taxable year (or would be but for section 7706(e))”.

(53) Section 7706(a), as redesignated by this section, is amended by striking “this subtitle” and inserting “subtitle A”.

(54) Section 7706(e)(3), as redesignated by this section, is amended by inserting “(as in effect before its repeal)” after “section 151”.

(55) The table of parts for subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to part V.

(56) The table of sections for chapter 79 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7706. Dependent defined.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

#### SEC. 203. REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS RELATING TO ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 67 and 68 are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 162(o) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(2) Section 164(b)(5)(H)(ii) is amended—

(A) by striking the comma at the end of subclause (I) and inserting “, and”,

(B) by striking “, and” at the end of subclause (II) and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking subclause (III).

(3) Section 302(b)(5) is amended by inserting “, as in effect on December 31, 2021” after “67(c)(2)(B)”.

(4) Section 562(c) is amended by inserting “, as in effect on December 31, 2021” after “67(c)(2)(B)”.

(5) Section 642(b)(2)(C)(i)(II) is amended by inserting “, and as in effect on December 31, 2021” after “642(b)”.

(6) Section 6654(d)(1)(C)(iii) is amended by inserting “, as in effect on December 31, 2021” before the period.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal and the amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

#### SEC. 204. RESTORATION OF CERTAIN DEDUCTIONS.

(a) DEDUCTION FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENCE INTEREST.—Section 163(h)(3) is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(b) DEDUCTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.—Section 164(b) is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(c) DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.—Section 165(h) is amended by striking paragraph (5).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

#### SEC. 205. TERMINATION OF SEPARATE TREATMENT OF CAPITAL GAINS.

Subsection (h) of section 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not apply to any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2021.”.

#### SEC. 206. REPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are repealed:

(1) Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits).

(2) Subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to other credits, other than section 27 (relating to taxes of foreign countries and possessions of the United States; possession tax credit)).

(3) Sections 34, 35, and 36.

(4) Part VI of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to alternative minimum tax).

(5) Section 199A (relating to deduction for qualified business income).

(6) Section 217 (relating to moving expenses).

(7) Section 221 (relating to interest on education loans).

(8) Section 222 (relating to qualified tuition and related expenses).

(9) Chapter 2A (relating to unearned income medicare contribution).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeals made by subsection (a) shall take effect for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

**SEC. 207. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRESSIVE TAX REBATE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 32. PROGRESSIVE TAX REBATE.**

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to the sum of—

“(1) the earned income amount (as determined under subsection (b)),

“(2) the child benefit amount (as determined under subsection (c)), plus

“(3) the additional child benefit amount (as determined under subsection (d)).

“(b) EARNED INCOME AMOUNT.—

“(1) SINGLE WORKERS.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer (other than a head of a household as defined in section 2(b)) who is not filing a joint return for the taxable year under section 6013, the earned income amount shall be equal to—

“(A) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income for the taxable year does not exceed \$6,100, 25.1 percent of such earned income,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income for the taxable year exceeds \$6,100 but does not exceed \$9,000, \$1,530 plus 17.1 percent of such earned income in excess of \$6,100,

“(C) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) for the taxable year exceeds \$9,000, but does not exceed \$49,494, \$2,025 minus 5 percent of such earned income or adjusted gross income in excess of \$9,000, or

“(D) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) for the taxable year exceeds \$49,494, \$0.

“(2) HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer who is a head of a household (as defined in section 2(b)), the earned income amount shall be equal to—

“(A) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income for the taxable year does not exceed \$9,150, 25.1 percent of such earned income,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income for the taxable year exceeds \$9,150 but does not exceed \$13,500, \$2,294 plus 17.1 percent of such earned income in excess of \$9,150,

“(C) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) for the taxable year exceeds \$13,500, but does not exceed \$74,241, \$3,037 minus 5 percent of such earned income or adjusted gross income in excess of \$13,500, or

“(D) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) for the taxable year exceeds \$74,241, \$0.

“(3) MARRIED FILING JOINTLY.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer filing a joint return under section 6013, the earned income amount shall be determined pursuant to paragraph (1), except that the dollar amounts in effect under such paragraph shall be multiplied by 2.

“(c) CHILD BENEFIT AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer with a qualifying child, the child

benefit amount shall be equal to 15 percent of the earned income of such taxpayer for the taxable year.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) LIMITATION BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN.—The child benefit amount determined under paragraph (1) shall not exceed an amount equal to the product of—

“(i) the number of qualifying children of the taxpayer, multiplied by

“(ii) \$1,590.

“(B) REDUCTION BASED ON EARNINGS OR ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—The child benefit amount determined under this subsection (as determined after application of subparagraph (A)) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by an amount equal to 5 percent of the earned income (or, if greater, the adjusted gross income) of the taxpayer for the taxable year in excess of \$75,000 (\$110,000 in the case of a joint return).

“(d) ADDITIONAL CHILD BENEFIT AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible taxpayer with a qualifying child, the additional child benefit amount shall be equal to—

“(A) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income for the taxable year does not exceed \$20,000, the applicable percentage of such earned income,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income exceeds \$20,000 but does not exceed \$25,000, the applicable percentage of \$20,000,

“(C) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) exceeds \$25,000 but does not exceed the applicable amount, an amount equal to—

“(i) the applicable percentage of \$20,000, minus

“(ii) 15 percent of such earned income or adjusted gross income in excess of \$25,000, or

“(D) in the case of a taxpayer whose earned income (or, if greater, adjusted gross income) exceeds the applicable amount, \$0.

“(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable percentage is—

“(A) in the case of a taxpayer with 1 qualifying child, 11 percent,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer with 2 qualifying children, 17 percent, and

“(C) in the case of a taxpayer with 3 or more qualifying children, 19 percent.

“(3) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable amount is—

“(A) in the case of a taxpayer with 1 qualifying child, \$39,667,

“(B) in the case of a taxpayer with 2 qualifying children, \$47,667, and

“(C) in the case of a taxpayer with 3 or more qualifying children, \$50,333.

“(e) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible taxpayer’ means an individual—

“(A) whose principal place of abode is in the United States for more than one-half of such taxable year, and

“(B) is not a dependent (as defined under section 152) to another taxpayer for any taxable year beginning in the same calendar year as such taxable year.

“(2) QUALIFYING CHILD INELIGIBLE.—If an individual is the qualifying child of a taxpayer for any taxable year of such taxpayer beginning in a calendar year, such individual shall not be treated as an eligible taxpayer for any taxable year of such individual beginning in such calendar year.

“(3) EXCEPTION FOR TAXPAYER CLAIMING BENEFITS UNDER SECTION 911.—The term ‘eligible taxpayer’ does not include any taxpayer who claims the benefits of section 911 for the taxable year.

“(4) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY OF NON-RESIDENT ALIENS.—The term ‘eligible taxpayer’ shall not include any individual who is a nonresident alien individual for any portion of the taxable year unless such indi-

vidual is treated for such taxable year as a resident of the United States for purposes of this chapter by reason of an election under subsection (g) or (h) of section 6013.

“(5) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER REQUIREMENT.—No credit shall be allowed under this section to an eligible taxpayer who does not include on the return of tax for the taxable year—

“(A) such individual’s taxpayer identification number, and

“(B) if the individual is married (within the meaning of section 7703), the taxpayer identification number of such individual’s spouse.

“(6) TAXPAYERS WHO DO NOT INCLUDE TIN, ETC., OF ANY QUALIFYING CHILD.—No credit shall be allowed under this section to any eligible taxpayer who has one or more qualifying children if no qualifying child of such taxpayer is taken into account under subsection (c) or (d) by reason of subsection (f)(4).

“(7) TREATMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A) and subsection (f)(3), the principal place of abode of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be treated as in the United States during any period during which such member is stationed outside the United States while serving on extended active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘extended active duty’ means any period of active duty pursuant to a call or order to such duty for a period in excess of 90 days or for an indefinite period.

“(8) JOINT RETURN.—

“(A) MARRIED INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual who is married (within the meaning of section 7703), this section shall apply only if a joint return is filed for the taxable year under section 6013.

“(B) OTHER.—In the case of taxpayer filing a joint return under section 6013, such taxpayer shall not be treated as an eligible taxpayer for purposes of this section unless either the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s spouse satisfies each of the requirements under this subsection.

“(f) QUALIFYING CHILD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying child’ means a qualifying child of the taxpayer (as defined in section 152(c), determined without regard to paragraph (1)(D) thereof and section 152(e)).

“(2) MARRIED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘qualifying child’ shall not include an individual who is married as of the close of the eligible taxpayer’s taxable year unless the individual qualifies as a dependent (as defined under section 152) of the taxpayer for such taxable year.

“(3) PLACE OF ABODE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the requirements of section 152(c)(1)(B) shall be met only if the principal place of abode is in the United States.

“(4) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A qualifying child shall not be taken into account under subsection (c) or (d) unless the taxpayer includes the name, age, and TIN of the qualifying child on the return of tax for the taxable year.

“(B) OTHER METHODS.—The Secretary may prescribe other methods for providing the information described in subparagraph (A).

“(g) EARNED INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘earned income’ means—

“(A) wages, salaries, tips, and other employee compensation, but only if such amounts are includable in gross income for the taxable year, plus

“(B) the amount of the taxpayer’s net earnings from self-employment for the taxable year (within the meaning of section

1402(a)), but such net earnings shall be determined with regard to the deduction allowed to the taxpayer by section 164(f).

“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

“(A) no amount received as a pension or annuity shall be taken into account,

“(B) no amount to which section 871(a) applies (relating to income of nonresident alien individuals not connected with United States business) shall be taken into account,

“(C) no amount received for services provided by an individual while the individual is an inmate at a penal institution shall be taken into account,

“(D) no amount described in paragraph (1) received for service performed in work activities as defined in paragraph (4) or (7) of section 407(d) of the Social Security Act to which the taxpayer is assigned under any State program under part A of title IV of such Act shall be taken into account, but only to the extent such amount is subsidized under such State program, and

“(E) a taxpayer may elect to treat amounts excluded from gross income by reason of section 112 as earned income.

“(h) TAXABLE YEAR MUST BE FULL TAXABLE YEAR.—Except in the case of a taxable year closed by reason of the death of the eligible taxpayer, no credit shall be allowable under this section in the case of a taxable year covering a period of less than 12 months.

“(i) COORDINATION WITH CERTAIN MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS.—For purposes of—

“(1) the United States Housing Act of 1937,

“(2) title V of the Housing Act of 1949,

“(3) section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965,

“(4) sections 221(d)(3), 235, and 236 of the National Housing Act, and

“(5) the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,

any refund made to a taxpayer by reason of this section shall not be treated as income (and shall not be taken into account in determining resources for the month of its receipt and the following month).

“(j) AMOUNT OF CREDIT TO BE DETERMINED UNDER TABLES.—The amount of the credit allowed by this section shall be determined under tables prescribed by the Secretary.

“(k) DENIAL OF CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS HAVING EXCESSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for the taxable year if the aggregate amount of disqualified income of the taxpayer for the taxable year exceeds \$5,000.

“(2) DISQUALIFIED INCOME.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘disqualified income’ means—

“(A) interest or dividends to the extent includible in income for the taxable year,

“(B) interest received or accrued during the taxable year which is exempt from tax imposed by this chapter,

“(C) the excess (if any) of—

“(i) gross income from rents or royalties not derived in the ordinary course of a trade or business, over

“(ii) the sum of—

“(I) the deductions (other than interest) which are clearly and directly allocable to such gross income, plus

“(II) interest deductions properly allocable to such gross income,

“(D) the capital gain net income (as defined in section 1222) of the taxpayer for such taxable year, and

“(E) the excess (if any) of—

“(i) the aggregate income from all passive activities for the taxable year (determined without regard to any amount included in earned income under subsection (f) or described in a preceding subparagraph), over

“(ii) the aggregate losses from all passive activities for the taxable year (as so determined).

“(3) PASSIVE ACTIVITY.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(E), the term ‘passive activity’ has the meaning given such term by section 469.

“(1) INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2022, each of the dollar amounts in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (j)(1) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘2021’ for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any dollar amount in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (j)(1), after being increased under paragraph (1), is not a multiple of \$100, such dollar amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

“(m) RESTRICTIONS ON TAXPAYERS WHO IMPROPERLY CLAIMED CREDIT IN PRIOR YEAR.—

“(1) TAXPAYERS MAKING PRIOR FRAUDULENT OR RECKLESS CLAIMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No credit shall be allowed under this section for any taxable year in the disallowance period.

“(B) DISALLOWANCE PERIOD.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the disallowance period is—

“(i) the period of 10 taxable years after the most recent taxable year for which there was a final determination that the taxpayer’s claim of credit under this section was due to fraud, and

“(ii) the period of 2 taxable years after the most recent taxable year for which there was a final determination that the taxpayer’s claim of credit under this section was due to reckless or intentional disregard of rules and regulations (but not due to fraud).

“(2) TAXPAYERS MAKING IMPROPER PRIOR CLAIMS.—In the case of a taxpayer who is denied credit under this section for any taxable year as a result of the deficiency procedures under subchapter B of chapter 63, no credit shall be allowed under this section for any subsequent taxable year unless the taxpayer provides such information as the Secretary may require to demonstrate eligibility for such credit.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 86(f)(2) is amended by striking “section 32(c)(2)” and inserting “section 32(g)”.

(2) Section 129(e)(2) is amended by striking “section 32(c)(2)” and inserting “section 32(g)”.

(3) Section 6213(g)(2) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking “section 32(c)(2)(A)” and inserting “section 32(g)(1)”, and

(B) in subparagraph (K), by striking “section 32(k)(2)” and inserting “section 32(m)(2)”.

(4) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “32.” after “25A.”.

(5) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A is amended by striking the item relating to section 32 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 32. Progressive tax rebate.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

#### SEC. 208. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and

Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a draft of any technical and conforming changes in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which are necessary to reflect throughout such Code the purposes of the provisions of, and amendments made by, this title.

#### Subtitle B—Corporate Tax Reforms

#### SEC. 211. CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 11 is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AMOUNT OF TAX.—The amount of the tax imposed by subsection (a) shall be an amount equal to 17 percent of the taxable income.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1551 is amended—

(1) by striking “BENEFITS OF THE GRADUATED CORPORATE RATES AND” in the heading,

(2) by striking “the benefits of the rates contained in section 11(b) which are lower than the highest rate specified in such section, or” in subsection (a), and

(3) by striking “such benefits or credit” in subsection (a) and inserting “such credit”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

#### TITLE III—REFUND OF EXCESS CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUE

#### SEC. 301. REFUNDS OF EXCESS CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### “SEC. 6433. REFUNDS OF EXCESS CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any qualifying excess consumption tax revenue year, the Secretary shall pay to each eligible filer an amount equal to the consumption tax refund amount.

“(b) QUALIFYING EXCESS CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUE YEAR.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying excess consumption tax revenue year’ means any calendar year for which the net consumption tax revenues exceed 10 percent of gross domestic product for such year.

“(2) NET CONSUMPTION TAX REVENUES.—The net consumption tax revenues for any calendar year shall be the excess of—

“(A) the tax imposed under section 3901 with respect to taxable supplies the tax point for which is during such calendar year, over

“(B) the credits allowed under section 3916 for such calendar year.

“(3) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.—The gross domestic product for any calendar year shall be the last estimate of the gross domestic product for such calendar year by the Department of Commerce which is published before the date that is 3 months after the close of such calendar year.

“(c) ELIGIBLE FILER.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) DEFINITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible filer’ means, with respect to any qualifying excess consumption tax revenue year, any individual (other than an individual described in paragraph (2)) who filed a return of income tax for the individual’s qualifying rebate taxable year.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘eligible filer’ shall not include—

“(i) any nonresident alien individual,

“(ii) any individual who is a dependent (as defined in section 152) of another taxpayer for the individual’s qualifying rebate taxable year, or

“(iii) an estate or trust.

“(2) QUALIFYING REBATE TAXABLE YEAR.—The term ‘qualifying rebate taxable year’

means, with respect to any individual in connection with a qualifying excess consumption tax revenue year, the taxable year of such individual which contains 6 or more months of such qualifying excess consumption tax revenue year.

**“(3) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—**

**“(A) IN GENERAL.—**An individual shall not be treated as an eligible filer for any year unless such individual includes on the return of tax for such year—

**“(i)** such individual’s valid identification number,

**“(ii)** in the case of a joint return, the valid identification number of such individual’s spouse, and

**“(iii)** the valid identification number of any qualifying child (as defined in section 32(f)) claimed on such return.

**“(B) VALID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.—**For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘valid identification number’ means a social security number issued to an individual by the Social Security Administration. Such term shall not include a TIN issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

**“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—**Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a joint return where at least 1 spouse was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the taxable year.

**“(d) CONSUMPTION TAX REFUND AMOUNT.—**

**“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The consumption tax refund amount for any eligible filer for any qualifying excess consumption tax year shall be the product of—

**“(A)** the applicable amount, times

**“(B)** the applicable shares of the eligible filer.

**“(2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—**The applicable amount for any qualifying excess revenue consumption tax year is an amount equal to—

**“(A)** the excess described in subsection (b)(1), divided by

**“(B)** the total number of applicable shares of all eligible filers for such year.

**“(3) APPLICABLE SHARE.—**The number of applicable shares for any eligible filer shall be the sum of—

**“(A)** 1 (2 in the case of a joint return), plus

**“(B)** ½ of the number of qualifying children (as defined in section 32(f)) claimed on the eligible filer’s return for the filer’s qualifying rebate taxable year.

**“(e) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—**Payments under subsection (a) shall be made as soon as practical after the Secretary has determined the consumption tax refund amount.”.

**(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

(1) Section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 6431” and inserting “6431, or 6433”.

(2) The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 6433. Refunds of excess consumption tax revenue.”.

**(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—**The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5035. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I have introduced the Encouraging

Americans to Save Act (EASA). This legislation makes common sense reforms to the saver’s tax credit by making the credit refundable and restructuring it as a government matching contribution that is directly deposited into a worker’s retirement savings account.

This bill would offer matching contributions for the first time to millions of middle and lower income individuals not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, including those who save through an IRA under a State or local government savings program—such as workers in my home State of Oregon under the OregonSaves program. The government match is also available to middle and lower income savers who participate in an employer-sponsored plan.

The government match provided by the bill would both encourage saving and help middle and low income earners build assets by providing an immediate, meaningful return on their personal contributions. The legislation would also establish a coronavirus bonus recovery credit that would provide an additional government match of up to \$5,000 to workers on their retirement saving for a five year period beginning in 2022. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 5036. A bill to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 5036

*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 “Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF OVERTIME PAY EXCEPTION THROUGH 2023 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.**

**(a) IN GENERAL.—**Section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “2020” and inserting “2023”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020” and inserting “during any of calendar years 2016 through 2023”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting “for a given calendar year” after “for premium pay”; and

(B) by striking “during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020” and inserting “during each of calendar years 2016 through 2023”.

**(b) REPORTS.—**

(1) **DEFINITION.—**In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **REPORT ON EXTENSIONS.—**Not later than January 30 of each of calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effects of the amendments made by sub-

section (a) and the amendments made by section 2(a) of the Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law 115-383; 132 Stat. 5121), which shall include, with respect to the previous calendar year, the information described under paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 2(c) of the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-160; 132 Stat. 1246).

**(3) OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS.—**Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report discussing the progress of the United States Secret Service in implementing each recommendation of the Government Accountability Office to the United States Secret Service that has not been designated as closed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**(4) PROTECTIVE MISSION PANEL.—**Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the extent of the progress made by the United States Secret Service in implementing the recommendations of the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel, including in particular those items pertaining to training and personnel enumerated in the Executive Summary to Report from the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel to the Secretary of Homeland Security dated December 15, 2014.

**(c) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—**Section 2(b) of the Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law 115-383; 132 Stat. 5121) is repealed.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 803—DESIGNATING ROOM S-124 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL AS THE “U.S. SENATOR MARGARET CHASE SMITH ROOM” AND DESIGNATING ROOM S-115 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL AS THE “U.S. SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI ROOM”, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 803

Whereas Senator Margaret Chase Smith served the people of Maine for more than 32 years as a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

Whereas Senator Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to serve in both the House of Representatives and the Senate;

Whereas Senator Margaret Chase Smith served as Chair of the Republican Conference, the first woman to hold a leadership position in the Senate;

Whereas, during her tenure in the Senate, Senator Margaret Chase Smith served as—

(1) the first woman Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services, the first woman Ranking Member of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, and the Chair of the Committee on Rates and Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Senate; and

(2) a member of the Committee on District of Columbia, the Committee on Expenditures



in the Executive Departments (renamed the Committee on Government Operations in 1952), the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies;

Whereas, on June 1, 1950, Senator Margaret Chase Smith spoke out against McCarthyism in the Senate Chamber, becoming one of the first Senators to do so, with her "Declaration of Conscience" speech;

Whereas Senator Margaret Chase Smith championed legislation and policies for women in the military throughout her Senate career and served as a role model to countless women seeking elective office and careers in public service;

Whereas Senator Barbara A. Mikulski served the people of Maryland for more than 45 years as a member of the Baltimore City Council, the House of Representatives, and the Senate;

Whereas Senator Barbara A. Mikulski served the longest tenure of all women in Congress to date;

Whereas Senator Barbara A. Mikulski served as Democratic Conference Secretary, the first woman to hold a Democratic leadership position in the Senate;

Whereas, during her tenure in the Senate, Senator Barbara A. Mikulski served as—

(1) the first Chairwoman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, and the first Vice Chairwoman of the Committee on Appropriations; and

(2) a member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (formerly the Committee on Labor and Human Resources) and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship;

Whereas Senator Barbara A. Mikulski championed policy on higher education, pay equality, space, technology, justice, Alzheimer's research, and maritime issues and sponsored legislation to improve women's health, including the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health of the National Institutes of Health; and

Whereas Senator Barbara A. Mikulski mentored other female Senators as the Dean of the Women Senators and fostered bipartisan cooperation and friendship amongst the women of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That, in recognition of the service of Senator Margaret Chase Smith and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski to the Senate and the people of the United States, the Senate designates—

(1) room S-124 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room"; and

(2) room S-115 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room".

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2709. Mr. MORAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

SA 2710. Mr. MORAN (for Mr. BRAUN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1387, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

SA 2711. Mr. MORAN (for Mr. ENZI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3287, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2709.** Mr. MORAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act".

##### SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that, since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-332) was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

##### SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

Section 59(a) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary."; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "APPOINTMENT" and inserting "NOMINATION";

(ii) by striking the first sentence;

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking "If the Secretary determines that such is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint" and inserting "If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate"; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking "The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the appointment" and inserting "Such officer or employee may not retain the position (or the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the nomination"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(3) **DUTIES.**—The Special Envoy shall serve as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts across, the United States Government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

"(4) **RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.**—The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador.

"(5) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of combating anti-Semitism."

**SA 2710.** Mr. MORAN (for Mr. BRAUN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1387, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consider Teachers Act".

#### SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.

Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'service obligation window')" after "under this subpart";

(B) in subparagraph (C)(vii), by inserting "or geographic area" after "field"; and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

"(D) submit a certification of employment by the chief administrative officer of the school in accordance with subsection (d)(5); and

"(E) meet all State certification requirements for teaching (which may include meeting such requirements through a certification obtained through alternative routes to teaching);";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "In the event" and inserting the following:

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the event"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) **RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.**—

"(A) **REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.**—In any case where the Secretary has determined that a recipient of a grant under this subpart has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b) and has converted the grant into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D in accordance with paragraph (1), the recipient may request that the Secretary reconsider such initial determination and may submit additional information to demonstrate satisfaction of the service obligation. Upon receipt of such a request, the Secretary shall reconsider the determination in accordance with this paragraph not later than 90 days after the date that such request was received.

"(B) **RECONSIDERATION.**—If, in reconsidering an initial determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary determines that the reason for such determination was the recipient's failure to timely submit a certification required under subsection (b)(1)(D) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act), an error or processing delay by the Secretary, a change to the fields considered eligible for fulfillment of the service obligation (as described in subsection (b)(1)(C)), a recipient having previously requested to have the TEACH Grant converted to a loan, or another valid reason determined by the Secretary, and that the recipient has, as of the date of the reconsideration, demonstrated that the recipient did meet, or is meeting the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

"(i) discharge the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D, and reinstate the recipient's grant under this subpart;

"(ii) discharge any interest or fees that may have accumulated during the period that the grant was converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D;

"(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to those other loans under part D;

"(iv) if the recipient does not have other loans under part D, reimburse the recipient for any amounts paid on the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period;

"(v) request that consumer reporting agencies remove any negative credit reporting due to the conversion of the TEACH Grant to a loan; and

“(vi) use the additional information provided under subparagraph (A) to determine the progress the recipient has made in meeting the service obligation.

“(C) EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLETE SERVICE OBLIGATION.—In the case of a recipient whose TEACH Grant was reinstated in accordance with subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall, upon such reinstatement—

“(i) extend the time remaining for the recipient to fulfill the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) to a period of time equal to—

“(I) 8 years; minus

“(II) the number of full academic years of teaching that the recipient completed prior to the reconversion of the loan to a TEACH Grant under subparagraph (B), including any years of qualifying teaching completed during the period when the TEACH Grant was in loan status; and

“(ii) treat any full academic years of teaching described in clause (i)(II) as years that count toward the individual’s service obligation (regardless of whether the TEACH Grant funds were in grant or loan status) if that time otherwise meets the requirements of this section.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) COMMUNICATION WITH RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH grant recipients not less than once per calendar year regarding how to submit the employment certification under subsection (b)(1)(D) and the recommendations and requirements for submitting that certification under subsection (d)(5).

“(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOLS AND HIGH-NEED FIELDS.—The Secretary shall maintain and annually update a list of qualifying schools as described in subsection (b)(1)(B), and a list of high-need fields as described in subsection (b)(1)(C) and shall make such lists publicly available on the Department’s website in a sortable and searchable format.”.

### SEC. 3. SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.

Section 420N(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2(d)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients that the Department recommends that TEACH Grant recipients submit the employment certification described in subsection (b)(1)(D) as soon as practicable after the completion of each year of service.

“(B) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—A TEACH Grant recipient shall be required to submit to the Department employment certification within the timeframe that would allow that individual to complete their service obligation before the end of the service obligation window.

“(C) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients of the required submission deadlines described in this paragraph.

“(D) ADJUSTMENT OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall adjust the submission deadline described in subparagraph (B) to account for a service obligation window extension.

“(E) ALTERNATIVE TO CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide an alternative to the certification of employment described in subsection (b)(1)(D) for recipients who cannot obtain such required certification of employment from the chief administrative officer of the school because the recipient can demonstrate the school is no longer in existence or the school refuses to cooperate.”.

### SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TIME TO FULFILL SERVICE OBLIGATION DUE TO COVID-19.

(a) Section 3519(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “For the purpose of section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2), during a qualifying emergency,” and inserting “Notwithstanding any provision of subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.)”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “such section 420N,” and inserting “section 420N of such Act; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) shall extend the service obligation window (as described in section 420N(b)(1)(A) of such Act) for a period of not more than 3 years, in addition to any extensions provided in accordance with subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.), in the case of a grant recipient whose service obligation window begins during, or includes—

“(A) the qualifying emergency period; or

“(B) a period of recession or economic downturn related to the qualifying emergency period, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Labor.”.

(b) Section 3519 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS.—Notwithstanding section 465 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee), the Secretary shall waive the requirements of such section in regard to full-time service and shall consider an incomplete year of service of a borrower as fulfilling the requirement for a complete year of service under such section, if the service was interrupted due to a qualifying emergency.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

### SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION.

In carrying out this Act and any amendments made by this Act, or any regulations promulgated under this Act or under such amendments, the Secretary of Education may waive the application of—

(1) subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”);

(2) the master calendar requirements under section 482 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089);

(3) negotiated rulemaking under section 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098a); and

(4) the requirement to publish the notices related to the system of records of the agency before implementation required under paragraphs (4) and (11) of section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), except that the notices shall be published not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 2711.** Mr. MORAN (for Mr. ENZI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3287, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 33, lines 5 and 6 strike “effectively and” and insert “effectively, including sufficient tests”.

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nomination.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

The Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

### APPOINTMENT

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Robin Cleveland, of Virginia for a term expiring December 31, 2022.

### SCARLETT’S SUNSHINE ON SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1130.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1130) entitled “An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden

death in early life.”, do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL LANDSLIDE  
PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8810, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8810) to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 8810) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COORDINATED OCEAN OBSERVATIONS  
AND RESEARCH ACT OF  
2020

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 914.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 914) entitled “An Act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND  
COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 221 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 221) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2709) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDING.**

Congress finds that, since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-332) was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

**SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.**

Section 59(a) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “APPOINTMENT” and inserting “NOMINATION”;

(ii) by striking the first sentence;

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking “If the Secretary determines that such is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint” and inserting “If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate”; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the appointment” and inserting “Such officer or employee may not retain the position (or the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the nomination”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve as the primary advisor to, and coordi-

nate efforts across, the United States Government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

“(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador.

“(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of combating anti-Semitism.”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 221), as amended, was passed.

SECRET SERVICE OVERTIME PAY  
EXTENSION ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5036, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5036) to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2025, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5036) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5036

*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 “Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF OVERTIME PAY EXCEPTION THROUGH 2023 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “2020” and inserting “2023”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020” and inserting “during any of calendar years 2016 through 2023”; and

(3) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting “for a given calendar year” after “for premium pay”; and

(B) by striking “during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020” and inserting “during each of calendar years 2016 through 2023”.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) REPORT ON EXTENSIONS.—Not later than January 30 of each of calendar years 2021,

2022, and 2023, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a) and the amendments made by section 2(a) of the Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law 115-383; 132 Stat. 5121), which shall include, with respect to the previous calendar year, the information described under paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 2(c) of the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-160; 132 Stat. 1246).

(3) OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report discussing the progress of the United States Secret Service in implementing each recommendation of the Government Accountability Office to the United States Secret Service that has not been designated as closed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(4) PROTECTIVE MISSION PANEL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the extent of the progress made by the United States Secret Service in implementing the recommendations of the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel, including in particular those items pertaining to training and personnel enumerated in the Executive Summary to Report from the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel to the Secretary of Homeland Security dated December 15, 2014.

(c) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 2(b) of the Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law 115-383; 132 Stat. 5121) is repealed.

#### U.S. SENATOR MARGARET CHASE SMITH ROOM AND U.S. SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI ROOM

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 803, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 803) designating room S-124 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room" and designating room S-115 of the United States Capitol as the "U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room", in recognition of their service to the Senate and the people of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 803) was agreed to.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1387 and Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1387) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Braun amendment at the desk be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2710) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MORAN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1387), as amended, was passed as follows:

#### S. 1387

*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 "Consider Teachers Act".

#### SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.

Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'service obligation window')" after "under this subpart";

(B) in subparagraph (C)(vii), by inserting "or geographic area" after "field"; and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

"(D) submit a certification of employment by the chief administrative officer of the school in accordance with subsection (d)(5); and

"(E) meet all State certification requirements for teaching (which may include meeting such requirements through a certification obtained through alternative routes to teaching);"

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "In the event" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—

"(A) REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.—In any case where the Secretary has determined that a recipient of a grant under this subpart has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b) and has converted the grant into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D in accordance with paragraph (1), the recipient may request that the Secretary reconsider such initial determination and may submit additional information to demonstrate satisfaction of the service obligation. Upon receipt of such a request, the Secretary shall reconsider the determination in accordance with this paragraph not later than 90 days after the date that such request was received.

"(B) RECONSIDERATION.—If, in reconsidering an initial determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary determines that the reason for such determination was the recipient's failure to timely submit a certification required under subsection (b)(1)(D) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act), an error or processing delay by the Secretary, a change to the fields considered eligible for fulfillment of the service obligation (as described in subsection (b)(1)(C)), a recipient having previously requested to have the TEACH Grant converted to a loan, or another valid reason determined by the Secretary, and that the recipient has, as of the date of the reconsideration, demonstrated that the recipient did meet, or is meeting the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

"(i) discharge the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D, and reinstate the recipient's grant under this subpart;

"(ii) discharge any interest or fees that may have accumulated during the period that the grant was converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D;

"(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to those other loans under part D;

"(iv) if the recipient does not have other loans under part D, reimburse the recipient for any amounts paid on the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period;

"(v) request that consumer reporting agencies remove any negative credit reporting due to the conversion of the TEACH Grant to a loan; and

"(vi) use the additional information provided under subparagraph (A) to determine the progress the recipient has made in meeting the service obligation.

"(C) EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLETE SERVICE OBLIGATION.—In the case of a recipient whose TEACH Grant was reinstated in accordance with subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall, upon such reinstatement—

"(i) extend the time remaining for the recipient to fulfill the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) to a period of time equal to—

"(I) 8 years; minus

"(II) the number of full academic years of teaching that the recipient completed prior to the reconversion of the loan to a TEACH Grant under subparagraph (B), including any years of qualifying teaching completed during the period when the TEACH Grant was in loan status; and

"(ii) treat any full academic years of teaching described in clause (i)(II) as years that count toward the individual's service obligation (regardless of whether the TEACH Grant funds were in grant or loan status) if that time otherwise meets the requirements of this section."; and

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) COMMUNICATION WITH RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH grant recipients not less than once per calendar year regarding how to submit the employment certification under subsection (b)(1)(D) and the recommendations and requirements for submitting that certification under subsection (d)(5).

“(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOLS AND HIGH-NEED FIELDS.—The Secretary shall maintain and annually update a list of qualifying schools as described in subsection (b)(1)(B), and a list of high-need fields as described in subsection (b)(1)(C) and shall make such lists publicly available on the Department’s website in a sortable and searchable format.”.

### SEC. 3. SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.

Section 420N(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2(d)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients that the Department recommends that TEACH Grant recipients submit the employment certification described in subsection (b)(1)(D) as soon as practicable after the completion of each year of service.

“(B) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—A TEACH Grant recipient shall be required to submit to the Department employment certification within the timeframe that would allow that individual to complete their service obligation before the end of the service obligation window.

“(C) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients of the required submission deadlines described in this paragraph.

“(D) ADJUSTMENT OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall adjust the submission deadline described in subparagraph (B) to account for a service obligation window extension.

“(E) ALTERNATIVE TO CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide an alternative to the certification of employment described in subsection (b)(1)(D) for recipients who cannot obtain such required certification of employment from the chief administrative officer of the school because the recipient can demonstrate the school is no longer in existence or the school refuses to cooperate.”.

### SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TIME TO FULFILL SERVICE OBLIGATION DUE TO COVID-19.

(a) Section 3519(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “For the purpose of section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2), during a qualifying emergency,” and inserting “Notwithstanding any provision of subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.)”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “such section 420N.” and inserting “section 420N of such Act; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) shall extend the service obligation window (as described in section 420N(b)(1)(A) of such Act) for a period of not more than 3 years, in addition to any extensions provided in accordance with subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.), in the case of a grant recipient whose service obligation window begins during, or includes—

“(A) the qualifying emergency period; or

“(B) a period of recession or economic downturn related to the qualifying emer-

gency period, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Labor.”.

(b) Section 3519 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS.—Notwithstanding section 465 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee), the Secretary shall waive the requirements of such section in regard to full-time service and shall consider an incomplete year of service of a borrower as fulfilling the requirement for a complete year of service under such section, if the service was interrupted due to a qualifying emergency.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

### SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION.

In carrying out this Act and any amendments made by this Act, or any regulations promulgated under this Act or under such amendments, the Secretary of Education may waive the application of—

(1) subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”);

(2) the master calendar requirements under section 482 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089);

(3) negotiated rulemaking under section 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098a); and

(4) the requirement to publish the notices related to the system of records of the agency before implementation required under paragraphs (4) and (11) of section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), except that the notices shall be published not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CFO VISION ACT OF 2020

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 572, S. 3287.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3287) to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “CFO Vision Act of 2020”.

#### SEC. 2. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS; GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—Chapter 9 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 902(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “An” and inserting “It shall be the duty and responsibility of each agency Chief Fi-

nancial Officer to oversee and provide leadership in the areas of budget formulation and execution, planning and performance, risk management, internal controls, financial systems, accounting, and other areas as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may designate. In carrying out the preceding sentence, each”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “areas and” before “systems”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “performance;” and inserting “performance and integration of performance and cost information; and”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) annual agency financial statements prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles;”.

(C) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) prepare, in consultation with financial management and other appropriate experts, an agency plan to implement the 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title and to achieve and sustain effective financial management in the agency, which shall—

“(A) be completed within 90 days of the issuance of a governmentwide plan under section 3512(a)(2) of this title;

“(B) be revised as determined necessary by the Chief Financial Officer;

“(C) include performance-based financial management metrics against which the financial management performance of the agency shall be assessed; and

“(D) be submitted upon completion or revision to the head of the agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, and be made publicly available;”;

(F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(G) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget,” and inserting “, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, which shall be made publicly available and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “agency;” and inserting “agency, including—

“(i) the progress of the agency in implementing the agency plan described in paragraph (5);

“(ii) the progress of the agency in implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title; and

“(iii) the performance of the agency against financial management metrics established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “of the reports” and inserting “of—

“(i) the reports”;

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “the amendments made by the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act of 1987 (Public Law 97–255); and” and inserting “section 3512(d) of this title;”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) agency spending data published under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note); and

“(iii) the reporting of the agency under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note); and”;

(H) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “monitor the” and insert “manage the formulation and”; and

(ii) by striking “, and prepare and submit to the head of the agency timely performance reports; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(I) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following:

“(9) be responsible for linking performance and cost information, including the preparation and submission to the head of the agency of timely performance reports that incorporate cost information;”;

(J) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting “inflation and” before “costs”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(K) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) coordinate with senior agency personnel, including the Chief Data Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Performance Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Evaluation Officer of the agency on—

“(A) the exercise of authorities under this subsection; and

“(B) the strategic planning, performance measurement and reporting, and risk management functions of the agency.”; and

(2) in section 903—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and who shall assist the agency Chief Financial Officer in the performance of each of the duties of the agency Chief Financial Officer under this chapter” after “matters”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) Notwithstanding subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of an agency, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the agency shall serve as the acting Chief Financial Officer.”.

(b) GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 3512 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “a financial management status report and a governmentwide 5-year financial management plan” and inserting “a governmentwide 4-year financial management plan and a financial management status report”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) by striking “shall describe” and inserting the following: “shall—

“(i) describe”;

(III) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “5 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government.” and inserting “4 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government in a manner that is strategic, comprehensive, and cost-effective; and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) be developed in consultation with the Chief Financial Officers Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Chief Data Officer Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the Government Accountability Office, and, as appropriate, other councils and financial management experts.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking “for developing” and inserting “for improving financial management systems, including—

“(I) developing”; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) linking performance and cost information to facilitate effective and efficient decision making;

“(III) eliminating duplicative and unnecessary systems and activities; and

“(IV) identifying opportunities for agencies to share systems and services and encouraging agencies to do so where practicable;”;

(III) by striking clause (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv);

(V) by inserting after clause (iv), as so redesignated, the following:

“(v) provide a strategy for reporting performance and cost information;”;

(VI) in clause (vi), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(VII) in clause (vii), by striking “identify” and inserting “provide a strategy for strengthening the Federal financial management workforce, including identification of”;

(VIII) in clause (viii), by striking “and” at the end;

(IX) by redesignating clause (ix) as clause (x);

(X) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

“(ix) include comprehensive financial management performance-based metrics against which the financial management performance of executive agencies can be assessed; and”;

(XI) in clause (x), as so redesignated, by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) A financial management status report under this subsection shall include—

“(A) a description and analysis of the status of financial management in the executive branch, including the progress made towards implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan, the status of remaining challenges, and, as necessary based on obligations or expenditures, any updates or revisions to the cost estimates included in the most recent governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(B) a summary of the performance of agencies against the metrics developed and identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(C) a summary of the most recently completed financial statements—

“(i) of Federal agencies under section 3515 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(D) a summary of the most recently completed financial statement audits and reports—

“(i) of Federal agencies under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3521 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(E) a summary of reports on internal accounting and administrative control systems submitted to the President and Congress under subsection (d);

“(F) a listing of agencies whose financial management systems do not comply substantially with the requirements of section 803(a) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note), and a summary statement of the efforts underway to remedy the noncompliance; and

“(G) any other information the Director considers appropriate to fully inform Congress regarding the financial management of the Federal Government.”;

(F) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “15 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection” and inserting “6 months after the date of enactment of the CFO Vison Act of 2020”; and

(II) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “Not later than January 31 of each year thereafter” and inserting “At a minimum, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title made in the first full fiscal year following any year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3”;

(bb) by striking “financial management status report and a revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”; and

(cc) by striking “5 fiscal years” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “4 fiscal years.”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”; and

(bb) by striking “paragraph (3)(B)(viii)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)(viii)”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Each year, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Comptroller General a financial management status report.”; and

(G) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) a separate report on the results of the assessment and conclusion required under subsection (e)(2).”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) The head of each executive agency shall—

“(1) in establishing the internal accounting and administrative controls under subsection (c), identify the key financial management information needed for effective financial management and decision making; and

“(2) annually assess and make a conclusion on the effectiveness of the internal controls of the executive agency over financial reporting and key financial management information identified under paragraph (1).”.

(c) AUDITS BY AGENCIES.—Section 3521 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking “(e) Each financial” and inserting “(e)(1) Each financial”;

(C) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking “standards—” and inserting “standards.”; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1), as so designated, the following:

“(2) As part of each audit under this subsection, the auditor shall—

“(A) evaluate the design of the internal control of the agency over financial reporting and key financial information, as assessed and reported on by the head of the agency under section 3512(d)(2)(C) of this title;

“(B) determine whether those controls have been implemented;

“(C) for controls that are properly designed and implemented, perform sufficient tests of those controls to conclude whether the controls are operating effectively and to support a low level of assessed control risk; and

“(D) communicate controls that the auditor concludes are not suitably designed and implemented or are not operating effectively, as appropriate under applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

“(3) Audits under this subsection shall be conducted—”; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking “section 3512(a)(3)(B)(viii)” and inserting “section 3512(a)(2)(B)(viii)”.

(d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3348(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) by striking paragraph (4); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Enzi amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2711) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 38, lines 5 and 6 strike “effectively and” and insert “effectively, including sufficient tests”.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3287), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3287

*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 “CFO Vision Act of 2020”.

#### SEC. 2. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS; GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—Chapter 9 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 902(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “An” and inserting “It shall be the duty and responsibility of each agency Chief Financial Officer to oversee and provide leadership in the areas of budget formulation and execution, planning and performance, risk management, internal controls, financial systems, accounting, and other areas as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may designate. In carrying out the preceding sentence, each”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “areas and” before “systems”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “performance;” and inserting “performance and integration of performance and cost information; and”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) annual agency financial statements prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles;”.

(C) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) prepare, in consultation with financial management and other appropriate experts,

an agency plan to implement the 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title and to achieve and sustain effective financial management in the agency, which shall—

“(A) be completed within 90 days of the issuance of a governmentwide plan under section 3512(a)(2) of this title;

“(B) be revised as determined necessary by the Chief Financial Officer;

“(C) include performance-based financial management metrics against which the financial management performance of the agency shall be assessed; and

“(D) be submitted upon completion or revision to the head of the agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, and be made publicly available;”;

(F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(G) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget,” and inserting “, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, which shall be made publicly available and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “agency;” and inserting “agency, including—

“(i) the progress of the agency in implementing the agency plan described in paragraph (5);

“(ii) the progress of the agency in implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title; and

“(iii) the performance of the agency against financial management metrics established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “of the reports” and inserting “of—

“(i) the reports”;

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “the amendments made by the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act of 1987 (Public law 97-255); and” and inserting “section 3512(d) of this title;”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) agency spending data published under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note); and

“(iii) the reporting of the agency under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note); and”;

(H) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “monitor the” and insert “manage the formulation and”;

(ii) by striking “, and prepare and submit to the head of the agency timely performance reports; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(I) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following:

“(9) be responsible for linking performance and cost information, including the preparation and submission to the head of the agency of timely performance reports that incorporate cost information;”;

(J) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting “inflation and” before “costs”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(K) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) coordinate with senior agency personnel, including the Chief Data Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Performance Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Evaluation Officer of the agency on—

“(A) the exercise of authorities under this subsection; and

“(B) the strategic planning, performance measurement and reporting, and risk management functions of the agency.”; and

(2) in section 903—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and who shall assist the agency Chief Financial Officer in the performance of each of the duties of the agency Chief Financial Officer under this chapter” after “matters”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) Notwithstanding subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of an agency, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the agency shall serve as the acting Chief Financial Officer.”.

(b) GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 3512 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “a financial management status report and a governmentwide 5-year financial management plan” and inserting “a governmentwide 4-year financial management plan and a financial management status report”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) by striking “shall describe” and inserting the following: “shall—

“(i) describe”;

(III) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “5 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government.” and inserting “4 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government in a manner that is strategic, comprehensive, and cost-effective; and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) be developed in consultation with the Chief Financial Officers Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Chief Data Officer Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the Government Accountability Office, and, as appropriate, other councils and financial management experts.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “for developing” and inserting “for improving financial management systems, including—

“(I) developing”; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) linking performance and cost information to facilitate effective and efficient decision making;

“(III) eliminating duplicative and unnecessary systems and activities; and

“(IV) identifying opportunities for agencies to share systems and services and encouraging agencies to do so where practicable;”;

(III) by striking clause (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv);

(V) by inserting after clause (iv), as so redesignated, the following:

“(v) provide a strategy for reporting performance and cost information;”;

(VI) in clause (vi), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(VII) in clause (vii), by striking “identify” and inserting “provide a strategy for strengthening the Federal financial management workforce, including identification of”;

(VIII) in clause (viii), by striking “and” at the end;

(IX) by redesignating clause (ix) as clause (x);

(X) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

“(ix) include comprehensive financial management performance-based metrics against which the financial management performance of executive agencies can be assessed; and”;

(XI) in clause (x), as so redesignated, by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) A financial management status report under this subsection shall include—

“(A) a description and analysis of the status of financial management in the executive branch, including the progress made towards implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan, the status of remaining challenges, and, as necessary based on obligations or expenditures, any updates or revisions to the cost estimates included in the most recent governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(B) a summary of the performance of agencies against the metrics developed and identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(C) a summary of the most recently completed financial statements—

“(i) of Federal agencies under section 3515 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(D) a summary of the most recently completed financial statement audits and reports—

“(i) of Federal agencies under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3521 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(E) a summary of reports on internal accounting and administrative control systems submitted to the President and Congress under subsection (d);

“(F) a listing of agencies whose financial management systems do not comply substantially with the requirements of section 803(a) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note), and a summary statement of the efforts underway to remedy the noncompliance; and

“(G) any other information the Director considers appropriate to fully inform Congress regarding the financial management of the Federal Government.”;

(F) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “15 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection” and inserting “6 months after the date of enactment of the CFO Vision Act of 2020”; and

(II) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “Not later than January 31 of each year thereafter” and inserting “At a minimum, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title made in the first full fiscal year following any year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3”;

(bb) by striking “financial management status report and a revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”;

(cc) by striking “5 fiscal years” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “4 fiscal years.”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”;

(bb) by striking “paragraph (3)(B)(viii)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)(viii)”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Each year, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Comptroller General a financial management status report.”; and

(G) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) a separate report on the results of the assessment and conclusion required under subsection (e)(2).”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) The head of each executive agency shall—

“(1) in establishing the internal accounting and administrative controls under subsection (c), identify the key financial management information needed for effective financial management and decision making; and

“(2) annually assess and make a conclusion on the effectiveness of the internal controls of the executive agency over financial reporting and key financial management information identified under paragraph (1).”.

(c) AUDITS BY AGENCIES.—Section 3521 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking “(e) Each financial” and inserting “(e)(1) Each financial”;

(C) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking “standards—” and inserting “standards.”; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1), as so designated, the following:

“(2) As part of each audit under this subsection, the auditor shall—

“(A) evaluate the design of the internal control of the agency over financial reporting and key financial information, as assessed and reported on by the head of the agency under section 3512(d)(2)(C) of this title;

“(B) determine whether those controls have been implemented;

“(C) for controls that are properly designed and implemented, perform sufficient tests of those controls to conclude whether the controls are operating effectively, including sufficient tests to support a low level of assessed control risk; and

“(D) communicate controls that the auditor concludes are not suitably designed and implemented or are not operating effectively, as appropriate under applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

“(3) Audits under this subsection shall be conducted—”;

(2) in subsection (h), by striking “section 3512(a)(3)(B)(viii)” and inserting “section 3512(a)(2)(B)(viii)”.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3348(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) by striking paragraph (4); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

## REPORTING EFFICIENTLY TO PROPER OFFICIALS IN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM ACT OF 2019

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 329, S. 2513.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2513) to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italics.)

S. 2513

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the “Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2019” or the “REPORT Act”.

### SEC. 2. DUTY TO REPORT.

(a) DUTY IMPOSED.—Except as provided in subsection (c), whenever an act of terrorism occurs in the United States, it shall be the duty of the primary Government agency investigating such act to submit, in collaboration with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and, as appropriate, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, an unclassified report (which may be accompanied by a classified annex) to Congress concerning such act not later than 1 year after the completion of the investigation. Reports required under this subsection may be combined into a quarterly report to Congress.

(b) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report under this section shall include—

(1) a statement of the facts of the act of terrorism referred to in subsection (a), as known at the time of the report;

(2) an explanation of any gaps in national security that could be addressed to prevent future acts of terrorism;

(3) any recommendations for additional measures that could be taken to improve homeland security, including potential changes in law enforcement practices or changes in law, with particular attention to changes that could help prevent future acts of terrorism; and

(4) a summary of the report for public distribution.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The duty established under subsection (a) shall not apply in instances in which the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the head of the National Counterterrorism



Center determines that the information required to be reported could jeopardize an ongoing investigation or prosecution.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—In each instance described in paragraph (1), the principal making a determination under such paragraph shall notify Congress of such determination not later than 1 year after the completion of the related investigation described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “act of terrorism” means an act of domestic terrorism or international terrorism (as such terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18, United States Code).

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2513), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2513

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the “Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2019” or the “REPORT Act”.

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(b) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report under this section shall include—

(1) a statement of the facts of the act of terrorism referred to in subsection (a), as known at the time of the report;

(2) an explanation of any gaps in national security that could be addressed to prevent future acts of terrorism;

(3) any recommendations for additional measures that could be taken to improve homeland security, including potential changes in law enforcement practices or changes in law, with particular attention to changes that could help prevent future acts of terrorism; and

(4) a summary of the report for public distribution.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The duty established under subsection (a) shall not apply in instances in which the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the head of the National Counterterrorism Center determines that the information required to be reported could jeopardize an ongoing investigation or prosecution.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—In each instance described in paragraph (1), the principal making a determination under such paragraph shall notify Congress of such determination not later than 1 year after the completion of the related investigation described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “act of terrorism” means an act of domestic terrorism or international terrorism (as such terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18, United States Code).

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, December 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consider-

ation of the Atchley nomination, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 10 a.m.

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

DEVEN J. PAREKH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 16, 2020:

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANNA MARIA RUZINSKI, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

GREGORY SCOTT TABOR, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

##### THE JUDICIARY

KATHERINE A. CRYTZER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

JOSEPH DAWSON III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

DEVEN J. PAREKH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### 2020 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

#### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evie Nguyen of Glendale, Arizona on winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Evie's artwork, completed in charcoal and titled "Mutual," highlights the close relationship between humans and nature by showcasing herself with a Cactus Wren, Arizona's state bird.

Evie was a senior at Deer Valley High School when the artwork was completed. Her art is currently being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with the other Congressional Art Competition winners from around the country.

Each spring, I am proud to host the Congressional Art Competition to showcase the incredibly talented students across Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

It is an honor to represent these promising young artists in Congress.

### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL W. McLAUGHLIN

#### HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Michael McLaughlin and celebrate his retirement from the Cosumnes Fire Department. Chief McLaughlin started his fire service career in 1988 as a Reserve Firefighter with Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire Protection District. Throughout his fire service career, he has served for South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore before being promoted to Assistant Fire Chief. He then became a Division Chief for the Merced Fire Department before serving with Cosumnes CSD Fire Department which covers my district. During his time with the CSD Fire Department, he has held the title of Deputy Fire Chief before his promotion to his current role as Fire Chief.

Before Chief McLaughlin became a firefighter, he worked as a paramedic in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. He was also instrumental in the creation and growth of the South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore Paramedic Programs and has been a licensed Paramedic in California since 1990. Mr. McLaughlin has an Associate of Science Degree in Fire Technology from Yuba College, along with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Department Administration from Cogswell Polytechnical College.

I want to extend my congratulations and thank Chief McLaughlin for his hard work and

dedication to keeping California safe. Chief McLaughlin also assisted in the development of the HERO Act, legislation I introduced to provide first responders access to critical mental health resources which passed the House of Representatives this fall. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. McLaughlin for his work in the community and wish him the best in retirement.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF DAMIEN JEROME LOPEZ

#### HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Damien Jerome Lopez, a brave first responder and firefighter from Globe, Arizona, who passed away last week after his battle with COVID-19.

For over two decades, Damien bravely served his community as a first responder and firefighter, retiring as a Captain in 2016.

This year, during the coronavirus pandemic, Lopez selflessly answered the call to care for his community and began working as a health care educator, assisting COVID-19 response efforts on the San Carlos Apache reservation.

A beloved community member, colleague, friend, and father, he was known for his dedication to helping all people. Damien was a generous man with a kind heart and a warm sense of humor. I know how much he meant to the people of Globe.

My family and I are keeping the Lopez family, Damien's friends and loved ones, and the entire Globe and San Carlos Apache communities in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

### TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE PATRICK NEFF

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Freddie "Fred" Patrick Neff, who passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Fred was a veteran, small business owner, a devoted family man, and he will be deeply missed.

Fred was born on March 17, 1936 in Denver, Colorado. After traveling throughout the West as a youth, Fred decided to join the Air Force. The Air Force took him to many military bases in the Far East as well as around the United States. While stationed at Clark Air Force Base he met his wife, Emerita Arrogante. Following a stint at March Air Force Base, Fred retired from the military after putting in his 30 years as a decorated veteran.

Retirement from the military allowed Fred to do many things in the second half of his life.

In his later years, he founded and served as president of two construction companies: Kadena Pacific and Cal American Construction Inc. According to his family, Fred loved dogs. Over the years, he was a proud dog dad to Herman, Nikko, Rambo, Ace, Ivan, Jude, Sadie and Rocco. Fred loved to hunt and fish, and enjoyed going out to dinner or out for a cup of coffee. Before he passed, Fred shared with his family that he had "no regrets" and truly his life's testimony reflected a full, well lived life.

In addition to his wife, Emerita, Fred is survived by his children: Susanna, Beverly, and Ray. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Neff family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Fred. Although Fred may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

### CELEBRATING MR. KEN TUCKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Tucker on his retirement from Boeing.

An Alabama native and alumnus of the University of Alabama, Ken earned his bachelor's degree in American Studies and History in 1982 and his master's degree in Administrative Science in 1984. Ken began his career as Director of Governmental Relations for the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In 1988, Ken joined Boeing as a Public Affairs Specialist.

Ken held several positions at Boeing, including Community and Education Relations Specialist, Government and Community Affairs Manager, and State and Local Government Relations Manager. He concluded his distinguished career serving as Boeing's Director of State and Local Government Operations for the Southeast Region.

Ken contributed to the success of significant space and defense programs, including Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Space Launch System, International Space Station, Delta Launch Vehicles, Starliner Commercial Crew capsule, and Space Shuttle, to name a few.

Ken fostered workforce development through enhancing STEM education in the Southeast. Notably, he helped establish aerospace technician training programs at Calhoun Community College and at Nunez Community College.

Ken selflessly contributes to several professional and civic organizations throughout Alabama. He is an active member of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Business Council of Alabama, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, and the Alabama Center for Productivity.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Madam Speaker, Ken Tucker's tireless work over the past 32 years has made America a stronger more secure nation. I wish Ken the very best as he embarks on this next stage of life.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF DR. TOM TERRY

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Dr. Thomas F. Terry on his retirement after practicing for 45 years as an optometrist. All but one of those years were spent in White River Junction, Vt., not far from his place of birth in Windsor.

Dr. Tom Terry is a prime example of what another Vermonter, President Calvin Coolidge, said in Bennington in a speech on Sept. 21, 1928. During his speech, Coolidge talked about the state he loved—Vermont: "I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all because of her indomitable people."

Coolidge's description of Vermont and her people are as apt today as it was more than 90 years earlier. While there have been many Vermonters who fit this description, but no one more than Dr. Tom Terry of Wilder, Vt.

He was born in the Connecticut Valley. After graduation from Windsor High School, Dr. Terry graduated from Springfield College with majors in chemistry and physics. He then attended New England College of Optometry and graduated with a doctorate degree in 1975. A year later he returned to Vermont and set up a practice in White River Junction where he continued to serve his many patients, until his retirement on Dec. 30, 2020.

During his years of practice, Dr. Terry developed a major interest in primary and medical eye care, including macular degeneration and glaucoma care. Dr. Terry was also trained as a low vision specialist and worked, as such, with the Vermont Division of the Blind.

Dr. Terry became well-known for his skills, not only in Vermont, but throughout New England and in national optometric councils. He served for six years as President of the Vermont Optometric Association, as well as 17 years on the Board of Optometry for the state. For 27 years, Dr. Terry did service on various American Optometric Association committees as well as nine years as Acting Eye Clinic Chief at the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction. Dr. Terry's deep interest in health care matters also led him to serve for 10 years on the Board of the Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in nearby Lebanon, N.H.

As much as Dr. Terry enjoyed serving his many patients in Vermont and New Hampshire, he was also instrumental in helping his town and state to promote regional health, economic renewal, and prosperity. In that regard, Dr. Terry was on the Board of Directors of the Mascoma Savings Bank for 18 years, many of which as Chair of the bank's foundation directing charitable contributions to local, regional and state organizations.

My brave state of Vermont may be small, but it is large in its spirit of community and service. Madam Speaker, that is why I take great pleasure in recounting the many commendable attributes and service of my constituent, Dr. Terry for the House and the nation. It clearly demonstrates the work that one individual can do for his town, state and the nation to make it a better place to live and work.

I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Thomas Terry and to thank him for his long service on behalf of our Vermont community. He is one of our "indomitable people."

HONORING SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE CHIEF JERRY RHODES

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the achievements of Jerry Rhodes who is retiring as an Assistant Fire Chief of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District in Colorado's 6th District.

Jerry Rhodes is a proud 8th generation member of the fire service who started his career on August 20, 1974 with the City of Glendale Fire Department. There he served in many critical roles including Paramedic and Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention. His career continued with the Cunningham Fire Protection District in Colorado where he worked his way up to Fire Chief.

Throughout his career, Jerry has served on countless boards and committees to further the efforts of fire and emergency medical services and has given back to the community in so many ways, including his service as adjunct instructor for community colleges and universities. His leadership and outreach with elected officials, community groups, religious institutions, and professional organizations sets the standard for future fire service organizations. Jerry's contributions to the community and fire service have been celebrated through many honorable distinctions and awards.

In 2018, Jerry was instrumental in the consolidation of the Cunningham Fire Protection District, South Metro Fire Rescue, and Littleton Fire Rescue into a single fire protection district that will improve the quality and long-term sustainability of prevention, mitigation, and emergency response services across a community of 287 square miles.

As Jerry Rhodes retires, we want to express our sincere gratitude for his dedication, hard work, leadership, and service he has provided to the citizens and members of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District and to the entire fire service for the past 46 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHARON PALMER

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of an

extraordinarily dedicated public servant and fierce fighter for working people, Ms. Sharon Palmer of Waterford, Connecticut. My friend Sharon passed away at her home in Connecticut on Friday, December 4th, 2020. She was 77 years old.

Sharon's life represents the best of Connecticut. A longtime educator, labor leader, and ultimately, Labor Commissioner, Sharon dedicated her life to bettering the education of our children and the circumstances in which we work. She will be remembered as an energetic force to be reckoned with, solid in her values, and strong in her accomplishments.

A lifelong learner, Sharon graduated from East Hampton High School in 1961, earned a Bachelor of Science from St. Joseph College, and a master's in Marine Science from Eastern Connecticut state in 1978. Soon after, she began a passionate teaching career at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in Moodus, Connecticut. She later taught math and science at Clark Lane Jr. High School, and even took her dedication to teaching on an international tour by joining the Department of Defense and teaching our servicemembers' children in Hanover, Germany.

One way or another, Sharon was always a force for good in Connecticut. During her time teaching in Waterford, she started planting seeds for a second career outside of the classroom—still aiming to serve and advocate for others—as treasurer and then president of her local AFT chapter. In her never-ending quest to fight for the betterment of her community, Sharon also became a fervent voice in local politics as a member of Waterford's Representative Town Meeting. Despite constantly taking on new roles throughout her life, she would continue to serve in her municipal government for over 23 years.

In 1989, Sharon grew from her role as a local chapter president and became the first vice-president of AFT-CT. She kept that position for 12 years before she took on the executive vice president position for another two, and then ultimately was elected as President of the state's second largest teacher's union in 2003. She has been one of the most notable union leaders in the state and could often be found testifying at Connecticut's state Capitol in Hartford. It was because of her high profile and her vibrant credibility within the labor community that she was appointed as former Governor Dannel Malloy's first Labor Commissioner. It was only then that she would step down from her leadership positions both in Waterford and as President of AFT-CT. Before retiring from a consecutive 58-year long career, she became a vital part of the state government, acting as a strong, critical voice for the working community and an liaison to local labor organizations.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to witness Sharon Palmer's service in action and especially to be her friend. Hers is a proud legacy—one that will continue the good fight for years to come—and I ask that the entire House join me in continuing her legacy by never losing sight of the fight for working families.

HONORING NANCY STERN FOR  
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE  
EASTERN SHORE RURAL HEALTH  
SYSTEM

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Nancy Stern upon her retirement from Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc.

For over 20 years, Nancy has led Rural Health as the center's Chief Executive Office. In her time as CEO and beyond, Nancy has exhibited extraordinary passion for the Eastern Shore community and has been a staunch advocate for Community Health Centers nationwide.

Nancy began her career as a health educator, originally working part-time as she raised her young family. She worked in health education for over a decade before taking the role of Director of Human Resources for Rural Health. After three years in this role and another two years as the Director Operations, Nancy was appointed as Rural Health's CEO where she has remained for the last 20 years.

Nancy has been a key figure in Rural Health's growth, modernization, and expansion to meet 21st century standards. Under Nancy's leadership, Rural Health added adult dental and behavior health care to better assist Eastern Shore residents. Nancy also oversaw the Eastville Community Health Center's construction as well as the expansion and replacement of the Onley and Atlantic Community Health Centers respectively. Additionally, she led Rural Health in acquiring a partnership with Kiwanis International for the Chincoteague Community Health Center. In her 20-year tenure, Rural Health's workforce expanded from 100 employees to 300 and increased its budget from \$6 million to \$29 million today.

Nancy's dedication to providing for the health and well being of the Eastern Shore community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize her leadership and the role she has played in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia is a better place because of her efforts.

HONORING TOM BROWN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate Thomas Brown on his retirement and thank him for his many meaningful years of service to the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Tom has been a crucial member of my team in the House of Representatives for fifteen years, and his impact on Missouri's Sixth Congressional District cannot be overstated. In 2005, Tom joined my team as Chief of Staff, and has since held multiple other titles, including District Director and Senior Advisor. Tom's wealth of knowledge about Missouri and the needs of the constituents in the Sixth Congressional District made him both an effective

leader in the office and an invaluable voice for the district. In the past fifteen years, Tom has made himself known as a true force to be reckoned with, using his wide network of relationships and his unmatched experience in the region to bring real change to Missourians.

Tom's dedication to the people of Missouri is in no way limited to his time on my staff. Before joining our team, Tom served as a Clay County Commissioner, Chairman of the Missouri Lottery Commission, and the Chairman of the Board at Saint Luke's North Hospital. Tom has also served on boards for the Mid-America Regional Council, Tri-County Mental Health, and Synergy Services. His tireless efforts on behalf of Missouri will be felt long after his time on staff comes to an end.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Tom Brown for his commitment to the Northland, Missouri's Congressional Sixth District, and the entire Show Me State. I am honored to have worked with him for the past 15 years and am honored to call him, and his family, my friends and neighbors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF TOM VANKIRK

**HON. CONOR LAMB**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Tom VanKirk, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Highmark Health on December 31, 2020.

Mr. VanKirk joined Highmark Inc. in March 2012 following a 41-year career at Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney. In addition to overseeing the acquisition of West Penn Allegheny Hospital System and Jefferson Hospital as well as the formation of Highmark Health in 2013 and its affiliation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of northeast Pennsylvania in 2015, he has managed the legal affairs of the company and the legal department, and serves on the company's leadership team. He was also instrumental in the formation of Highmark Health's strategic partnerships with Johns Hopkins Medicine and Penn State Health. Mr. VanKirk also serves as the secretary of the board of directors of Highmark Inc. and Highmark Health.

Prior to joining Highmark in 2012, Mr. VanKirk served as Chairman and CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney from 2003 until 2009, and Chairman until 2012, where he provided strategic leadership, client relationship development and attorney recruitment. He also managed the merger of three major law firms into Buchanan. Mr. VanKirk served as COO for 18 years from 1985 to 2003 before becoming CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll. He was a corporate takeover and antitrust trial lawyer and corporate advisor to many Fortune 1,000 companies.

As a community leader, Mr. VanKirk is involved in many civic and non-profit initiatives throughout the Pittsburgh region. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Pennsylvania Economy League and Chaired the Pennsylvania Business Council Board. In addition, Mr. VanKirk is a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, United Way, the Board of visitors of the PITT School of Social

Work, The Carnegie Museum, and on the board of Penn State Health.

Mr. VanKirk and his wife Bonnie have been involved in the founding of both the Hillman Cancer Center and the August Wilson Center, two vital Pittsburgh institutions. He is a graduate of two great Pennsylvania schools. Bucknell and Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

[From Penn State University Newswire]

According to a recent news article looking back on his life and contributions to our community, "When Mr. VanKirk, 1970, attended Penn State Dickinson Law five decades ago, it was a time of tremendous unrest. The civil rights movement and protests against the Vietnam War were peaking, and VanKirk felt drawn to the field of law."

Said Mr. VanKirk of this experience, "I think the law has always been a great place to make a meaningful and lasting impact on society."

On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Mr. VanKirk on his retirement and thank him for his tireless work to enhance the quality of life of our community.

HONORING JACQUIE SULLIVAN ON  
HER RETIREMENT AS  
COUNCILMEMBER ON THE  
BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bakersfield's longest-serving City Councilmember, Jacquie Sullivan, a constituent and longtime friend. Years ago, I remember calling Jacquie to encourage her to run for City Council. Now as she prepares to retire, I am honored to recognize her legacy and thank her for 25 years of public service to the city of Bakersfield and Kern County.

Born in Bakersfield, Jacquie attended local public schools and later moved north, graduating from Tahoe Truckee High School. Soon after earning her high school diploma, she secured her real estate license and, while raising four children, entered the rental investment industry. In 1993, after the loss of her daughter Joyce, Jacquie, despite her soft-spoken nature, became one of our community's outspoken voices helping to change the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. She worked to educate the next generation, drive awareness of the disease, and advocated for more funding for treatments and prevention. Through her advocacy, Jacquie spoke at many Kern County school functions and helped raise thousands of dollars to provide better care for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

In 1995, Jacquie was elected to the Bakersfield City Council. As Councilmember for Ward Six, she worked with her colleagues to prioritize neighborhood safety, affordable family living, and promoting prosperity in her ward and across Bakersfield. During her tenure, she enhanced resident quality of life by streamlining building projects, introducing a city framework for emergency funding, and fostering economic growth opportunities for small businesses.

Jacquie's advocacy and legacy, however, is not confined just to the borders of Bakersfield,

California. In 2002, she founded In God We Trust America, Inc., a nonprofit organization that encourages elected officials to display our national motto "In God We Trust" in public spaces like at town halls and other facilities. As a result of this nonprofit, more than 700 buildings at various levels of government throughout 37 states have the motto displayed including the Bakersfield City Council Chambers, as well as the Kern County Sheriff's Department, which recently added motto decals to its patrol vehicles.

It has been a pleasure to work with my close friend Jacquie, collaborating with her on issues impacting our community to improve the lives of our constituents. While her presence and passion on the Bakersfield City Council will certainly be missed, I have no doubt she will continue to advocate for the policies and programs that she holds dear. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I thank Jacquie for her service and wish her well as she begins this new chapter enjoying time with her children, Richard, Julie, and Linda, and her grandchildren.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID KENNETT

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dedicated and trusted member of my staff. At the end of this Congress, my Chief of Staff, David Kennett, will be departing my office after many years of invaluable service.

After graduating from Delaware County Christian School in 1990, Dave attended Wheaton College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History. While working at Houlihan's restaurant in Springfield, Virginia, Dave first joined my D.C. office as an intern. After writing up a well-researched memo on the history of Puerto Rico, Dave was offered a job as our staff assistant by my first Chief of Staff, Ed Slevin. He was soon promoted to a legislative assistant position, responsible for a portfolio that included infrastructure and natural resources issues. In 1998, Dave left my office, for the first time, to move to California.

Dave and his family would wind up moving back to D.C. and he rejoined my office to serve as my legislative director in 2001, a post he would fill until leaving for the second time, in 2003 to join The Ferguson Group, where he worked as a federal advocate on behalf of a number of Riverside County organizations, including the Western Municipal Water District and the Riverside Community College District.

In 2016, following the departure of my long-time Chief of Staff, David Ramey, Dave once again joined my office to serve in that leadership role. His third stint in my office began just as a new Republican administration was forming and Dave played a big role in helping qualified Californians find roles to serve in our federal agencies. Dave staffed our weekly California Republican Delegation lunches as well as aided me in my role this past Congress as a Deputy Chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Dave's immeasurable contributions to my office, the constituents I have represented and to our country are something for which we should all be very grateful. Personally, I have and will continue to value my friendship with Dave and wish him and his wife Catherine, their daughter Carolyn and son David the very best and brightest future.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF COACH WALLY BUMPAS

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, Coach Wally Bumpas was an icon to the many young men and women he mentored, and I'm honored to have known him when he coached at Brandon High School. Coach Bumpas taught history and coached football in Lambert, Shelby, Wiona, Jackson, McComb, and Brandon, Mississippi, and in 1990 was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame. He loved his players and seeing them advance in their careers and personal lives. Coach Bumpas was an avid reader, especially of World War II history, and he found great pleasure in traveling and fishing. Among his fondest times were trips to Europe and an African safari with his wife, Kennie, and fly fishing in the Bahamas with many friends including Quinton Dickerson, Dave Goldberg, and Charlie Modica, Jr. They thoroughly enjoyed his company and advice, and they cherish the photos, stories, and memories of the time they shared together.

After retiring from a longtime coaching career in 1995, Coach Bumpas was hired at his retirement party by former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice. Working in Governor Fordice's successful re-election campaign that year with many new friends including Lisa Buelow Ireland, Coach Bumpas began a second career in politics and public service. In 1996, Coach Bumpas worked on the successful campaign of former Mississippi Third District Congressman Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Jr. He subsequently served for many years on Congressman Pickering's congressional staff in Mississippi. Congressman Pickering always considered Coach Bumpas to be a loyal, trusted friend and was grateful to have him as a member of his staff.

Coach Bumpas also enjoyed researching his genealogy and learned he descended from French Huguenot Eduod Bompasse, who arrived at Plymouth on the "Good Ship Fortune," the first boat to arrive after the Mayflower, on November 10, 1621. In recent years, Coach spent his days enjoying his home on Lake Lorman in Madison County, Mississippi. Coach Wally Bumpas passed away at the age of 84 on December 6, 2020, surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife and the love of his life, the former Kennie Tuth Robison, whom he married on July 23, 1961, at St. John's Catholic Church in Oxford, MS. He is also survived by son Wally Bumpas, Jr. and wife Reni, daughter Elizabeth "Sis" Bumpas, son Ken Bumpas and wife Lisa, as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Coach Bumpas was pre-

ceded in death by his brother Gilbert Dell Bumpas, Jr.

Through his actions of encouragement to thousands of people he knew, Coach Bumpas left Mississippi a better place than he found it. He will be missed greatly by those who knew him, but the lessons he instilled in so many will continue to positively impact lives for many years to come.

HONORING SCOTT CUNNINGHAM,  
SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE RANKING  
MEMBER FOR THE HOUSE  
ETHICS COMMITTEE

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Scott Cunningham, a member of my staff for over thirteen years, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives and to the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

A Dallas native, Scott first came to Capitol Hill in 1999 as a congressional intern for Congressman Pete Sessions and would return to intern again for each of the next two summers. In 2007, he joined my staff and has continued to serve the people of the 24th District of Texas with energy and integrity, first as my policy director and then as my legislative director and deputy chief of staff. He is currently my senior advisor, counseling and supporting me in my role as the Ranking Member of the House Ethics Committee.

Much of Scott's day-to-day work is now behind-the-scenes, but his passion for public policy is still evident. He has handled each issue area for my team at some point during his tenure, even serving as a one-man legislative team for five months. As hectic as that time may have been, I also know that Scott stresses about nothing more than managing my flights. I am sure I would not have made it to Washington every week without him.

Scott's contributions were not limited to legislative work. He is known for his servant's heart and is never happier than when he is able to help a constituent with a casework issue. Whether it takes only five minutes or a full five years to solve, Scott is always determined to see a job through to the end. He came to Capitol Hill all those years ago to help people, especially his fellow Texans, and any of my constituents who have worked with him can attest to the fact that he has succeeded.

I am not sure what my tenure in Congress would have been like without Scott Cunningham as part of my team, and not only because he drew the first-place selection in the Congressional office lottery twice for me and his coworkers. Scott's loyalty, determination, and focus on giving back all informed how my team and I approached our work here on Capitol Hill. On behalf of myself and the people of Texas's 24th District, I thank him for his thirteen years of service and wish him the very best on his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AHMAD  
JABER

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Dr. Ahmad Jaber, a physician and founder of the Arab American Association of New York, a human rights advocacy organization.

Dr. Jaber was born and raised by his widowed mother in the Palestinian village of Yamoun in the West Bank. Following the example of his mother, Dr. Jaber worked hard to put himself through college and medical school. He immigrated to the United States in 1974 to pursue a medical career in obstetrics. While he is well-known for having delivered more than five thousand babies over the course of his career, Dr. Jaber was celebrated for his generosity and advocacy on behalf of others.

Dr. Jaber founded the Arab American Association of New York as a welcoming center for new immigrants to New York from the Middle East. Under his leadership, the organization grew to become a social services organization that provides adult education services, youth programming, and mental health services. More than that, the organization seeks to create cross-culture dialogue within New York's multiethnic communities. It has served as a liaison to challenge discrimination against Arab Americans.

I invite you to join me in recognizing the legacy of Dr. Ahmad Jaber as we give honor to his memory.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY DRIVEN RECOVERY FOR PUERTO RICO ACT**

**HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Community Driven Recovery for Puerto Rico Act along with my colleague from New York, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT. This bill strengthens transparency and local oversight of federal recovery efforts in Puerto Rico by establishing a Civil Society Task Force to ensure that Puerto Ricans have a seat at the table in decisions about recovery efforts.

More than three years since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, the island is still devastated and Puerto Rican voices have been shut out of the federal recovery process. The Civil Society Task Force established by this bill will represent different sectors of Puerto Rican society including community organizations, unions, nonprofits and small businesses. The Task Force will be embedded within federal recovery agencies to ensure that the Puerto Rican community's ideas and concerns are incorporated into the recovery process.

The federal recovery effort in Puerto Rico has been removed from the people of the island for too long, and this bill provides an important mechanism to bridge that gap and enhance the accountability, transparency and

credibility of the process. I urge this body to advance this bill.

**TRIBUTE TO RANDY BONNER**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my friend Randy Bonner, who is stepping down this month from the Canyon Lake City Council. Randy is a community leader, a veteran, and a dedicated public servant whose many tireless efforts to better our region will be missed.

Randy settled into his lakeshore home in Canyon Lake more than two decades ago after retiring from his two professional careers, which included over 35 years in the computer/disk drive industry, and 28 years in the Marine Corps Reserves, from which he retired as a Colonel. His first foray into serving the small, gated city of Canyon Lake came in 2007 when Randy was elected to serve as the Canyon Lake POA Treasurer, then as the president in 2008. With his experience on the Canyon Lake POA, Randy felt prepared to serve on the City Council in 2010 and was elected by the voters to fill that role. After a brief hiatus off the council, Randy was elected again in 2016 to rejoin the council. He was selected by his city council colleagues to serve as the city's mayor in 2014 and 2017.

Throughout his time on the council, Randy has been a Board Member of the Western Riverside County Conservation Agency, the Western Riverside Council of Governments and the Riverside Transportation Agency. He has also served on the I-15 Through Temecula Valley Task Force and the Southwest Communities Financing Authorities Joint Powers Agreement (Animal Friends of the Valley). Randy is also an active member of the Canyon Lake Men's Golf Club, Over The Hill Group, After Lunch Bunch, Canyon Lake Travel Club, Canyon Lake Yacht Club, and was the Master of Ceremonies at the first Canyon Lake Veterans Day event and then again in 2010.

I want to personally acknowledge and thank Randy for serving on my Academy Nominations Selection Committee, and helping to determine which students from the 42nd Congressional District receive nominations to our military service academies. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Randy's significant contributions to the city of Canyon Lake. I wish Randy, and his family, the very best in the years to come.

**CONGRATULATING REBECCA LEGGIERI ON HER RETIREMENT**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rebecca Leggieri, Clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, who will be retiring at the end of this year after more than 24 years of service to our country.

Becky was born in Schenectady, New York, and went to St. Lawrence University on a ROTC scholarship. She joined the Army as a Quartermaster officer and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ms. Leggieri first came to the House as an Army Fellow for Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan in 2009. Rep. Kilpatrick was a member of the Subcommittee, and during her fellowship Becky met the committee staff and learned the mechanics of the appropriations process. The Committee, recognizing her talent, hired Rebecca in 2010.

She began serving on the Defense Subcommittee in the minority. In that capacity, she needed to be versed on every facet of a vast and complex bill that encompasses hundreds of thousands of people and every issue ranging from day care to the delivery systems for nuclear weapons. This year's bill amounts to nearly \$700 billion and it impacts our nation's security and that of our planet. Becky's skills and her life experiences were all she needed to make the right decisions. In 2015, Becky Leggieri became the Subcommittee's Minority Staff Director and has worked by my side for the past five years to ensure oversight of the Department of Defense and numerous intelligence agencies. She balanced competing priorities from administrations, Members of Congress, labor, industry, state and local governments, and citizen interest groups. Her honesty, knowledge of the issues, and willingness to listen allowed her to develop legislation in which the many parties involved felt a sense of shared ownership in its enactment.

Becky Leggieri is a person of scrupulous ethics and is possessed of a sterling intellect and nimble mind, an innate political shrewdness, and poise under pressure. Most importantly, she used these talents in the service of her country and this institution to ensure that the Committee and House's constitutional prerogatives were respected and protected. Her steady hand will be sorely missed.

I know Ms. Leggieri's husband, John, and her children, Olivia and Gabriel, are so very proud of her, as are we all. I wish Becky every happiness and success in her future endeavors.

**COMMITTEE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, "HIJACKING OUR HEROES: EXPLOITING VETERANS THROUGH DISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA"**

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to bring attention to an important issue facing our nation's veterans.

During a hearing held on November 13 of last year, the Committee heard about the risks faced by our nation's veterans when using social media. Based on the results of that hearing, as well as additional research and analysis, my Committee has prepared a report that not only details the risks faced by veterans, but also outlines a series of policy options and other solutions. The executive summary of the report, "Hijacking Our Heroes: Exploiting Veterans through Disinformation on Social

Media,” is below and the full text of the report is available at: <https://veterans.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Hijacking%20Our%20Heroes.pdf>.

The threat of foreign individuals and organizations influencing United States (U.S.) elections by manipulating social media has been a persistent and growing issue since before the 2016 election year. The threat was a significant concern during the 2020 elections.

Recent investigations and analysis document the broad proliferation of online influence campaigns that originate overseas. This includes the use of “spoofing,” or the act of disguising an electronic communication from an unknown source as being from a known, trusted source. A subset of these operations target the veteran and military service member communities in order to misappropriate their voices, authority and credibility. The pervasiveness of social media, as well as the nature of the specific threat to our election integrity and the sowing of political discord makes this a critical issue affecting both veterans and those who value veterans’ voices. As described by Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Mark Takano (D-CA), “the issue of protecting our elections from foreign influence is one of critical importance to all Americans and preserving the power of veterans’ voices should be of equal concern to us all.

On Wednesday, November 13, 2019, the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held an investigative hearing to examine the nature and scope of threats posed to the veterans’ community through “internet spoofing.” Experts testified that stolen, misappropriated, or fraudulently created social media accounts can be used to target veterans for the purposes of disseminating political propaganda and fake news in order to influence elections. The witnesses also described romance scams and commercial fraud being perpetrated using spoofing techniques. Representatives of three major social media platforms—Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter—discussed how they are addressing this threat, particularly considering the 2020 elections, and described best practices for information sharing, protective measures, and law enforcement cooperation. The Committee later held a briefing on January 14, 2020, with representatives from several components of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that handle law enforcement for online crimes.

Ranking Member Dr. David P. Roe (R-TN) noted during the hearing, “The evidence is clear that veterans have their identity misappropriated and that they, like other social media users, could be targets for propaganda or scams.” Although everyone who uses the internet is subject to online scams, spamming, phishing, identity theft, and other such risks, veterans are particularly susceptible to internet spoofing based on their higher propensity for political engagement (including running for office, volunteering, and sharing political opinions and information). For the purposes of disseminating political propaganda or exerting influence on dividing Americans on sensitive political “wedge issues,” veterans are targeted because of their close identification with strong national security policies, patriotism, personal sacrifice, and honor.

Chairman Takano stated during the hearing, “By impersonating veterans, these foreign actors are effectively eroding the hard-earned power and integrity of veterans’ voices.”

Veterans are more likely to be engaged in their communities, be perceived as leaders, and can exert influence on political matters (particularly with respect to defense and national security matters). Therefore, a suc-

cessful spoofing scam that results in a veteran or Veteran Service Organization (VSO) unknowingly distributing or endorsing a piece of disinformation can yield greatly increased, and sometimes even exponential, results due to the added credibility imparted to that disinformation by virtue of its approval by the veteran or VSO. With each successive endorsement or share, the credibility of the disinformation snowballs. The collective association with actual veterans and VSOs makes it increasingly unlikely that the disinformation will be closely scrutinized, questioned, or eventually exposed as fraudulent or misleading. Moreover, scammers also try to spoof veterans to gain leverage over them. Many veterans move into jobs requiring security clearances or within the federal government after they leave the military—those positions can be jeopardized if the veteran is compromised through financial fraud, identity theft, or otherwise becomes susceptible to blackmail.

Internet spoofing became a visible problem in the context of the 2016 U.S. election, when foreign disinformation spread widely across social media, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, among others. However, disinformation on social media and information operations conducted by sophisticated actors have occurred for far longer. In the past few years, foreign information operations have targeted divisive political issues within American society and have sought to manipulate and divide political and social communities. Unfortunately, our military and veterans’ communities are no exception. Moreover, the incidents of foreign spoofing increased following the 2016 election, and industry experts project that these numbers will continue to increase through 2020 and beyond. Russia’s Internet Research Agency (IRA), a Russian company which has engaged in online influence operations, more commonly known as a “troll farm,” dramatically expanded its information operations after the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections, both in terms of volume and intensity. Russia and Iran are the most prominent state actors in this context, but recent work has identified additional state actors, such as China and Saudi Arabia, using information operations to target communities and topics of interests.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence published a five-volume bipartisan report focused on Russia’s influence operations. The second volume focused on Russia’s use of social media platforms to influence the election, while the third volume focused on the shortcomings of Obama Administration efforts to combat the ongoing attacks. The third volume highlighted the lack of legislative or regulatory action to combat a known threat emanating from Russia and its intelligence services. The Senate Report sheds light on the broader issues of misinformation campaigns and predatory schemes targeting veterans presented in a report prepared by the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

Industry analysts, journalists, and law enforcement agree that the problems of internet spoofing and foreign influence exerted through social media continue to grow at an alarming pace. However, neither the major platforms nor the FBI were able to identify an obvious or comprehensive solution to this ongoing problem. Both continue to devote significant resources towards combatting spoofing. However, the foreign entities who perpetrate much of this illicit activity are becoming more sophisticated in their schemes and are targeting broader swaths of internet users to more quickly and efficiently disseminate their fraudulent messaging before they are identified and deactivated.

Facebook and Twitter note that automated systems can struggle to differentiate authentic images and accounts from fraudulent, unauthorized, or duplicated accounts and thereby risk erroneously flagging and removing legitimate accounts. The platforms have chosen to err on the side of minimizing false negatives by relying upon patterns of suspicious activity and certain tactics or techniques, rather than on other identifying data (e.g., duplicative names or images, geolocation information, or ostensible organizational affiliations). Suspicious activity patterns, such as irregular, repetitive, or voluminous posting, triggers additional layers of review, including an examination of the geolocation data in order to assess where the suspicious activity may be originating. The final review and removal decisions sometimes warrant human examination, but often removals are made without any human review. Although these layered review processes may be effective in protecting legitimate users, they undoubtedly also add a significant gap in removal time for fraudulent accounts, which provides a window within which spoofers can continue to operate.

Law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, are constrained in their abilities to efficiently identify and eliminate spoofers because the agencies only have limited access to the data held by the social media platforms. Often these agencies do not receive important information until after the platforms have already removed a spoofed account, at which point law enforcement is unable to actively monitor and trace the account in real time.

The ability of spoofers to operate from overseas, anonymously, or by using fraudulent or concealed identities requires law enforcement to rely upon account identification data and detailed activity patterns in order to accurately identify or locate the potential spoofer. However, Title II of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) (18 U.S.C. §§2701–2713), known as the Stored Communications Act, requires a government entity to serve a subpoena on social media platforms to compel the production of certain relevant information. Requiring a time-consuming legal process to obtain identification data hampers the ability of law enforcement to respond quickly or to fully understand the scope of a potential spoofing campaign. Therefore, the law enforcement agencies recommend increasing the amount and level of detail that the platforms can easily provide to the authorities.

Past attempts to address this problem have been piecemeal in nature and have proven ineffective to date. This fragmented approach has prevented any wholesale, systemic efforts to tighten rules or law enforcement protocols. Incremental adjustments have been made by individual platforms, which leaves an irregular landscape where motivated, corrupt actors may still be able to exploit weaknesses among the platforms.

Based on discussions with representatives of law enforcement, and considering the issues raised by the social media platforms during the hearing, the Committee believes that there are additional measures needed to address the growing threats posed by spoofing. Our recommendations fall into two broad categories.

The first category is oriented at users of social media and is defensive in nature, such as teaching users how to be aware of the dangers posed by spoofers on social media and training them how to protect themselves through heightened vigilance, healthy skepticism, and adherence to basic principles of cyber-hygiene.

The second category is aimed at putting the social media platforms and law enforcement on the offensive and developing robust

mechanisms to more effectively identify and quickly eliminate foreign-based spoofer. While the first category is likely to be less costly and easier to implement, the second category may ultimately prove to be more effective in bringing the threat under control.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JEWEL  
WARE

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the loss of a great public servant for the 13th Congressional District, Wayne County Commissioner Jewel Ware, and honor her memory and legacy as a commissioner for our district.

First elected in 1994, Ms. Ware was the longest-serving Wayne County Commissioner, with a district that covered a large portion of Detroit. She was particularly well-known for her commitment to serving senior residents and her work to improve access to mental healthcare. She worked directly with community-based organizations to champion issues important to the residents of the communities she served. Most recently, Commissioner Ware had sponsored a resolution that would ban on chokeholds and restraint by police in using deadly force.

Beyond her legislative work, Ms. Ware volunteered her time and energy in public service with a number of organizations, including the NAACP and The Charles. H. Wright Museum of African American History. She spearheaded an annual sock and mitten drive for children in need. Ms. Ware could frequently be found visiting senior housing, coordinating services such as free income tax preparation. Commissioner Ware also served as a member of Zeta Phi Beta Incorporated where she dedicated a lot of her time to serving others. I am truly saddened by the loss for our Wayne County and Detroit communities and am deeply grateful for the time we shared in public service together over the last decade. Her passing is truly a great loss to our district, but her presence will forever be felt in our community.

Please join me in tribute to Wayne County Commissioner Jewel Ware, as we remember her life and extraordinary contributions to Wayne County and the 13th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF ANNE EVANS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an energetic and tireless advocate for Connecticut businesses, Anne Evans, on her incredible career. When she retires at the end of this month, the state will lose one of the most enthusiastic and genuine advocates for local economic development after a life of working for and with small and local businesses.

Anne has served for 13 years as District Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce

International Trade Administration District Office in Middletown, Connecticut. In that position, she has brought Connecticut businesses and ingenuity to the global marketplace. As a Department of Commerce Employee, she took her role as a public servant seriously, providing local businesses with the sort of global perspective and expertise they need to grow into new markets. Before joining the Commerce Department, Anne worked for decades in the private sector in her family's tire business and ultimately became a world-recognized leader in tire recycling products in Europe and the U.S. That background made her particularly well equipped to assist small businesses cope with the sometimes daunting challenges of the global marketplace.

Like all good public servants, Anne's passion and enthusiasm comes from a true affection for our state and its people.

Anne has worked to help well over 2,500 Connecticut companies export their products and attract customers overseas—providing an enormous economic boon to our State and providing a place for Connecticut on the national business stage. Additionally, she has worked extensively with Connecticut veterans and National Guard reservists, spearheading the Veterans Workforce Development Program and helping countless veterans receive training and find private sector employment in Connecticut.

In recent years, Anne worked closely with my office on major events to support Connecticut's aerospace and defense industries—and just last year, hundreds of people came to Connecticut during the International Space Summit to engage with Connecticut companies. Anne helped expand agricultural exports abroad for smaller family farmers in Connecticut, assisted small suppliers in becoming part of the submarine supply chain, and made countless connections across industries and countries to help create win-win opportunities for everyone.

Anne's ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and creative thinking has been instrumental not just in helping Connecticut's economy, but globally. I have fond memories of the many trade missions that she and I organized and led together—from Canada to Northern Ireland to Israel.

I thank Anne for her tireless work for Connecticut. I will truly miss having her at Commerce but look forward to seeing where she lands next. I know that she will be successful in anything she does in the future.

Congratulations on her well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA CARRILLO

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my dear friend Yolanda Carrillo, who will be stepping down from the Corona City Council this month. Yolanda is a passionate advocate and a true leader who has made a significant lifetime contribution to my hometown of Corona, California.

In October of 2018, the Corona City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Yolanda to the Council to fill the va-

cancy left by Dick Haley who resigned due to health concerns. Yolanda was a natural choice to sit on the City Council considering her deep knowledge of and involvement in the community. She currently serves as the Executive Director/CEO of the Corona-Norco Family YMCA, an organization she has been a part of since 1996. Just prior to her appointment to the City Council, Yolanda was appointed as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Corona's Planning and Housing Commission.

Yolanda has served in many different capacities for her city, county, and state organizations. She has been a board member of the Corona Police Community Partnership, Corona Chamber of Commerce, UNITY, and Simple Acts of Care and Kindness. She is also a member of the Corona Woman's Improvement Club, Corona Rotary Noon Club, Corona Elks Lodge, the Navy League, among many other organizations. I, like many others in our community, know from experience that when Yolanda becomes an advocate of a cause, you better get on board or get out of the way. Her passion and determination are second to none.

I know I speak on behalf of all Corona residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Yolanda's many contributions to the City of Corona. I wish Yolanda and her husband, Ed, the very best in the future.

HONORING PEGGY BREEDEN ON  
HER RETIREMENT AS MAYOR OF  
THE CITY OF RIDGECREST

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy Breeden, a community leader, cancer survivor, friend, and Mayor of Ridgecrest, California. After having led the City of Ridgecrest over the last six years, Peggy is retiring as Mayor.

Peggy was born in Syracuse, New York on her family's dairy farm where she and her siblings all worked tending and milking over 100 cows that their family raised. In fact, Peggy's family farm only received electricity in 1952, making her no stranger to hard work in the face of adversity. In 1982, she moved to Ridgecrest to be with friends and family and went on to own the Swap Sheet, a local advertising weekly newspaper. But she also had a calling for public service. In addition to managing her business, she served on numerous local boards and foundations, including the Indian Wells Valley Water District, Cerro Coso Community College Foundation Board, the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, and the Navy Community Council.

She took her commitment to serving the community of Ridgecrest a step further by successfully running for Mayor, making history both as Ridgecrest's first female mayor and as the first elected mayor since the office became its own position directly elected by city voters. Peggy's soft-spoken and unassuming manner should not understate her intense dedication to Ridgecrest, demonstrated leadership skills, and political acumen. She showcased these qualities as she dealt with one of the largest crises to ever face Ridgecrest.

In July 2019, Ridgecrest experienced the largest earthquakes in over 20 years, which



included two separate 6.4 and 7.1 magnitude earthquakes that did an estimated \$3 billion of damage in the City and to the surrounding communities of Eastern Kern County, including Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Peggy sprang into action right away to help the residents of her community, working tirelessly with State and Federal officials to ensure that buildings and infrastructure were safe and that residents had access to food, shelter, and water immediately following the natural disaster. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, Peggy successfully worked to ensure that the President of the United States declared a Major Disaster, which opened Federal assistance programs and funding for displaced homeowners, renters, and businessowners so life could return to normal as quickly as possible.

However, the earthquakes were not the only major challenge Peggy helped guide Ridgecrest through. This past year, she led the City through the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, working with the City Council and residents of the community to make sure that the City remained financially sound so it could continue operations, despite the economic downturn from various stay-at-home orders. Peggy also worked hard to ensure that negotiations between the city and the U.S. Navy remained on track to build a new wastewater treatment plant on NAWS China Lake to serve both the interests of the Navy and Ridgecrest. This project has seen its ups and downs over the years, but her steadfast commitment to it set the stage to help ensure it will come to fruition.

While her achievements as Mayor may have made headlines, Peggy's tenure as Mayor is best defined by the everyday interactions she has with the people of Ridgecrest. Through devastating earthquakes and a rapidly spreading virus, to working to address sustainable groundwater policies and supporting the mutual interests of China Lake and Ridgecrest, Ridgecrest residents have always been able to count on Peggy to have their back.

It has been an honor to work alongside Mayor Peggy Breeden over the past six years while she served in elected office for Ridgecrest, and I am proud to count her as a friend. I cannot thank her enough for her work in our community over the years. On behalf of the Ridgecrest community and the 23rd Congressional District, I want to wish her the best as she leaves public service and begins the next chapter of her life.

HONORING SARA BONNEY AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, this week, many of us took the opportunity to observe Giving Tuesday by contributing to nonprofit organizations that support those in need and help us build a better community.

Since 2012, Giving Tuesday has stood as a reminder to each of us to do good and to give what we can to help others in more need than ourselves. I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring an exceptional Iowan who exemplifies the charitable

spirit of the people in central and southwest Iowa. Sara Bonney is the Chief Marketing Officer at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Over the last 7 years, Sara has done incredible work to promote the mission of the Community Foundation and make meaningful connections between donors and nonprofit organizations in the Des Moines area.

Like many Iowans, Sara grew up on a farm in rural Iowa. Her parents were active members in their community, constantly finding ways to give back and volunteer their time. Sara's parents believed everybody has their own gifts—and that it is their responsibility to use those gifts for giving back to others. This is a value that Sara has carried with her and inspired her to pursue a career in nonprofit work and charitable giving.

The Community Foundation of Great Des Moines has worked with donors and nonprofits in the Des Moines metro area for over 50 years. The Community Foundation has established countless giving funds and grants to support projects and organizations which have addressed their critical needs—spanning from education, fine arts, immigration and health care amongst so many others.

Over the last year, Sara and her team identified an opportunity to make it easier for donors and nonprofits to connect in a way that would produce more impactful contributions. That led to revamping their website [givedsm.org](http://givedsm.org). This website works with nonprofits to list their specific needs. In turn, donors can access their lists, find organizations that align with their values, and make contributions that will have greater impacts on the recipients.

Givedsm.org is just one of the many projects Sara has worked on in the last 7 years. When asked what inspires her to continue doing her work, Sara cites her amazement at the charitable nature of Iowans. Over the last year, thousands of Iowans have faced extreme hardships due to coronavirus. One might think this would negatively impact the number of contributions received on [givedsm.org](http://givedsm.org). However, the Community Foundation has seen an exponential increase in the number of donations they have received through the website.

As Sara likes to say: when Iowans rise, we rise together.

Sara's extraordinary commitment to supporting nonprofits in our community has wide-reaching impacts on people in all walks of life. A lifelong Iowan, Sara hopes her work continues to make Iowa a better home for generations to come.

We are incredibly fortunate to have people like Sara in Iowa's Third District. It is my honor to recognize her as our Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RON  
LOMBARD

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Ron Lombard, as he retires after nearly 40 years in Central New York news.

Ron is giant in local media. A key player in developing the region's first 24-hour news sta-

tion, he helped revolutionize the way Central New Yorkers get their news, and throughout his career has inspired and mentored some of the region's most celebrated reporters and media professionals.

Ron Lombard grew up in Central New York and graduated from Solvay High School before going on to study at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications. After graduating in 1981, he began his career working as a reporter for WCBA in Corning, and in Central New York at WFBL, WSEN, and WSYR. Eventually, Ron secured a position at WSYR as the Assignment Editor, and later, at the age of 31, began working at WIXT-TV as the News Director.

In 2002, Ron took over as News Director at Time Warner Cable as the company embarked on an ambitious project: launching a 24-hour news channel in Syracuse. Ron was instrumental in the development and direction of the station, working long hours to make this dream a reality. In 2003, in recognition of this work, Ron was given the honor of pushing the button to bring the new station to air. Since its debut, Time Warner Cable, now Spectrum News, has become one of the most trusted and reliable sources of news for Central New York, providing around-the-clock coverage to a market that has more than 600,000 subscribers. Under his leadership, Ron guided the news team through periods of rapid growth and change, all while upholding the station's commitment to accuracy. Ron oversaw and helped professionally support a staff of over 70 photographers, reporters, assignment desk editors, and producers.

Outside of work, Ron is dedicating to giving back to his hometown. He is deeply involved with the Brewerton United Methodist Church, and for many years served on the boards of Leadership Greater Syracuse and the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center, which supports children who have suffered from abuse. He is a proud husband to his wife Deb and father to his daughter, Abby.

At Spectrum News and throughout his career, Ron has been known for his outstanding work ethic, impeccable reputation, and commitment to mentoring the next generation of reporters and media professionals. His impact is far-reaching and will be celebrated for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Ron Lombard. A revolutionary figure in Central New York news, I wish Ron Lombard the best in his retirement.

HONORING CORAL ERIKSEN, THE  
OWNER OF CORAL'S CORNER  
AND CONES OF CAMBRIDGE, NEW  
YORK, FOR HER EXEMPLARY EN-  
TREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coral Eriksen, owner of Coral's Corner and Cones, for her exceptional entrepreneurial spirit and her dedication to community service.

Coral's Corner and Cones is a greenhouse nursery, owned and operated by high school

entrepreneur, Coral. I recently had the pleasure of touring Coral's Corner, where I witnessed the hard work that Coral puts into growing and selling her products while balancing her academic responsibilities. Through collection and recycling of gardening products, partnerships with other local vendors, and customer-appreciation events, Coral has established her business as a generous and compassionate figure in the community. Coral's Corner has been in business for just over a year and has expanded to an additional location in response to strong community interest.

Businesses like Coral's Corner are vital to the economic livelihood of the North Country. Entrepreneurship drives job growth and sustainability and creates the opportunity for individuals to turn passions into careers. Coral's drive to pursue her passion from a young age makes her a tremendous role model for both her peers and adults. Her commitment to growing and selling quality products while also giving back to her community reflects exemplary professionalism and maturity.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank Coral for her entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to her community, and I congratulate Coral's Corner and Cones on a successful first year in business.

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TRIBUTE TO S.R. "AL" LOPEZ

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate Director S.R. "Al" Lopez for his nearly two decades of dedicated service to Western Municipal Water District (Western). I have had the pleasure of knowing Al for decades, and while his service on the Western Board is coming to a close this month, I know he will continue to be a leader in our community.

After serving as a Council Member on the Corona City Council from 1982 to 1994, Al was first elected and joined Western's Board of Directors in January of 2001. He represents Division 5, which includes my hometown of Corona, Home Gardens, El Cerrito, and a portion of Temescal Canyon.

Al has been an active community partner throughout his service on the board. He represented Western on committees for several agencies, including the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority; the Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council; and the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority Liability Committee. In addition, Al served as Western's alternate representative for the Santa Rosa Regional Resources Authority Committee and the Joint Inland-Orange County Caucuses. His leadership in the region includes membership on Western's Finance Committee and his roles on the joint committees of Western and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water Districts.

Al is a great American, a veteran, a true public servant, and a friend. I want to join our entire region in thanking Al for his many years of dedicated service and I wish him the very best in his next chapter.

CELEBRATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL PATRICK BAKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MO BROOKS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American patriot Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Patrick Josh Baker on the occasion of his retirement from the Army. America is more secure thanks to LTC Baker's dedicated service, Alabama's 5th District is proud of LTC Baker, and I extend my sincere gratitude to him and his family for their many sacrifices over his twenty-one year Army career.

LTC Baker received his Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management at Auburn University in 1999. Following graduation, he completed Initial Entry Rotary Winged Training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. LTC Baker was later assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as an Attack Platoon Leader in 2-101 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB).

In 2003, LTC Baker was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 (OIF) as a Platoon Leader and Liaison Officer. Upon re-deployment from OIF 1, he attended the Army Aviation Captain's Career Course and Maintenance Managers program. Later, in OIF 06-08, LTC Baker served as the Company Commander in the C/1-227th and D/1-227th ARB.

After "The Surge" in Baghdad, LTC Baker transferred to the Army Acquisition Corps, where he served as an Executive Officer in the Executive Office for Aviation. In 2013, LTC Baker received his MBA in Systems Acquisition Management from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

From 2013 to 2016, LTC Baker served as the Army Aviation Program's Legislative Liaison for the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. Afterward, he trained with Industry Fellows assigned to General Dynamics Land Systems in Michigan. Finally, LTC Baker settled in Huntsville, AL where he has served as the Product Lead for Joint Attack Munition Systems (JAMS) since 2017.

Throughout his career, LTC Baker has been the recipient of many awards and decorations. A sampling of these are: The Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action, Airborne, Air Assault and Senior Army Aviation badges.

Madam Speaker, LTC Patrick Josh Baker has unceasingly provided the highest standards of commitment to duty. His service to our great country is a true gift to the American people.

I wish LTC Patrick Josh Baker and his family the very best as he ends his twenty-one years of service in the U.S. Army.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

**HON. DAVID P. JOYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of

the Emergency Nurses Association. Comprised of 51,000 members worldwide, the Emergency Nurses Association, or ENA, is the only professional organization dedicated to advancing excellence in emergency nursing.

Founded in 1970, ENA has become the world's premier organization for emergency nurses. It was originally established to set standards for best practices in emergency nursing care and has since worked to provide both continuing education programs and a representative voice for emergency nurses.

ENA has successfully raised awareness and improved outcomes for our nation's trauma patients. Sadly, traumatic injuries such as head injuries, bumps, and those resulting from car crashes, falls, and firearms are currently the leading cause of death for Americans aged 44 years or younger. ENA offers courses for emergency nurses that provide them with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on training needed to deliver high-quality trauma care. Since its inception in 1986, ENA's critical trauma nursing core course has been taken by more than one million emergency nurses and is now considered the gold standard for the education of nurses in lifesaving trauma care techniques.

ENA's advocacy for the recently enacted Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act, known as the MISSION ZERO Act, has led to the creation of an innovative program allowing military trauma teams and professionals to work in civilian trauma centers to ensure the highest quality trauma care in both peace and war.

Last but certainly not least, ENA also effectively raises awareness about workplace violence directed towards emergency nurses and other emergency department personnel. It has advocated at both the State and Federal level to enact laws that hold those who assault healthcare workers in hospitals accountable for their actions.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I ask our colleagues to join me in congratulating the Emergency Nurses Association on its 50th anniversary and extending our gratitude to its members for their commitment to improving the quality of emergency care which has helped save the lives of millions of Americans.

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THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ROSIE LEE ATCHISON

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, to live to become 109 years old in this country or any country is quite a feat. Such has been the life and legacy of Mrs. Rosie Atchison who was born on August 15th, 1911 in Bolivar Mississippi and passed away on November 23rd, 2020. Her birth mother passed away when Rosie was just six weeks old and she was taken into the care of her father Mr. Henry Liner who raised her as the 2nd oldest of 27 children whom he fathered.

Rosie grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi where she lived a typical life for blacks in that area, she worked the fields, went to church, got married had two children, lost a child, got

tired of the fields and a failed marriage, took her two children and migrated to Chicago looking for a better life and that is exactly what she found. With faith in God she joined Greater Salem Missionary Baptist Church where the renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson was a member and she also sang in the choir. She met and married her second husband Mr. Andrew Atchison who worked for the Diamond Glue Factory. She found a job cleaning rail cars for the Pennsylvania Railroad and worked there until her retirement in 1970.

Mrs. Atchison and her husband became very productive citizens and developed a reputation for helping others less fortunate than themselves and she became known to many as big mama. Rosie and her family lived in the mecca building in the heart of the Bronzeville community until they were forced out to make room for the Illinois Institute of Technology. They protested and held marches around city hall but lost. After her husband died she purchased a 2 flat building in the Englewood community and kept on helping people.

On November 23, 2020, after 109 years Rosie passed away leaving 2 daughters, 15 grandchildren, 60 great grandchildren, 95 great great grandchildren and 24 great, great, great, grandchildren, one sister Josephine Liner Wilson and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and extended family. What a life, what a legacy.

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HONORING JOSH HURLBERT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to thank Josh Hurlbert for his many meaningful years of service to the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Josh has been an invaluable member of my team in the Sixth Congressional District for twelve years. Getting his start as a volunteer for the office, Josh has worked his way through several positions on my staff. From Staff Assistant to Caseworker to Senior Field Representative—Josh is truly a jack of all trades. Josh also served the district in his role as Smithville Alderman. His untiring work ethic and vast knowledge of federal agencies and state issues alike have made him a crucial member of my staff.

Josh's dedication and leadership has not gone unnoticed by voters in Missouri. Upon leaving my staff, Josh will continue his service to the State of Missouri as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives. As the Representative for the Twelfth District, Josh will continue to honorably represent the residents of North Missouri and ensure that their voices are heard by the government. I look forward to working with him to continue to improve the lives of our shared constituents.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Josh Hurlbert for his commitment to not just Missouri's Sixth Congressional District, but the entire state of Missouri. I am honored to have had him on my team for 12 years and I am excited to see him continue as a leader in the Missouri House of Representatives.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND  
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
CHARLEY FRANK PRIDE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I acknowledge the passing of Charley Frank Pride, but with great joy that I recall his storied career as an artist, gifted musician and professional baseball player, and with even greater joy that I recall our significant friendship.

Charley Frank Pride was born in Sledge, Mississippi, on March 18, 1938. Charley's parents were both sharecroppers and cotton pickers. Since he was young and couldn't decide for himself what he could or couldn't do, he was forced to pick cotton as a child. However, he grew up listening to country music. He walked around the house singing songs of Hank Williams and Roy Acuff.

At the age of six, he found himself listening to the Grand Ole Opry on the country music radio station. At one time, Charley was given the nickname "Mocking Bird" by a neighbor who says Charley's daily chores were to sing each morning and to play baseball.

When Charley Pride was fourteen, he bought his first guitar from Sears and Roebuck and taught himself how to play by listening to different songs on the radio. Charley didn't want to follow his father's footsteps. His plan was to become famous in baseball, but his dream was to be a country singer. At the age of seventeen, he began to seek his fortune.

In 1958, he played baseball in the American Negro League for the Birmingham Black Barons. But his baseball career didn't last long. Charley stated "I'm not a black man singing white man music, I am an American singing American music. I worked out those problem years ago, and everybody else will have to work their way out of it too." That was the end of Charley Pride's baseball career.

Later Charley had an audition for Jack Clement, a song writer and record producer.

After the audition, Charley proved to Chet Atkins and the manager for the Mets that he wasn't trying to fit in with the whites, he was just a business man singing American music. Chet Atkins, vice-president of RCA recording in Nashville, realized that Charley Pride's country singing was a talent. This led Pride to a RCA recording contract.

Two of his best and popular records are Snakes Crawl at Night, and Just Between You and Me, which earned a Grammy in 1968. Pride's first number one hit on the singles chart was "All I Have to Offer You Is Me" in 1964. "Kiss an Angel Good Morning" was a million-selling crossover single recorded in 1971. Charley Pride has more than 36 number one country singles. He has produced more than 35 albums.

On May 1, 1993, Pride joined the Grand Ole Opry. In 1994, the Academy Of Country Music presented him with its prestigious Pioneer Award. In 1994 his autobiography *Pride: The Charley Pride Story* was published by William Morrow. In 1996, he received a Trumpet Award by Turner Broadcasting, marking outstanding African-American Achievement.

His song "Roll On Mississippi" was considered as the official song of his home state, a

stretch of Mississippi highway was named for him, and he performed a special Christmas performance for President and Mrs. Clinton at the White House.

He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2000. In 2008 Charley Pride's talent earned him the state of Mississippi's top arts award for Lifetime Achievement in the 2008 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, December 12, 2020 Texas and this Nation has lost the presence of one of its most humble and talented individuals on many fronts in American life. Charley's loss will be deeply felt among many, but his work will not. His caring nature, his artistic work and for me more importantly, his friendship will live forever.

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RECOGNIZING ETERNAL LIGHT  
FOOD PANTRY

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eternal Light Food Pantry, an organization based in Dearborn Heights, Michigan that serves residents through food assistance to the families of Wayne County.

Founder, Sam Bazzi, was moved and inspired by the hardship facing many working families and other vulnerable populations in our district. He started the Eternal Light food pantry to assist community members struggling with food apartheid. He and his team of volunteers have served countless residents, including forty-two thousand people in 2020 alone as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Through the community connections created by delivering meals and food baskets, Mr. Bazzi has gone above and beyond, referring those in need to social services organizations, and even helping to raise funeral funds for another individual. Mr. Bazzi's commitment to community and service are unparalleled and truly a reflection of how the 13th Congressional District has continued to show up for each other during these difficult times. I am truly grateful for the work of Sam Bazzi and Eternal Light for answering the call to service and helping those who are in need the most.

Please join me in tribute to Eternal Light Food Pantry, for its outstanding service to the people of Michigan's 13th District.

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TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE LEROY  
FLEMING

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Clarence LeRoy Fleming, who passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Leroy was a tireless and compassionate member of our community and he will be deeply missed.

LeRoy was born on August 21, 1939 in Afton, Iowa to the late William Donald Fleming and Virgie "Dee" Jeter Fleming. After attending Afton High School, LeRoy worked for the

Iowa Department of Transportation and attended a training program at Iowa State University. He moved to California in 1962 working as a lunch truck driver at Orange County Food Service. In the summer of 1963, LeRoy met the love of his life, Sylvia. They became engaged soon after and were married in August of 1964. Once married, LeRoy and Sylvia settled in my hometown of Corona, California.

In 1974, LeRoy and Sylvia purchased the Park N' Eat Drive In from Sylvia's mother, Anna Ensley. In 1984 after outgrowing their 6th Street location they moved to a larger location on Industrial Way in Corona. The business soon grew to over 65 lunch trucks. Together, LeRoy and Sylvia owned and operated Park N' Eat Industrial Catering for 39 years in Corona. In addition to being a successful businessman, LeRoy was a well-known and respected fundraiser for many community organizations within Corona. LeRoy truly had a servant's heart and devoted much of his time to helping the community, but his two favorite groups were the Corona Elks and Corona Host Lions.

In addition to his wife, Sylvia, LeRoy is survived by his children: Deanna (Dean), Robert (Rebecca), Jennifer (Eric), six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by six younger brothers and sisters. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Fleming family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know LeRoy. Although LeRoy may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

#### PROBLEM WITH OUR PRISONS

### HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the problem with our prisons. Earlier today I included in the RECORD a hyperlink to an article from Reuters. The article draws attention to private prisons, the death penalty, and Covid. These are long-standing scourges in our criminal justice system. Also on that list of problems but not mentioned in that article are life sentences, the federal sentencing guidelines, and solitary confinement.

I had supplemented to my earlier statement, and to the article, an appropriations proposal that, were I here during the appropriations process, I would have submitted so that it may be integrated into future appropriations vehicles. I submitted this article, along with troubling Georgia statistics.

I would also note that I am submitting this statement and article on the same day that I introduced three pieces of legislation:

The first will seek to eliminate qualified immunity in police misconduct cases. Often times, police officers, when confronted with allegations of official misconduct, will invoke qualified immunity as a shield to liability. It is very difficult for putative plaintiffs/victims of police misconduct to surmount this privilege. This bill, if enacted into law, would end qualified immunity throughout the nation and make it easier to hold police accountable.

The second piece of legislation is a constitutional amendment, and concerns forced labor. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery.

Unfortunately, a vestige of this practice still remains in the form of forced labor as a function of prison sentences. This proposed constitutional amendment would end this practice. These pieces of legislation are fully drafted and ready for filing.

The third piece of legislation is one which would expunge all records of nonviolent offenders impacted by the "war on drugs" and other various crime bills for any state and local government that is the recipient of federal crime dollars.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES BERRY CRADDOCK

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. James Berry Craddock of Colorado Springs, Colorado. James Berry Craddock sadly passed away on November 5, 2020. I extend my deepest condolences to his loving wife, Linda, their sons, Matthew Ryan (Jenny), Michael Lewis (Michelle), and James Berry (Amy); 10 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; his brothers, Roy Rall and Joseph Rall; and sister, Mary Lou Kaiser and to all of those who were privileged to call him a friend. Berry's life, family, and spirit are a testament to the American dream, fortitude, drive, work ethic, humor, and full enjoyment of all this life offered.

James Berry Craddock was born on January 12, 1935 in Pueblo, Colorado. When Berry was five years old, he skinned his knee playing outside and developed Osteomyelitis, but was saved by a new drug at the time, penicillin. Despite having to learn to walk again, Mr. Craddock never let his disability define or hinder him in any way. He was known as a risk-taker and an accomplished skier, racing the slalom and the downhill. Berry even received his first appearance in the local paper for rafting down the Royal Gorge on a one-man raft.

Berry graduated from Canon City High School and attended the University of Colorado, graduating in Civil Engineering and Business Management. After college, he worked designing warehouses at Welbourne Construction Company. It was at Welbourne Construction where Berry pioneered twin tee construction and designed what would become known throughout Colorado and New Mexico as "The Craddock Building".

On June 24, 1967, Berry married his wife, Linda, of 52 years. Soon after their marriage, Berry and Linda moved to Colorado Springs where they raised their sons, Matthew, James, and Michael. Mr. Craddock was known as a family man and he frequently stated that his biggest legacy was his three sons. He was fiercely proud of them and their accomplishments, their families, and their character.

It was also in Colorado Springs where Berry brought his vision to life and started Craddock Development Company. With only \$5,000 to his name and help from his business partners, Berry built a real estate empire that lasts to this day. Berry was a fierce advocate of the Pikes Peak Region and constructed over 300 buildings in his career, from hotels, to restaurants, warehouses, offices, and self-storage facilities.

In his free time, Berry loved the outdoors, golf, fishing, and entertaining friends and family at Lake Uneva. Berry cherished his hunts with his band of brothers at the Sanborn Ranch Duck Club and his annual pheasant hunt in South Dakota. Berry was an active member of the Broadmoor Golf Club, the El Paso Club, the Garden of the Gods Club, and the Vail Valley Foundation. It was in Vail where he developed lasting friendships with former President Gerald Ford, Senator Jack Kemp, and Clint Eastwood.

Today, on behalf of Colorado's 5th Congressional District, we celebrate Mr. Craddock's impactful life and legacy, he was truly one of a kind. May it be of comfort to his family and friends that we all pray for them during this sad time. May Mr. James Berry Craddock rest in peace.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN KLOTZ'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST DISTRICT

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Karen Klotz's dedicated public service to Virginia's First Congressional District. After over six years of her crucial and impactful work with my office, Karen will be leaving my Stafford District Office at the end of the month. Karen has been a crucial member of the team and of service Virginia's First Congressional District, and she will be missed.

Karen has always been available to help a constituent in need regardless of the issue. There has never been a case too difficult that Karen was unable to handle. Karen especially enjoyed researching and solving the more unusual and complicated cases. She has an unparalleled knowledge of the intricacies of navigating federal agencies. She is a thoughtful and compassionate person whose resourcefulness has been an asset to this office.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to recognize Karen Klotz and her years of dedicated work for the constituents in Virginia's First District. Karen exemplifies what a true public servant should be, and I wish her the best of luck in her future career and journey.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER THOMAS PYRCZ

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a remarkable person and protector of the people, Officer Thomas "Tommy" Pycz of Enfield, Connecticut. Officer Pycz was only 66 when he passed away suddenly on December 2nd, 2020 at the Enfield Police Department, an institution he served in one capacity or another for 50 years. He was a lifelong resident of the town of Enfield, Connecticut.

It is hard to think of a man more devoted to their local community than Tommy Pycz. Always true to his town, drawn to public safety,

he took the initiative to join the Enfield chapter of Police Explorers before even graduating from Enrico Fermi High School in 1972. He was regularly and rightfully rewarded for his devoted service after graduating—first becoming an auxiliary officer, then an assistant dog warden, and police dispatcher. Each and every one of these positions ultimately prepared him to join the force as a full patrol officer in 1979.

Thomas Pycrz's career at his town's police department would continue on for another 40 years. During those 40 years, he went on to serve as a leader of the police department's accreditation team for 20 years, working with his colleagues to hone their skills and build upon the mission of strengthening the standards exemplified by the Enfield Police Department and its officers. This work not only infused new techniques and technology to improve public safety, but also infused the community values that reflect the town of Enfield. The high quality of his work was recognized across the state when he was named Vice President of the Connecticut Police Accreditation Coalition in 2013, advancing standards in policing across the state. After a long career spanning 50 years, he retired from the department in August of last year.

Officer Pycrz service to his community did not end with retirement. After "pulling the pin" from uniformed service, he quickly returned to his work as a civilian accreditation manager in October 2019. His sudden loss leaves a deep-felt void at the Enfield Police Department.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Pycrz represents what it should mean to be a police officer: an integral member of one's community. At a funeral service at Enfield's St. Adalbert's Church family, friends and former colleagues such as former Chief Carl Sferrazza and current Chief Alaric Fox spoke movingly of his life of caring and giving. His life should be an example to all. Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing the deepest condolences of the U.S. House of Representatives to Officer Thomas Pycrz's wife Lynn, his children Steven and Julie and our hope that the outpouring of affection and appreciation from the community gives them some solace.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEE RAYBURN  
PIONEER WESTSIDE OF CHICAGO  
BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY  
LEADER

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest Mr. Lee Rayburn, a skilled mechanic and business leader who became a legend on the westside of Chicago in the automobile repair business. I met Mr. Rayburn in the late 1960's when one of my staffer Ms. Arlene Granderson introduced me to Mr. Nate Irwin who was her mechanic and was working at Rayburns Automobile Repair Shop at Roosevelt and Independence. Mr. Irwin became my mechanic and my friend as did his boss, Mr. Rayburn. For more than fifty years Mr. Rayburn and his mechanics repaired my cars, fixed my flats, and preformed tow services, whenever I needed them. I soon learned that

Mr. Rayburn was not only good at repairing cars, but was also interested in community politics, social service activities and was a great financial supporter of community causes.

He, Garfield Major, Willie Barney, The Knox Family at the hardware store, Cliff Duwel White, Walker Harris the iceman, Dave at the hot dog stand and Rev. Murphy at Rose of Sharon Cleaners became the heart of business support group in the area. Mr. Rayburn loved his business and loved the Lawndale Community. After he was no longer actively working, he would come up to the shop and sit around talking with customers and giving people advice. He was a great mechanic, a great businessman, a great family man, a great community leader, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN SPADY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize one of the finest community leaders in New York's Sixteenth Congressional District, Vivian Spady.

Vivian Spady has lived in New Rochelle her entire life; her family's roots in the area run deep. As a mother, grandmother, and community activist, Vivian has been providing opportunities to meet the needs of those around her for decades. In 2012, her long-standing vision took shape when she launched her non-profit organization—Big Viv's Foundation. It started with a successful Christmas toy drive. Ever since, she has worked hard to provide necessities and a sense of community to those who are most in need. In addition to Christmas toy drives, her annual events include Thanksgiving turkey drives, Easter egg hunts, winter clothing drives for the homeless and a Mother's Day brunch for seniors. Vivian's events have been show-cased in local media, most recently in Lohud, the Westchester/Rockland news.

Bringing children opportunities to learn and grow is one of Vivian's biggest joys. With her resourcefulness and drive, dozens of youth have attended shows and events including the Monster Jam Auto Show, Liberty and Knicks basketball games, and trips to the New York State capital. Focusing on young women, Vivian has developed a girl's night out program to foster a sense of security and fun while focusing on health and hygiene. Vivian has embodied the principle of teaching youth by sending children to Iona Prep summer camp and the habitat for humanity builder's camp. The horrific coronavirus pandemic has not stopped Vivian, she held numerous outdoor events during the summer and fall for New Rochelle children, distributed over 100 turkeys for Thanksgiving and is continuing with her annual toy drive. No matter what happens, Vivian is unstoppable, she has persevered through recovery from pancreatic cancer to this year, hospitalization for coronavirus.

Madam Speaker, Vivian Spady embodies the best of what we, as Americans, can be. I am proud to know her and to have served her in Congress. Her work continues and the results of her unwavering commitment will benefit generations of New Rochelle residents.

TRIBUTE TO JASON SCOTT

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Jason Scott, who will be stepping down from the Corona City Council this month after serving the city for twelve years. Jason is the embodiment of a public servant, who has made an invaluable lifetime contribution to my hometown of Corona, California.

Throughout his life, Jason has dedicated himself to educating the next generation of Riverside County citizens. In a career that spanned four decades, from 1979 to 2019, Jason worked as a teacher and principal for the Corona-Norco Unified School District. In 2008, Jason was elected to the Corona City Council, where he would be selected on three occasions by his peers to serve as mayor. During his time on the City Council, Jason was chosen to represent the city on the Western Riverside Council of Governments Board of Directors. Corona experienced significant growth during Jason's tenure, and his leadership and experience helped the city tackle a number of challenges and seize opportunities presented by that expansion.

Jason has worked tirelessly through his deeds to causes other than his own. He has long been an active member of many community organizations in the city of Corona and has served as a Board Member for the Friends of the Corona Public Library, United Way, UNITY, and Corona Fire Safety Foundation. He is a member of the Corona Elks, Corona History Association, Corona-Norco PTA, and the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Jason shared his life for 30 years with his wife Dee until her passing in February 2017 of pancreatic cancer following a two-year battle. During and after that incredibly difficult period, I was truly inspired by Jason's strength and will to keep working and advocating for others.

I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Jason's significant contributions to the City of Corona. I look forward to seeing Jason around town, and I wish him the very best in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
REALE, SR.

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John "Jack" Reale, Sr., who passed away at the age of 91 on November 24, 2020. Mr. Reale was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a respected and accomplished engineer in our community.

A lifelong Central New Yorker, Mr. Reale was born during the Great Depression into a family of Italian immigrants on the North Side of Syracuse. He attended North High School and went on to study electrical engineering at Syracuse University. He graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and completed several Ph.D. courses.

In 1958, Mr. Reale was hired as a radar antenna designer by General Electric. An innovator by nature, Mr. Reale holds four U.S. patents and one international patent for his radar antenna designs. He designed the PAR radar antenna, which revolutionized radar antenna design, and the PAR radar, which became the largest radar installation in the world. Later in his career, Mr. Reale designed the antenna for the Over-the-Horizon radar, which is currently the largest radar in the world. Today, many of Mr. Reale's designs are still in use, serving to detect and track ballistic missiles and protect our nation against foreign threats.

Outside of his career, Mr. Reale was an active member of his community. After retiring, he began a weekly luncheon club for retired engineers. He thoroughly enjoyed playing handball, golf, and tennis, and was an active

member of Our Lady of Pompei Church and the Men's Holy Name Society. Mr. Reale was a loving husband to his wife, Jeanette, and role-model to his five children and eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Mr. John Reale, Sr. A cherished member of our Central New York community, Mr. Reale will be deeply missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we celebrate his life.

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#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7511–S7562*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 5024–5039, and S. Res. 803. **Page S7542**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 4077, to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–333)

Report to accompany S. 4054, to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act. (S. Rept. No. 116–334) **Page S7542**

#### Measures Passed:

**National Landslide Preparedness Act:** Senate passed H.R. 8810, to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program. **Page S7556**

**Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7556**

Moran (for Rubio) Amendment No. 2709, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7556**

**Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act:** Senate passed S. 5036, to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023. **Pages S7556–57**

**Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 803, designating room S–124 of the United States Capitol as the “U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room” and designating room S–115 of the United States Capitol as the “U.S. Senator Barbara

A. Mikulski Room”, in recognition of their service to the Senate and the people of the United States. **Page S7557**

**Consider Teachers Act:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 1387, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7557–58**

Moran (for Braun) Amendment No. 2710, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7557**

**CFO Vision Act:** Senate passed S. 3287, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7558–61**

Moran (for Enzi) Amendment No. 2711, of a perfecting nature. **Page S7560**

**Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act:** Senate passed S. 2513, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S7561–62**

#### House Messages:

**Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act:** Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1130, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life. **Pages S7555–56**

**Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act:** Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 914, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center. **Page S7556**

**Appointments:**

**United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Robin Cleveland, of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2022. **Page S7555**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was originally declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–62) **Pages S7540–41**

**Atchley Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S7524–33**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 271), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7524**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 17, 2020. **Page S7529**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 17, 2020. **Page S7562**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 268), Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S7513–18**

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 270), Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Pages S7518–24**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 269), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7518**

Anna Maria Ruzinski, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

Gregory Scott Tabor, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years. **Page S7533**

Irving Bailey, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years.

Deven J. Parekh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years. **Pages S7533–34**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S7541–42**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S7543–44**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S7544–54**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S7537–40**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S7554–55**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S7555**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—271) **Pages S7517–18, S7525**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7562.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### UNITED STATES AND CHINA

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition, after receiving testimony from Representative Will Hurd; and Derek Scissors, American Enterprise Institute, Melanie Hart, Center for American Progress, and Roy Houseman, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, all of Washington, D.C.

### THE ALZHEIMER'S CRISIS

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on Health Care concluded a hearing to examine the Alzheimer's crisis, focusing on testing and treatment pipelines and fiscal implications, after receiving testimony from Nikolay Dokholyan, Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, Hershey; Randall J. Bateman, Washington University School of Medicine Dominantly Inherited



Alzheimer's Network Trials Unit, St. Louis, Missouri; and Richard C. Mohs, Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation, and Maria Carrillo, Alzheimer's Association, both of Chicago, Illinois.

### 2020 ELECTION IRREGULARITIES

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine irregularities in the 2020 election, after receiving testimony from Donald Palmer, Commissioner, Election Assistance Commission; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Representative Frank Ryan, Lebanon; James R. Troupis, Troupis Law Firm, Cross Plains, Wisconsin; Jesse Binnall, Harvey and Binnall, PLLC, Alexandria, Virginia; Chris Krebs, former Director of the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Washington, D.C.; and Ken Starr, Waco, Texas.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Raul M.

Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### HONG KONG'S PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration concluded a hearing to examine supporting Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy, after receiving testimony from Senators Rubio and Menendez; Julian Ku, Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York; Joey Siu, Hong Kong Watch; Samuel M. Chu, Hong Kong Democracy Council, Washington, D.C.; Nathan Law, former Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, London, United Kingdom; and Jenny Yang, World Relief, Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of Refugee Council USA.

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# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 22 public bills, H.R. 8974–8995; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 106; and H. Res. 1266 were introduced.

**Pages H7227–28**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Page H7229**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5047, to require the Administrator of General Services to conduct an annual audit of properties leased to private parties, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–655);

H.R. 5013, to apply the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to small businesses to the same extent as such Act applies to consumers, to require the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to define “small business” for purposes of such Act, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–656);

Hijacking our Heroes: Exploiting Veterans Through Disinformation on Social Media (H. Rept. 116–657);

H.R. 3948, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to extend the provisions of that Act to cover a debt collector who is collecting debt owed to a State or local government, to index award amounts under such Act for inflation, to provide for

civil injunctive relief for violations of such Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–658); and

H.R. 3068. A bill to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–659, Part 1).

**Page H7227**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McCollum to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H7161**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

**Page H7167**

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 300,000 Americans who have passed away a result of the COVID–19 virus.

**Page H7167**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Homeless Veterans Coronavirus Response Act of 2020:* Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7105, to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency; **Pages H7169–H7211**

*Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act:* S. 2216, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally

recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 380 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 244; **Pages H7211–13, H7224–25**

**Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020:** S. 3312, to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program;

**Pages H7213–16**

**Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act:** S. 2174, amended, to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer’s Law and Kristen’s Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases;

**Pages H7217–19**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act”;

**Page H7219**

**One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act:** S. 1694, amended, to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct activities in outer space to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site;

**Pages H7219–22**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes.”; and

**Page H7222**

**Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act:** S. 2472, to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

**Pages H7222–24**

**Correcting the enrollment of S. 3312:** The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to

S. Con. Res. 52, to correct the enrollment of S. 3312, as amended by Representative Bass.

**Pages H7216–17**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified the Congress that the national emergency with respect to the prevalence and severity of human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017 is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2020. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116-173).

**Page H7226**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 2032 was held at the desk. S. 2054 was held at the desk. S. 3152 was held at the desk.

**Page H7169**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7169.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One yeas-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on page H7224–25.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

### House

*Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Role of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family in the Opioid Epidemic”, 9 a.m., Webex.*

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, December 17

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

12 noon, Thursday, December 17

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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