

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1 NEAL R. GROSS & CO., INC.

2 RPTS WOJACK

3 HIF193000

4

5

6 MARKUP OF H.R. 959, TITLE VIII NURSING

7 WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017, AS

8 FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON

9 JUNE 27, 2018; H.R. 1676, PALLIATIVE CARE

10 AND HOSPICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT, AS

11 FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON

12 JUNE 27, 2018; H.R. 3728, EDUCATING MEDICAL

13 PROFESSIONALS AND OPTIMIZING WORKFORCE

14 EFFICIENCY READINESS ACT OF 2017, AS

15 FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON

16 JUNE 27, 2018; H.R. 5385, CHILDREN'S

17 HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF

18 2018, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON

19 HEALTH ON JUNE 27, 2018; H.RES. 982, OF

20 INQUIRY; H.R. 2278, RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL

21 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017, AS FORWARDED BY

22 THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT ON JUNE 27,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

23 2018; H.R. 2389, TO REAUTHORIZE THE WEST
24 VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER
25 PURPOSES, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE
26 ON ENVIRONMENT ON JUNE 27, 2018; H.R. 1320,
27 NUCLEAR UTILIZATION OF KEYNOTE ENERGY ACT,
28 AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
29 ON JUNE 21, 2018; H.R. 6140, ADVANCED
30 NUCLEAR FUEL AVAILABILITY ACT, AS FORWARDED
31 BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY ON JUNE 21,
32 2018; H.R. 6032, STATE OF MODERN
33 APPLICATION, RESEARCH, AND TRENDS OF IOT
34 ACT, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
35 DIGITAL COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ON
36 JUNE 13, 2018; H.R. 2345, NATIONAL SUICIDE
37 HOTLINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017, AS
38 FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
39 COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 13,
40 2018; H.R. 3994, ADVANCING CRITICAL
41 CONNECTIVITY EXPANDS SERVICE, SMALL
42 BUSINESSES RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES,
43 ACCESS, AND DATA BASED ON ASSESSED NEED AND
44 DEMAND ACT, AS FORWARDED BY THE

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

45 SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
46 TECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 13, 2018; H.R. 4881,
47 PRECISION AGRICULTURE CONNECTIVITY ACT OF
48 2018, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
49 COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 13,
50 2018; AND H.R. 5709, PREVENTING ILLEGAL
51 RADIO ABUSE THROUGH ENFORCEMENT ACT, AS
52 FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
53 COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 13,
54 2018.

55 THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

56 House of Representatives

57 Committee on Energy and Commerce

58 Washington, D.C.

59

60

61

62 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m., in
63 Room 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Greg Walden
64 [chairman of the committee] presiding.

65 Members present: Representatives Walden, Barton, Upton,
66 Shimkus, Burgess, Blackburn, Scalise, Latta, McMorris

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

67 Rodgers, Lance, Guthrie, Olson, McKinley, Kinzinger,
68 Griffith, Bilirakis, Johnson, Long, Bucshon, Flores, Brooks,
69 Mullin, Hudson, Collins, Cramer, Walberg, Walters, Costello,
70 Carter, Duncan, Pallone, Rush, Eshoo, Engel, Green, DeGette,
71 Doyle, Schakowsky, Butterfield, Matsui, Castor, Sarbanes,
72 McNerney, Welch, Lujan, Tonko, Clarke, Loeb sack, Schrader,
73 Kennedy, Cardenas, Ruiz, Peters, and Dingell.

74

75 Staff present: Jon Adame, Policy Coordinator,
76 Communications & Technology; Jennifer Barblan, Chief Counsel,
77 Oversight & Investigations; Mike Bloomquist, Deputy Staff
78 Director; Samantha Bopp, Staff Assistant; Adam Buckalew,
79 Professional Staff Member, Health; Daniel Butler, Staff
80 Assistant; Karen Christian, General Counsel; Kelly Collins,
81 Staff Assistant; Jerry Couri, Chief Environmental Advisor;
82 Jordan Davis, Director of Policy and External Affairs;
83 Margaret Tucker Fogarty, Staff Assistant; Melissa Froelich,
84 Chief Counsel, Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection; Adam
85 Fromm, Director of Outreach and Coalitions; Ali Fulling,
86 Legislative Clerk, Oversight & Investigations, Digital
87 Commerce and Consumer Protection; Theresa Gambo, Human
88 Resources/Office Administrator; Caleb Graff, Professional

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

89 Staff Member, Health; Brittany Havens, Professional Staff,
90 Oversight & Investigations; Jordan Haverly, Policy
91 Coordinator, Environment; Elena Hernandez, Press Secretary;
92 Zach Hunter, Director of Communications; Paul Jackson,
93 Professional Staff, Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection;
94 Peter Kielty, Deputy General Counsel; Ed Kim, Policy
95 Coordinator, Health; Bijan Koohmaraie, Counsel, Digital
96 Commerce and Consumer Protection; Tim Kurth, Senior
97 Professional Staff, Communications & Technology; Ryan Long,
98 Deputy Staff Director; Mary Martin, Deputy Chief Counsel,
99 Energy & Environment; Sarah Matthews, Press Secretary; Lauren
100 McCarty, Counsel, Communications & Technology; Drew McDowell,
101 Executive Assistant; Mark Ratner, Policy Coordinator; Kristen
102 Shatynski, Professional Staff Member, Health; Jennifer
103 Sherman, Press Secretary; Peter Spencer, Professional Staff
104 Member, Energy; Austin Stonebraker, Press Assistant; Josh
105 Trent, Deputy Chief Health Counsel, Health; Madeline Vey,
106 Policy Coordinator, Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection;
107 Evan Viau, Legislative Clerk, Communications & Technology;
108 Hamlin Wade, Special Advisor, External Affairs; Andy Zach,
109 Senior Professional Staff Member, Environment; Michelle Ash,
110 Minority Chief Counsel, Digital Commerce and Consumer

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

111 Protection; Jacquelyn Bolen, Minority Professional Staff;
112 Jeff Carroll, Minority Staff Director; Jennifer Epperson,
113 Minority Federal Communications Commission Detailee;
114 Elizabeth Ertel, Minority Deputy Clerk; Lisa Goldman,
115 Minority Counsel; Waverly Gordon, Minority Health Counsel;
116 Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Deputy Staff Director and Chief
117 Health Advisor; Alex Hoehn-Saric, Minority Chief Counsel,
118 Communications and Technology; Rick Kessler, Minority Senior
119 Advisor and Staff Director, Energy and Environment; Jerry
120 Leverich, Minority Counsel; Dan Miller, Minority Policy
121 Analyst; Alexander Ratner, Minority Policy Analyst; Tim
122 Robinson, Minority Chief Counsel; Samantha Satchell, Minority
123 Policy Analyst; Andrew Souvall, Minority Director of
124 Communications, Outreach and Member Services; Tuley Wright,
125 Minority Energy and Environment Policy Advisor; and Catherine
126 Zander, Minority Environment Fellow.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

127 Chairman Walden. Members will take their seats and our
128 guests theirs. We will get started with the markup.

129 Good morning, everyone. This morning we meet to markup
130 more than a dozen common sense bills, most of which are
131 bipartisan. They've been thoughtfully and thoroughly
132 considered by five of our subcommittees in the Energy and
133 Commerce Committee.

134 The four bills before us to improve the nation's health
135 provider workforce were approved unanimously by our Health
136 Subcommittee last month, and I thank the subcommittee for its
137 work.

138 They are H.R. 959, Title VII Nursing Workforce
139 Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 3728, the EMPOWER ACT,
140 reauthorizing the workforce programs under Titles VII and
141 VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

142 Now, these programs support the education, recruitment,
143 and the retention of many types of really important health
144 providers.

145 H.R. 5385, the Children's Hospital GME Support
146 Reauthorization Act, will reauthorize payments to
147 freestanding children's hospitals that operate graduate and
148 medical education programs in order to support the pediatric

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

149 health workforce.

150 And finally, H.R. 1676, this is the Palliative Care and
151 Hospice Education and Training Act and will establish a
152 program to enable the training interprofessional health
153 practitioners in palliative and hospice care in a variety of
154 settings.

155 This bill is particularly important to me and one I've
156 heard about its potential impact from specialists and disease
157 advocates from across my home state of Oregon, and I was a
158 co-sponsor of this in the past.

159 Originating from the Digital Commerce and Consumer
160 Protection Subcommittee, we will consider H.R. 6032, the
161 Smart IoT Act, to direct a first-of-its-kind study of the
162 internet-connected devices industry.

163 Fresh off a unanimous markup last month in the
164 Communications and Technology Subcommittee, H.R. 2345, the
165 National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, H.R. 5709, the
166 PIRATE Act, H.R. 3994, the Access Broadband Act, and H.R.
167 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act, will all be
168 before us today.

169 From improving public safety to expanding rural
170 broadband, these bills will collectively address many

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

171 important parts of our communications ecosystem.

172 We also will consider two bipartisan bills passed by the
173 Subcommittee on Energy to address regulatory and
174 technological challenges which hamper our ability to capture
175 the benefits of clean reliable nuclear energy.

176 H.R. 1320 is good for consumers who pay for regulatory
177 costs in nuclear energy. Meanwhile, the Advanced Nuclear
178 Fuel Availability Act establishes a public-private
179 partnership to provide a pathway to have advanced nuclear
180 fuels available to enable America's nuclear scientists and
181 innovators to deploy the next generation of technologies.

182 And last but not least, we will consider two bills
183 passed by the Subcommittee on Environment to reauthorize
184 certain environmental remediation projects at the Department
185 of Energy.

186 Today's bills speak to the hard work of our members and
187 staff on both sides of the aisle to enact meaningful positive
188 solutions that empower consumers, patients, small businesses,
189 and all Americans.

190 So I urge my colleagues to support these measures and I
191 look forward to advancing them to the full House for
192 consideration.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

193 I now recognize my friend, the ranking gentleman from
194 New -- the ranking member from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, for
195 five minutes for purposes of an opening statement.

196 Mr. Pallone. Thank you --

197 Chairman Walden. Three minutes. I am sorry.

198 Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

199 Today, we are considering 13 bipartisan bills that have
200 worked their way through our five --

201 Chairman Walden. Would the gentleman suspend?

202 Shh. If we can have order. Thank you.

203 Mr. Pallone. Thank you.

204 Today we are considering 13 bipartisan bills that have
205 worked their way through legislative committees. We will
206 also consider one resolution of inquiry that I introduced
207 last week regarding the president's inhumane family
208 separation policy.

209 I'll talk more about the resolution of inquiry further
210 when it comes up. But it is critical that we approve this
211 resolution since the Republican majority has not scheduled a
212 hearing with Secretary Azar on how HHS is reuniting these
213 families.

214 Every committee Democrat has called for a hearing and I

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

215 reiterate that request today. HHS simply is not reuniting
216 these families fast enough, and even when they are reunited
217 we are hearing heartbreaking stories of infants not even
218 remembering their mothers.

219 We need answers and we are not getting them from the
220 Trump administration. That's why we must pass this
221 resolution and then we need to hold a hearing.

222 Let me turn to the legislation before us. We will be
223 considering four bipartisan public health bills, all with the
224 goal of strengthening our health work force. We will
225 consider a bill from Representative Matsui that supports the
226 recruitment, training, and retention of nursing
227 professionals.

228 Representative Engel is sponsoring a bill that will
229 improve education, training, and research into palliative
230 care and Hospice care.

231 Representative Schakowsky has championed a bill that
232 supports several important workforce program operated by the
233 Health Resources and Service Administration, or HRSA, and her
234 bill would also boost training for geriatric providers who
235 are increasingly in demand across the country.

236 And then there is legislation from our subcommittee

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

237 Ranking Member Green and Chairman Burgess that will allow
238 children's hospitals to continue to train the next generation
239 of pediatric providers.

240 The committee will also consider four bills dealing with
241 nuclear energy and waste cleanup. I support the two bills
242 that address important nuclear legacy waste cleanups as well
243 as the bill to incentivize advanced reactor fuel development.

244 Regarding H.R. 1320, I appreciate the willingness of
245 Chairman Shimkus and Representatives Kinzinger and Doyle to
246 work with me to address concerns I have with this bill.

247 While I still have some questions, I do not intend to
248 oppose the legislation.

249 And we will also markup four bipartisan communication
250 bills. One strengthens the FCC's efforts to crack down on
251 pirate radio operators. Another sets up a process for the
252 FCC to consider how to support internet-connected farming
253 techniques. A third would help the federal government better
254 target federal support of broadband and the fourth bill
255 examines important improvements to the National Suicide
256 Prevention Lifeline, and I look forward to supporting those
257 bills.

258 And, finally, I also support Representatives Latta and

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

259 Welch's Smart IoT Act that came out of our Digital Commerce
260 and Consumer Protection Subcommittee.

261 So, again, thanks to our members and staff for the work
262 on these various bills and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

263 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
264 of time.

265 The chair recognizes the gentleman and the chairman of
266 the Subcommittee on Energy, former chairman of the full
267 committee, Mr. Upton of Michigan, for one minute.

268 Mr. Upton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

269 So this morning, we are going to consider two bipartisan
270 bills passed by the Subcommittee on Energy last month to
271 address the development, competitiveness, and regulation of
272 nuclear energy technologies.

273 So these thoughtful proposals reflect the same sense of
274 urgency to begin resolving time-consuming and complex
275 regulatory challenges for the licensing and developing new
276 nuclear facilities and technologies.

277 H.R. 1320, the Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy, or
278 NUKE Act, is a bipartisan bill that increases transparency,
279 predictability, efficiency, and the NRC's regulatory regime.
280 In doing so, ratepayers throughout the country as well as

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

281 countless individuals and industry stakeholders who benefit
282 from the application of nuclear technology will realize the
283 unique industrial, medical, and energy generation
284 capabilities.

285 We are also doing H.R. 6140, the Advanced Nuclear Fuel
286 Availability Act, also a bipartisan bill which lays the
287 foundation for the development in deployment of new first-of-
288 a-kind advanced nuclear reactor designs.

289 Passage of these two bipartisan bills is important. I
290 yield back.

291 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
292 of time.

293 Are there members on the minority side seeking
294 recognition? I see Ms. DeGette from Colorado, recognized for
295 one minute. Good morning.

296 Ms. DeGette. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

297 I just want to speak in support of Mr. Pallone's House
298 resolution of inquiry. I went down to the border a few weeks
299 ago and I met some of the moms whose children had been taken
300 from them.

301 And then we went over and we went and we met some of the
302 children who had been taken from their parents. I think that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

303 it is, frankly, un-American that we have taken these kids
304 from their parents and we now can't reunite them.

305 This is the greatest country in the world, and it
306 absolutely sickens me to think that we now can't figure out
307 3,000 kids and their parents.

308 I think it's very important that the secretary of HHS
309 transmit this information to the House of Representatives and
310 I think, surely, this should be one thing that we could all
311 on this committee agree on.

312 I yield back.

313 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady yields back.

314 The chairman recognizes the gentlelady from Tennessee,
315 Mrs. Blackburn, for one minute.

316 Mrs. Blackburn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

317 I am so pleased that we have four bills on today's
318 markup that were unanimously passed through our Subcommittee
319 on Comms and Tech.

320 First is Mr. Stuart's Suicide Hotline Improvement Act.
321 We all know families or have family members that have been
322 affected with suicide and we look forward to seeing this bill
323 to the president's desk; Mr. Lance and Mr. Tonko's PIRATE
324 Act, which gives the FCC more tools to combat illegal pirate

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

325 radio operations; and then also Mr. Tonko and Mr. Lance's
326 ACCESS BROADBAND Act, which ensures federal funding for
327 broadband deployment, is tracked and efficiently coordinated.

328 And finally, we have Mr. Loeb sack and Mr. Latta's
329 Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act. As we will hear next
330 week at our rural broadband hearing, the benefits of
331 expanding broadband access to rural America can open up
332 really exciting opportunities for the ag sector and
333 hardworking farmers and ranchers, and I appreciate the
334 support on these and look forward to moving them forward.

335 Yield back.

336 Chairman Walden. The gentle lady's time has expired.

337 The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green, for one minute.

338 Mr. Green. Mr. Chairman, I want to share my concern
339 that my colleague that Denver said about the children in
340 Texas along the border. Taking children away from parents is
341 not an American value and that's all I am going to say on
342 that.

343 One of the bills we are considering today is H.R. 5385,
344 the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act I am
345 proud to introduce with our subcommittee chairman, Dr.
346 Burgess, earlier this year.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

347 The CHGME program provides needed funding to train our
348 nation's pediatric workforce including pediatricians,
349 pediatric subspecialists and greatly needed in many
350 communities around the country.

351 Our legislation reauthorized the CHGME program for five
352 years at \$325 million annually and a \$25 million increase
353 over current levels.

354 As of today, our bipartisan legislation has 73 co-
355 sponsors. Support from outside stakeholders including the
356 American Hospital Association and the Children's Hospital
357 Association. And, Mr. Chairman, I'd like my full statement
358 to be placed in the record, and I yield back whatever time I
359 have.

360 Chairman Walden. Without objection, that'll happen.

361 [The prepared statement of Mr. Green follows:]

362

363 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 1*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

364 Chairman Walden. The chair now recognizes the gentleman
365 from Illinois, I believe, is next -- Mr. Kinzinger -- for one
366 minute.

367 Mr. Kinzinger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for today's
368 markup and including H.R. 1320, the NUKE Act. As those of
369 you on the Energy Subcommittee know, Congressman Doyle and I
370 have been working on this bill for over a year.

371 I am proud of this bill, which also includes Mr. Green
372 and Mr. Latta as co-sponsors, and it makes practical reforms
373 to increase accountability, predictability, and transparency
374 for those regulated by the NRC.

375 Specifically, it eliminates an arbitrary requirement
376 that the NRC recover 90 percent of its budget from those it
377 regulates and instead puts in place a predictable fee
378 structure that bases regulatory cost on the nature of work.

379 The bill creates additional stability by putting a cap
380 on the total annual fee charged to each operating reactor,
381 limiting NRC overhead cost to put the agency in line with
382 similar federal agency spending, create achievable deadlines
383 for major license applications.

384 Nuclear power is at a critical impasse. We have 99
385 nuclear power plants including four in my district that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

386 provide reliable carbon-free electricity around the country.
387 But many of those are facing early retirement, which means a
388 loss of clean energy, good jobs, and ceding our global
389 leadership on safety and nonproliferation.

390 So I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of
391 this bipartisan bill, which will maintain the NRC's gold
392 standard of safety while reducing the regulatory burden on
393 our existing plants but also the next generation.

394 And I yield back.

395 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

396 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Illinois, Ms.
397 Schakowsky, for one minute to speak on --

398 Ms. Schakowsky. I am so pleased that we are here today
399 considering these critical health workforce bills in a
400 bipartisan way. I am proud to lead H.R. 3728, the EMPOWER
401 Act, with Representatives Burgess and Bucshon by
402 reauthorizing the geriatric workforce enhancement program and
403 reestablishing the Geriatric Academy Career Awards.

404 This bill is critical to ensuring that we have the
405 workforce in place to respond to the needs of older
406 Americans. Right now, we are facing a geriatric health care
407 workforce shortage, and as Baby Boomers age, the shortage

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

408 will only grow.

409 The EMPOWER Act will train more providers, give families
410 -- family care givers the tools they need to care for loved
411 ones with Alzheimer's and expands teaching centers to reach
412 rural and under served communities.

413 The EMPOWER Act brings us closer to building the health
414 care workforce our seniors deserve.

415 Thank you, and I yield back.

416 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady yields back.

417 Other members on the Republican side seeking
418 recognition?

419 Seeing none, let's see -- the gentleman from New York, I
420 guess -- Mr. Tonko, isn't it?

421 Oh, I am sorry. Ms. Castor, were you seeking
422 recognition?

423 Ms. Castor. Yes.

424 Chairman Walden. For one minute.

425 Ms. Castor. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
426 colleagues.

427 I think it's very positive we are moving forward on a
428 number of bipartisan health care workforce bills today. They
429 are bipartisan and they are very important.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

430 I'd also like to commend Ranking Member Pallone for
431 bringing the resolution that will expand our oversight
432 inquiry of HHS on this horrendous family separation policy.

433 This is very important and the committee really should
434 take up oversight hearings. I am sure some of my colleagues
435 were on the phone on Friday when the HHS secretary said we
436 will have a conference call for all of Congress.

437 But what happened on that call, for folks that don't
438 know, is the secretary didn't answer many questions at all.
439 He spoke for about 20 minutes, turned it over to another
440 assistant secretary, and then the entire Congress he took
441 three questions. So what should happen is the Energy and
442 Commerce Committee that has oversight of HHS should schedule
443 a series of hearings. We have had time last week to have
444 hearings. We could do it this week.

445 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's time has expired.

446 Ms. Castor. It's a real shame that that has not
447 happened.

448 I yield back my time.

449 Chairman Walden. Other members seeking recognition?

450 The gentleman from New York, Mr. Tonko, is recognized
451 for one minute.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

452 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

453 I thank Environment Subcommittee Chair Shimkus for his
454 work on the two bills that were approved by that subcommittee
455 in June. Mr. Shimkus has worked tirelessly to address
456 nuclear waste issues and I appreciate the attention he has
457 given to sites that are still dealing with the consequences
458 of our nation's entry into the Atomic Age.

459 I support H.R. 2278 and H.R. 2389, and hope we can
460 continue to work together to resolve the remaining unsettled
461 aspects of the West Valley issue in the future. I also want
462 to highlight two telecom bills being considered this morning.

463 First, H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act establishes
464 an office to streamline management of federal broadband
465 resources and creates a simpler process for small businesses
466 to access those resources.

467 We know the importance of broadband. It can be the
468 difference between success and failure for students doing
469 homework, job candidates, building toward a new career, and
470 entrepreneurs starting a small business.

471 The second, H.R. 5709, the PIRATE Act, would increase
472 penalties and restrictions on pirate radio. Pirate radio can
473 interfere with emergency broadcast signals and airport

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

474 communications.

475 Protecting our public airwaves is an essential part of
476 protecting our communities.

477 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's time --

478 Mr. Tonko. I thank Mr. Lance and thank you, Mr. Chair.
479 I yield back.

480 Chairman Walden. -- has expired. Other members
481 seeking recognition?

482 Seeing none, the chair now calls up H.R. 959 as
483 forwarded by the Subcommittee on Health on June 27, 2018 and
484 ask the clerk to report.

485 [The Bill H.R. 959 follows:]

486

487 *****INSERT 2*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

488 The Clerk. H.R. 959, to amend Title VIII of the Public
489 Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing
490 grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs and for
491 other purposes.

492 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
493 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
494 amendment at any point.

495 Are there any bipartisan amendments? Is yours
496 bipartisan or --

497 Ms. Matsui. Yes.

498 Chairman Walden. Are there any amendments? It's close
499 enough. For what purpose does the gentlelady from
500 California, Ms. Matsui, seek recognition?

501 Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
502 amendment at the desk.

503 Chairman Walden. The clerk will report the amendment.

504 [The Amendment offered by Ms. Matsui follows:]

505

506 *****INSERT 3*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

507 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 959 offered by Ms. Matsui.
508 Chairman Walden. Further reading of the amendment is
509 dispensed with. The gentlelady from California is recognized
510 for five minutes to speak on her amendment.

511 Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

512 H.R. 959 is a bipartisan bill that reauthorize critical
513 workforce programs for our nation's nurses. Nurses are an
514 integral part of the patient care in many settings. They are
515 often the most memorable part of the patient's hospital
516 stays.

517 But they are also in the community doing things like
518 primary care and public health and prevention. We have many
519 medical workforce shortages across our country and we need to
520 ensure that professionals are available to meet health care
521 needs, especially in rural and under served areas.

522 Nurses contribute to that solution and we must continue
523 to train and support them. We know that it is expensive and
524 time consuming to become trained as a medical professional.
525 But loan repayment and scholarship programs can help
526 alleviate that burden.

527 Those programs also alleviate a workforce to practice
528 where they are needed rather than only where they can receive

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

529 enough compensation to repay their investment.

530 I appreciate the work of my colleague, Representative
531 Joyce, and this committee to advance this important
532 legislation. I'd also like to express support for the other
533 health bills we are advancing today.

534 Our aging population will rely on a workforce with
535 geriatric expertise as well as access to patient-centered
536 hospice and palliative care.

537 The EMPOWER Act includes the geriatric workforce bill I
538 authored with my friend, Representative Schakowsky, and I
539 support the PCHETA Act authored by my friend, Representative
540 Engel, which would fund training of physicians who plan to
541 teach palliative medicine.

542 Lastly, medical training at children's hospitals is also
543 very important so I am pleased we are working together on
544 reauthorization for the Children's Hospitals GME program.

545 My amendment to H.R. 959 is technical in nature. I urge
546 my colleagues to support the amendment and the underlying
547 bill. Thank you, and I yield back.

548 Mr. Upton. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back.

549 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

550 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

551 the gentlelady from California.

552 Those in favor will say aye.

553 Those opposed, say no.

554 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The
555 amendment is agreed to.

556 Are there further amendments to the bill?

557 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on favorably reporting
558 H.R. 959 as amended to the House.

559 All those in favor will say aye.

560 Those opposed say no.

561 The ayes have it. The bill is favorably reported.

562 The chair will now call up H.R. 1676 as forwarded by the
563 Subcommittee on Health on June 27th of this year and ask the
564 clerk to report.

565 [The Bill H.R. 1676 follows:]

566

567 *****INSERT 4*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

568 The Clerk. H.R. 1676, to amend the Public Health
569 Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in
570 palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic
571 medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and
572 other programs including physician assistant education
573 programs to promote education and research in palliative care
574 and hospice, and to support the development of faculty
575 careers and academic palliative medicine.

576 Mr. Upton. Without objection, the first reading of the
577 bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment
578 at any point.

579 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

580 The gentleman from New York.

581 Mr. Engel. I move to strike the last word.

582 Mr. Upton. The gentleman is recognized for five
583 minutes.

584 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Engel follows:]

585

586 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 5*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

587 Mr. Engel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member
588 Pallone.

589 I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 1676, the
590 Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act. I am
591 very pleased to see this bill moving forward today.

592 The goal of palliative care is to alleviate suffering
593 for patients and their loved ones, accompanying efforts to
594 treat or cure illness.

595 Palliative care can help patients and families cope with
596 the symptom, stress, and pain of illness, but too many aren't
597 aware of these benefits. There is also a shortage of
598 educated providers who can offer quality palliative care.

599 My Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training
600 Act addresses these issues by expanding opportunities for
601 training in palliative and hospice care.

602 This bill also seeks to better educate patients,
603 families, and health professionals about palliative care's
604 benefits and encourages the NIH to expand research around
605 this topic.

606 I think that all of us, unfortunately, have known a
607 loved one who has faced a serious or life-threatening illness
608 so we know too well the confusion and stress these situations

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

609 bring.

610 This bill will help us ensure that there is a well-
611 trained palliative and hospice care workforce available to
612 care for patients and bring much needed relief to families.

613 I want to thank Congressman Tom Reed and Congressman
614 Buddy Carter for co-authoring this bill and all the bill's
615 284 bipartisan co-sponsors.

616 So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and
617 I yield back the balance of my time.

618 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

619 Mr. Burgess. Will the gentleman yield the balance of
620 his time to me?

621 Mr. Engel. Yes, certainly.

622 Mr. Burgess. I thank the gentleman from New York for
623 yielding and thank you for bringing the bill to the
624 subcommittee where it passed unanimously.

625 This bill has been co-sponsored by many members of the
626 full committee, many members of Health Subcommittee and it
627 builds our palliative hospice care workforce by establishing
628 and supporting palliative care and hospice education centers
629 through federal grants while enhancing research in palliative
630 care at the National Institute of Health.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

631 You know, I think this bill complements our committee's
632 work and the House of Representative's work on opioids. With
633 115 Americans dying from overdose each day, we focused
634 efforts to increase access to treatment, incentivized
635 development of opiate alternatives, and to help curb future
636 addiction.

637 The bill before us today can address this issue from a
638 different angle. With the growing scrutiny on doctors
639 prescribing opioids in the midst of this, we must remember
640 that there are patients with recurring chronic pain, and
641 while the use of opiates can lead to substance use disorder,
642 these patients still need access to pain medications,
643 particularly if they have been successfully maintained and
644 managed on their opiates in close consultation with their
645 doctors.

646 This bill will ensure that we have a palliative and
647 hospice care workforce that is adequately trained to manage
648 patients with serious illness which can include some aspect
649 of chronic pain and chronic administration of opiates.

650 I appreciate having the chance to share these insights.
651 I appreciate Representative Engel bringing this bill to the
652 subcommittee and now to the full committee, and look forward

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

653 to its passage.

654 I'll yield back to the gentleman from New York.

655 Mr. Engel. Well, I thank the gentleman, and if anyone
656 wants my time I am happy to yield. If not, I'll yield back
657 the balance of my time.

658 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

659 The gentleman from Georgia strike the last word?

660 Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
661 word.

662 Mr. Upton. The gentleman is recognized for five
663 minutes.

664 Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be an original
665 co-sponsor on this bill that currently has more than 280
666 bipartisan co-sponsors and was passed by a voice vote through
667 our Health Subcommittee.

668 This legislation supports funding to a variety of
669 programs that provide palliative medicine and training in a
670 variety of settings, establishes a program to enable hospice
671 and palliative physicians to train teams of interdisciplinary
672 health care professionals in palliative and hospice care
673 techniques, and expands the type of professionals trained to
674 provide hospice care including nurses and clinical social

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

675 workers.

676 When I served as a hospice pharmacy consultant before
677 coming to Congress, I saw the impact that proper palliative
678 care has on patients and families that are faced with
679 incredibly difficult decisions at the end of their lives.

680 This legislation ensures that there is a well-trained
681 palliative care workforce available and ready for individuals
682 with serious illnesses.

683 I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for including this
684 legislation in the markup today and enhancing care options
685 for our aging and seriously ill population.

686 I thank you and I yield back.

687 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back. Other members
688 wishing to offer amendments?

689 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
690 reporting H.R. 1676 to the House.

691 All those in favor will say aye.

692 Those opposed say no.

693 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
694 bill is favorably reported.

695 The chair now calls up H.R. 3728 as forwarded by the
696 Subcommittee on Health on June 27th of this year and I ask

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

697 the clerk to report.

698 [The Bill H.R. 3728 follows:]

699

700 *****INSERT 6*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

701 The Clerk. H.R. 3728, to amend Title VII of the Public
702 Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating
703 to the health professions workforce and for other purposes.

704 Mr. Upton. Without objection, the first reading of the
705 bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment
706 at any point.

707 Any members wishing to offer a bipartisan amendment?

708 Dr. Burgess is recognized.

709 Mr. Burgess. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at
710 the desk.

711 Mr. Upton. The clerk will report the title of the
712 amendment.

713 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Burgess follows:]

714

715 *****INSERT 7*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

716 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3728 offered by Mr.
717 Burgess.

718 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
719 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and the
720 gentleman is recognized for five minutes in support of his
721 amendment.

722 Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

723 The underlying bill, the Educating Medical Professionals
724 and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency Readiness Act, which was
725 introduced with Representatives Schakowsky and Bucshon last
726 year, will reauthorize the various workforce programs
727 included in Title VII of the Public Health Service Act.

728 Mr. Chairman, we work with stakeholders to draft a
729 technical amendment which brings the authorization level for
730 the primary care training and enhancement program up to the
731 fiscal year 2018 omnibus level and is now more than \$48
732 million.

733 Additionally, it would raise the salary amount for the
734 geriatric academic career awards such that it would more
735 effectively attract and support the geriatrics faculty.
736 That's faculty to take care of geriatric patients, not very
737 old faculty members.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

738 [Laughter.]

739 The underlying bill aims to support and strengthen our
740 geriatric workforce through the geriatrics workforce
741 enhancement program and the geriatric academic career awards
742 so that it can meet the unique needs of our ever-growing
743 population of seniors.

744 While Congress has appropriated funding for the Title
745 VII workforce programs in recent years, it is essential that
746 we reauthorize the program to ensure longer-term stability.
747 These programs are vital to building and maintaining a well-
748 educated well-trained physician workforce.

749 H.R. 3728 reauthorizes funding for the area health
750 education centers, which also provide both medical education
751 and health care services to medically under served areas.

752 Reauthorizing these Title VII programs is long overdue.
753 I strongly urge my members to support the amendment and the
754 underlying bill and I will yield back to the chairman.

755 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

756 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

757 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
758 the gentleman from Texas.

759 All those in favor will say aye.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

760 Those opposed, say no.

761 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The
762 amendment is agreed to.

763 Are there further amendments to the bill?

764 The gentlelady from Illinois has an amendment at the
765 desk?

766 Ms. Schakowsky. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr.
767 Chairman.

768 Mr. Upton. And the clerk will report the title of the
769 amendment.

770 [The Amendment offered by Ms. Schakowsky follows:]

771

772 *****INSERT 8*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

773 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 3728 offered by Ms.
774 Schakowsky.

775 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
776 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and the
777 gentlelady will be recognized for five minutes in support of
778 her amendment.

779 Ms. Schakowsky. Well, you've already heard about the
780 reauthorization for the geriatric workforce program and the
781 reestablishment of the geriatric academic career awards, how
782 critical they are, and I really want to thank Representatives
783 Burgess and Bucshon for leading this bill along with me.

784 The amendment is a technical amendment. It makes
785 technical changes to ensure that the geriatric workforce
786 enhancement program can continue its important work while
787 emphasizing the importance of funding the geriatric academic
788 career awards.

789 You've already heard how important it is for these
790 programs to be reauthorized. Our nation is facing a severe
791 and mounting shortage of health care providers to meet the
792 needs of older Americans.

793 It's estimated that by 2030, 3.5 million health care
794 workers will be needed just to maintain the current access

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

795 level for older Americans.

796 So this means that unless we act now, seniors,
797 especially those with multiple chronic conditions and
798 cognitive impairments, may not receive the quality of care
799 they need.

800 The EMPOWER Act confronts that challenge head on with
801 the geriatric workforce enhancement program and it's the only
802 federal program dedicated to develop a health care workforce
803 that maximizes the engagement of older adults and family care
804 givers while improving health outcomes.

805 So it's very important. In Chicago, Rush University
806 Medical Center, one of the outstanding health and education
807 institutions to receive grants for health resources and
808 services administration from HRSA to administer a geriatric
809 workforce program, I know many of your communities of my
810 colleagues benefit greatly from these programs and I urge a
811 positive vote on this amendment.

812 I yield back.

813 Mr. Upton. The gentlelady yields back.

814 Other members wishing to speak on her amendment?

815 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
816 the gentlelady from Illinois.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

817 All those in favor will say aye.

818 Those opposed say no.

819 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it. The
820 amendments is agreed to.

821 Are there further amendments to the bill?

822 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
823 reporting H.R. 3728 as amended to the House.

824 All those in favor will say aye.

825 Those opposed say no.

826 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
827 bill is favorably reported.

828 The chair will now call up H.R. 5385 as forwarded by the
829 Subcommittee on Health on June 27th of this year and ask the
830 clerk to report.

831 [The Bill H.R. 5385 follows:]

832

833 *****INSERT 9*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

834 The Clerk. H.R. 5385, to amend the Public Health
835 Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to
836 children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education
837 programs and for other purposes.

838 Mr. Upton. And without objection, the first reading of
839 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
840 amendment at any point.

841 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

842 The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Burgess.

843 Mr. Burgess. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
844 desk.

845 Mr. Upton. Dr. Burgess -- the clerk will report the
846 title of the amendment.

847 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Burgess follows:]

848

849 *****INSERT 10*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

850 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 5385, offered by Mr.
851 Burgess.

852 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
853 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and gentleman
854 from Texas is recognized for five minutes in support of his
855 amendment.

856 Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am offering
857 this amendment with Mr. Green. It is a bipartisan amendment.
858 This was an amendment to honor a Texan who's made a
859 substantial impact on the world of pediatric medicine.

860 Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks was born in Lewisville, Texas
861 where I practiced medicine for 25 years. She grew up in
862 neighboring Flower Mound, Texas. Both towns are in my
863 district in the northern part of the state.

864 At the early age of four, she dreamt of becoming a
865 doctor and she operated on her sister's dolls with her
866 mother's manicure scissors.

867 She received a Bachelor and Master's degree from North
868 Texas State Teachers College, which is now the university of
869 North Texas, and went to medical school at the University of
870 Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1944, received her
871 medical degree in 1948.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

872 Dr. Brooks became one of the first women to enter the
873 department of surgery at Harvard, where she completed her
874 pediatric surgical training. She did return home to Texas to
875 practice pediatric surgery at Texas Children's Hospital where
876 she was one of my faculty members when I was in medical
877 school.

878 She was the first female pediatric surgeon in the state
879 and went on to teach at Baylor College of Medicine, and at
880 the time the newly established University of Texas Medical
881 School at Houston, and she established and led the pediatric
882 surgery division.

883 Mr. Chairman, I would also ask unanimous consent to
884 place into the record the official biography of Dr. Benjy
885 Brooks.

886 Mr. Upton. Without objection.

887 [The information follows:]

888

889 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 11*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

890 Mr. Burgess. And point to the one statement in this at
891 the conclusion of the biography. Dr. Benjy Brooks was a
892 lifelong fan of Texas. She credits much of her success to
893 her childhood in the Lone Star State with its long history of
894 strong pioneering women.

895 In Texas, Dr. Brooks noted, you can go as far as you can
896 push yourself. And Mr. Chairman, Mr. Green and I do not
897 agree on everything. There are days it seems we don't agree
898 on anything.

899 But we did come to a quick consensus to rename this
900 children's graduate medical education bill the Dr. Benjy
901 Frances Brooks Children's Hospital GME Support Act --
902 Reauthorization Act of 2018, and the significance there is
903 this is the 100-year anniversary of the birth of Dr. Benjy
904 Brooks in Lewisville, Texas.

905 So I encourage my members to join us in support of this
906 amendment and, obviously, support of the underlying bill.

907 Mr. Green. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

908 Mr. Burgess. I'll be happy to yield to the ranking
909 member.

910 Mr. Green. Thank you.

911 Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

912 our amendment to name the Children's Hospital GME Support of
913 Reauthorization Program after Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks in
914 support of the underlying legislation.

915 Dr. Brooks was the first female pediatric surgeon in
916 Texas. She was raised, as the chair of the Health
917 Subcommittee mentioned, in Lewisville, Texas and she received
918 her medical degree from the first medical school west of the
919 Mississippi, UT medical branch in Galveston.

920 She did her pediatric surgical training at Harvard
921 Medical School in Boston. After returning to Texas, she
922 performed pediatric surgery at Texas Children's Hospital and
923 also at St. Joseph's Hospital where my wife and I were both
924 born and our children were born there back then.

925 In 1973, she joined the newly formed University of Texas
926 Medical School as a tenured full professor and established a
927 division of pediatric surgery, which he headed for the next
928 10 years.

929 I'd like to have the rest of my statement placed in the
930 record. Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to ask unanimous consent
931 to place into the record a statement on this bill, the
932 Children's Hospital Association, and I'll yield back my time.

933 Mr. Upton. Without objection.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

934 [The information follows:]

935

936 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 12*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

937 Mr. Upton. Time is yielded back.

938 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

939 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
940 the two gentlemen from Texas.

941 Those in favor will say aye.

942 Those opposed, say no.

943 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
944 amendment is agreed to.

945 Are there further amendments to the bill?

946 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
947 reporting H.R. 5385 as amended to the House.

948 All those in favor will say aye.

949 Those opposed, say no.

950 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it and the
951 bill is favorably reported.

952 The chair will now call up H.R. 2278 as forwarded by the
953 Subcommittee on the Environment on June 27th of this year and
954 ask the clerk to report.

955 [The Bill H.R. 2278 follows:]

956

957 *****INSERT 13*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

958 The Clerk. H.R. 2278, as amended by the Subcommittee on
959 the Environment.

960 Mr. Upton. And without objection, the first reading of
961 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
962 amendment at any point.

963 Are there any amendments to the bill? Any bipartisan
964 amendments to the bill?

965 The gentleman from Texas, Dr. Burgess.

966 Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Chairman.

967 Technically, it's not a bipartisan amendment but I used
968 to work on this issue with Mr. Markey. So in spirit, it's a
969 bipartisan amendment.

970 [Laughter.]

971 Mr. Upton. Striking the last word, are you offering an
972 amendment?

973 Mr. Burgess. I have an amendment at the desk.

974 Mr. Upton. All right.

975 Mr. Burgess. I beg your pardon. Is this 6140 that we
976 are doing?

977 Mr. Upton. 2278.

978 Mr. Burgess. Let me hold until 6140 --

979 Mr. Upton. All right. So we will reserve your time.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

980 Other members wishing to offer an amendment on this
981 bill?

982 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
983 reporting H.R. 2278 to the House.

984 All those in favor will say aye.

985 Those opposed say no.

986 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
987 amendment in the bill is favorably reported.

988 The chair will now call up H.R. 2389 as forwarded by the
989 Subcommittee on the Environment on June 27th of this year and
990 ask the clerk to report.

991 [The Bill H.R. 2389 follows:]

992

993 *****INSERT 14*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

994 The Clerk. H.R. 2389, as amended by the Subcommittee on
995 the Environment.

996 Mr. Upton. And without objection, the first reading of
997 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
998 amendment at any point.

999 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill? Are
1000 there any amendments to the bill?

1001 The gentleman from New York has an amendment at the
1002 desk?

1003 Mr. Tonko. Yes, Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the
1004 desk.

1005 Mr. Upton. And the clerk will report the title of the
1006 amendment.

1007 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Tonko follows:]

1008

1009 *****INSERT 15*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1010 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2389, offered by Mr.
1011 Tonko.

1012 Mr. Upton. And the staff will -- the amendment will be
1013 considered as read. The staff will distribute the amendment
1014 and the gentleman from New York is recognized for five
1015 minutes in support of his amendment.

1016 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1017 H.R. 2389 addresses a unique site in my home state, the
1018 Western New York Service Center in West Valley. The site is
1019 owned by the state, but from 1966 to 1972 it was operated by
1020 a private business to reprocess spent nuclear fuel primarily
1021 provided by the federal government.

1022 Those reprocessing activities ended decades ago but
1023 high-level waste and transuranic waste continue to be stored
1024 at the site. This bill authorizes \$75 million annually for
1025 10 years for the West Valley Demonstration Project in order
1026 to ensure the site's cleanup continues.

1027 However, this is only part of the West Valley issue.
1028 DOE and New York State continue to disagree over who should
1029 be responsible for paying for waste disposal.

1030 At the subcommittee markup, language was removed that
1031 would have addressed the uncertainty surrounding these

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1032 wastes. I believe it is clear that the high level
1033 radioactive waste and transuranic waste left at West Valley
1034 were primarily derived from atomic energy defense activities
1035 and should be disposed of as such.

1036 But I also understand that DOE may not agree with that
1037 assessment. The bill, as amended at the subcommittee markup
1038 as a requirement for a GAO report to assess the options and
1039 cost for disposal.

1040 My amendment would make minor changes to the scope of
1041 the GAO request including shortening the time line to produce
1042 the report and requiring GAO to look at the origins of the
1043 waste being stored at West Valley.

1044 Ultimately, I believe the statute cares about the
1045 defense or nondefense classification of these wastes, not
1046 their ownership. Any explanation of the West Valley
1047 situation or evaluation of disposal options without
1048 consideration of the waste origins would be incomplete.

1049 It is unfortunate that we are not resolving the biggest
1050 disagreement over the West Valley waste but I hope we can
1051 continue to work together to ensure the site is eventually
1052 remediated and wastes are disposed of properly and fairly,
1053 and revisit the waste classification issue in the future if

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1054 necessary.

1055 With that, I urge members to support the amendment and
1056 the underlying bill, and I thank you, Chair, and yield back.

1057 Mr. Shimkus. Will the gentleman yield, Mr. Tonko?

1058 Mr. Tonko. Yes, sir.

1059 Mr. Shimkus. Shimkus.

1060 Mr. Tonko. Yes.

1061 Mr. Shimkus. I want to thank my colleague. We support
1062 this amendment. This is a very difficult issue that happened
1063 decades ago. It's just part of our nuclear legacy, and the
1064 basic premise is who ends up paying for this, and it's not a
1065 small cost.

1066 So as we gather more information, the GAO report will
1067 help do that and we will continue to move forward. Mr. Tonko
1068 has been a strong advocate of trying to address this
1069 legislatively, and having now worked not only as a member of
1070 Congress but also in previous roles in part of the group
1071 designed by the state to help address this site. He's a
1072 loyal adversary and a good friend when we can work together.

1073 So with that, I encourage my colleagues to support this
1074 amendment and I yield back my time to Mr. Tonko.

1075 Mr. Tonko. And I thank the subcommittee chair for his

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1076 comments and his commitment, and with that, Mr. Chair, I
1077 yield back.

1078 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

1079 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment? Seeing
1080 none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by the
1081 gentleman from New York.

1082 All those in favor will say aye.

1083 Those opposed, say no.

1084 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it and the
1085 amendment is agreed to.

1086 Are there further amendments to the bill?

1087 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
1088 reporting H.R. 2389 as amended to the House.

1089 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1090 Those opposed, say no.

1091 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
1092 bill is favorably reported.

1093 The chair will now call up H.R. 1320 as forwarded by the
1094 Subcommittee on Energy on June 21st of this year and ask the
1095 clerk to report.

1096 [The Bill H.R. 1320 follows:]

1097

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1098

*****INSERT 16*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1099 The Clerk. H.R. 1320, as amended by the Subcommittee on
1100 Energy.

1101 Mr. Upton. Without objection, the first reading of the
1102 bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment
1103 at any point.

1104 For what reason does the gentleman from Illinois --

1105 Mr. Kinzinger. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
1106 desk.

1107 Mr. Upton. The clerk will report the title of the
1108 amendment.

1109 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Kinzinger follows:]

1110

1111 *****INSERT 17*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1112 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 1320, offered by Mr.
1113 Kinzinger.

1114 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
1115 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and the
1116 gentleman from Illinois is recognized for five minutes in
1117 support of this amendment.

1118 Mr. Kinzinger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1119 This manager's amendment is the product of additional
1120 bipartisan work on this legislation. As discussed during the
1121 Subcommittee on Energy's consideration there were still some
1122 areas where this legislation could be improved and this
1123 amendment accomplishes that.

1124 Specifically, we increase the NRC's flexibility by using
1125 2015 instead of 2016 as the base year for fee caps and remove
1126 a provision that would have allowed the NRC to issue licenses
1127 while a hearing is pending.

1128 I appreciate the efforts of Congressman Doyle and
1129 members and staff on both sides of the aisle in crafting this
1130 amendment so that we can report a strong bipartisan bill out
1131 of committee today.

1132 Finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to submit a letter of
1133 support for my bill and Rep. Flores' bill from the Nuclear

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1134 Energy Institute for the record.

1135 Mr. Upton. Without objection.

1136 [The information follows:]

1137 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 18*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1138 Mr. Kinzinger. And I encourage my colleagues to support
1139 this amendment and the underlying bill, and unless somebody
1140 needs my time I'll yield it back.

1141 Mr. Doyle. Will the gentleman yield?

1142 Mr. Kinzinger. I will.

1143 Mr. Doyle. Thank you.

1144 Mr. Chairman, first, I want to thank the chair and the
1145 ranking members of the full committee and Energy Subcommittee
1146 for holding this markup and for your involvement with the
1147 NUKE Act.

1148 I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. Kinzinger, for
1149 his leadership. In this process we have had many
1150 conversations on the NUKE Act and I appreciate the
1151 consideration and collaboration that has allowed us to get to
1152 a full committee markup for this important legislation.

1153 The nuclear energy industry supplies reliable baseload
1154 carbon-free emissions and is a strong job creator in
1155 Pennsylvania.

1156 However, the industry is facing a variety of pressures
1157 that will only increase as nuclear plants go offline. The
1158 United States is a world leader in nuclear technology and it
1159 is important to provide transparency and certainty for the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1160 nuclear energy industry.

1161 The NUKE Act accomplishes these goals by modernizing the
1162 NRC's fee structure and encouraging timely licensing
1163 decisions without sacrificing the NRC's mission to protect
1164 public health and safety. These reforms will not only
1165 support existing nuclear plants but will also encourage
1166 investment in the next generation of nuclear reactors.

1167 By reforming the fee structure, this legislation will
1168 prevent fee increases for existing nuclear reactors as other
1169 plants go offline. These common sense changes will provide
1170 certainty to operators and give NRC the flexibility to meet
1171 its budgetary needs.

1172 The same -- the manager's amendment also applies the
1173 same fee predictability and principles to fuel cycle
1174 facilities. I also appreciate that the manager's amendment
1175 strikes the provision that would have allowed NRC to issue a
1176 permit before a hearing was conducted.

1177 Eliminating this provision will ensure that communities
1178 are able to be involved in the process and that an
1179 application is sufficiently vetted before it's granted.

1180 Once again, I want to thank Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Pallone,
1181 and Mr. Walden for their work and their efforts to improve

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1182 this bipartisan compromise bill. I urge my colleagues to
1183 support this legislation and I look forward to moving this to
1184 the floor as soon as possible.

1185 I yield back.

1186 Mr. Kinzinger. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the senior
1187 member from Illinois, Mr. Shimkus.

1188 Mr. Shimkus. Thank you very much, Mr. Kinzinger.

1189 The manager's amendment offered by Rep. Kinzinger and
1190 Doyle includes an important provision relating to the annual
1191 charges for fuel cycle facilities.

1192 My district includes the nation's only uranium
1193 conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois. The facility is
1194 one of only seven total NRC license fuel cycle facilities in
1195 the United States.

1196 Unpredictable and inconsistent NRC annual charges hinder
1197 the ability of a fuel cycle facility to make long-term
1198 business decisions. This year, the annual fee for Honeywell
1199 Conversation Facility increased, despite the facility's
1200 current standby status and exceeds \$1.5 million.

1201 The manager's amendment provides an aggregate cap for
1202 fuel cycle licensees and requires that changes in annual
1203 charges must be aligned with changes in actual regulatory

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1204 work associated with the license.

1205 This provision will help stabilize our nation's nuclear
1206 supply chain, preserve U.S. leadership in nuclear technology,
1207 and provide for high-paying jobs.

1208 With that, I thank the colleague for yielding and I
1209 yield back again.

1210 Mr. Kinzinger. I yield back the balance.

1211 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

1212 The chair will recognize -- strike the last word in
1213 support -- the gentleman's support of the amendment, Mr.
1214 Pallone.

1215 Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1216 The manager's amendment before us includes several
1217 improvements to the bill. The amendment adds a new section
1218 requiring NRC to report back to Congress on efforts at the
1219 commission to address instances of employees facing reprisal
1220 for raising safety concerns that differ from the commission
1221 position on a particular licensing action.

1222 A recent internal NRC report identified several
1223 troubling cases of NRC employees who raised safety issues
1224 being passed over for promotions or being excluded from work
1225 activities by management.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1226 It's critical that our NRC staff feel comfortable
1227 raising issues with commission actions without fear of
1228 workplace retaliation. The provision included in the
1229 manager's amendment will require NRC to report to Congress on
1230 actions it's taking to address this workplace cultural
1231 problem.

1232 The manager's amendment also includes several changes
1233 addressing concerns I raised with the bill most importantly
1234 by striking a provision requiring NRC to issue a construction
1235 permit for a nuclear facility even if an entity has filed a
1236 formal request for a hearing objecting to the project.

1237 And I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues,
1238 particularly Representatives Kinzinger and Doyle, to make
1239 common sense changes to the NRC licensing process that can
1240 ease the pressure on the nuclear industry without
1241 jeopardizing safety or the environment.

1242 And while I still have a few concerns with certain
1243 provisions in the bill, I urge my colleagues to support the
1244 manager's amendment and I do not plan to oppose to underlying
1245 bill.

1246 I yield back. I don't think anybody else wants the
1247 time, Mr. Chair.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1248 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

1249 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

1250 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
1251 the gentleman from Illinois.

1252 All those in favor will say aye.

1253 Those opposed say no.

1254 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it. The
1255 amendment is agreed to.

1256 Are there further amendments to the bill? Yes, there
1257 are. I have an amendment and I'd ask the clerk to report.

1258 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Upton and Mr. Welch
1259 follows:]

1260

1261 *****INSERT 19*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1262 The Clerk. The amendment to H.R. 1320 offered by Mr.
1263 Upton.

1264 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
1265 read. The staff will distribute the amendment. This is a
1266 bipartisan amendment offered by myself and Mr. Welch, and I
1267 would just say, briefly, that this amendment requires that
1268 the NRC submits to Congress a report identifying the best
1269 practices with respect to the establishment and operation of
1270 a local community advisory board for members of the community
1271 that are impacted by the decommissioning of that particular
1272 nuclear power plant.

1273 The report includes lessons learned from similar boards
1274 that already exist throughout the nation, build out
1275 information included in the NRC's draft guidance relating to
1276 its ongoing rulemaking for decommissioning nuclear power
1277 plants.

1278 Recent closures of nuclear power plants have impacted
1279 host communities in many huge ways. Local school districts
1280 have reduced tax base. The community loses hundreds of
1281 highly paid jobs.

1282 Future economic development surrounding the
1283 decommissioned reactor is unknown sometimes and as more

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1284 nuclear facilities reach the end of their license period of
1285 operation these effects will continue to be felt throughout
1286 the country, certainly in my district in southwest Michigan
1287 as well.

1288 So at the subcommittee mark Mr. Welch noted the
1289 experience of his constituents in facing such challenges.
1290 This report will examine previous experiences, identify the
1291 best practices for future communities, nuclear licensees, and
1292 all stakeholders to manage this transition, going forward.

1293 So I would hope that everyone here could support this
1294 bipartisan amendment and would yield to my colleague and
1295 friend, Mr. Welch.

1296 Mr. Welch. I thank my colleague and I thank Mr.
1297 Kinzinger and Mr. Doyle.

1298 You know, as we have discussed, Vermont is the home to
1299 the first merchant to be decommissioned in the country, and
1300 the decommission process has been a learning experience for
1301 all of us.

1302 And regardless of what your position may be on nuclear
1303 energy, if you have a nuclear plant in your district it's a
1304 significant source of jobs, tax revenue, and economic
1305 activity.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1306 And the impact on grid reliability and security is one
1307 thing, but what I hope we can point out here is the real
1308 world consequences on that local community.

1309 In Vernon, Vermont, Vermont Yankee -- the Vermont Yankee
1310 plant at one point employed 650 people with very good jobs.
1311 Payroll is \$66 million, economic impact of \$500 million, and
1312 I imagine those numbers are similar to the Palisades plant in
1313 Chairman Upton's district.

1314 Today, the number of employees is down to 150 and
1315 declining. The plant that once supported have of the town's
1316 revenue and helped finance a library, a town hall, rec
1317 center, and school is now a skeleton.

1318 And as you can imagine, this change has had a very
1319 significant impact on this community and on Vermont. During
1320 a transition period as stressful as this, it's critical that
1321 the local stakeholders -- that's the citizens, the folks who
1322 have been living there and working there -- that they have
1323 timely access to information on what's happening along with
1324 an opportunity to provide feedback on how the process should
1325 move forward.

1326 We have got to make certain that the community that's
1327 affected has real input into the process. We have a nuclear

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1328 decommissioning citizens advisory panel -- 19 members --
1329 created by the Vermont legislature to be a intermediary
1330 between Entergy and local stakeholders.

1331 We have a number of regional commissions that are
1332 playing a role, significantly, the Windham Regional
1333 Commission, and the amendment that I am offering with Mr.
1334 Upton is about continuing to proceed on this work.

1335 There are big questions about decommissioning, big
1336 questions about how fast a pace that will occur, big
1337 questions in a community about trying to have the site be put
1338 back into productive economic activity.

1339 So I believe that this amendment offered by Mr. Upton
1340 and I is a very good first step in making sure that community
1341 voices in my community, in Chairman Upton's community, and
1342 others that are soon to be seeing plants decommissioned, that
1343 the citizens there have a big role in ultimately resolving
1344 this challenge.

1345 I hope to continue to work with the chairman to address
1346 these matters and thank my colleagues for their attention.

1347 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back to me.

1348 Mr. Doyle. Mr. Upton, will you yield?

1349 Mr. Upton. Yes, I'll be glad to yield.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1350 Mr. Doyle. Thank you.

1351 I just want to thank you, Mr. Upton and Mr. Welch, for
1352 this amendment. I support it and I agree it's vital to have
1353 community involvement in the decommissioning process and I
1354 just want to urge all my colleagues to support the amendment.

1355 Thank you. I yield back.

1356 Mr. Upton. Reclaim my time. I want to thank everyone
1357 for working on this. Obviously, it's a key amendment for all
1358 of our communities when, at some point, they will face this
1359 if they've got a nuclear facility that's there and I would,
1360 again, urge my colleagues to vote for it.

1361 I yield back my time.

1362 Are there other members wishing to speak on the
1363 amendment?

1364 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
1365 the gentleman from the great state of Michigan.

1366 All those in favor will say aye.

1367 Those opposed say no.

1368 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the
1369 amendment is agreed to.

1370 Are there further amendments to the bill?

1371 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1372 reporting H.R. 1320 as amended to the House.

1373 All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

1374 Those opposed say no.

1375 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it and the
1376 bill is favorably reported.

1377 The chair will now call up H.R. 6140, as forwarded by
1378 the Subcommittee on Energy on June 21st of this year and ask
1379 the clerk to report.

1380 [The Bill H.R. 6140 follows:]

1381

1382 *****INSERT 20*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1383 The Clerk. H.R. 6140, to require the secretary of
1384 energy to establish and carry out a program to support the
1385 availability of HALEU for domestic commercial use and for
1386 other purposes.

1387 Mr. Upton. And without objection, the first reading of
1388 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
1389 amendment at any point.

1390 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

1391 Mr. Flores. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
1392 desk.

1393 Mr. Upton. The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Flores, has an
1394 amendment. The clerk will report the title of the amendment.

1395 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Flores follows:]

1396

1397 *****INSERT 21*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1398 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 6140, offered by Mr.
1399 Flores.

1400 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
1401 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and the
1402 gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes in
1403 support of his amendment.

1404 Mr. Flores. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1405 The next generation of advanced nuclear reactors that
1406 are currently under development will vary in size and
1407 operation, and they will need greater flexibility in
1408 efficiencies from an advanced fuel, which is currently not
1409 available.

1410 This advanced fuel, known as high-assay low enriched
1411 uranium -- or HALEU for short -- is enriched at higher levels
1412 than what is available in today's commercial market.

1413 The bipartisan Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act,
1414 which I introduced with my friend, Mr. McNerney, establishes
1415 a public-private partnership to the Energy Department's
1416 Office of Nuclear Energy to support the availability of HALEU
1417 for domestic commercial use.

1418 In short, this bill would ensure that there is a robust
1419 supply of advanced fuel available for the domestic commercial

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1420 industry to purchase for the advanced reactors of tomorrow.

1421 Today, I am offering a bipartisan manager's amendment
1422 with Mr. McNerney. This amendment makes two clarifications
1423 as requested by the folks at the House committee.

1424 Number one, it excludes nuclear material that is current
1425 allocated for national security use, and number two, it
1426 ensures that HALEU is made available under the consortium --
1427 or fuel that is made available under the consortium must not
1428 be sold for less than fair market value.

1429 I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan
1430 amendment and the underlying legislation.

1431 I yield back the balance of my time.

1432 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

1433 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

1434 The gentleman from California, Mr. McNerney.

1435 Mr. McNerney. Well, I thank the chair and I thank my
1436 friend, Mr. Flores, and I want to support the amendment and I
1437 want to speak on the underlying bill.

1438 Along with Mr. Flores, I am delighted to work on
1439 advanced nuclear technologies through H.R. 6140, the Advanced
1440 Nuclear Fuel Availability Act. This is the future of nuclear
1441 energy. We need a diverse energy mix and nuclear provides a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1442 zero carbon emission.

1443 Say, if you believe that climate change is a problem
1444 then you really need to think about nuclear power. It's a
1445 zero carbon source of electricity. The availability of high-
1446 assay low enriched uranium is critical to these efforts.
1447 Federal investments and protocols regarding the
1448 transportation, fuel fabrication, and enrichment to
1449 effectively to bring this fuel to the market are encouraging.
1450 Small modular reactors, or SMRs, will be useful in a variety
1451 of settings and this type of fuel needs to be available by
1452 the time SMRs are more widely available.

1453 The consortium that is formed here is the type of
1454 partnership that will be useful in kicks starting this
1455 industry and then turning it over to the industry to let it
1456 take the reins.

1457 Further, I support the manager's amendment, as I
1458 mentioned, clarifying that fair market value must be used and
1459 recognizing that defense programs also have needs for these
1460 materials.

1461 I look forward to working with my colleague, Mr. Flores,
1462 in moving this legislation to the floor, and I yield back.

1463 Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1464 Other members wishing to speak on the amendment?

1465 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by
1466 the gentleman from Texas.

1467 All those in favor will say aye.

1468 Those opposed say no.

1469 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it and the
1470 amendment is agreed to.

1471 Further amendments to the bill? The gentleman from
1472 Texas, Dr. Burgess.

1473 Mr. Burgess. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

1474 I do have an amendment at the desk.

1475 Mr. Upton. Clerk will report the title of the
1476 amendment.

1477 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Burgess follows:]

1478

1479 *****INSERT 22*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1480 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 6140, offered by Mr.
1481 Burgess.

1482 Mr. Upton. And the amendment will be considered as
1483 read. The staff will distribute the amendment and the
1484 gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes in
1485 support of his amendment.

1486 Mr. Burgess. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

1487 This amendment would clarify that the Department of
1488 Energy stockpiles of depleted uranium must be treated the
1489 same as natural and low enriched uranium when it comes to
1490 sales or transfers from the department's uranium inventory.

1491 Under current law, prior to transferring uranium from
1492 the inventory, the secretary of energy is required to
1493 determine that the sale of the material will not have an
1494 adverse impact on the domestic uranium mining conversion or
1495 enrichment industries.

1496 Mr. Chairman, foreign-backed -- foreign state-backed
1497 competitors continue to place significant pressure on our
1498 domestic uranium products. U.S. uranium production is at its
1499 lowest since the industry's infancy.

1500 Uranium exploration is down 75 percent in 2017 compared
1501 to 2016. The sole conversion facility in the United States

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1502 recently suspended its operations.

1503 Losing United States uranium mining conversion
1504 enrichment does put the United States entirely dependent upon
1505 other countries for a fuel needed to power 20 percent of the
1506 nation's electricity in the United States.

1507 We also risk losing a key source of necessarily material
1508 for America's nuclear navy. U.S. mines are cost competitive
1509 on a global basis under the right policy conditions. This
1510 amendment addresses just a small piece of this potential
1511 crisis.

1512 And, Mr. Chairman, I do recognize that there is not
1513 unanimity of opinion on this issue and for that reason I will
1514 withdraw the amendment today and not ask for the vote.

1515 But I do ask that we continue to work on this between
1516 now and the time that this bill comes to the floor.

1517 Chairman Walden. [Presiding.] Yes.

1518 Mr. Burgess. I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the
1519 amendment.

1520 Chairman Walden. The gentleman asks unanimous consent
1521 to withdraw the amendment.

1522 Seeing no objection, the amendment is considered
1523 withdrawn.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1524 Mr. Lujan. Mr. Chairman.

1525 Chairman Walden. Are there further amendments? For
1526 what purpose --

1527 Mr. Lujan. I don't know if I am -- if I am able to
1528 speak momentarily on that, now that it's been withdrawn.

1529 Chairman Walden. Well, you can move to strike the last
1530 word.

1531 Mr. Lujan. If I could move to strike the last word, Mr.
1532 Chairman.

1533 Chairman Walden. The gentleman is recognized to strike
1534 the last word.

1535 Mr. Lujan. And, Mr. Chairman, the only thing that I
1536 wanted to raise here, sir, is this is an important
1537 conversation that we are having not just in the committee but
1538 around the country.

1539 But the one thing I hope that we don't lose sight of as
1540 well there are a lot of uranium mine workers that worked in
1541 the industry post-1971. The Congress took action to provide
1542 support to people that worked in those mines -- national
1543 security interests -- to make sure that families that were
1544 exposed to these conditions that are now diagnosed with
1545 cancer, and it's generational in these communities.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1546 But it's not been updated. We have since learned that
1547 many of the families that were covered in the Radiation
1548 Exposure Compensation Act that was updated -- we had workers
1549 working side by side with different job titles.

1550 One person may get coverage, another person would not.
1551 Worked side by side, just different job titles. And we have
1552 also since learned that there is different cancers that have
1553 been identified that infected these workers that should have
1554 been covered but Congress has not moved.

1555 And so I am just hoping that in light of this
1556 conversation that we also don't lose sight of the uranium
1557 mine workers and their families that continue to need help
1558 across America as well.

1559 And so I thank the gentleman for his indulgence and the
1560 chairman as well, and look forward to working with the
1561 committee on that issue as well.

1562 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1563 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back. I thank
1564 the gentleman's comments.

1565 Are there any other amendments?

1566 Seeing none, the question now arises -- the question now
1567 occurs on favorably reporting H.R. 6140 to the House.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1568 All those -- all those in favor will signify by saying
1569 aye.

1570 Those opposed, no.

1571 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The
1572 measure is favorably reported.

1573 The chair calls up H.R. 6032 as forwarded by the
1574 subcommittee -- that's number 10 on the list -- as forwarded
1575 by the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer
1576 Protection on June 13th, 2018, and ask the clerk to report.

1577 [The Bill H.R. 6032 follows:]

1578

1579 *****INSERT 23*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1580 The Clerk. H.R. 6032, to direct the secretary of
1581 commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report
1582 on the state of the internet-connected devices industry in
1583 the United States.

1584 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
1585 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
1586 amendment at any point.

1587 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

1588 Are there any amendments to the bill?

1589 Does anyone want to speak on the bill?

1590 Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman.

1591 Chairman Walden. For what purpose does the gentleman
1592 from Ohio seek recognition?

1593 Mr. Latta. Move to strike the last word.

1594 Chairman Walden. The gentleman is recognized for five
1595 minutes to strike the last word.

1596 Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1597 As chairman of the Digital Commerce and Consumer
1598 Protection Subcommittee, I have focused on emerging
1599 technologies that look five or even 10 years in the future to
1600 see how new technologies will benefit Americans.

1601 Whether it be self-driving cars or the Internet of

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1602 Things, we have a responsibility to ensure we do not create
1603 unnecessary regulatory burdens that stifle innovation.

1604 With that in mind, I continue this work with my friend,
1605 the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. Welch, on a bipartisan basis
1606 to develop H.R. 6032, the State of Modern Research,
1607 Application, and Trends IoT Act, or the SMART IoT Act.

1608 The SMART IoT Act is an important first step to lay the
1609 groundwork for the many policy considerations in the Internet
1610 of Things space. The SMART IoT Act directs the secretary of
1611 commerce to survey industry and study efforts in the public
1612 sector regarding IoT.

1613 The resulting compendium of information will benefit
1614 both private industry and regulators. At the federal level,
1615 this bill will help promote goods, streamline government, and
1616 at the level -- at the industry level this bill will help
1617 provide innovators with information about industry-based
1618 efforts as well as better understanding as to who to
1619 communicate with in government.

1620 Again, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from
1621 Vermont, Mr. Welch, for his work with me dating back to our
1622 IoT Working Group in the last Congress on this issue.

1623 I'd also like to thank all the stakeholders that have

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1624 been important partners in developing and improving the SMART
1625 IoT Act. We appreciate your willingness to work with us on
1626 this very important issue. I urge my colleagues to support
1627 the SMART IoT Act.

1628 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
1629 my time.

1630 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields the balance of
1631 his time.

1632 Is there anyone else seeking recognition?

1633 Seeing no one, the chair -- the question now occurs on
1634 favorably reporting H.R. 6032 to the House.

1635 All those in favor will say aye.

1636 Those opposed, no.

1637 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The bill
1638 is favorably reported.

1639 The chair now calls up H. Res. 982 and asks the clerk to
1640 report.

1641 [The Bill H.Res. 982 follows:]

1642

1643 *****INSERT 24*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1644 The Clerk. H.Res. 982, of inquiry requesting the
1645 president and directing the secretary of Health and Human
1646 Services to transmit respectively certain information to the
1647 House of Representatives referring to the separation of
1648 children from their parents or guardians as a result of the
1649 president's zero tolerance policy.

1650 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
1651 of the resolution is dispensed with and the resolution will
1652 be open for amendment at any point.

1653 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

1654 Are there any amendments?

1655 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
1656 recognition?

1657 Mr. Pallone. Strike the last word in support.

1658 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's is --

1659 Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1660 Chairman Walden. -- is recognized for five minutes to
1661 speak on the amendment -- or on the resolution.

1662 Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1663 I move to strike the last word and speak in support of
1664 my resolution of inquiry, House Resolution 982, which is co-
1665 sponsored by every Democrat on the committee.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1666 This resolution would authorize our committee to request
1667 information from the president and direct the secretary of
1668 Health and Human Services to transmit information to the
1669 House of Representatives on the health and welfare of
1670 children who were forcibly separated from their parents as a
1671 result of the Trump administration's cruel and inhumane zero
1672 tolerance policy.

1673 At this point, we have not been given adequate
1674 information by Secretary Azar to fully understand what is
1675 happening on the ground and how the administration is working
1676 to right the abhorrent wrong, self-created, by the Trump
1677 administration.

1678 It appears that HHS is attempting to reunite the
1679 separated families as a result of the zero tolerance policy
1680 on an ad hoc basis and reunification is not happening quickly
1681 enough.

1682 We have been given no indication that there is a formal
1683 process underway and I am growing increasingly concerned and
1684 frustrated each day as I watch this administration's lack of
1685 leadership in addressing this crisis.

1686 Secretary Azar continues to paint a rosy picture of how
1687 well the reunification is going. But every day we are

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1688 hearing more heartbreaking stories that clearly show there is
1689 still a significant amount of chaos and confusion.

1690 Congress needs to access all necessary information to
1691 understand what steps this administration is taking to
1692 protect children in its care and how we can ensure the trauma
1693 experienced by these kids never happens again.

1694 As I noted in my opening statement, it was reported just
1695 yesterday that some young children have been separated for
1696 such lengths of time that after being reunited with their
1697 parents they do not even recognize them.

1698 This is unconscionable and is noted by the American
1699 Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological
1700 Association this separation could have long-term implications
1701 on the health of these children.

1702 Congress and the American people deserve answers. Three
1703 weeks ago, every Democrat on this committee wrote the
1704 chairman requesting an immediate hearing with HHS on the well
1705 being of the children that were forcibly separated.

1706 One week later, every Republican on the Health
1707 Subcommittee opposed an amendment at the subcommittee markup
1708 that called for a hearing on this matter.

1709 Democrats and Republicans have been trying to get

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1710 answers from this administration only to be repeatedly
1711 stonewalled and I agree with Ms. Castor, our vice ranking
1712 member, that Secretary Azar's conference call last week
1713 raised more questions than answers.

1714 It does not substitute for the oversight responsibility
1715 of this committee to hold a hearing and receive testimony
1716 from relevant administration officials, including Secretary
1717 Azar and Scott Lloyd, the director of the Office of Refugee
1718 Resettlement.

1719 We have a duty to get to the bottom of this and implore
1720 my colleagues to support my resolution of inquiry so we can
1721 receive all the necessary documents needed to conduct
1722 oversight.

1723 I also once again call on our chairman to reconsider my
1724 request to hold a hearing as soon as possible. It has been
1725 more than three weeks since we made that request and so far
1726 the majority has not moved forward with the hearing.

1727 I can assure this committee that my resolution is
1728 neither premature nor over broad, as we have already written
1729 to Secretary Azar twice on this issue. I've also talked to
1730 him and at this point I received inadequate responses to my
1731 questions.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1732 Additionally, my resolution of inquiry only covers
1733 categories of information that are already in the possession
1734 of the president or the HHS secretary and nothing in my
1735 resolution threatens any basis upon which the president can
1736 assert executive privilege.

1737 I've also been mindful to draft the resolution in the
1738 proper parliamentary form to be respectful of the
1739 constitutional separation of powers. Now is not the time for
1740 our committee to be split along partisan lines.

1741 If we are truly to understand the impact of this policy
1742 and exercise effective authority, then our committee must
1743 have access to the information covered by the resolution.

1744 This committee, as well as the American public, must be
1745 reassured that the U.S. government cares about the physical
1746 and mental health of thousands of children and we can begin
1747 to do that today by favorably reporting this resolution.

1748 And so I urge my colleagues to support this resolution,
1749 and unless somebody wants my time, which is not much left, I
1750 yield back.

1751 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

1752 The chair recognizes himself for five minutes for the
1753 purposes of speaking on the resolution.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1754 I couldn't agree more with my colleague. This is not
1755 the time to split the committee on a partisan basis and,
1756 unfortunately, I believe your resolution has contributed to
1757 that.

1758 Let me -- let me say that Mr. Pallone filed the inquiry
1759 on July 3rd. It directs the present secretary of HHS to
1760 produce broad categories of documents relating to
1761 implications of the president's zero tolerance policy.

1762 I confess, I was a little puzzled when I first learned
1763 that he'd filed this resolution of inquiry on the subject of
1764 the president's policy.

1765 Historically, these types of resolutions of inquiry are
1766 filed as a way of seeking information when a party, usually
1767 the administration, has refused to or is dilatory in
1768 providing information to Congress. They are kind of the last
1769 hammer you have, not the first, and that's simply not the
1770 case here.

1771 As members of this committee are aware, we have
1772 jurisdiction over Health and Human Services Office of Refugee
1773 and Resettlement.

1774 This committee has conducted extensive oversight of the
1775 department's management and care of unaccompanied children

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1776 dating back to the Obama administration when the department
1777 was completely unprepared for the number of children who
1778 crossed the border in the summer of 2014 and were placed in
1779 its care.

1780 We have continued that oversight, starting then and even
1781 before and through -- as late as this week. That work
1782 continues in Congress.

1783 Fewer than two weeks ago, all the Republicans on this
1784 committee sent a letter to the HHS secretary asking a number
1785 of very serious questions and requesting documents about HHS'
1786 care of children in its custody including questions about
1787 medical treatment, how Health and Human Services vets the
1788 placement of children in the community, and HHS' management
1789 of the reunification process.

1790 It's worth noting that we offered our colleagues on the
1791 Democratic side of the aisle the opportunity to co-sign that
1792 letter with us and, ultimately, they rejected that offer.

1793 I also led a delegation of committee members to Texas
1794 this past weekend. We cleared our schedules. We set up
1795 meaningful meetings to review each stage of the process
1796 adults and unaccompanied children go through when they
1797 attempt to enter the country illegally.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1798 We went to facilities managed by Customs and Border
1799 Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the
1800 Office of Refugee Resettlement. Like the letter we sent on
1801 June 29th, we invited the minority members of this committee
1802 to join us on this fact finding mission and I want to thank
1803 my fellow Oregonian, Representative Schrader, for coming.

1804 During our visit, we had the opportunity to ask a number
1805 of questions of the agencies who manage these facilities. We
1806 went there to get the facts, firsthand -- see it firsthand.

1807 So, today, we will be distributing to members the
1808 initial report of the memorandum from our staff detailing
1809 what we observed and documenting the answers we got from HHS
1810 to the committee members' questions including, I would note,
1811 many of the questions that Ranking Member Pallone rightfully
1812 has asked in his letters to HHS on June 14th and June 26th.

1813 In addition to the answers received on the ground in
1814 Texas, Secretary Azar, I know, has provided written responses
1815 to Ranking Member Pallone's letters just yesterday and they
1816 have responded to us as well.

1817 This is what a serious oversight investigation looks
1818 like and our fact finding will continue. Now, for years, HHS
1819 has had a role in caring for unaccompanied alien children.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1820 Let me be very clear. I do not support and I don't
1821 believe members on this dais support separating children from
1822 their parents, period. Right now, HHS is in the middle of
1823 handling the reunification of children in its custody with
1824 their parents or family members, and from what we learned
1825 during our trip on -- where we were there on Monday to Texas,
1826 it's a very delicate process that can have serious
1827 implications about the children's future welfare.

1828 In a court filing just this week, HHS described how
1829 certain individuals were not eligible for reunification due
1830 to their criminal history, being in criminal custody, or
1831 because they were not the parent of the child they
1832 accompanied into the United States.

1833 The problem HHS experienced during the Obama
1834 administration when it failed to do adequate background
1835 checks of the adults with whom it placed the unaccompanied
1836 children illustrate what happens when HHS does not do its job
1837 well.

1838 At least six children were trafficked and ended up
1839 working in horrific conditions on an egg farm in Ohio.
1840 Others were released to sponsors with criminal records,
1841 including human trafficking, child molestation, and homicide.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1842 HHS needs to get this right and we will make sure they
1843 do. That is our job on this committee. But if HHS and this
1844 committee are to learn the appropriate lessons from this
1845 situation and enact proper reforms if needed our oversight
1846 needs to be informed by the facts.

1847 If the minority's interest is collecting information and
1848 doing a thorough and serious review of HHS's role, I would
1849 submit to you that is something this committee did in 2014
1850 and is doing now and we'd ask you to join us I a bipartisan
1851 effort.

1852 I believe, however, that this resolution of inquiry is
1853 unnecessary and not a particularly effective tool to pursue
1854 that oversight when the committee is doing its work already
1855 and when the administration is cooperating and, so far,
1856 producing information in response to those requests.

1857 And finally, I would just say we have been told by HHS
1858 as of 7:00 a.m. July 12th, this morning, there are 103
1859 children under age five covered by the court order. Of the
1860 103 children, 57 have been reunified as of 7:00 a.m. today.

1861 Forty-six were acknowledged by the court to be
1862 ineligible -- the court said they are ineligible for
1863 reunification or determined by HHS, DHS, or DOJ to be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1864 ineligible under court-approved criteria.

1865 Of these 46, 22 children have been found ineligible due
1866 to safety concerns posed by the adults in question. Eleven
1867 adults have a serious criminal history -- charges or
1868 convictions of child cruelty, kidnaping, murder, human
1869 smuggling, domestic violence, et cetera.

1870 Seven were determined not to be the parent. One adult
1871 had falsified the birth certificate. One adult was alleged
1872 to have abused the child. One adult planned to house the
1873 child with an adult charged with sexually abusing a child and
1874 one adult is being treated for a communicable disease.

1875 Twenty-four children are not eligible for reunification
1876 due to circumstances of the adults in question. Twelve
1877 adults have been deported and are being contacted. Nine
1878 adults are in custody of the U.S. Marshall Service for other
1879 offenses. Two adults are in custody of state jails for other
1880 offenses and one adult's location has been unknown for more
1881 than a year.

1882 These are -- this is how you get to the facts. We will
1883 continue to and we will hold them accountable because I don't
1884 think there is anybody on this dais that doesn't want to see
1885 kids well cared for and reunified with their parents in a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1886 safe position.

1887 With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

1888 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Colorado, Ms.
1889 DeGette, for five minutes to speak on the resolution.

1890 Ms. DeGette. Thank you. Move to strike the last word.

1891 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady is recognized.

1892 Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, as the ranking Democrat on
1893 the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, if we had
1894 gotten all that information as a result of a robust O&I
1895 investigation, then I would say we were doing our work.

1896 But we got all that information because the ACLU sued
1897 the government and the judge made them provide all of this
1898 information, and to this day, I don't believe that one child
1899 would have been reunited with his or her parent because of
1900 what this committee has done, and I say shame on us.

1901 It should be a bipartisan effort that we do this not --
1902 Chairman Walden. Would the gentlelady yield?

1903 Ms. DeGette. I will in a moment, Mr. Chairman. But let
1904 me say I told you this. I told Mr. Harper this. We should
1905 have been all over this from day one, and I will also say
1906 that there are now -- the deadline of Tuesday of this week,
1907 which PS HHS did not meet, although they apparently have now

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1908 met it, was for the very young children -- I think seven and
1909 under, or five and under -- but there are still several
1910 thousand children who have not been reunited with their
1911 parents and I see no result of any effort on behalf of this
1912 committee or the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee to
1913 get these kids reunited with their parents, either.

1914 It's the federal judge who is requiring this to happen,
1915 and as a mother, I will say that I was horrified when I saw
1916 the media reports today and yesterday where some of these
1917 children were under such trauma they didn't even recognize
1918 their own parents.

1919 What kind of a country does this to children?

1920 Mr. Pallone. Will the gentlelady yield?

1921 Ms. DeGette. I just have to ask you. I'll yield to Mr.
1922 Pallone.

1923 Mr. Pallone. I agree with you, and let me just say
1924 this. I am not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that Secretary Azar
1925 doesn't return your calls. He does, and he had -- he talked
1926 to me. He had the conference call that Ms. Castor mentioned.

1927 But the problem is I don't really think he has any idea
1928 what's going on. When I went to the Elizabeth Detention
1929 Center on Father's Day, I had two fathers who had daughters,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1930 one who had a younger sibling who was seven years old, who
1931 basically said that when the kids were taken away from them
1932 at the border, they never heard anything again about them.
1933 They didn't know where they were. They had no communications
1934 with them.

1935 I then spoke to the secretary a couple days later and he
1936 said, I don't understand, Mr. Pallone. He said, we have a
1937 policy where we have tracked every one of these kids. These
1938 parents or older brother can contact them. Here's the 800
1939 number. You have them call.

1940 But none of that was the case, and I am not saying he's
1941 lying. But I don't think he had any idea. I mean, the
1942 problem is they don't have the tracking system. There is no
1943 communication.

1944 There is this huge discrepancy between what he says and
1945 the reality on the ground. I yield back.

1946 Ms. DeGette. And reclaiming -- yes, reclaiming my time,
1947 I was down there a couple of weeks before the committee went
1948 down there and we met -- my group met with about 45 women
1949 whose kids had been taken from them, and the HHS folks and
1950 also the ICE folks said that the people could call this phone
1951 number. But they weren't given the phone number.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1952 They didn't have the phone number and they didn't have
1953 the money to call because up until that point they had to
1954 call -- they had to pay to call, and they changed those
1955 policies later.

1956 But these are all things, and again, I'm -- I think that
1957 Mr. Pallone is right. I don't think that Secretary Azar
1958 really knew about this and I don't think there was very good
1959 communication, if any, between ICE and HHS.

1960 But the problem is we are talking about reunification of
1961 families, and I am not saying this to be partisan. I am
1962 saying this because I think we can be doing a lot more on
1963 this committee.

1964 Mr. Chairman, out of comity I am happy to yield the rest
1965 of my time to you.

1966 Chairman Walden. I thank the gentlelady. I think we
1967 share a concern about making sure parents and children are
1968 reunited in safe conditions. I don't think there is any
1969 disparity on this committee about that.

1970 We are working with HHS to set up an opportunity to go
1971 over to their special operations command and take the
1972 committee there. This is where it's multi agency involved in
1973 this issue.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1974 The parents -- you're right, they are under ICE, not
1975 under HHS. The kids are under HHS, and part of what we
1976 learned at the border -- because we set up and that's where I
1977 wish more members -- I realize, it's hard to do this.

1978 Ms. DeGette. Excuse me, sir. I went to the border.

1979 Chairman Walden. I was not going to say that, my
1980 friend. I know. Many members have gone to the border
1981 individually. I applaud you for doing that.

1982 What we were trying to do as chairman of the committee
1983 was put together a bipartisan delegation to the border where
1984 we had set up in advance opportunities to see literally from
1985 the Rio Grande through the initial detention facility of CBP
1986 to the ORR facility to the gateway bridge to then the adult
1987 facility at -- Port Isabel so that we could hear from and ask
1988 our questions of each element, even those agencies over which
1989 we do not have jurisdiction, to get the answers that our
1990 constituents and we all want.

1991 And so we are going to --

1992 Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman, just reclaiming my time.

1993 I have my itinerary from my codel to south Texas from
1994 Saturday, June 23rd, and I am happy to submit that for the
1995 record so you'll know.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

1996 Chairman Walden. Absolutely.

1997 Ms. DeGette. Some of us saw every single thing that you
1998 saw, too.

1999 Chairman Walden. I am not -- the gentlelady's time has
2000 expired.

2001 Are there other members seeking recognition?

2002 Mr. Green. Mr. Chairman, would the lady yield to me
2003 with your time?

2004 Chairman Walden. This was Ms. DeGette's time and it's
2005 expired.

2006 Are there other members seeking recognition?

2007 The gentlelady from California, Ms. Eshoo, is recognized
2008 for five minutes to speak on the resolution.

2009 Ms. Eshoo. I thank the chairman.

2010 I think that this entire issue is a stain on the soul of
2011 our country. I understand that there have been trips to the
2012 border. I, too, was part of one I think almost three weeks
2013 ago.

2014 I would have participated in the one that the chairman
2015 sponsored but I had already been to a border control facility
2016 as well as an ICE facility.

2017 You know, I think for the majority that this is also a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2018 source of great embarrassment to you and for many reasons.
2019 But there is no way that anyone can pull a rabbit out of a
2020 hat and say that we have done anything of any substance here
2021 at this committee that has jurisdiction over HHS.

2022 When the president announced his zero policy -- his zero
2023 tolerance policy that separated nearly 3,000 children from
2024 their families, HHS has been thrust into the middle of
2025 implementing this disastrous policy. Now the agency has to
2026 address the fallout of the crisis by reuniting the families,
2027 and while HHS was not responsible for separating the
2028 families, I think we have to hold the agency accountable to
2029 reunite them promptly, and that has not happened.

2030 You're talking about single digit instances. It's not
2031 happening. It simply is not happening. The mission of ORR
2032 is to house unaccompanied minors, not children who were
2033 separated from their parents at the border and as such there
2034 has been no plan for how these children should be reunited
2035 with their families.

2036 It's been three weeks since the president reversed his
2037 family separation policy, but despite the agency's efforts,
2038 thousands of children remain separated from their parents.
2039 That's a fact. It's reported morning, noon, and night, every

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2040 single day of the week since this disastrous policy was put
2041 into place.

2042 Now, last month the federal judge gave HHS a two-week
2043 deadline to reunite the 102 children in its care who are
2044 under the age of five. Yesterday, it missed that deadline,
2045 claiming logistical challenges such as DNA testing having
2046 delayed the release of the children.

2047 Now the government is facing a July 27th deadline to
2048 reunite the thousands of children that remain -- of remaining
2049 children with their families and it's unclear how it will do
2050 so in time.

2051 We have hearings on everything here -- on everything,
2052 from A to Z, and we should. Not on this. Not on this. Why?
2053 Why? Why?

2054 In his testimony to Congress on June 26th, Secretary
2055 Azar said, quote, "There is no reason why any parent should
2056 not know where their child is located and he claimed his
2057 department could immediately locate any child in an HHS
2058 facility."

2059 But when I traveled to the border and met with mothers,
2060 by the way in prison guard in an ICE detention facility whose
2061 children had been taken from them, none of them knew where

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2062 their children were. Not a one, and they didn't have the
2063 money -- they said they could make telephone calls. We
2064 wanted to put money in the kitty but ICE said we couldn't
2065 even do that. So they couldn't make telephone calls to
2066 anyone.

2067 I also learned that all detained individuals including
2068 children are given an A number -- an alien registration
2069 number. Yet, there is no interoperable system in place to
2070 link these numbers between children who are placed in the
2071 care of HHS and their families being held by ICE, creating
2072 widespread confusion between the agencies about their
2073 responsibilities, respect to these -- I mean, this is -- to
2074 call it a Rube Goldberg plan doesn't begin to describe it
2075 except these are human beings.

2076 These are human beings. It's a rotten policy that was
2077 put into place. I don't blame Secretary Azar. But you know
2078 what? It's not happening, and that's why this resolution and
2079 this committee and having a hearing is really absolutely
2080 necessary.

2081 I think that this is a -- I don't know whether some are
2082 in denial here, but this really does cry out and everyone
2083 should be crying out --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2084 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's time --

2085 Ms. Eshoo. -- to find out what the heck is happening.

2086 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's time --

2087 Ms. Eshoo. I wrote to the secretary about three weeks
2088 ago. Maybe you can help, Mr. Chairman. I've never heard
2089 from HHS --

2090 Chairman Walden. Happy to help.

2091 Ms. Eshoo. -- to find out if any children have been
2092 shipped into my district. So I support the resolution --

2093 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's time --

2094 Ms. Eshoo. -- and I yield back the time that I don't
2095 have anymore. Thank you.

2096 Chairman Walden. Other members seeking recognition?

2097 The gentleman from New York, Mr. Engel, is recognized
2098 for five minutes to speak on the resolution.

2099 Mr. Engel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud to be a
2100 co-sponsor of Ranking Member Pallone's resolution of inquiry.

2101 I visited two New York facilities in my district that
2102 are housing children thousands of miles away from their
2103 parents and I can say from day one of President Trump's so-
2104 called zero tolerance policy we have had zero answers from
2105 this administration, only falsehoods.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2106 First they denied children were being ripped from their
2107 families, even when we saw kids in cages and heard their
2108 cries. Then they somehow claimed that the president's own
2109 policy is Democrats' fault and they refused to tell us where
2110 children were being held, how they were being cared for or
2111 how they planned to reunite them with their guardians.

2112 The court ordered deadline to reunite children under
2113 five with their families was two days ago and just over half
2114 of the children have been returned to their parents, not to
2115 mention the thousands of other minors who are still waiting.

2116 Calling this unacceptable does not begin to capture the
2117 gravity of the situation. Experts have told us that what the
2118 Trump administration has done will do irreversible harm to
2119 children.

2120 According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, and I
2121 quote, "This type of highly stressful experience can disrupt
2122 the building of children's brain architecture. Prolonged
2123 exposure to serious stress, known as toxic stress, can lead
2124 to lifelong health consequences," unquote.

2125 It's clear that we cannot trust the administration to
2126 give us the facts about their barbaric policy and its
2127 devastating ramifications, and that's why this resolution of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2128 inquiry is necessary.

2129 We need -- we need every document, every record, and
2130 every other communication from the Department of Health and
2131 Human Services that concerns the health and welfare of
2132 children taken from their parents or guardians by the Trump
2133 administration.

2134 Only with that information can we even begin to address
2135 the crisis that this administration created.

2136 So I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and
2137 if there is anyone who wants my time I am happy to yield it.

2138 Yes, Mr. Green.

2139 Mr. Green. I thank my colleague for yielding to me and
2140 I want to express my support for the H.R. 982 and resolution
2141 of inquiry directing HHS to deliver all documents relating
2142 the President Trump's zero tolerance policy to the House of
2143 Representatives.

2144 Mr. Chairman, I didn't know about the codel from the
2145 committee. I gave a week's notice to go to the facility in
2146 South Padre Island in Brownsville and they said, no, you have
2147 to have two weeks notice, even though I said I am on the
2148 subcommittee overseeing the agency.

2149 And I was in south Texas but I gave them a week's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2150 notice, and when I saw on TV two weeks ago we had two U.S.
2151 citizens from Virginia refused to be able to go into a
2152 federal facility that was leased. But why would we ever have
2153 that and our committee needs to know why don't we have that
2154 ability to --

2155 Chairman Walden. Would the gentleman yield just on that
2156 point really quick? That's a policy that's been in place
2157 since 2015. So it is -- they told us down there it's about
2158 safety of the kids. These kids are being kept -- you know,
2159 whether you just open the door -- who shows up. They need
2160 some lead time. We had that -- we had that through our
2161 code.

2162 Mr. Green. Well, I know members of Congress may not be,
2163 but I think to an extent maybe they ought to say give a
2164 week's notice. For some reason, we don't know what we are
2165 doing with two weeks.

2166 Chairman Walden. Sure.

2167 Mr. Green. And even though the policies -- in 2015, I
2168 was actually in McAllen and we visited a facility with both
2169 parents and children in the same facility.

2170 Chairman Walden. Yes.

2171 Mr. Green. But that's why our committee needs to have a

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2172 hearing on this. I think that President Trump would come
2173 back to our senses and end this forcible separation of babies
2174 and children from mothers.

2175 Taking children from families is not an American
2176 tradition. We don't do that, and I think our country's got
2177 such a bad black eye internationally on what we are doing and
2178 it makes me ill because I would not want to see my
2179 grandchildren separated from my children or even where I
2180 couldn't go see them.

2181 So that's why I think our committee needs to have a
2182 hearing and, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to place
2183 my full statement in the record.

2184 Chairman Walden. Without objection, of course.

2185 [The prepared statement of Mr. Green follows:]

2186

2187 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 25*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2188 Mr. Engel. I don't know if Ms. Clarke wanted some time.

2189 Ms. Clarke. Thank you. Let me just add my voice to say
2190 that it is imperative that we have the H.Res. 982 inquiry.

2191 When I think about the fact that we have more questions
2192 than we have answers at this stage, it is just horrendous
2193 that the nation is going through this very heart-wrenching
2194 issues.

2195 Now, we have heard that a certain amount of these
2196 children -- I believe you said it was over 50 -- are still --
2197 these are the children who are five years or younger will not
2198 be returned to their parents.

2199 Well, I want to know what happens to these children.
2200 Are they becoming wards of the United States of America?
2201 What are we doing? This is just horrendous and it is --
2202 speaks so horribly about this nation --

2203 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's --

2204 Ms. Clarke. -- and what we stand for. We must have an
2205 inquiry, Mr. Chairman, and it should be bipartisan. It is
2206 important that we get every answer to every question and we
2207 reunite these children with their parents.

2208 I yield back.

2209 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's time has expired. I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2210 believe those children, just for the record, stay in ORR's
2211 responsibility, custody, and care until such time as they
2212 find a sponsor.

2213 The chair recognizes -- they work to -- they work to
2214 find -- regular order.

2215 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Illinois for --
2216 to speak on the resolution for five minutes.

2217 Ms. Schakowsky. I am proud to support the resolution of
2218 Representative Pallone and I thank him for offering it.

2219 I think that this episode will go down in history and be
2220 viewed at a moment where the United States of America was
2221 engaged in state-sanctioned child abuse and kidnapping.

2222 And I want to say that in the statement that was
2223 released both by the attorney general and the secretary of
2224 HHS there are some quotes that say -- warning people from
2225 other countries, do not risk your own life or the lives of
2226 your children attempting to enter the United States
2227 illegally.

2228 I want to comment on that because until the policies
2229 were changed, it was perfectly legal. The Statue of Liberty
2230 had her arms out, saying to people who were seeking asylum in
2231 the United States of America, which most of these families

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2232 are doing, if not all of these families who are crossing the
2233 border, that it was perfectly legal. You could come to the
2234 United States of America, seek asylum, and what happened is
2235 that these asylum seekers would often have a bracelet put on
2236 their leg while they are awaiting adjudication of their case
2237 to prove that they had credible fear if they went back to
2238 their country.

2239 So when we talk about law, that has been the law of the
2240 United States of America. Never a question about taking
2241 these children away from these parents.

2242 Number two, I have a question about this report that we
2243 heard today about what has happened -- that only 57 of the
2244 103 children under age five have been returned and a so-
2245 called detailed report of why the others can't be returned.

2246 I was told when I visited a shelter in my district --
2247 this is a shelter that for 20 years has been taking children
2248 who are unaccompanied minors and now has children that have
2249 been separated from their parents as well that there were a
2250 number of children -- a number of parents who couldn't be
2251 identified because they had been deported, as mentioned here,
2252 and a number of children that couldn't be reunited with their
2253 parents because those parents had been released from custody

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2254 and are somewhere in the United States of America.

2255 There is no mention of those parents right now. And I
2256 was told that both the deported and the released parents --
2257 that that was a real challenge. That was a challenge to find
2258 them.

2259 I also know as of today there are still children in
2260 custody in these wonderful shelters run by the Heartland
2261 Institute that have not been reunited with their parents.
2262 They are being represented by counsel, and I doubt that they
2263 all fit into one of these categories that have been mentioned
2264 -- that somehow their lives would be put in danger because
2265 the parents or relatives were ineligible.

2266 So I question this report that we have gotten and I
2267 really resent the notion that even the chairman has said that
2268 they are coming here illegally. Maybe as of the zero
2269 tolerance policy they are illegal, but this is an
2270 illegitimate policy that goes against 30 years of immigration
2271 law in our country.

2272 My own parents came here with their parents who were
2273 escaping the kind of discrimination and pogroms in Russia and
2274 sought refuge in the United States of America. That's what
2275 we do and that's why the Statue of Liberty welcomes those

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2276 people to this country.

2277 And yes, there has to be a process and we have had a
2278 process that makes sure that people who risk their lives are
2279 able to stay here if they prove credible fear and never have
2280 their children -- this is brand new.

2281 This is child abuse, this is kidnapping, and it is being
2282 done in our name. And I say on behalf of the vast majority
2283 of Americans not in our name and that's why this resolution
2284 is important so that we resolve this issue --

2285 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's time has expired.

2286 Ms. Schakowsky. -- and save the children. I yield
2287 back.

2288 Chairman Walden. Are there other members seeking
2289 recognition?

2290 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland, Mr.
2291 Sarbanes, for five minutes to speak on the resolution.

2292 Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Move to strike
2293 the last word.

2294 A number of my colleagues have alluded to this. But I
2295 am just looking at this through the lens of our committee's
2296 responsibility and its jurisdiction.

2297 It's hard to imagine a topic that better warrants our

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2298 having a hearing than this one. In other words, if you were
2299 -- if you were explaining to somebody the jurisdiction of
2300 this committee and you wanted to give them an example of the
2301 kind of topic or issue that would call for and justify having
2302 a hearing, you'd give them this example. This would be
2303 Exhibit A.

2304 So this really goes to the kind of legitimacy of the way
2305 the committee operates in its area of jurisdiction. This is
2306 -- this is sort of a classic case of missing in action. It
2307 doesn't make any sense for us not to bring the head of HHS up
2308 here and other officials that are responsible for carrying
2309 out this policy and just ask them the questions that need to
2310 be asked.

2311 Yes, there will be -- some of those questions will be
2312 hard edged. But we bring people up here all the time and ask
2313 them tough questions about the areas of responsibility that
2314 they have.

2315 I can't explain it. I mean, I've got constituents out
2316 there saying well, what kind of hearings have you had and
2317 what did the head of HHS say when they came to talk about
2318 this issue in front of your committee, which is the Energy
2319 and Commerce Committee and has the Health Subcommittee

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2320 jurisdiction within it and has jurisdiction over HHS -- what
2321 did the -- what did the secretary say about the policy when
2322 he came to testify.

2323 And my answer has to be, well, we haven't had that
2324 hearing, and then we just -- the two of us just stand there
2325 and scratch our heads and try to figure out, well, how can
2326 that be.

2327 This falls squarely within the jurisdiction and
2328 responsibility and obligation of the committee. It's
2329 inexplicable that we won't notice a hearing on this topic at
2330 a time when it is the topic in the country -- the topic on
2331 the Hill. Bring the people who are responsible and ask them
2332 the questions.

2333 And then, you know, we can debate among each other
2334 whether one question is fair or not fair, whether we are
2335 overreaching, whether this document should be produced.

2336 We do that on other things. We do that on things,
2337 frankly, that are much further removed from the immediacy or
2338 the application of our jurisdiction and from the immediacy of
2339 being a national concern than this is, and yet we find the
2340 time and the wherewithal to convene hearings on those topics
2341 and bring people in there and ask them serious questions

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2342 about these issues.

2343 So I can't explain it. So I am just going on the record
2344 for my constituents who keep asking --

2345 Chairman Walden. Gentleman yield?

2346 Mr. Sarbanes. -- why we haven't had these hearings
2347 that I can't explain that and I haven't heard a good
2348 explanation yet for why we haven't been able to have a
2349 hearing.

2350 And I yield back my time.

2351 Chairman Walden. I would think the toughest explanation
2352 is why you didn't join us on the bipartisan trip to the
2353 border.

2354 Mr. Sarbanes. Oh, come on.

2355 Chairman Walden. That would be the toughest one.

2356 Are there other members seeking --

2357 Mr. Sarbanes. Many of us already went, Mr. Chairman.

2358 Chairman Walden. But under the -- -the committee
2359 offered the opportunity to everybody.

2360 The chair now recognizes the gentlelady from California,
2361 Ms. Matsui, for five minutes.

2362 Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
2363 the last word.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2364 I am a co-sponsor of Mr. Pallone's resolution of inquiry
2365 and I strongly support efforts to require the Trump
2366 administration to provide to Congress all documents and
2367 communications associated with the administration's so-called
2368 zero tolerance policy.

2369 We have all seen the consequences of this misguided
2370 policy. Children ripped out of their mothers' arms, babies
2371 being held in chain link cages, and sons and daughters who
2372 are so traumatized, so heartbreakingly, they can't even
2373 remember their parents upon reunification.

2374 You know, it's hard to believe that these harrowing
2375 stories are happening today in the United States of America.
2376 You know, it calls to mind mistakes from our nation's past
2377 that I thought we'd learned from, and what's almost more
2378 unbelievable is that all this tragedy was completely
2379 avoidable and unnecessary to begin with.

2380 Asylum seekers from war-torn and violent countries with
2381 no other options will continue to flee their homes to protect
2382 their families regardless of this policy.

2383 The only thing that's resulted from the administration's
2384 zero tolerance policy is the dehumanization of immigrant
2385 families. The blame for the extreme mistreatment of these

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2386 children and their parents lie squarely with President Trump
2387 and his administration.

2388 I've had the opportunity to visit a facility that ORR
2389 contracts with where separated and unaccompanied children are
2390 being housed. My experience reaffirm that we must reunite
2391 these children with their parents as quickly as possible.

2392 But it's also clear from my conversations with ORR and
2393 the facility staff there at HHS is not fully equipped to
2394 facilitate swift reunifications. While the agency faces some
2395 real obstacles that must be navigated carefully, the chaotic
2396 and disorganized process of these family separations has made
2397 reunification extremely challenging.

2398 The Department of Homeland Security tore many of these
2399 children from their parents without even documenting who
2400 their parents were or where they were being sent.

2401 The ORR-contracted facility that I visited with was
2402 actually told by DHS that some of the children were
2403 unaccompanied as they crossed the border when in fact they
2404 had been separated from their parents.

2405 The facility has had to identify these children as
2406 separated on their own and report that back to the
2407 administration that it took them from the parents in the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2408 first place.

2409 This is completely unacceptable. How can we expect to
2410 solve this problem if the Trump administration can't even
2411 reliably identify which children need to be brought back to
2412 the parents in the first place.

2413 Congress has a responsibility to hold the president and
2414 the administration accountable for this disaster. And let me
2415 just say this. There are times in this country when Congress
2416 did not step up, did not have hearings, and did not take
2417 action or even listen.

2418 My parents were interned in a Japanese American
2419 internment camp. My father once said he believed that would
2420 not have happened if people in Congress stood up and said
2421 this was wrong -- we cannot let this happen.

2422 Now, this is not quite the same thing but I would say
2423 this. We owe a responsibility. The government did this. We
2424 have to find out why and where the children are going to be.
2425 That's up to us as Congress. We are elected. We are elected
2426 representatives of our constituents in this country and it's
2427 up to us to really learn what happened.

2428 So we must support Mr. Pallone's resolution as a first
2429 step and the resolution should be followed by genuine

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2430 oversight by this committee.

2431 Thank you. I urge my colleagues to support this
2432 resolution. Thank you, and I yield back.

2433 Mr. Pallone. Could I ask for the gentlewoman's time?

2434 Ms. Matsui. Yes.

2435 Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I just want to stress -- you
2436 know, I listened to what Ms. Matsui and Ms. Schakowsky said.
2437 The problem here is that we don't trust the government.

2438 I go home and people tell me, I don't trust the Trump
2439 administration -- I don't trust the HHS, and that's the basic
2440 problem here.

2441 The reason we need to have hearings and the reason we
2442 need this resolution of inquiry because people fundamentally
2443 have seen what the government of the United States has done
2444 in the past against the Japanese and the history of slavery.

2445 I mean, look, the bottom line is we need to challenge
2446 the administration because we don't trust them and that's the
2447 basic tenet here that I think maybe a lot of you on the other
2448 side don't understand is the lack of trust in the government.

2449 Chairman Walden. The gentlelady's expired -- time has
2450 expired.

2451 Are there other members seeking recognition?

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2452 We will go now to the gentleman from California, Mr.

2453 McNerney, for five minutes to strike the last word.

2454 Mr. McNerney. I move to strike the last word.

2455 I just want to follow up on Ms. Matsui's remarks on how
2456 this affects every family or almost every family. My wife's
2457 grandfather was a political refugee from Mexico in 1917. He
2458 was marked for death and his family was marked for death. My
2459 mother-in-law was marked for death.

2460 So they came to this country. They found refuge and
2461 they found a good job. He became a good American and now I
2462 think they are living good lives.

2463 And yet, today, thousands of children yet to be reunited
2464 with their families. This president and this administration
2465 have created his mess and it's our responsibility to hold
2466 them accountable.

2467 There is numerous questions that remain unanswered. For
2468 example, were there are good records on what child was with
2469 what parent -- what are did the child receive -- how many
2470 children have medical conditions -- what were the conditions
2471 and what were the treatments provided -- are there
2472 allegations of abuse, and how did this administration find a
2473 contractor to provide these kinds of services.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2474 I've sent numbers of letters to the Department of Health
2475 and Human Services and other agencies asking these questions
2476 and I haven't received a single response.

2477 I urge my colleagues to support H.R. -- H.Res. 982 so
2478 that we can get to the bottom of what has happened and fulfil
2479 our responsibilities as members of Congress.

2480 I yield back.

2481 Ms. Eshoo. Would the gentleman yield?

2482 Mr. McNerney. Yes.

2483 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

2484 Are there other members seeking --

2485 Ms. Eshoo. I asked the gentleman if he would yield.

2486 Chairman Walden. Okay. I thought he yielded it back.

2487 Ms. Eshoo. I thank the gentleman.

2488 I would just like to add something else here, and that
2489 is that I try to get into elementary schools, visit with
2490 students on a regular basis. I think it's important to.
2491 Civics classes are no longer taught.

2492 And there was a little one, a 1st grader, that said, do
2493 you work for the president. And, you know, it was a profound
2494 question. And so to the best of my ability I brought it way
2495 down on the ground to the Constitution -- the flag is the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2496 symbol of our nation, the Constitution is the soul of our
2497 nation, and no, members of Congress do not work for the
2498 president. They do not work for the president, and I am
2499 thinking back over the years where there was bipartisanship.
2500 There was bipartisanship understanding the Constitution --
2501 that neither side of the aisle works for the president, and I
2502 think at base the resolution that is before us really calls
2503 on members to be working for the people of the United States
2504 and not be working for the president.

2505 I don't think that there should be one Republican or
2506 Democrat today that shouldn't be supporting this resolution
2507 to get to the bottom of this mess between agencies but, most
2508 importantly, the ones that we have jurisdiction over. This
2509 shouldn't be any partisan tug of war here.

2510 So, you know, I am thinking about that child that asked
2511 that question -- do you work for the president -- and I think
2512 that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should very
2513 quietly be asking themselves, am I working for the president.

2514 I yield back and thank the gentleman.

2515 Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

2516 Mr. McNerney. I yield back.

2517 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2518 of his time.

2519 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois, the
2520 newlywed on the committee, Mr. Rush, for five minutes to
2521 speak on the resolution.

2522 Mr. Rush. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2523 Mr. Chairman, I am sitting here and really going through
2524 some emotional crisis because I am hearing a lot of pain from
2525 a number of members from this subcommittee and I can rightly
2526 identify what they're -- the pain and they are speaking to
2527 and they've given voice to because I empathize and share in
2528 that pain.

2529 Mr. Chairman, I want to remind us representatives on the
2530 committee that at one time in the history of our great nation
2531 I was not even a person. I was a commodity that this
2532 committee had jurisdiction over. I was a part of the
2533 commerce of a nation, and now I sit as a member of Congress.

2534 Mr. Chairman, I say these things because we -- you and I
2535 and other members of this committee has to always remember
2536 that there are dark demons that have not been eviscerated,
2537 that are still present in the history of our nation and those
2538 demons right now are rearing their ugly demonic heads as we
2539 face this issue of how we are to deal with children of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2540 immigrants or those who aspire to be an American citizen.

2541 Mr. Chairman, I want to make note that I too am an
2542 immigrant but I am not a voluntary immigrant. I am a forced
2543 immigrant of this nation, the son and grandson -- the
2544 descendant of an ex-slave, and I can't -- no matter how I
2545 might want -- I don't even want to forget -- I always want to
2546 remember that that too is my American story.

2547 And when I see and hear of children being separated once
2548 again in the history of this nation I cannot sit silent and I
2549 speak up.

2550 Mr. Chairman, there are two enemies of the American
2551 people, and unless you and I and the rest of this committee
2552 and the rest of members of Congress understand that these two
2553 very serious threats to the well being of all of us and the
2554 people, then we can never attain the levels that we feel as
2555 though we were called to meet. And those two enemies -- one
2556 is silence.

2557 You and I, we cannot effort to be silent in the face of
2558 injustice and this is -- the separation of these children is
2559 nothing more than gross injustice because it separates
2560 parents from families.

2561 The second enemy, Mr. Chairman, is inaction. Silence

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2562 and inaction. We have to do something and we have to do it
2563 now. I remind individuals from a point of history that not
2564 too long ago there were lynching in our nation.

2565 Almost 4,500 people were lynched in our nation and the
2566 U.S. Congress tried over 200 times to pass laws outlawing
2567 lynching and they never could, after 200 times, pass not one
2568 single law outlawing lynching. Why? Because there were
2569 groups, or members of my party, Democrats, who represented
2570 the Deep South who refused to allow legislation -- let it
2571 pass the House and the Senate, to let it out of the Congress.
2572 Inaction, and that's what we are raising our voices against
2573 right now is inaction. We hear all the words and all the
2574 phrases --

2575 Mr. Shimkus. Regular order, Mr. Chairman.

2576 Mr. Rush. -- but what do we do?

2577 Chairman Walden. Gentleman's --

2578 Mr. Rush. What are we going to do -- -

2579 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's time has expired.

2580 Mr. Rush. Your words speak so loudly that I can hardly
2581 hear what you are saying, Mr. Chairman.

2582 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's time has expired.

2583 Other members seeking recognition?

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2584 Seeing -- oh, the gentleman from Vermont is recognized
2585 to strike the last word. Is that correct?

2586 Mr. Welch. Yes.

2587 Chairman Walden. Five minutes.

2588 Mr. Welch. It is. Thank you very much.

2589 It's quite moving to hear my colleagues with their
2590 stories -- Ms. Matsui and her family, Jan Schakowsky, and
2591 it's the American story. I happen to believe that we could
2592 be hearing from our Republican colleagues similar stories in
2593 their families.

2594 And Mr. Chairman, you indicated you took a bipartisan
2595 trip -- I thank you for doing that. Several of us went on
2596 other trips. And I don't think there is any question that
2597 everybody in this committee is appalled at the notion of
2598 children being separated from their parents.

2599 The real question for us, I think, is what Congresswoman
2600 Matsui said -- find out why. That's our job. And Mr.
2601 Sarbanes talked about that. It is our job.

2602 This Congress is failing because we are not acting like
2603 an independent branch of government that's responsible for
2604 doing its share of maintaining checks and balances.

2605 That's a mutual obligation that we have -- Republicans

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2606 or Democrats, that it doesn't matter whether you're in the
2607 majority or the Democrats are in the majority. We have an
2608 independent Article I responsibility for oversight.

2609 And the question of why is a very valid essential
2610 question, and the why begins at when and how this policy was
2611 implemented. I mean, this is a disgrace for me. The
2612 president, in the middle of April, made a decision for what
2613 was called zero tolerance. Now, that was a euphemism for
2614 taking kids from parents because that's what it meant, and
2615 his argument for that was that it was going to be a deterrent
2616 for families trying to escape violence and they would stay
2617 and it was going to be a signal to people in this body that
2618 they weren't going to get their way on immigration and have
2619 kids -- the Dreamers and these kids reunited with their
2620 families unless we gave them money for the wall.

2621 Now, number one, I think there is absolutely no
2622 justification, whatever your position is on immigration --
2623 and there is contentious questions there -- hard questions
2624 there -- it is not legitimate to inject into the debate the
2625 fate of innocent children, whether they were Dreamers brought
2626 here when they were six or seven and are now serving in the
2627 military, serving as first responders, or these children who

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2628 are brought up just recently and then separated from their
2629 parents. That's off limits. The president put them in play,
2630 and we should ask why.

2631 The second thing is, and this is the other why issue --
2632 if the president is going to implement this zero tolerance
2633 policy, does he not have some responsibility to coordinate
2634 activities with the governmental agencies that are charged
2635 with the execution of his policy?

2636 There was no opportunity for the men and women serving
2637 our country in DHS or in HHS to have a plan so that when the
2638 president's zero tolerance policy was implemented we could
2639 track where this child was in relationship to his or her
2640 parent.

2641 There is no excuse for that, even if you say zero
2642 tolerance is something you can support, which I don't think
2643 anyone here really does.

2644 There is no excuse for the president who has executive
2645 responsibility not to do what an executive does -- plan, so
2646 the execution doesn't cause irreparable harm to kids.

2647 And the why question that Doris Matsui asked is the
2648 question the committee should be asking. That's the
2649 question.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2650 How is it that this policy was conceived and how is it
2651 that there was no plan to implement it in a way that
2652 inevitably caused immense cruelty and harm to innocent
2653 children. That's our job to find out the why.

2654 I yield back.

2655 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

2656 Other members seeking recognition?

2657 The gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. Lujan, is recognized
2658 for five minutes to strike the last word.

2659 Mr. Lujan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2660 And Mr. Chairman, I, again, would join Mr. Welch in
2661 acknowledging the remarks of our colleagues -- Mr. Rush and
2662 Ms. Matsui and Ms. Schakowsky and Mr. McNerney -- for those
2663 very personal stories that they shared with us.

2664 And Mr. Chairman, I would also join Mr. Welch in saying
2665 thank you to you and to our Republican colleagues that did go
2666 on that visit, and Mr. Schrader for joining that trip as
2667 well.

2668 But that shouldn't go in the face of not acknowledging
2669 that other colleagues have also gone on the trip -- the
2670 importance of our oversight responsibilities as well.

2671 I don't believe a slight was intended. I know of your

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2672 good character, Mr. Chairman, and what we are hoping to do
2673 here is make sure that we are about to bring back all those
2674 findings, all the observations, the conversations that we had
2675 with HHS, the conversations that we had with ORR staff,
2676 within HHS, the children, the parents, the moms, the dads,
2677 and bring that back into the people's house and have a
2678 conversation and a hearing.

2679 And I don't know if -- has a hearing been scheduled. I
2680 would yield to the chair.

2681 Mr. Shimkus. [Presiding.] There is no -- there is no
2682 hearing being scheduled.

2683 Mr. Lujan. I appreciate that, Mr. --

2684 Mr. Green. Yield?

2685 Mr. Lujan. I would yield to Mr. Green.

2686 Mr. Green. I found out that an email for the trip was
2687 delivered on Sunday, July the 1st, to my office and that was
2688 the beginning of our week break.

2689 And, like I said, the week before, I called -- my office
2690 called and tried to get me to be able to get into the
2691 Brownsville location and even the one that's in my district
2692 on Interstate 10 we had to have two weeks notice, and I don't
2693 think the committee got two weeks notice when they went.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2694 So that's something I think I'd like to hear about at
2695 the hearing, whether we have these vague dates that they
2696 decide you can't come but two weeks.

2697 I yield back.

2698 Mr. Shimkus. If the gentleman just would yield on this
2699 --

2700 Just on the response -- I am being told by committee
2701 staff that the initial invitation was the Friday -- the
2702 Friday after we left on the Thursday evening.

2703 I mean, it's -- we are all going to debate the time and
2704 dates, but I think there was a little sooner notification.

2705 Mr. Lujan. To the point of Mr. Green's question as
2706 well, did the committee -- did the committee give the
2707 facilities two weeks notice?

2708 Mr. Shimkus. I am instructed that we did.

2709 Mr. Lujan. Appreciate that, Mr. Shimkus.

2710 Well, the other -- the other thing that I'd point out,
2711 Mr. Chairman, is the importance of the oversight hearings are
2712 to make sure that we are able to ask questions and ask
2713 questions about discrepancies.

2714 I think that the committee staff is fully aware because
2715 they are comprehensive in what they do and if you look at the

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2716 report filed on the 10th of July that highlights what HHS
2717 said that they were -- was their assessment and their
2718 analysis, if you look at Page 1 line 22 or 23, depending how
2719 this is printed, they talk about 102 children, and then they
2720 give other numbers in here associated with the report.

2721 When you look at the press release that came out on July
2722 12th, it says there were 103 children and then the numbers
2723 are different. Press release from HHS, the court document
2724 and the report submitted by HHS and the numbers don't match
2725 up.

2726 I think that's what we are trying to get to the bottom
2727 of here and make sure that we are asking these questions, and
2728 I just don't understand why after the progress that was made
2729 in a bipartisan way in this committee last week with the
2730 leadership of Mrs. Blackburn, which was an important
2731 amendment that the committee agreed to, why then the
2732 committee would reject the resolution that's being put forth
2733 by Mr. Pallone, which I think builds upon the importance of
2734 getting this information back.

2735 And the last thing that I would say, Mr. Chairman, is
2736 voting no on Mr. Pallone's resolution sends the signal to the
2737 American people that voting no means that the committee is

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2738 satisfied with Secretary Azar's claims -- that the Trump
2739 administration's actions have been treating these kids fairly
2740 or comprehensively, and we all know that that's not the case.

2741 So I hope that we might be able to join Mr. Pallone in
2742 adopting this resolution and that this committee may be able
2743 to report to the American people and to each of us that a
2744 hearing has been scheduled on this issue so that we can make
2745 sure that our calendars are free and available to be part of
2746 that important hearing.

2747 And I yield back.

2748 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman yields back his time, and
2749 just in response, we will ask that question of the 102 and
2750 103 difference and that's why we have also asked for a trip
2751 to the special operations center, which is the tactical
2752 operations center up here in D.C.

2753 Mr. Lujan. Will the chairman yield?

2754 Mr. Shimkus. I will.

2755 Mr. Lujan. Mr. Chairman, why not have those questions
2756 asked right here in the committee? I think that would be
2757 great.

2758 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2759 Mr. Shimkus. Okay. The chair hears the gentleman's

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2760 questions.

2761 Who seeks time?

2762 The gentleman from New York, what do you seek
2763 recognition for?

2764 Mr. Tonko. To strike the last word.

2765 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman is recognized for five
2766 minutes.

2767 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2768 I rise in strong support of H.R. 982. This resolution
2769 would provide Congress with critically needed information
2770 regarding the irreparable harms currently being inflicted on
2771 children as a result of President Trump's cruel family
2772 separation policies.

2773 President Trump manufactured this crisis when his
2774 administration forcibly separated at least 2,300-plus
2775 children from their parents.

2776 Many of the migrant population were pushed out of their
2777 homelands by violence and strife and sought shelter in the
2778 United States through the legal avenue of asylum.

2779 They were drawn north by the strength that defines
2780 America across the world. But instead of our strength we
2781 gave them our fear, we gave them our weakness, and we took

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2782 their children.

2783 In response to this unimaginable cruelty, the American
2784 people have spoken loudly and made their voices heard.
2785 Through calls and emails to my office from individuals across
2786 the political spectrum, I've heard one resounding message
2787 over and over -- that we are not a nation that stands for
2788 this president's inhumane separation of families.

2789 Unfortunately, despite the public outcry, this tragedy
2790 continues. Too many children remain separated from their
2791 families with no end in sight. Neither the president nor
2792 this Republican Congress seem to have a sense of urgency to
2793 restore those children to their parents or to serve as a
2794 check and balance.

2795 These are not the actions of a great nation nor of a
2796 people who believe in strength of family. This must end and
2797 it must end now.

2798 A just society, a civil society, the American society
2799 doesn't do this to children and families. We can take action
2800 today to keep this administration's feet to the fire, to do
2801 the right thing and swiftly reunite these families.

2802 If we vote no on this resolution today, we are choosing
2803 to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the grave injustice

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2804 continuing to unfold before our very eyes.

2805 If we vote no today, we are choosing to ignore the
2806 tender cries of children -- children who yearn simply to be
2807 with their parents. If we fail to take action today we will
2808 be complicit in this heinous policy and this dark chapter in
2809 our American history.

2810 With that, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing,
2811 the just thing, and the moral thing by voting yes.

2812 With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

2813 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman yields back his time.

2814 For what purpose does the chairman emeritus seek
2815 recognition?

2816 Mr. Barton. Strike the requisite number of words.

2817 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman is recognized for five
2818 minutes.

2819 Mr. Barton. I just want to take time out of this and
2820 speak about something a little bit happier. We have a
2821 colleague here that got married about two weeks ago. He's,
2822 apparently, just gotten back from his honeymoon. You see him
2823 smiling. I'd like to congratulate the Honorable Bobby Rush
2824 of Chicago for his recent marriage and wish his wife
2825 condolences for having to put up with you --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2826 [Laughter.]

2827 -- for the rest of your natural born life. So --

2828 [Applause.]

2829 I am engaged, but I haven't yet got my fiancé to commit
2830 to a specific date. But I am hoping to emulate the Honorable
2831 Rush sometime in the very foreseeable --

2832 Mr. Rush. And if I might, Mr. Chairman, I just want to
2833 say those remarks from my good friend from Texas, I've
2834 recorded them and I am going to replay them again as soon as
2835 you say "I do."

2836 [Laughter.]

2837 Mr. Barton. And on the issue at hand, Mr. Chairman,
2838 there are strong emotions on both sides on this. A number of
2839 the members of the committee just came back from the border.
2840 I believe Congressman Schrader was the only from the minority
2841 side that was able to make the trip.

2842 Those of us that saw first hand what's happening, I
2843 didn't see any personal -- personally, I didn't see any abuse
2844 of any children or family members. Doesn't mean it hadn't
2845 happened, but the Border Patrol people, the ICE people, the
2846 Customs people, you know, we are in a difficult situation
2847 because of this policy if they come across the border and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2848 they actually get onto American soil and they claim a
2849 credible fear, under our law and our precedence they are
2850 entitled to go before a federal magistrate or a hearing to
2851 determine the authenticity of that claim. Because of the
2852 backlog, it takes two to five years, and about half of them
2853 don't show up for the hearing but those that do have a right
2854 to automatic appeal and then they can appeal the -- if they
2855 lose that.

2856 So totally legally, once they get physically present on
2857 the United States soil, even if they come across illegally
2858 and their claim is illegitimate they can stay in this country
2859 by making that claim up to 15 years, and if you're an adult
2860 male and have a biological child, because in the entirety of
2861 the United States we have 84 beds to handle adult males with
2862 children.

2863 There is an 84-bed facility in Pennsylvania. They are
2864 being led go on personal recognizance within an average of
2865 one or two days after they physically are present and it's
2866 been determined that the child with them is their child. So
2867 we are letting now 300 people -- 300 men and their children a
2868 day into the country.

2869 They've come illegally but they are being allowed

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2870 legally and this policy -- you know, we want to protect the
2871 rights for people to seek asylum in the United States because
2872 of all -- we are the haven of the world, as the congresswoman
2873 from Illinois pointed out earlier.

2874 But we are allowing that legitimate principle to be
2875 manipulated by people that really don't have that kind of a
2876 case and that's something we need to address as a Congress --
2877 if not in this Congress, then the next Congress.

2878 With that --

2879 Mr. Green. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

2880 Mr. Barton. If I have time.

2881 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman from Texas.

2882 Mr. Green. For 39 seconds?

2883 Mr. Barton. Sure.

2884 Mr. Green. So our committee -- we think we have broad
2885 jurisdiction but we really don't have jurisdiction over
2886 immigration policies. It's the Judiciary Committee.

2887 And but our jurisdiction does cover Health and Human
2888 Services.

2889 Mr. Barton. It does.

2890 Mr. Green. It's the agency that's overseeing these
2891 children.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2892 Mr. Barton. That's correct.

2893 Mr. Green. And that's why -- that's why it's a
2894 jurisdiction of our committee to see why are we in the middle
2895 of this -- it's a worldwide embarrassment. And, you know, we
2896 will let the Judiciary take care of the immigration law.

2897 Mr. Barton. I just simply -- you know, I support the
2898 concept. I will not vote for the gentleman from New Jersey's
2899 -- I don't know if it's a bill or a petition or what, but I
2900 support the --

2901 Mr. Shimkus. The gentleman's time has expired.

2902 Mr. Barton. With that, I yield back.

2903 Mr. Shimkus. Who seeks time?

2904 The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for five
2905 minutes, striking the last word.

2906 Mr. Schrader. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2907 And I did get a chance to go to the border this past
2908 weekend and it was an eye opener, I think, for everybody on
2909 the trip. Many of us had not gone prior to this, and the --
2910 it's a little jarring when you get down there.

2911 You know, despite the best intentions of our Border
2912 Patrol folks, port of entry folks, and the folks trying to
2913 take care of the kids, you know, it looked pretty bleak,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2914 seeing these kids in these big Cyclone cages in the middle of
2915 a warehouse. I mean, it's just not what I think of when I
2916 think of this country.

2917 Go to the port of entry and the folks there are
2918 struggling to find rooms -- very small rooms in this 1953
2919 cinder block building. I mean, it's kind of tough and, you
2920 know, I think everyone wants that to change -- wants to do --
2921 wants to do something different.

2922 It was clear in talking to the folks down there that
2923 they were caught pretty much unawares with a lot of the
2924 policies and a lot of the statements coming out of the
2925 administration and, you know, despite their ability or
2926 attempts to triage it, it was -- it's hard to put all that
2927 together kind of on the fly by running this whole operation
2928 almost by the seat of their pants, and they are facing
2929 overwhelming odds.

2930 The cartels profit off of these families and these
2931 children. They encourage this stuff. We are missing the
2932 boat, I think, in terms of, you know, working with some of
2933 these countries trying to stop the problem before it gets
2934 here. We should be working with these families back in
2935 Guatemala, you know, and Honduras and El Salvador, and we are

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2936 not doing that.

2937 I think that these are the types of things that we could
2938 be working on and making a significant difference in the
2939 lives of these individuals, going forward.

2940 We have some policies. I like to see Congress, you
2941 know, step up and begin to deal with -- there was some
2942 discussion about, you know, the ORR budget -- the CBP budget.
2943 You know, where is that money actually going.

2944 Frankly, we had several folks tell us they have less
2945 money now than they used to and that was -- that was
2946 surprising and I think pretty problematic from our
2947 standpoint.

2948 It was alluded to and talked about here that with the
2949 court-mandated time lines these families don't get due
2950 process. It does take years and years and years maybe for
2951 them to get resolution and that's not -- that's a horrible
2952 way to live, in that purgatory for that period of time.

2953 I just think, you know, again, we could probably step in
2954 and with some funds make a difference there. Those facility
2955 -- you know, you get to the detention centers and it's not a
2956 prison, they tell you, but gosh, it sure looks kind of like
2957 one.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2958 And, you know, we met some of the women there and one
2959 woman was -- actually been in America for quite a while and
2960 lost her children because she had an old DUI, and I don't
2961 think that's the intention of what we are trying to do here
2962 in this country and I am concerned the administration is
2963 turning a blind eye to this and actually going back and
2964 trying to denaturalize a lot of American citizens or American
2965 folks that have come here over a long period of time.

2966 So, you know, a criminal history -- criminal history
2967 could preclude that. So if there is not getting their
2968 children because of criminal history that might be what they
2969 are using.

2970 I'd just like to see us step up. I am tired of having
2971 the judges and the administrations of this country run amok
2972 when it's our duty to step in and fix this resettlement
2973 refugee program and make sure these children get a fair
2974 shake.

2975 I would hope that we'd actually have, you know,
2976 legislation and some hearings and move things forward and
2977 show America -- show the rest of the world that we care --
2978 that we actually care and put these children and these
2979 families in appropriate settings that as was talked about by

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

2980 my good friend from Texas. So they are in short supply and
2981 if we can do at least that, that would be a huge improvement.

2982 So I appreciate the opportunity to go on the trip, Mr.
2983 Chairman, and thank you very much and hopefully we can step
2984 up.

2985 Chairman Walden. [Presiding.] Would the gentleman
2986 yield?

2987 Mr. Schrader. Yes, sir.

2988 Chairman Walden. I appreciated him going on the trip
2989 and a lot of what you've recounted there just was, I think,
2990 shocking to all of us, especially at that border crossing
2991 where they told us they -- well, it's a '53 building but last
2992 updated in 1983 and they don't have enough electric current
2993 to have a magnetometer to -- or whatever it is to screen
2994 people for devices. Even if they had one, they don't have
2995 enough power in the building.

2996 So we got some -- that, by the way, that's outside of
2997 our jurisdiction but not outside of our jurisdiction as
2998 members of Congress. These are issues that we saw first hand
2999 that need to be addressed.

3000 I thank the gentleman for yielding.

3001 Are there members on this side of the aisle seeking

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3002 recognition? The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for five
3003 minutes to strike the last word.

3004 Mr. Johnson. Move to strike the last word, Mr.
3005 Chairman.

3006 And, you know, I am a father of four, a grandfather of
3007 six. Prior to being elected to Congress, I worked down on
3008 the southern border in El Paso for a while.

3009 Now, obviously, the situation back then in 2006 was very
3010 different than it is today. I relate to many of the comments
3011 of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle the concern
3012 for the children. I share that.

3013 I think it's been mentioned several times on both sides
3014 no one -- and I think you said it earlier, Mr. Chairman -- no
3015 one on this committee wants to see children separated from
3016 their family.

3017 But we have an immigration crisis. It's not just a
3018 children being separated from their family crisis. We have
3019 an immigration crisis and it starts with our inability to
3020 secure our border and handle these situations the right way,
3021 and it's a situation that is long overdue for a solution.

3022 But what we are hearing here today -- what concerns me
3023 is a very one-sided accusation that somehow this is a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3024 manufactured crisis and that we have not done our duty.

3025 Mr. Schrader just pointed out -- he said he was tired of
3026 having judges make these calls. I agree with that. I think
3027 Congress should act, and what frustrates me and what concerns
3028 me is that a couple weeks ago we started to try to act.

3029 We had two comprehensive immigration bills on the House
3030 floor and not one single member from the other side of the
3031 aisle supported nor came to the table for discussion --

3032 Mr. Lujan. Would the gentleman yield?

3033 Mr. Johnson. No, I will not. You guys have had plenty
3034 of time to chat already.

3035 Mr. Lujan. You all have a super majority, Mr. Johnson.
3036 You can -- -

3037 Mr. Johnson. No, I did not yield, Mr. Lujan. I did not
3038 yield.

3039 Chairman Walden. Regular order. We need to hear --

3040 Mr. Johnson. So here's my -- here's my concern. It's
3041 easy to sit in the confines of a hearing room like this and
3042 point fingers, and we have been silent for the most part.

3043 But where were you guys two weeks ago when we tried to
3044 address comprehensive immigration reform? Nobody came to the
3045 table.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3046 So if you want to be serious rather than politicizing
3047 this issue, roll up your sleeves, come to the table, and
3048 let's have a substantive discussion about immigration reform
3049 that starts with securing the border, and then addressing
3050 those that have come here whether legally or illegally and
3051 address the problem in total context.

3052 I think it's disingenuous to make it a one-side argument
3053 that this is some kind of manufactured crisis. If you want
3054 to be a part of the solution, then come to the table.

3055 And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3056 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

3057 Are there other members seeking recognition?

3058 The gentleman from Massachusetts I think is next. Mr.
3059 Kennedy is recognized for five minutes to strike the last
3060 word.

3061 Mr. Kennedy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3062 I appreciate all the comments that have been made on
3063 both sides of the aisle. Let's try to get some facts
3064 straight.

3065 One, I do agree and I take everybody at their word that
3066 there is not a member of this dais that approves of a zero
3067 tolerance policy.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3068 I also think we have to acknowledge the fact that the
3069 zero tolerance policy came from somewhere and that the Trump
3070 administration initially denied that there was a policy,
3071 finally conceded there was a policy, and members of the White
3072 House indicated that it was a policy meant for deterrence.

3073 So somebody thought this was a good idea. Somebody
3074 thought it up and they thought it was a good idea. So we
3075 can't whitewash that away. One.

3076 Two, there had been information that has come out. My
3077 colleagues have pointed out that that information has been
3078 the result of lawsuits that have come forward, not oversight
3079 in hearings.

3080 Three, there have been unifications. I met with a woman
3081 in Boston after, yes, I went down to El Paso Texas with some
3082 colleagues and I was denied entry. I met with a woman who
3083 presented himself at the border for asylum in Santa Teresa.
3084 She was separated from her child.

3085 Her claim was investigated. She was found to have a
3086 credible claim for asylum because of domestic violence back
3087 in Brazil. She was released. Her boy was not. They found
3088 out where her child was through a Facebook page. That child,
3089 after weeks and another lawsuit, was finally released by ORR

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3090 to his mom's arms because of another lawsuit.

3091 So let's be clear here about what is the driving force
3092 around the reunification of these kids. It, clearly, is not
3093 Congress.

3094 To that end, a journalist just posted on social media
3095 that she asked HHS and ICE officials about info on a child
3096 under five in government custody who was separated from their
3097 parent over a year ago and authorities believe that both
3098 parent and child might be a U.S. citizen. Silence from
3099 administration officials.

3100 I am not sure if this is right. She's not sure if this
3101 is right. But it is reason to ask questions and have some
3102 oversight as to what these policies are because, clearly,
3103 this policy was put in place before anybody ever thought for
3104 a second about how to reunify a family because they are
3105 making it up on the fly.

3106 And for those of you that believe that comprehensive
3107 immigration reform is an issue and that we should be working
3108 on it, I wholeheartedly agree. Next time you want to try to
3109 do it, maybe you shouldn't try to do it inside a Republican
3110 caucus room.

3111 Maybe invite us to the table. Maybe acknowledge the

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3112 fact that in 2013 there was a veto-proof majority --
3113 Democrats and Republicans -- that came out with an
3114 immigration bill out of the U.S. Senate and we couldn't get a
3115 vote on it on the floor in this chamber.

3116 So let's be clear about what the driving issue on this
3117 policy is. Let's be clear if we want to actually separate
3118 it. A border wall isn't going to stop people fleeing
3119 destitution and poverty and gang violence from coming to our
3120 country.

3121 When I was down on the border, I met with a person who
3122 runs a shelter who had been in contact with a grandmother
3123 from Guatemala who had fled to the border with her grandchild
3124 because her husband had been taken out of their home, had
3125 both of his legs cut off by a machete, and his body riddled
3126 with bullets.

3127 Her child and her child's spouse and their three kids
3128 were burned alive in a home. So she picked up a
3129 granddaughter and fled to our border.

3130 You're not going to solve that grandmother from fleeing
3131 with a grandchild because you build a border wall. You're
3132 going to solve it because you actually take these issues
3133 seriously, you see the humanity and people that are fleeing

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3134 that violence, and you try to address those concerns in
3135 Guatemala, in Honduras, in El Salvador, in Mexico.

3136 And you know what the response of this administration
3137 has been, according to CRS? They've cut aid to Latin America
3138 by 20 percent. So let's be very clear about how you actually
3139 try to solve this problem.

3140 Tearing parents -- babies from parents' arms ain't going
3141 to do it. Building a border wall ain't going to do it.
3142 Cutting aid to these countries ain't going to do it.

3143 You want to actually solve the problem? I am all in.
3144 But don't hide behind obfuscation and court orders and
3145 hearings to then say that we are actually trying to solve
3146 this when this is an issue that has stressed Democratic
3147 administrations and Republican ones. This is a complex
3148 issue. I have traveled with my Republican colleagues down the
3149 Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador on a Republican-
3150 sponsored codel.

3151 These are hard issues. But let's address them like this
3152 Congress should and not try to hid behind a policy that we
3153 are now trying to say wasn't put in the place in the first
3154 place.

3155 Yield back.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3156 Chairman Walden. Are there other members seeking
3157 recognition?

3158 The chair -- oh, I am sorry. We had to go back up here.
3159 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green, for
3160 five minutes to strike the last word.

3161 Mr. Green. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I think I've
3162 said as much as I wanted to by using my colleagues' time.
3163 But Chairman Shimkus knows I'll get every minute I can get
3164 and maybe more.

3165 But, Congressman Johnson, I'd love to sit down and work
3166 out an immigration reform bill. But that's not in our
3167 committee. I want to serve on the Judiciary Committee.

3168 But to blame Democrats that the Republicans couldn't
3169 agree themselves to get a majority vote on their immigration
3170 bill is not our fault. It's not this committee's fault
3171 either.

3172 But I am just embarrassed because -- for our country and
3173 the -- what we see around the world is people being torn from
3174 their families, children taken from them, and it amazes me
3175 that a parent had been deported that they didn't know that
3176 there was a child in custody -- if they are deported to
3177 Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, or even Mexico.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3178 It's our responsibility to get that parent back to be a
3179 custodial for that child. Somewhere along the way it looked
3180 like Keystone Kops was taking over our detention facilities
3181 and that's what -- when HHS comes in it is our jurisdiction.
3182 When they are required by law to take custody of those
3183 children there needs to be some kind of identifying
3184 relationship.

3185 And this is not new law. What's happened is that the
3186 current administration is not enforcing the law as it's
3187 supposed to be and it's cutting corners, and that's what's
3188 wrong.

3189 That's why I think we need to have a hearing with our
3190 Health and Human Services secretary. It's not his fault.
3191 They got it. Now let's see how we can fix it.

3192 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to yield the remainder of my time
3193 to my colleague from New Mexico.

3194 Mr. Lujan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr.
3195 Green.

3196 Mr. Barton's observation -- I appreciate that with
3197 seeing the children. But I wanted to remark what health
3198 experts are saying across America, and the medical community
3199 including pediatricians, psychiatrists, public health

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3200 experts, emergency physicians, and nurses all over the
3201 country have weighed in to see that these children are at
3202 risk for long-term health effects.

3203 That includes mental health issues like depression,
3204 anxiety, developmental delays, substance use disorder, and
3205 even physical illness. Even the State Department recently
3206 published a report and in that it said even at their best,
3207 residential institutions are unable to meet a child's need
3208 for emotional support. It is typically received from family
3209 members or consistent caretakers with whom the child can
3210 develop an attachment.

3211 It's not just what you see. It's what you don't, and we
3212 have a responsibility to make sure that we do bring in HHS
3213 and ORR into a committee hearing, Mr. Chairman.

3214 And, Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you might be able to
3215 tell us when we might be able to schedule that hearing,
3216 especially before the August recess.

3217 Chairman Walden. If the gentleman would yield. I would
3218 just -- I am sorry, it's actually the gentleman from Texas'
3219 time.

3220 Mr. Green. Mr. Chairman, I just would like to work with
3221 our colleagues on this side to solve this problem and that's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3222 what our committee does, particularly on our jurisdiction.

3223 And I'll yield back my time.

3224 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
3225 of time.

3226 Other members seeking recognition?

3227 The gentleman -- if not, the gentleman from California
3228 is recognized for five minutes to speak on the last word.

3229 Mr. Cardenas. Yes. On my time, Mr. Chairman, I'd like
3230 to repeat the question from my colleague from New Mexico
3231 regarding when could we have a hearing and hopefully before
3232 the August break.

3233 Chairman Walden. If the gentleman would yield.

3234 Mr. Cardenas. Yes, to the chairman.

3235 Chairman Walden. We are in the process of doing the
3236 investigative work we do leading up to hearings that may or
3237 may not occur. Again, part of that involved a bipartisan
3238 trip to the border.

3239 I appreciate my colleague from Texas' comments about the
3240 jurisdiction of this committee because while we are all
3241 passionate about what's happened down there, we want these
3242 children reunited --

3243 Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3244 Chairman Walden. -- the issue is we have this narrow
3245 slice of this HHS piece on ORR.

3246 Mr. Cardenas. Thank you. Reclaiming my time.

3247 Chairman Walden. Many of --

3248 Mr. Cardenas. I think I understand your answer, Mr.
3249 Chairman. I got the gist about when we may have that
3250 hearing.

3251 Thank you. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

3252 With the remaining time that I have left, what I'd like
3253 to do for the benefit of the American public because what we
3254 are having here today is an open hearing of the Energy and
3255 Commerce Committee before the public of the world and
3256 certainly the American public.

3257 So I just want to read the resolution that the Ranking
3258 Member Pallone has introduced and that you, Mr. Chairman,
3259 said that you do not support this resolution, H.R. 982.

3260 "Of inquiry requesting the president and directing the
3261 secretary of Health and Human Services to transmit,
3262 respectively, certain information to the House of
3263 Representatives referring to the separation of children from
3264 their parents or guardians as a result of the president's
3265 zero tolerance policy, resolved that the president is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3266 requested and the secretary of Health and Human Services is
3267 directed to transmit respectively to the House of
3268 Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the
3269 adoption of this resolution copies of all documents,
3270 memoranda, advisory, legal opinions, notes from meetings,
3271 audio recordings, records, including telephone and electronic
3272 mail records, correspondence, and other communications or any
3273 portion and any such communications.

3274 To the extent that any such one or more items are within
3275 the possession of the president of the secretary,
3276 respectively, and refer to the following: one, the health
3277 and welfare of children forcibly separated from their parents
3278 or guardians as a result of the president's zero tolerance
3279 policy; two, the longer-term implications of the president's
3280 zero tolerance policy on the health of children described in
3281 paragraph one."

3282 I haven't heard anyone say that this is not within our
3283 jurisdiction. I think we can agree to that because this is
3284 all under HHS and the resolution speaks to what's within our
3285 jurisdiction.

3286 That having been said, I will say that this -- Trump has
3287 caused this internment camp policy and he refuses to stop.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3288 Many of my colleagues have spoken to the checks and balances
3289 and the responsibility of Congress, and unless we have true
3290 and honest hearings before the public with the proper highest
3291 level officials that we can call forth before this committee,
3292 we are abdicating our duties and we are failing the American
3293 public.

3294 And I think it's important for everybody to understand
3295 that when the chairman described and colored his comment that
3296 too bad, that the Democrats didn't necessarily take up the
3297 chairman and this committee on going to one of the facilities
3298 in Texas just this past weekend, I want to remind all of us
3299 that dozens and dozens of Democrat members of Congress have
3300 gone to facilities both on the border and interior facilities
3301 as a result of this zero tolerance policy coming to our
3302 attention and to the attention of the American people.

3303 So I just want to state for the record, yes, one
3304 Democrat did go on a short notice event. Thank you very
3305 much, Mr. Chairman, for having approximately six members of
3306 the Republican caucus to go. That's nice.

3307 But at the same time, there has been much going on for
3308 months now that we were aware of and it's good to see that
3309 some members are finally acting on the opportunity to see for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3310 themselves.

3311 Speaking of seeing for themselves, I went to the border
3312 in California, the border of California and Mexico, and saw
3313 some facilities for myself. My wife went with me and so did
3314 13 other members of Congress -- all Democrats, by the way --
3315 and we were received well by the officials who allowed us to
3316 see the facilities, et cetera.

3317 They did tell us, no, you can't talk to the children --
3318 you can't talk to the adults, et cetera, and things of that
3319 nature. There were some things that we were able to clarify
3320 that they told us verbally that were not true and by the end
3321 of the trip they corrected themselves in some cases and told
3322 us that, yes, they were wrong and they corrected themselves.

3323 So that visit did have some -- not only for seeing for
3324 ourselves but actually getting some of the facts on the
3325 record. But the facts on the record should be brought before
3326 the public in front of this committee, I say.

3327 In addition to that, I want to thank my wife, who got
3328 inspired to go again and she said, let's go to Texas -- we
3329 are going to help Sister Norma, help some of the people who
3330 have been fortunate enough to be released in McAllen, Texas.

3331 I said, no, Norma -- my wife, Norma -- I said I have to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3332 go to do my work in Washington -- you go. So she went
3333 without me.

3334 So my point is this. It's great to see that some people
3335 have been inspired to see for themselves. But the fact of the
3336 matter it is only the members of Congress who have been
3337 elected -- duly elected to have hearings before the people or
3338 the public and the only person who can make that happen is
3339 you, Mr. Chairman.

3340 I hope and pray that we have those hearings as soon as
3341 possible. I yield back.

3342 Mr. Shimkus. Mr. Chairman, I'd strike the last word.

3343 Chairman Walden. The gentleman is recognized.

3344 Mr. Shimkus. And I yield to the chair.

3345 Chairman Walden. I thank the gentleman.

3346 I just want to make sure it's well understood -- in
3347 terms of our official trip from this committee to the border,
3348 it was, I believe, open to anyone on the committee.

3349 Democrats made that choice. Your staff knew and could
3350 work that out with you, and we wish others could have come.

3351 Look, we understand, you know, there is notice issues in
3352 terms of timing and if people had other commitments in their
3353 lives.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3354 But let me be clear, the choice on who came on the
3355 Democrat side was up to your leadership, and so I thought it
3356 was important to have a bipartisan, and it was, official trip
3357 of this committee, well organized where we could ask these
3358 questions and see the facilities firsthand, and I commend the
3359 members of the committee who have done this on their own.
3360 That's good. I do not think anything wrong with that -- I
3361 don't. I think that's healthy. I think it always helps to
3362 see first hand.

3363 Now, to the point we share many of these same concerns,
3364 if not all, and in fact the letter that we made available for
3365 both sides of the aisle to sign that we sent to the secretary
3366 June 9th from this committee and, again, only -- for whatever
3367 set of reasons the Democrats did not choose to sign this
3368 letter. That's your decision. You sent your own. That's
3369 fine.

3370 But let me go through the questions we have posed to the
3371 secretary. This is part of the fact finding process that we
3372 do on this committee, and letters matter. Letters are
3373 important.

3374 "To assist the committee in its efforts, please provide
3375 written answers to the following questions as well as the

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3376 requested documents no later than July 20th, 2018.

3377 One, how many unaccompanied UACs -- children -- are in
3378 ORR custody as of June 29th, 2018; A, how many UACs have been
3379 placed in ORR custody as of June 29th as a result of being
3380 separated from their parents or families?

3381 What's the age range of UAC and ORR custody as of June
3382 29th? What documentation or information does ORR receive
3383 when a UAC is transferred by DHS to ORR custody?

3384 Does that documentation or information change depending
3385 on whether the child was separated from a family or across
3386 the border alone?

3387 Is there a formal process to determine whether a UAC has
3388 been separated from someone who is legitimately their parent
3389 and/or reuniting parents and children who have been
3390 separated?

3391 If so, please describe the process. How many UACs have
3392 been placed into ORR custody have been reunited with a family
3393 member from whom they were separated?

3394 What is the role of the task force established by ASPR?
3395 How is this task force working with other HHS agencies or
3396 other federal agencies?

3397 Five, what is the maximum number of UAC that ORR can

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3398 have in custody at any given point? Please provide a break
3399 down of how much of that capacity is permanent, in flux, or
3400 temporary facilities?

3401 Does ORR have the resources to properly house and care
3402 for this high number of unaccompanied children being
3403 transferred to their custody?

3404 Six, how does ORR determine which facility a child is
3405 sent to upon entering ORR custody? Is age a factor? Are
3406 siblings kept together?

3407 Seven, what steps is ORR taking to track and address
3408 issues of abuse within HHS-funded facilities including but
3409 not limited to significant incident reports?

3410 What oversight does HHS or ORR conduct of HHS-funded
3411 facilities including but not limited to site visits, reviews,
3412 or audits of the facilities?

3413 Eight, what medical screening for communicable or other
3414 diseases does ORR or its grantees conduct?

3415 Nine, what types of medications is ORR authorized to
3416 administer or does ORR authorize grantee to administer to
3417 unaccompanied children including but not limited to
3418 antibiotics, vaccinations, and psychotropic drugs?

3419 Ten, how does ORR identify an appropriate sponsor for a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3420 UAC?

3421 Eleven, since January 1 of 2014, how many unaccompanied
3422 children have been placed with a parent, relative, or
3423 unrelated adult? Please provide the number per category.

3424 How often is ORR unable to identify a category one, two,
3425 or three sponsor? What happens in those situations?

3426 B, under what circumstances would ORR remove an
3427 unaccompanied child from a sponsor? In those situations,
3428 what happens after an unaccompanied child is removed from a
3429 sponsor?

3430 Twelve, please provide all policies and procedures since
3431 January 1 of 2014 regarding the care of unaccompanied
3432 children while in ORR custody.

3433 Thirteen, please provide all policies and procedures
3434 since January 1, 2014 regarding the placement of an
3435 unaccompanied child with a sponsor, reunification of a UAC
3436 with a family if separated.

3437 Fourteen, please provide copies of all contracts or
3438 grant agreements since January 1, 2014 between the department
3439 of any of its divisions and private companies to house UAC.

3440 And finally, please provide all significant incident
3441 reports or other documents that relate to allegations of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3442 abuse of children in the care or custody of ORR from January
3443 1, 2017 to the present."

3444 And I think that is the letter that we sent, the
3445 Republicans sent. You all could have signed it. You sent
3446 your own. That's fine. I think we are all after the same
3447 information and, believe me, we share a common commitment
3448 that these children be safely cared for appropriately.

3449 With that, my time has expired.

3450 Mr. Shimkus. I guess my time has expired. But I just
3451 want to add that I am looking forward to the answers to that
3452 and proceed from there.

3453 Thank you.

3454 Chairman Walden. And we are due to get a response by
3455 July 20th, according to the record.

3456 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida, Ms.
3457 Castor --

3458 Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for --
3459 Chairman Walden. -- to speak on the resolution.

3460 Ms. Castor. Yes, thank you. And thank you for reading
3461 your letter. Thank you for taking the trip to the border.

3462 But it simply is not a substitute for hearings here
3463 where they are publicly televised and the American public can

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3464 tune in and understand.

3465 Everything they say is on the record. If they are in
3466 the Oversight Subcommittee they are under oath. The
3467 committee has a very significant responsibility and you
3468 shouldn't shirk it.

3469 I don't know what you're afraid of. We should be
3470 working together on this, on this very serious horrendous
3471 policy of ripping children away from their parents.

3472 And at this time I'll yield the balance of the time to
3473 Mr. Pallone.

3474 Mr. Pallone. I want to thank the gentlewoman for
3475 yielding and let me ask again, I urge all my colleagues to
3476 support the resolution both on the Democratic and the
3477 Republican side.

3478 I was glad that Mr. Cardenas actually read the
3479 resolution because if you see in the last two paragraphs,
3480 which are really the key to it, a lot of it refers
3481 specifically to the zero tolerance policy.

3482 And a lot of my Democratic colleagues today have pointed
3483 out that this is all the result of the zero tolerance policy
3484 by President Trump, and we need to get to the bottom of that
3485 policy as it affects these children and as it affects what

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3486 HHS is doing.

3487 So I really want to make two points. One is we still
3488 need this resolution. Yes, the chairman asked some
3489 questions. Yes, we have asked a lot of questions.

3490 Yes, the secretary had a conference call and the
3491 secretary has talked to me privately as well. But in none of
3492 those things did we actually get answers -- meaningful
3493 answers -- as to what the zero tolerance policy was all
3494 about, why it resulted in the separation of children from
3495 their families, and what has happened to those children since
3496 and what's going to happen to them in the future.

3497 Because the fact of the matter is there was never a way
3498 to track these children. There was never a way to even find
3499 out whether -- who -- which parents they were associated
3500 with.

3501 And that's the reason why it is so difficult now for the
3502 secretary, because I believe he's well intentioned, to bring
3503 these children back together with their parents.

3504 They didn't track them. They didn't have a means of
3505 communications. That's what happens when those of us who met
3506 with the families find that out.

3507 And, you know, that policy, in my opinion, stunk from

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3508 the very beginning and there was no effort to really worry
3509 about the consequences for the kids and we certainly don't
3510 want it to happen again.

3511 And the second thing is I think my colleagues on the
3512 Democratic side brought up very effectively as to why we need
3513 hearings. It doesn't matter that the secretary is well
3514 intentioned. It doesn't matter that HHS has actually, you
3515 know, gotten back to us and talked to us and tried to answer
3516 our questions, because they haven't been able to do it and
3517 they need to be challenged at a hearing of this committee --
3518 to say, why did this happen -- why haven't you done it --
3519 what are you going to do to change things so these kids are
3520 put back in place with their families.

3521 So I just want to urge my colleagues. I know we have
3522 had a very good discussion here today. The bottom line is we
3523 still don't have the answers. We still don't have anything
3524 coming from the chairman of Republican side telling us how we
3525 are going to get these answers, and the only thing that's
3526 going to make that happen is if we start down the road of
3527 demanding, you know, through formal action of this committee
3528 through this resolution that we find those answers and then
3529 have a hearing.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3530 And so, once again, Mr. Chairman, I did hear you say at
3531 one point -- I don't think I misunderstood -- I think you
3532 said that, you know, your questions might lead to a hearing -
3533 - that we might have a hearing down the road.

3534 I would ask that that hearing be done soon. I ask that
3535 it be done before the August recess while all this is very
3536 much fresh in our minds.

3537 I think there was a little effort on your part to
3538 suggest to that that might happen, although you didn't commit
3539 to it. But I would ask you again -- based on what happened
3540 today, based on our conversations, based on the comments that
3541 were made by my colleagues, it is clear to me that we need
3542 that hearing, and I don't think that we are going to get
3543 answers quickly enough from HHS unless we have the hearings.

3544 So, hopefully, you will follow through and we will have
3545 the hearing before this committee, and I yield back to my
3546 colleague from Florida.

3547 Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman, I just have one question. Are
3548 you saying and making a firm statement before the committee
3549 this morning that if you don't get a response back July 20th
3550 that you will proceed to hold a hearing?

3551 Chairman Walden. No. No, you didn't hear that. Would

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3552 the gentleman yield?

3553 I don't recall saying that at all. The gentlelady, I
3554 think, actually controls the time. Is it okay yield? Yes.

3555 So what I said, Mr. Rush, is that our letter requested
3556 answers from the agency by July 20th, and I think in
3557 virtually every letter we send as a committee, whether it's
3558 partisan or bipartisan, we put a date when we want answers.
3559 We put that date and we expect to get answers from HHS by
3560 July 20th.

3561 In the meantime, we took the trip to the border, and
3562 other members have gone and so we are doing our work. And
3563 anybody on the Democrat side could have gone.

3564 So the gentlelady's time has expired.

3565 Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman --

3566 Chairman Walden. Are there other members seeking
3567 recognition?

3568 The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Doyle, is
3569 recognized for five minutes to strike the last word on the
3570 resolution.

3571 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to yield
3572 my time to Ms. DeGette.

3573 Ms. DeGette. Thank you very much for yielding.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3574 Mr. Chairman, I just want to follow up on the
3575 conversations we have been having about this resolution and
3576 about this committee's jurisdiction because I think the
3577 reason why everyone on this side of the aisle is so
3578 impassioned about this and so concerned is because we are
3579 all, frankly, shocked at the fact that apparently these
3580 children were taken from these parents, put into the custody
3581 of HHS under ORR, and then -- and then it's been virtually
3582 impossible to get these kids reunited with their parents.

3583 And the thing we are so concerned about and the reason
3584 why time is of the essence, as we know -- as we have seen
3585 from this last week, the longer time goes by, the harder it's
3586 going to be to achieve this reunification.

3587 And we find it, frankly, incredible that the greatest
3588 country in the world could take away, roughly, 3,000 -- could
3589 separately, roughly, 3,000 families and then HHS apparently
3590 could not figure out which children belonged with which
3591 parents, and that's why we are so concerned.

3592 And I just -- I just want to say I appreciate, Mr.
3593 Chairman, you writing the letter to the secretary -- to
3594 Secretary Azar asking all of those questions.

3595 A number of us have also written letters. There is a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3596 letter dated June 20th, June 28th, and July 6th -- all three
3597 letters that I have personally signed.

3598 There are also two other letters that Mr. Pallone has
3599 signed on behalf of the committee Democrats dated July 14 --
3600 I am sorry, June 14th and June 26th.

3601 And Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to put
3602 all of those letters in the record so that Mr. Azar can also
3603 answer those questions as we continue our committee's
3604 investigation.

3605 Chairman Walden. Of course. Without any objection.

3606 [The information follows:]

3607

3608 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 26*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3609 Ms. DeGette. Thank you very much.

3610 And then one last thing that I would just like to say
3611 and I say this with some pain, is I don't think it's fair,
3612 Mr. Chairman, to say to the Democrats on this committee that
3613 somehow we are not allowed -- or to imply that we are not
3614 allowed to have concern or objection if we didn't go on your
3615 codel down there to the border.

3616 Many of us went on other codels where we saw the exact
3617 same thing and where we have looked at it, and I did get a
3618 clean copy of the itinerary that I went on on Saturday June
3619 23rd.

3620 As well as the things on that itinerary, several of us
3621 also went to one of the tender age facilities that is being
3622 administered by ORR and we also went to the border in
3623 Brownsville and we talked to the families there.

3624 So I'd like to ask unanimous consent to put that
3625 itinerary in the record as well.

3626 Chairman Walden. Absolutely. Without objection.

3627 [The information follows:]

3628

3629 *****COMMITTEE INSERT 27*****

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3630 Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

3631 And again, you know, as somebody who has been a member
3632 of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for 11 terms
3633 now and who is now the ranking Democrat, it's never been a
3634 barrier to having an investigation or a hearing to tell
3635 members that they had to go to the places that we are talking
3636 about and I don't think that that's a very fair argument to
3637 us.

3638 I think that what we should do --

3639 Chairman Walden. Would the gentlelady yield?

3640 Ms. DeGette. In a minute.

3641 I think that what we should do is that we should finish
3642 our investigation as quickly as we can because there are
3643 still thousands of kids who haven't been reunited with their
3644 families. We should have a hearing before the August recess
3645 and we can see what we can do to get HHS to actually take the
3646 actions to reunite these kids with their parents.

3647 And I believe it's Mr. Doyle's time. If he'd like to
3648 yield too, he can.

3649 Mr. Doyle. Yes, and I'll be glad to yield to the chair
3650 if he wants time.

3651 Chairman Walden. Thank you.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3652 I just want to clarify, because it was imputed that
3653 somehow I was trying to say that if you didn't go on the
3654 official trip from the committee you didn't have a voice.

3655 That is never anything I believe. I did not say that.
3656 I do not believe that. My point in making the issue of the
3657 trip was that the committee is taking official action to go
3658 to the border and we wanted to make sure people had the
3659 opportunity to go because just as you went to the border,
3660 just as you've sent letters, others did.

3661 We are better informed whether we go individually or as
3662 a committee, and we wanted to make that available to people
3663 and that's why we did it as soon as we could possibly arrange
3664 it.

3665 Mr. Doyle. Okay. I yield back.

3666 Chairman Walden. Just for -- and I will go to the
3667 gentleman from -- just for purposes of committee
3668 functionality, they are going to have votes on the House
3669 floor at 1:05.

3670 With that, I'd recognize the gentleman from California,
3671 Dr. Ruiz, for five minutes to strike the last word.

3672 Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3673 This is a new problem. We have never faced this as a

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3674 country before. Children, families seeking asylum, however
3675 they have crossed the border, have never been separated from
3676 safe parents before.

3677 Families have been kept together. We have had
3678 alternative to detention programs where nearly 100 percent
3679 success rate for showing up for their court cases.

3680 The change is, one, that these alternatives to
3681 detentions were indiscriminately ended with no hearings or no
3682 discussion; two, the zero tolerance policy led to the
3683 separation for deferment and intimidation reasons.

3684 So this administration's new cruel and inhumane policy
3685 and practice and separated over 2,000 children from their
3686 parents, causing children to suffer from long-term health
3687 effects such as toxic stress, psychological, and irreversible
3688 trauma.

3689 Toxic stress occurs when a child experiences strong and
3690 repetitive or prolonged adversity without the comfort of
3691 their mother or father calming them down or helping them cope
3692 with such stress.

3693 This can disrupt their brain development at a critical
3694 moment where their brain is still forming, increasing their
3695 future risk of emotional and physical health problems like

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3696 heart disease, diabetes, depression, and suicide.

3697 These children may have difficulty learning in schools,
3698 severe separation anxiety, and have difficulty interpreting
3699 comforting actions because their brains aren't wired to
3700 accept them.

3701 They have difficulty forming and accepting long secure
3702 stable loving relationships and they will be now at risk for
3703 always having dysfunctional relationships.

3704 They will be at higher risk of depression, substance
3705 abuse, and will have a harder time being, as I mentioned, in
3706 stable loving relationships.

3707 And the scary part about this is that the more intense
3708 the traumatic experience or the longer this lasts, the more
3709 intense their symptoms and the higher chances of them having
3710 a irreversible long-term problem increases.

3711 So this is a matter of urgency that we need to deal with
3712 today -- yesterday, in fact, and these are the three things
3713 that we as a committee need to really, really do and as
3714 individuals, as a country, in fact.

3715 The first thing we need to do is we need to end the
3716 stress. In other words, reunite the children with their
3717 parents safely so that the parents can comfort and start to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3718 build that parental relationship again to help the children
3719 cope.

3720 Two, get them out of cages and put them into a stable
3721 secure environment where a family can start to come back into
3722 a normal family routine.

3723 Three, provide the mental and medical care that the
3724 children need.

3725 I am so glad that you asked some questions in your
3726 letter, Mr. Chairman, that addresses that, and the further
3727 questions that I would like to ask in an open committee
3728 hearing is how many mental health providers are there per
3729 child's needs.

3730 Two is when these children were separated with haste
3731 from their mothers' arms, did they take a medical history?
3732 Do we know about any nutritional requirements? Do we know if
3733 there are any fatal allergic reactions to medications?

3734 Because without having that information, the providers
3735 can accidentally or give them an antibiotic that can kill the
3736 child.

3737 The other thing that we need to do is to provide this --
3738 not only therapy for this child but that is that happening
3739 when these families are being reunited.

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3740 I have about 30 seconds and I am sure you can address
3741 this soon afterwards. But my point is that we demand access
3742 to information related to the health and welfare of these
3743 children as well as the long-term care that they are going to
3744 require.

3745 And we can all agree -- listen, regardless of your
3746 political affiliation or opinion on immigration policy, we
3747 can all agree that the well being of a child is what is most
3748 important, and this is not about politics. This is about
3749 decency. This is about human dignity, and the administration
3750 must work harder to reunify these children with their parents
3751 and get them the medical, mental, and social services that
3752 they need to recover from this new severe psychological
3753 trauma.

3754 Chairman Walden. The gentleman's time has expired.

3755 Just for the record, we have 10 minutes left in the
3756 vote. Are there other members seeking recognition?

3757 Seeing none, the question now occurs on reporting H.R.
3758 982 to the House without recommendation.

3759 All those in favor will say aye.

3760 Those opposed, no.

3761 A roll call is requested. The clerk will call the roll.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

This is a preliminary, unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker. A link to the final, official transcript will be posted on the Committee's website as soon as it is available.

3762 The Clerk. Mr. Barton.
3763 Mr. Barton. Aye.
3764 The Clerk. Mr. Barton votes aye.
3765 Mr. Upton.
3766 Mr. Upton. Aye.
3767 The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.
3768 Mr. Shimkus.
3769 Mr. Shimkus. Aye.
3770 The Clerk. Mr. Shimkus votes aye.
3771 Mr. Burgess.
3772 Mr. Burgess. Aye.
3773 The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.
3774 Mrs. Blackburn.
3775 Mrs. Blackburn. Aye.
3776 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn votes aye.
3777 Mr. Scalise.
3778 [No response.]
3779 Mr. Latta.
3780 Mr. Latta. Aye.
3781 The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
3782 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.
3783 [No response.]

3784 Mr. Harper.
3785 [No response.]
3786 Mr. Lance.
3787 Mr. Lance. Aye.
3788 The Clerk. Mr. Lance votes aye.
3789 Mr. Guthrie.
3790 Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
3791 The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
3792 Mr. Olson.
3793 Mr. Olson. Aye.
3794 The Clerk. Mr. Olson votes aye.
3795 Mr. McKinley.
3796 Mr. McKinley. Aye.
3797 The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.
3798 Mr. Kinzinger.
3799 Mr. Kinzinger. Aye.
3800 The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.
3801 Mr. Griffith.
3802 Mr. Griffith. Aye.
3803 The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
3804 Mr. Bilirakis.
3805 Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
3806 The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
3807 Mr. Johnson.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

3808 Mr. Johnson. Aye.

3809 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.

3810 Mr. Long.

3811 Mr. Long. Aye.

3812 The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.

3813 Mr. Bucshon.

3814 Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3815 The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.

3816 Mr. Flores.

3817 Mr. Flores. Aye.

3818 The Clerk. Mr. Flores votes aye.

3819 Mrs. Brooks.

3820 Mrs. Brooks. Aye.

3821 The Clerk. Mrs. Brooks votes aye.

3822 Mr. Mullin.

3823 Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3824 The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3825 Mr. Hudson.

3826 Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3827 The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3828 Mr. Collins.

3829 Mr. Collins. Aye.

3830 The Clerk. Mr. Collins votes aye.

3831 Mr. Cramer.

3832 Mr. Cramer. Aye.

3833 The Clerk. Mr. Cramer votes aye.

3834 Mr. Walberg.

3835 [No response.]

3836 Mrs. Walters.

3837 Mrs. Walters. Aye.

3838 The Clerk. Mrs. Walters votes aye.

3839 Mr. Costello.

3840 Mr. Costello. Aye.

3841 The Clerk. Mr. Costello votes aye.

3842 Mr. Carter.

3843 Mr. Carter. Aye.

3844 The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

3845 Mr. Duncan.

3846 Mr. Duncan. Aye.

3847 The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

3848 Mr. Pallone.

3849 Mr. Pallone. I would just like to remind my Democratic

3850 colleagues that the motion is a motion to table and so I

3851 would urge you to vote --

3852 Chairman Walden. It is to report the resolution without

3853 recommendation. It is not a motion to table.

3854 Mr. Pallone. Well, let me ask -- inquire, Mr. Chairman,

3855 before the vote continues.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

3856 What is the -- what is it again? Would you explain what
3857 we are voting on?

3858 Chairman Walden. The motion I placed was to -- well,
3859 let me -- is to report the resolution --

3860 Mr. Barton. Parliamentary inquiry. How can you -- how
3861 can you --

3862 Chairman Walden. Stop, please.

3863 The question now -- here's what I said -- the question
3864 now occurs on reporting H.R. 982 to the House without
3865 recommendation. That is the vote before us.

3866 Mr. Pallone. So that means that --

3867 Chairman Walden. That it's not -- this is not -- that
3868 is -- I've restated the resolution that we are voting on.
3869 That's what I put forward.

3870 Clerk will continue to call the roll.

3871 Mr. Pallone. Well, let me just ask, Mr. Chairman --

3872 Mr. Barton. You can't have debate in the middle of a
3873 roll call.

3874 Chairman Walden. The clerk will continue to call the
3875 roll.

3876 Mr. Pallone. Well, because I think it's unclear what we
3877 are voting on. What happens if this passes?

3878 Chairman Walden. It will be reported to the House for
3879 consideration. Clerk will continue to call the roll.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

3880 Mr. Pallone. All right. Well, then under that
3881 circumstances, we -- I will vote yes.
3882 The Clerk. Mr. Pallone.
3883 Mr. Pallone. Yes.
3884 The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3885 Mr. Rush.
3886 Mr. Rush. Aye.
3887 The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
3888 Ms. Eshoo.
3889 Ms. Eshoo. Pass.
3890 The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo passes.
3891 Mr. Engel.
3892 Mr. Engel. Aye.
3893 The Clerk. Mr. Engel votes aye.
3894 Mr. Green.
3895 Mr. Green. Aye.
3896 The Clerk. Mr. Green votes aye.
3897 Ms. DeGette.
3898 Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3899 The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3900 Mr. Doyle.
3901 Mr. Doyle. Aye.
3902 The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
3903 Ms. Schakowsky.

3904 Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3905 The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3906 Mr. Butterfield.

3907 Mr. Butterfield. Aye.

3908 The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

3909 Ms. Matsui.

3910 Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3911 The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

3912 Ms. Castor.

3913 Ms. Castor. Aye.

3914 The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

3915 Mr. Sarbanes.

3916 [No response.]

3917 Mr. McNerney.

3918 Mr. McNerney. Aye.

3919 The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

3920 Mr. Welch.

3921 Mr. Welch. Aye.

3922 The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

3923 Mr. Lujan.

3924 Mr. Lujan. Aye.

3925 The Clerk. Mr. Lujan votes aye.

3926 Mr. Tonko.

3927 Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3928 The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3929 Ms. Clarke.
3930 Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3931 The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3932 Mr. Loeb sack.
3933 Mr. Loeb sack. Aye.
3934 The Clerk. Mr. Loeb sack votes aye.
3935 Mr. Schrader.
3936 Mr. Schrader. Aye.
3937 The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.
3938 Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy.
3939 Mr. Kennedy. Aye.
3940 The Clerk. Mr. Kennedy votes aye.
3941 Mr. Cardenas.
3942 Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
3943 The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
3944 Mr. Ruiz.
3945 Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3946 The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3947 Mr. Peters.
3948 Mr. Peters. Aye.
3949 The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3950 Mrs. Dingell.
3951 Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3952 The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

3953 Chairman Walden.

3954 Chairman Walden. Aye.

3955 The Clerk. Chairman Walden votes aye.

3956 Mr. Scalise.

3957 Mr. Scalise. Aye.

3958 The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.

3959 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.

3960 Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Aye.

3961 The Clerk. Mrs. McMorris Rodgers votes aye.

3962 Mr. Walberg.

3963 Mr. Walberg. Aye.

3964 The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.

3965 Chairman Walden. Are there other members not recorded?

3966 And for the record, the clerk will report the tally.

3967 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote, there were 52

3968 ayes and zero nays.

3969 Chairman Walden. Fifty-two ayes, zero nays. The

3970 resolution is adopted and forwarded to the House without

3971 recommendation.

3972 There is five minutes left in the vote on the floor. We

3973 will return after this to complete our work on the

3974 telecommunications bills.

3975 The committee stands in recess.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

3976 [Recess.]

3977 Chairman Walden. I'll call the committee back to order.

3978 The chair calls up H.R. 2345 -- Bill Number 11 on your

3979 list -- as forwarded by the Subcommittee on Communications

3980 and Technology on June 13th, 2018 and asks the clerk to

3981 report.

3982 [The Bill H.R. 2345 follows:]

3983

3984 *****INSERT 28*****

3985 The Clerk. H.R. 2345, to required the Federal
3986 Communications Commission to study the feasibility of
3987 designating a simple easy-to-remember dialing code to be used
3988 for the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis
3989 Hotline System.

3990 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
3991 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
3992 amendment at any point.

3993 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

3994 The gentleman from Florida is recognized for what
3995 purpose?

3996 Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. To offer an amendment.

3997 Chairman Walden. The clerk will report the Bilirakis
3998 amendment.

3999 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

4000

4001 *****INSERT 29*****

4002 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2345, offered by Mr.
4003 Bilirakis.

4004 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the reading of the
4005 amendment is dispensed with. The gentleman from Florida is
4006 recognized for five minutes to speak on his amendment.

4007 Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take
4008 the five minutes.

4009 I offer this simple amendment to ensure that both the
4010 House and the Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs also
4011 receive copies of the Commission report.

4012 Throughout this Congress, these committees have been at
4013 the forefront of reviewing and improving mental health and
4014 suicide prevention services for our veterans.

4015 This includes House passage of the Veteran Urgent Access
4016 to Mental Health Care Act and hearings on assessing PTS
4017 treatments at the VA.

4018 This amendment will ensure that all relevant committees
4019 timely receive the study report on veteran-specific suicide
4020 prevention hotline code.

4021 As the vice chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee
4022 in the House, as a co-sponsor of the underlying bill, I stand
4023 ready to help again to inform the veterans population of this
4024 important change if the report yields a positive result and
4025 the new dialing code comes to fruition.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4026 So I am happy to yield any time to any other member.
4027 Otherwise, I'll yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4028 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
4029 of his time. The chair thanks the gentleman for this very
4030 thoughtful amendment for his work to help our nation's
4031 veterans.

4032 Are there other members seeking recognition?

4033 If not, the question arises on a passage of the
4034 amendment.

4035 All those in favor will say aye.

4036 Those opposed, nay.

4037 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The
4038 amendment is adopted to.

4039 Are there any further amendments?

4040 Seeing none, the question now arises on favorably
4041 reporting H.R. 2345 as amended to the House.

4042 All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

4043 Those opposed, no.

4044 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it, and the
4045 bill is favorably reported.

4046 The chair now calls up H.R. 3994 -- that's number 12 on
4047 your list -- as forwarded by the Subcommittee on
4048 Communications and Technology on June 13th, 2018, and ask the
4049 clerk to report.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4050 [The Bill H. R. 3994 follows:]

4051

4052 *****INSERT 30*****

4053 The Clerk. H.R. 3994, to establish the Office of
4054 Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes.

4055 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
4056 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
4057 amendment at any point.

4058 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

4059 For what purpose does the gentleman from New York seek
4060 recognition?

4061 Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

4062 Chairman Walden. The clerk will report the Tonko
4063 amendment.

4064 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Tonko follows:]

4065

4066 *****INSERT 31*****

4067 The Clerk. The amendment to H.R. 3994, offered by Mr.
4068 Tonko.

4069 Chairman Walden. Without objection, further reading of
4070 the amendment is dispensed with. The gentleman from New York
4071 is recognized for five minutes to speak on his amendment.

4072 Mr. Tonko. Thank you. Thank you, Chair, and thank you
4073 to the chair and ranking member for moving this important
4074 legislation forward and I offer a special thanks to
4075 Representative Lance for partnering with me on this -- on
4076 this effort.

4077 Thanks also to the bipartisan group of members who have
4078 co-sponsored our legislation including 14 members of the
4079 Energy and Commerce Committee that have worked together with
4080 a shared belief that this is an issue worth addressing.

4081 I know from our conversations and my own experience that
4082 we are hearing from constituents across our districts on the
4083 need for basic broadband access.

4084 We know that advancing critical connectivity expands
4085 service, small business resources opportunities, access and
4086 database on assessed need and demand.

4087 As it happens, that is also the full name of our bill,
4088 H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act, which would establish a
4089 coordinating office for federal broadband resources.

4090 It would use existing assets to streamline management of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4091 federal broadband resources across multiple agencies and
4092 simplify the process for small businesses and local economic
4093 developers to leverage them.

4094 Broadband internet access can be the difference between
4095 success and failure for students doing homework, job seekers
4096 training for a new career, doctors reading a medical scan, or
4097 entrepreneurs starting a small business.

4098 However, to date, the federal government has done a poor
4099 job tracking broadband deployment. Currently, there is no
4100 comprehensive system that tracks where federal dollars are
4101 going and how the funding is impacting communities.

4102 Investments are made with little accountability and
4103 oversight on behalf of the taxpayer. ACCESS BROADBAND would
4104 begin to address this issue.

4105 Our bill tracks federal broadband dollars, streamlines
4106 management of federal broadband resources across multiple
4107 agencies, and, most notably, it simplifies the process for
4108 small businesses and local economic developers to access
4109 them.

4110 We made two minor changes in this amendment, including
4111 more clearly defining broadband support in Section 6 and
4112 updating the IMLS programs to better reflect which programs
4113 offer broadband support.

4114 I thank everyone for their work on ACCESS BROADBAND and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4115 with that, urge members to support the amendment.

4116 Mr. Chair, I yield back.

4117 Chairman Walden. Is there further discussion on the
4118 Tonko amendment?

4119 If not -- oh, for what purpose does the gentleman from
4120 New Jersey seek recognition?

4121 Mr. Lance. To strike the last word.

4122 Chairman Walden. The gentleman is recognized to speak
4123 on the amendment.

4124 Mr. Lance. Thank you. I thank Congressman Tonko for
4125 his leadership on this legislation.

4126 The amendments are technical in response to discussions
4127 with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and this
4128 underlying bill will ensure that additional federal broadband
4129 support is being offered in a technologically neutral manner
4130 and that overbuilding of broadband is avoided.

4131 I urge adoption of Mr. Tonko's amendment and the
4132 underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

4133 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
4134 of his time.

4135 Other members seeking recognition on the amendment?

4136 Anyone else seeking recognition on the underlying bill?

4137 If not, the vote occurs on the amendment.

4138 Those in favor will say aye.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4139 Those opposed, nay.

4140 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The
4141 amendment is adopted.

4142 Any further discussion on the underlying bill as
4143 amended?

4144 Seeing none, the question now occurs on favorably
4145 reporting H.R. 2345 as amended to the House.

4146 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

4147 Those opposed, no.

4148 The ayes appear to have it. The bill is favorably
4149 reported.

4150 The chair now calls up H.R. 4881 as forwarded by the
4151 Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on June 13th,
4152 2018 and ask the clerk to report.

4153 [The Bill H.R. 4881 follows:]

4154

4155 *****INSERT 32*****

4156 The Clerk. H.R. 4881, to require the Federal
4157 Communications Commission to establish a task force for
4158 meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision
4159 agriculture in the United States.

4160 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
4161 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
4162 amendment at any point.

4163 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

4164 Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

4165 Chairman Walden. Who is seeking recognition?

4166 Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

4167 Chairman Walden. Mr. Latta.

4168 Mr. Latta. Thank you.

4169 Chairman Walden. For what purpose do you seek
4170 recognition?

4171 Mr. Latta. I have a bipartisan amendment at the desk.

4172 Chairman Walden. The clerk will report the Latta
4173 amendment.

4174 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Latta follows:]

4175

4176 *****INSERT 33*****

4177 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 4881, offered by Mr.
4178 Latta.

4179 Chairman Walden. The chair now -- without further
4180 objection, further reading of the -- without objection,
4181 further reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

4182 The chair now recognizes Mr. Latta for purposes of
4183 speaking on his and Mr. Loeb's amendment.

4184 Mr. Latta. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

4185 My amendment to H.R. 4881 as forwarded by the
4186 subcommittee adds the full definition of broadband internet
4187 access service as written in the federal code and allows the
4188 definition to that evolved based on findings at the Federal
4189 Communications Commission.

4190 Furthermore, the amendment adds representatives to the
4191 task force with expertise in broadband network data
4192 collection, geospatial analysis, and coverage mapping.

4193 We all know that current broadband maps are not fully
4194 reliable or accurate. But a key duty of the task force is to
4195 determine whether broadband access is lacking most -- where
4196 broadband access is lacking most.

4197 Therefore, we believe, including experts on the task
4198 force that can speak on the mapping data and standards will
4199 have a positive effect on achieving the bill's underlying
4200 goal of evaluating and expanding broadband to unserved

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4201 agricultural areas.

4202 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
4203 my time.

4204 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

4205 Other members seeking recognition?

4206 The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for five minutes
4207 to speak on the amendment.

4208 Mr. Loeb sack. I thank the chair and ranking member for
4209 having this markup today and bringing the Precision
4210 Agriculture Connectivity Act up for consideration.

4211 I am very proud. I've worked on this legislation with
4212 my good friend, Representative Latta, and I am hopeful that
4213 after committee passage today we can quickly move to bring
4214 this legislation to the House floor and pass this act.

4215 I have met with small businesses, farmers, and rural
4216 telecommunications companies across Iowa over the past
4217 several years and here in D.C., and the importance of
4218 expanding high-speed internet access to rural areas is
4219 consistently a top priority.

4220 That's because internet access is just as critical for
4221 economic development, job growth, businesses, farmers, and
4222 families in rural America as it is in big cities, and we in
4223 rural American often have to remind folks of that.

4224 Farming is an integral component, of course, of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4225 rural economy and a source of pride for the rural community,
4226 and we need to be doing more to make sure that they have the
4227 tools to do their jobs and provide for the rest of us as
4228 well.

4229 The Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act will
4230 establish a task force to examine the broadband needs of
4231 farmers and rural communities so they can take advantage of
4232 these new technological advances in order to increase crop
4233 yields.

4234 The amendment Mr. Latta and I are offering today -- and,
4235 again, I thank him for working with me on this issue -- will
4236 ensure that members of the task force have the necessary
4237 expertise in data collection, geospatial analysis, and
4238 coverage mapping to improve the maps and get broadband to
4239 where it is needed most.

4240 I like to say that garbage in is garbage out. Let's get
4241 the right things in before we get the right things out. It's
4242 the only way to do it when it comes to information.

4243 We must focus on giving family farmers the opportunity
4244 to continue the long tradition of family farming and ensuring
4245 they have access to precision agriculture technologies is one
4246 of the best ways to support that.

4247 With that, I encourage members to support this amendment
4248 and the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act and America's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4249 farmers, and I yield back. Thank you.

4250 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

4251 Are there other members -- on the full bill? Okay.

4252 So we will get to that. Any other members wanting to
4253 speak on the amendment?

4254 If not, the question now arises on passing the Latta-
4255 Loeb sack amendment.

4256 Mr. Loeb sack. On the bill.

4257 Chairman Walden. We have got to do the amendment first,
4258 then you can strike on the bill, right? Am I doing all right
4259 here?

4260 Let's vote on the amendment.

4261 All those in favor, say aye.

4262 Those opposed, nay.

4263 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The
4264 amendment is adopted.

4265 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia, Mr.
4266 Carter, anchoring the important last seat on the committee,
4267 sort of. Next to last. That's right. We got a new --
4268 that's right. You've moved up in seniority recently.

4269 Mr. Carter. Yes, sir. I have.

4270 Chairman Walden. I forget that.

4271 [Laughter.]

4272 Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4273 word.

4274 Chairman Walden. Well, I think so. That would be a
4275 good idea. We will recognize you to strike the last word.

4276 Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4277 Mr. Chairman, I speak today in support of Chairman
4278 Latta's bill, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of
4279 2018.

4280 This bill is a step forward in modernizing and
4281 maximizing the agricultural tools and output that is the
4282 livelihood of our country's agricultural communities.

4283 In my home state of Georgia, agriculture means one of
4284 the top industries with incredible strides made in improving
4285 the crops and techniques of our ag industry.

4286 Chairman Latta's bill, which requires the FCC to
4287 establish a new task force for meeting connectivity and
4288 technology needs of precision agriculture, will help to
4289 identify shortfalls in rural broadband and how to overcome
4290 them.

4291 While the number of people who make their living off
4292 agriculture has fallen, our yields have increased thanks to
4293 technological improvements and the practices of the men and
4294 women who grow and produce our food stocks.

4295 Our farmers and ranchers face a different situation with
4296 overwhelming dedication towards what they do day in and day

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4297 out. Improving the connectivity in these areas, allowing
4298 them to use more technology to improve their operations will
4299 help our rural communities and will increase our agricultural
4300 returns.

4301 I want to thank Chairman Latta for introducing this
4302 legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it, and I
4303 yield back.

4304 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
4305 of his time.

4306 Other members seeking recognition?

4307 Seeing none, I'd like to go now to the chairman of the
4308 DCCP Subcommittee, Mr. Latta, to speak on the bill for five
4309 minutes.

4310 Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief.

4311 But, again, I'd like to thank you for bringing up this
4312 bill today for the full committee and I express my support
4313 again for H.R. 4881, Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act.

4314 I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Iowa,
4315 Mr. Loeb sack, for his work on this as we introduce this bill
4316 because we recognize the need for high speed broadband in
4317 rural agricultural land so that farmers can incorporate
4318 advanced technologies in their operations.

4319 Without broadband, farmers cannot utilize precision
4320 agriculture to help maximize resources to reduce costs,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4321 increase crop yields, and promote environmentally sustainable
4322 practices.

4323 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to
4324 support the measure and I thank you very much for bringing
4325 the bill up, and I yield back the balance of my time.

4326 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back the balance
4327 of his time.

4328 Other members seeking recognition to speak on this bill?

4329 Seeing none, the question now arises on favorably
4330 reporting H.R. 4881 as amended to the House.

4331 All those in favor shall say aye.

4332 Those opposed, no.

4333 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The bill
4334 as amended is adopted.

4335 Now, for record purposes, it's been brought to my
4336 attention I may have cited the wrong bill when we had a roll
4337 call vote before, and perhaps confused it with 2345. It
4338 should have been 3944 as amended. 3944 as amended.

4339 So there was no opposition to it. I just read the wrong
4340 bill number, I am told. Grabbed the wrong sheet. So just
4341 for the record, I have 3944. Maybe that's -- oh, well, that
4342 explains a lot.

4343 The bill is actually 3994. The talking points says
4344 3944. Yeah. I am not blaming it on the staff.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4345 [Laughter.]

4346 There, clearly, was an invasion in the computer system.

4347 It was hacked. All right.

4348 Moving right along, next, just wanted to thank you for
4349 bringing that to our attention. We want to be correct here.

4350 The chair now calls up H.R. 5709 -- on your program that
4351 would be number 14 -- as forwarded by the Committee on
4352 Communications and Technology on June 13th, 2018 and asks our
4353 clerk to report.

4354 [The Bill H.R. 5709 follows:]

4355

4356 *****INSERT 34*****

4357 The Clerk. H.R. 5709, the amend the Communications Act
4358 of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio
4359 and for other purposes.

4360 Chairman Walden. Without objection, the first reading
4361 of the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for
4362 amendment at any point.

4363 Are there any amendments?

4364 The chair recognizes the gentleman from New York for
4365 what purpose?

4366 Mr. Collins. Mr. Chairman, I have a bipartisan
4367 amendment at the desk.

4368 Chairman Walden. The clerk will report the amendment.

4369 [The Amendment offered by Mr. Collins follows:]

4370

4371 *****INSERT 35*****

4372 The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 5709, offered by Mr.
4373 Collins.

4374 Chairman Walden. Without objection, further reading of
4375 the amendment is dispensed with. The chair recognizes the
4376 gentleman from New York for five minutes to speak on his
4377 amendment.

4378 Mr. Collins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4379 This amendment makes changes to the underlying bill that
4380 will prevent pirates from wreaking havoc on our broadcast
4381 system.

4382 In terms of enforcement, this amendment requires annual
4383 enforcement sweeps with additional monitoring sweeps and
4384 gives the FCC the ability to swiftly initiate penalties on
4385 illegal operators.

4386 Additionally, this amendment requires the FCC to
4387 establish a pirate radio broadcasting database. This
4388 database will include a list of legally licensed stations and
4389 a list of known pirates or entities who have received notices
4390 of noncompliance by the FCC.

4391 The database will empower local ad purchasers to ensure
4392 they are purchasing time from legitimately licensed stations.
4393 The goal of this database is to deter local businesses and
4394 other ad purchasers from allowing their funds to prop up
4395 these bad actors.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4396 I thank Representative Lance for his leadership on this
4397 legislation. This is an issue that I have been involved in
4398 for many years and I am proud to be part of a resolution.

4399 I want to thank the chairman again for his support, urge
4400 adoption of my amendment, and yield the balance of my time to
4401 Mr. Lance.

4402 Mr. Lance. Thank you, Mr. Collins, and I thank Mr.
4403 Collins for his amendment, which I support.

4404 I also thank Congressman Doyle for his leadership on
4405 this issue.

4406 A pirate radio is a public safety issue that affects
4407 broadcasters and consumers around the country. I am hopeful
4408 that providing the FCC with the additional enforcement tools
4409 in this bill will lead to meaningful results in combating
4410 pirate radio.

4411 I urge the adoption of the Collins amendment and I also
4412 urge adoption of the underlying bill that I am proud to
4413 support with Ranking Member Doyle of the subcommittee.

4414 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4415 Chairman Walden. The time is controlled by the
4416 gentleman from New York.

4417 Mr. Lance. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

4418 Mr. Collins. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4419 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4420 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania,
4421 Mr. Doyle, for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

4422 Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4423 I am pleased to be offering this amendment with Mr.
4424 Collins and happy that the co-sponsors of this bill, Mr.
4425 Lance and Mr. Tonko, as well as the majority, worked with us
4426 to address some of the concerns with this bill.

4427 This amendment will help ensure that the FCC's
4428 enforcement bureau addresses the threats posed by pirate
4429 radio while not unduly taking away time and resources from
4430 other critical missions conducted by the bureau and the
4431 commission's field staff.

4432 I am pleased that we were able to strike this balance
4433 and look forward to continuing to work with the majority on
4434 this legislation.

4435 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I urge its adoption and
4436 yield back.

4437 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

4438 Other members seeking recognition?

4439 The gentleman from New York, Mr. Tonko, is recognized
4440 for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

4441 Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank
4442 Representative Lance for all of his hard work on the
4443 important legislation. I thank the New York broadcasters for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4444 its dedication to this effort.

4445 For years now, I, along with many members of the New
4446 York and New Jersey delegations have voiced our concerns on
4447 the issue. Yet, pirate radio operators are as prevalent as
4448 ever and their actions have been met with few consequences.

4449 One of the most serious concerns is that pirate radio
4450 broadcasters interfere with the Emergency Alert Services, or
4451 EAS signal broadcasts, thereby threatening millions of
4452 Americans' ability to receive notification in the event of an
4453 emergency or national crisis.

4454 This represents a growing threat, since climate change
4455 causes more and more extreme weather events. Pirates also
4456 interfere with airport communications. They do not comply
4457 with consumer protection laws or any FCC regulations,
4458 exposing consumers, especially those living in the most
4459 vulnerable communities, and in some cases causing very real
4460 hardships.

4461 This legislation comes in response to the growing number
4462 of pirate radio broadcasters in our nation that are harming
4463 consumers and public safety.

4464 The FCC has taken some positive steps to remedy this
4465 issue. But more needs to be done. The PIRATE Act would
4466 increase penalties and restrictions on pirate radio, whether
4467 a radio frequency is being used by first responders

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4468 coordinating to save lives or parents who just want to keep
4469 obscenity and bigotry away from their children. Our
4470 communities are better served when broadcasters respect the
4471 rule of law.

4472 With that, I urge members -- all members -- to support
4473 the amendment and the PIRATE Act and yield back, Mr. Chair.

4474 Chairman Walden. The gentleman yields back.

4475 The chair would recognize himself for five minutes to
4476 speak on the amendment and the underlying bill.

4477 I want to commend my colleagues on both sides of the
4478 aisle. As many of you know, I was in the radio business for
4479 21 years and played by the rules, and there are a lot of
4480 them, and the things that these pirate radio stations do can
4481 be pretty vile and vulgar and also interfere with legitimate
4482 and legal communication.

4483 And so it is important that our committee take these
4484 steps. I commend members on both sides for helping move this
4485 effort forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

4486 Are there other members seeking recognition?

4487 Seeing none, the question now arises on the Collins-
4488 Doyle amendment, I believe.

4489 All those in favor will say aye.

4490 Those opposed, nay.

4491 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

4492 amendment is adopted.

4493 Are there other members seeking recognition to speak on
4494 the bill?

4495 If not, the question now arises on H.R. -- forwarding
4496 H.R. 5709 as amended to the House floor due pass.

4497 Those in favor will say aye.

4498 Those opposed, nay.

4499 The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it and H.R.
4500 5709 is, as amended, forwarded to the floor.

4501 Without objection, the staff is authorized to make
4502 technical and conforming changes to the legislation
4503 considered by the committee today. So ordered.

4504 And without objection, the --

4505 Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I just -- if I could, House
4506 Rule 11 Clause 2 allocates the committee minority two
4507 additional calendar days to file supplemental and dissenting
4508 views on legislation that is reported out and forwarded to
4509 the House.

4510 Pursuant to that rule and clause, I am giving notice of
4511 our intent to file such views, and I thank you.

4512 Chairman Walden. And the committee stands adjourned.

4513 Thank you, everyone.

4514 [Whereupon, at 2:09 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701