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No. 37

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, speak Your Word into this day, for it is enduring. Your precepts are righteous.

When we imagine that listening to the rhetoric of the day will increase our worth or improve our stature, remind us that Your decrees are more precious than even the purest gold. When we assume that human praise and accolades will delight us, remind us that approval from You is sweeter than honey.

Keep us then from knowingly attending to anything but Your own voice. Prevent us from willfully ignoring Your guidance. Teach us how to speak and to think as You would have us do, that on this day in the work You have set before us, we would bring honor to You.

Then may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight and acceptable to Your ears, our rock and redeemer.

In Your merciful name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING COACH DARYL MURPHY

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daryl Murphy, head coach of Murphysboro High School basketball team who recently secured his 600th win for the Red Devils.

Coach Murphy has led his team with commitment, discipline, and heart since 1996. His teams have been models of consistency, including an incredible 34-1 record during the 2010-2011 season. That year, the Red Devils finished second in the State of Illinois, with their only loss coming at the championship game.

Coach Murphy's legacy goes far beyond the wins and losses. It is found in the character he builds in his players and the pride he brings to his community.

That same Murphysboro pride that I was taught when I was in school there myself, which emphasizes punctuality, respect, integrity, discipline, and excellence, is always front and center when the Murphysboro Red Devils step on the court.

Coach Murphy is a staple in our community, a devoted husband to his wife, Diana, and father to his son, Daryl.

Being a lifelong resident of Murphysboro and a graduate of Murphysboro High School myself, I congratulate Coach Murphy, his wife, Diana, and their son, Daryl, on this remarkable moment.

I know Coach Murphy won't let this accomplishment slow him down. As a matter of fact, I think he has had three other wins since that time.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Daryl Murphy for all he has done for the city of Murphysboro and the young people of that community.

HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I stand with deep gratitude and respect for our dedicated first responders who exemplify the true spirit of commitment to their oaths to protect and serve.

When this past weekend's explosion rocked Perdue's feed mill in Cofield, North Carolina, it was our first responders who rushed toward danger, demonstrating an unwavering sense of duty without hesitation.

I thank Captain Kendail Swain, Sergeant Tymesha Cherry, Deputy Holden Brickhouse, along with firefighters Alex and Robert Ward, who put their lives on the line, and to all of our first responders who remind us of the importance of selflessness.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt prayers to the families affected in the Hertford County community. I also recognize Sheriff Hayes and Chief Askew. I truly am honored to recognize these remarkable first responders as the heroes that they are.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

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

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



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H2299

the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program and our current CBYX intern, Max Groene.

For more than 40 years, thousands of young Germans and Americans have had the opportunity to live, learn, and work in the program's respective countries.

As co-chair of the German-American Caucus, I am proud to support the CBYX program and will continue working to strengthen the relationship between our two great nations.

The CBYX program is a great opportunity for participants to gain a new perspective on global affairs and politics and immerse themselves in new cultures.

Max, a native of Berlin, Germany, began interning on Capitol Hill earlier this year. Before moving to Washington, D.C., he spent a semester at Snow College in Utah.

Max has spent this month helping our office with everyday operations. Following his time in D.C., he will complete an internship in Oregon with an energy company.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Max for joining our office this month. He has represented Germany well, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

WAVERLY DAVIS AND RION WALKER WIN BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY COMPETITION

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student winners of my first annual Black History Month Essay Competition: Waverly Davis from Reeves Middle School in Olympia, Washington, and Rion Walker from Curtis Senior High School in University Place.

I created this program to help students share the stories of Black leaders who have influenced Washington State, especially in the times we are in today.

Waverly highlighted Dorothy Hollingsworth, the first Black woman elected to the Seattle School Board in 1975, who went on to serve on the Washington State Board of Education. Hollingsworth's commitment to civil rights and equality laid the foundation for all Washington students.

From Waverly's essay: "Her story has made me feel hope that things aren't always as set in stone as they seem."

Rion wrote about Quincy Jones, producer, composer, and musician, who started his journey in Seattle and broke racial barriers across the music and film industries.

From Rion's essay: "Talent exists everywhere, but opportunity does not, and addressing this gap is a civic responsibility."

I thank our judges and all the students who participated. These essays remind us that Black history is Washington State history and American history.

Happy Black History Month.

STEPHENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION HATCHELL CUP

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephenville High School, which I am honored to represent in the United States Congress.

On February 9, the National Football Foundation named Stephenville High School the national winner of the Hatchell Cup award. This is the highest academic team honor in high school football, and the Yellow Jackets were awarded this distinction with an outstanding 4.0 team GPA.

Our community is proud to see Stephenville High School complete the football season undefeated and bring home another State title. The young men and coaches on this team have spent countless hours preparing both on and off the field. The Hatchell Cup recognition is a testament to their hard work and success.

I congratulate the players, Head Coach Sterling Doty, and the Stephenville community. Go Yellow Jackets.

In God we trust.

□ 0910

CREATE TARIFF POLICY THAT SUPPORTS U.S. ECONOMY

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress, and Congress alone, the "power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises."

As Chief Justice John Roberts correctly noted last week, the Framers were explicit: The executive has no given power to reach into the pockets of the people to impose taxes and tariffs.

The Supreme Court has now confirmed two truths that we have known: Tariffs are a tax on consumers, on you and me; and number two, the President's disastrous, on-again-off-again tariffs are not just illegal, they are also unconstitutional. I am thankful to the Court for so clearly recognizing and rooting their opinion in our Constitution.

Now we must turn our focus to those who unjustly suffered because of this President's economic chaos. The Treasury Department must immediately issue refunds for the \$134 billion stolen from American families and businesses.

I call upon all of my colleagues in Congress, Republicans and Democrats, let's work together to create tariff policy that supports U.S. economic objectives, laws that give businesses the se-

curity and time needed for investments, and that bring costs down for consumers.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROOSEVELT NIVENS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate and honor Dr. Roosevelt Nivens, Superintendent of Schools for Lamar Consolidated Independent School District for recently being named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year by The School Superintendents Association.

Dr. Nivens leads the way with innovation, high standards, accountability, and joy for leading.

Lamar Consolidated Independent School District is one of the fastest-growing school districts in Texas, serving nearly 49,000 students across nearly 60 campuses.

Before being named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Nivens was named the Texas Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Under Dr. Nivens' leadership, Lamar Consolidated performs above the State average in academics, with all 57 campuses meeting accountability standards.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Nivens for investing in the education and future of our children and for his commitment to our community. He continues to make the 22nd Congressional District of Texas proud.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Ana High School girls wrestling team. They finished as Empire League champs, Southern CIF champions, champions of the Division I dual, and Eastern Division individual tournament champs. They finished fourth place in the CIF Southern Section Masters.

Mr. Speaker, five of these wrestlers will be moving on to wrestle in the State's championship tournament.

I thank Head Coaches Tim Byers and Fernando Serratos. I also thank Assistant Coaches Liborio Salazar, Alex Becerra, Monica Serratos, Jose Leon, and Stephanie Zamora for teaching our young Saints leadership qualities, and what hard work and dedication can mean at the end of the day.

These young ladies are wrestling champs all while maintaining a GPA of 3.48.

Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to the Saints. Once a Saint, always a Saint.

CONGRATULATING ANDY COLLINS
ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Andy Collins, a lieutenant game warden retiring after 33 impressive years of service to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Andy grew up in Knoxville and graduated from my alma mater, Bearden High School. He attended the University of Tennessee and earned a degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences. He began his career in Hawkins County before moving south to Loudon County. His responsibilities eventually expanded to include 11 counties in east Tennessee, covering all of Tennessee's Second District.

Throughout his 33-year career, Andy has exemplified the mission of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the State's fish and wildlife. Andy knows more about wildlife than anyone I know. As a matter of fact, he has forgotten more than I will ever know. When I run into a problem on my farm, he is the first person I call. Whether it is with deer or turkey or anything else, he is always quick to pick up my call.

Andy will spend his retirement days doing what he loves best: spending time outdoors with his beautiful wife, Mary Jo; his son, Wyatt; and his daughter, Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Andy on his achievement. I thank him so much for his service to our great country and to the beautiful State of Tennessee. It is a much better place because of folks like him and the great folks at TWRA.

HOMEOWNER ENERGY FREEDOM
ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1075, I call up the bill (H.R. 4758) to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas). Pursuant to House Resolution 1075, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4758

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeowner Energy Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. HOMEOWNER ENERGY FREEDOM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following are repealed:

(1) Section 50122 of Public Law 117-169 (42 U.S.C. 18795a) (relating to a high-efficiency electric home rebate program).

(2) Section 50123 of Public Law 117-169 (42 U.S.C. 18795b) (relating to State-based home energy efficiency contractor training grants).

(3) Section 50131 of Public Law 117-169 (136 Stat. 2041) (relating to assistance for latest and zero building energy code adoption).

(b) RESCISSIONS.—The unobligated balances of any amounts made available under each of sections 50122 and 50131 of Public Law 117-169 (42 U.S.C. 18795a; 136 Stat. 2041) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) are rescinded.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 50121(c)(7) of Public Law 117-169 (42 U.S.C. 18795(c)(7)) is amended by striking “, including a rebate provided under a high-efficiency electric home rebate program (as defined in section 50122(d)),”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4758.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4758, the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Texas' 12th Congressional District.

The Homeowner Energy Freedom Act repeals disastrous policies from the Inflation Reduction Act that were used to subsidize expensive mandates and implement backdoor fossil fuel bans.

Today, in the United States, the dream of home ownership is out of reach for far too many Americans. In fact, 75 percent of households today cannot afford a medium-priced home.

□ 0920

Mr. Speaker, provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act to force States to implement green energy building codes only serve to make matters worse.

It is estimated that building codes associated with the HOMES rebate program raises the cost of a single-family home by \$31,000. These building codes effectively prevent the use of natural gas and require expensive equipment to accommodate EV chargers and other intermittent energy sources.

It is important to remember that upwards of 60 percent of homes utilize natural gas appliances and that the number rises to more than 75 percent in colder climate States. These aren't just talking points. They are real-world impacts.

Take Kansas City, for example. After adopting the latest IECC building codes, the city saw a 22 percent decrease in construction permits, while the surrounding communities saw a 117 percent increase.

The data is clear. The cost of a new home goes up when Democrats get their green mandates in place. If the Biden administration's so-called energy efficiency regulatory agenda was cost effective for the American people, why did they also have to have a billion dollar slush fund to pay for it?

Instead of a one-size-fits-all mandate from Washington, House Republicans are focused on limiting the authority of the Federal Government, making it easier to build affordable homes and taking advantage of abundant natural gas reserves beneath our Nation.

Importantly, H.R. 4758 builds on the important work of the Working Families Tax Cut law by officially putting an end to these egregious authorities so future abuses cannot occur.

By passing this legislation, House Republicans are continuing to address the affordability for hardworking American households and responsibly protecting finite taxpayer resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans simply cannot help themselves. It is bad enough that they refuse to do anything to address the affordability crisis that American families are facing today. Republicans are doubling down on bills that will drive up energy costs for families when they are simply being stretched too thin.

Yesterday, we were here on the House floor debating a bill that guts appliance efficiency standards which save families money on their power bills. Today, we are back to debate the gutting of another popular program that lowers upfront appliance prices.

Mr. Speaker, this is the seventh bill about appliances that we have debated on the House floor this past year. When I am back home in New Jersey talking to my constituents, no one ever brings up showerhead flow or how much water their dishwasher uses.

These folks want to know how we can put a stop to Trump's disastrous tariffs which are a tax on the American people and which raise the price of absolutely everything we buy.

They want to know what Congress is doing to lower their skyrocketing healthcare premiums. They want to know why Congress is asleep at the wheel, while they struggle to make ends meet, watch their power bills go up every month, and have to start making impossible choices between paying for medicine or keeping their lights on.

Sorry, folks, apparently Republicans in Washington don't have time for any of that. They are focused on passing another appliance bill instead—talk about out of touch. This bill repeals and rescinds funding for three important Department of Energy programs.

First, it rescinds funding from the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate program. This is a \$4.5 billion

program created by Democrats as part of the Inflation Reduction Act to lower the upfront costs of appliance upgrades for low- and moderate-income families. The families get a rebate. It helps families better afford appliances for their homes. With this bill, House Republicans are eliminating the funding for the rebate. Again, they are driving up costs on American families.

The second thing this bill does is to rescind funding from a program designed to help with building energy code adoption. That might sound a little obscure, but it is also important from a cost point of view.

Third, they repeal a program that provides assistance for contractor training. Even these two programs that might seem less important than the rebate are still programs that reduce costs for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress it enough. This bill only worsens the affordability crisis for American families. Trump promised to cut Americans' power bills in half during his first year. That didn't happen. In fact, electricity prices are up 15 percent and increasing twice as fast as inflation just since Trump took office.

More than 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills. Even though these price increases are a direct result of Republican policies, today House Republicans are choosing to double down. Rather than working on constructive solutions that help Americans, they are choosing to cut funding that helps homeowners and businesses save money.

There is a reason why electrification rebates are popular. Again, these are rebates that help people. Some States have already rolled out their rebate programs and are seeing significant interest.

Despite how Republicans try to frame them, rebates are not mandates. Rebates are optional, and they provide discounts to families who have crunched the numbers and made the decision that electrification would help them save money. Republicans want to take away that choice at a time of skyrocketing energy costs and energy demand.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. The programs that this bill targets are designed to lower costs, create jobs, and help Americans across the country. I only wish that Republicans cared more about that than wasting floor time with ridiculous antiefficiency and anticonsumer bills.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOLDMAN), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing a housing affordability crisis. When I was growing up, the median age of a first-

time home buyer was 29 years old. Today, it is 40 years old. Since then, the median home price has increased by more than 400 percent. As a result, nearly 75 percent of U.S. households cannot afford the typical price tag of a new home.

Homes are simply too expensive for many Americans, and burdensome Federal Government regulations are a major driver of these rising costs. The Biden administration mandated mountains of red tape, dictating what Americans have to put in their homes.

Specifically, they imposed costly climate change codes, restricting which appliances families can use to cook their food and heat their homes. The Homeowner Energy Freedom Act would change that. This bill is simple, but its implications are significant.

First, it helps reduce the cost of building new homes. Regulations account for nearly 25 percent of the price of constructing a single-family home. Instead of improving housing affordability, the Federal Government is burying the dream of homeownership under 6 feet of red tape.

Some of my Democratic colleagues argue that green energy regulations save homeowners on utility bills. If electric appliances are so cost effective, why did Democrats need to allocate billions in taxpayer money to mandate their installation?

In reality, these green energy regulations fail to lower utility costs, and they increase overall costs of new homes. Homebuilders have estimated that these energy regulations have increased the price tag of a new home by up to \$31,000.

Second, this bill restores Americans' freedom to make their own choices in their own homes. Americans don't need the Democrats and Washington, D.C., bureaucrats dictating which appliances they can or cannot have in their own home.

Federal overreach threatens the American Dream of homeownership. For generations, Americans have worked hard, raised families, and built their lives in their homes. Homeownership remains foundational to financial security and long-term prosperity.

Americans are calling on Congress to improve housing affordability. We must act to ensure hardworking Americans can raise a family in a home of their own. We must repeal these costly green energy mandates. We must reduce the cost of new homes. We must return consumer choice to homeowners. We must restore the American Dream of homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act.

□ 0930

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

Mr. Speaker, I will debunk some comments that were made by my colleague from Texas.

Both of the speakers on the other side of the aisle repeatedly cited the

National Association of Home Builders' estimate that building a home to meet the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code standard would add as much as \$31,000 in costs to a new home.

This is flawed. It is intentionally misleading. Republicans are trying to demonize energy codes that actually save Americans money and deliver increased comfort, health, and climate benefits, all to prop up their fossil fuel buddies.

This figure of \$31,000 originally came from Kansas City. When you actually analyze the cost breakdown, it includes costs that are not required by the 2021 energy code.

For example, the costs include over \$18,000 for double-wall construction, but the code doesn't require double-wall construction.

It includes \$3,000 for a ventilation energy package. The code does not require this package. It only requires one of several energy options, like energy-saving water heaters.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on debunking these claims, but hopefully you get the point that this fictitious figure is just meant to mislead the public about energy building costs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Energy Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4758. It is a bill that is going to sock it to the pocketbooks of our hardworking neighbors back home. Republicans appear to be doing everything they can to stick their heads in the sand when it comes to the affordability squeeze.

Higher costs, that is the last thing that our neighbors back home need right now. Yet, there is this relentless march by Republicans to bring bills to the floor that rip away savings from people who could really use it right now.

What does this bill do? It guts a very popular, commonsense initiative that hardworking Americans rely on. In 2022, Congress passed some rebates to help people afford home appliances through two home energy rebate initiatives that helped to lower their electric bills.

The first is the Home Efficiency Rebates Program, or HOMES. That is the rebate to households that conduct whole-house energy-saving retrofits. That means that our neighbors can increase insulation in their homes or improve their HVAC systems.

The second is the Home Electrification and Appliances Rebate Program, or HEAR. That provides rebates to upgrade electric panels, conduct weatherization, or purchase an appliance like an electric water heater or air-conditioner, because oftentimes we know that people need a little bit of help with that upfront cost. If they can get a little help to afford an upgraded appliance, that is going to save them money in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, it is just a real head-scratcher as to why Republicans are bringing this bill in the midst of an affordability crisis, but I think if you listened to the State of the Union Address last night, that is a little bit illuminating because the President said that everything is great in America. He solved it. There is no affordability squeeze. Look, our economy is roaring. Everybody is doing great.

That is not what I hear from my neighbors back home in Florida. Everything costs more. In fact, 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills.

Electric rates across the country are up by 13 percent on average and are higher in a lot of places. Then, these illegal, arbitrary tariffs have added to this affordability squeeze. Many analyses have it that the average household is paying \$1,700 more per year because of the Trump tariffs, and Republicans in Congress have been supportive the entire way along.

Even after the United States Supreme Court ruled last week that the tariffs—these high import taxes, the highest in 100 years on households, making their groceries, their appliances, and everything else cost more—are illegal and that the President doesn't have the authority to do that, the President doubles down and says that he does.

In fact, the President is going to inflict more pain, and Republicans last night in this Chamber cheered—cheered—more taxes on hardworking Americans.

This relates directly to the bill that we are debating today because we are talking about affordable appliances. Do you know what tariffs have done to the cost of appliances? Tariffs have driven a steady rise in appliance pricing, hitting American consumers with higher costs for essentials like refrigerators, washers, dryers, and dishwashers.

Since most appliances rely on imported steel, aluminum, and foreign-made components, such as motors and control boards, tariffs on both finished goods and parts have pushed up production and import costs. Retailers and manufacturers are working on very slim margins. They have passed along all of these increases directly to shoppers, leading to some of the fastest price jumps in years.

Now that the President thumbs his nose at what the Supreme Court has told him and is now inflicting new pain and new taxes on Americans, new tariffs, that is going to keep the prices of appliances elevated at a time when people are really under the gun and feeling the squeeze. They are going to make it harder to replace or upgrade big-ticket items.

The result is the persistent squeeze on American budgets with no meaningful relief in sight. People will tell you this. They will say that they might have listened to that speech last night, but they are out of touch. Everything is not all well.

The affordability crisis is not solved, and now Republicans bring a bill to the floor that makes it harder and makes everything more expensive for people back home.

Mr. Speaker, 54 States and territories are already getting these rebate initiatives out, getting the money into the pockets of consumers. Governors and State energy offices have dedicated their own funding and staff time, and they are working with the Department of Energy. This is something that Americans of all political stripes will support, and they need it.

Texas received \$689 million to help Texans afford new appliances and weatherize their homes. Ohio received \$249 million. Republicans are going to rip that away. Kentucky received \$134 million.

In Georgia and North Carolina, where rebates are already in place, participating families are saving over \$1,000 a year. That doesn't make up for the tariffs, the pain inflicted and the higher costs that people are paying, but it will sure help. Every dollar will help working families right now.

In Florida, I know my neighbors are very eager to take advantage of the \$346 million in cost savings that will come under these initiatives. We received it just last week.

Mr. Speaker, do you know why it is particularly important to parts of the country that have experienced disasters and hurricanes? I will tell you a story. I was meeting with a small business owner and homeowners last week who are still recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

One of my neighbors, Rebecca, is a retiree on a fixed income and living in a 960-square-foot home in St. Petersburg. When Hurricane Helene hit, she lost her car, her furniture, her washer and dryer, and her air-conditioner. What happened in the subsequent months? Electric bills went up, up, up. Last year, she paid \$170 in May, \$258 in June, and \$314 in July. As people try to rebuild, they could really use these rebates as they are replacing their appliances.

Why do Republicans want to make life so much harder and more expensive? I guess it is because they believed what the President said last night, that everything is great, everything is fine, nothing to see here.

Mr. Speaker, that is out of touch. It is really out of touch.

For all of these reasons, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would require the Secretary of Energy to certify that implementation of this act would not increase costs for homeowners and renters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our neighbors are suffering an affordability crisis. They want policymakers in Washington, D.C., to help solve problems and bring down the cost of living.

Every time the President and congressional Republicans deny that this is happening and say that everything is great and everything is well, they are doing a real disservice to hardworking American families.

Tariffs, higher electric bills, the cost of housing, and the cost of groceries, you can't turn a blind eye to it, and you shouldn't. What you should do is adopt my motion to recommit and defeat this bill. Vote "no." Our neighbors deserve better.

□ 0940

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill, and I adopt the comments of my distinguished colleague from Florida.

I also wish to speak on behalf of the unanimous consent that we will request.

The President last night spoke to the Nation. One of the things he said was that TSA, the Coast Guard, and FEMA are not operating. That is accurate. They are not operating because we have a disagreement in this House between Republicans and Democrats on whether those agencies ought to be funded. We do have a deep and severe disagreement with the administration with respect to how ICE and CBP are operating, contrary to the Constitution, contrary to the laws of our country, and contrary to the norms of police departments all over this country, which have resulted in the deaths of a number of American citizens egregiously and, in my view, illegally.

That unanimous consent request will simply say that we will fund all of those agencies that are within the Department of Homeland Security that are not controversial, not because we absolutely agree with every expenditure, but we have come together on a consensus. The American people, Mr. Speaker, ought to know that Democrats are prepared to vote for the funding of TSA, of FEMA, of the Secret Service, of the Coast Guard, and every other agency that is acting within the bounds of the Constitution and acting legally within the bounds of the Constitution.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, this hand-wringing about TSA perhaps shutting down or employees of TSA working without pay, they should not be doing that. We ought to open up TSA. We ought to open up the

Coast Guard. They are critical employees, so they are working but without pay. We ought to pay them. We ought to have FEMA open, as the President said last night, so that it can serve the American people, particularly at a time when we just had a gargantuan storm in the northeast.

I rise in strong support of a unanimous consent that the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations (Ms. DELAURO) will be asking for. This is a unanimous consent that makes sense. It makes common sense and on which we have agreement.

What we disagree with is the unconstitutional, illegal, unlawful, and death-causing activities of an out-of-control agency at the instance of the President of the United States.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's make sense. Let's say yes to what we agree on.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the leader on our side of the aisle on the Committee on Appropriations, for initiating this effort. I took this time because I am not sure we are going to have time on the other bill. I urge Members on the Republican side of the aisle, do not object to this unanimous consent because it does what Republicans say we ought to be doing: Funding those agencies, those operations, those very critical activities for the American people on which we agree.

What the American people are so frustrated about is we seem to not even be able to move on that on which we agree. Let's show them that yes, we can agree. And let's also recognize and admit that we have a difference of opinion on a very critical issue, an issue at the heart of our Constitution of how we treat individuals in this country: that we don't go around arresting people with masks on and putting them in unmarked cars and disappearing them, that we don't have heavily armed troops coming out of cars into the streets of our cities to confront a woman who is driving her car alongside and heckling the police. We may not agree with that, but it is certainly within the bounds of our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason that we ought to have TSA shut down, FEMA shut down, the Coast Guard shut down, and the Secret Service shut down. They are really not shut down because we are making them work, but we are saying, by the way, we can't pay you.

If Republicans get up and say Democrats are shutting down those agencies, they are not telling the truth because Democrats are prepared right now to pass legislation which will be offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) to fund everything but that on which we disagree. Isn't that reasonable? Isn't that what we ought to be doing as legislators, as Americans, as people who have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of this country?

I urge my colleagues, particularly my Republican colleagues, do not object because your objection will be to continue to hamper the agencies on which we agree that are serving the American people.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for standing and speaking today about something that should be a bipartisan effort, a unanimous consent effort to make sure that those public servants who fight every single day, come to work, and play by the rules are funded. In this body, there is agreement that we need to fund TSA. We need to fund the Coast Guard. We need to fund FEMA, the Secret Service, and cybersecurity. Those are integral parts of our government. They serve a great purpose to the American people.

There is not a shred of difference between Democrats and Republicans on those issues. Why then can we not by unanimous consent say let us fund these agencies through the rest of the year?

Where we have serious disagreements with ICE or CBP, we can, on a parallel track, be able to address those issues.

I could not be more proud to have worked on a bipartisan basis, to pass 11 appropriations bills, 11 of our appropriations bills, reclaiming the power of the purse for the Congress, as it should be. That is what we are doing here with making sure that we can fund these agencies through the rest of the year.

There are serious difficulties with ICE. The American public gets it. They understand it. This is a marauding band of masked and armed agents all over our streets, terrorizing our communities and being responsible for the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. It is unconscionable.

The Democrats have made reasonable demands for reform, reforms that have been in the public view now for a very long time. How about we don't detain and deport American citizens? How about we unmask? How about we use body cameras? How about we obtain a warrant before you knock on somebody's door? How about we train officers, serious training, not 47 days of training?

These are absolutely bedrock reforms that can be done, and we can overhaul an agency, make it run as it is supposed to be run. Do we need to have border enforcement? Yes, but this is out of control.

That is the debate that we should be having and the negotiation that we should be having, not on the agencies that play such a role. Look, we just had serious snowstorms all over the country. My State of Connecticut declared an emergency. Aren't we going to indicate that we are going to deal with FEMA and help people out?

Very simply speaking, it is a simple premise. Let's take the Department of

Homeland Security bill where we have major agreement on the bulk of the bill, let us pass the bill in that context and fund those agencies, take care of those folks, and fight for demands on reforming ICE and CBC.

□ 0950

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

Last night, the President finally admitted that the American public is concerned about the price increases. If you care about affordability, why would you repeal a rebate program that helps Americans with their electricity bills, which is exactly what this bill unfortunately does? It repeals the rebate.

That rebate is at the point of sale. When you go out and buy an appliance or a heat pump or something, you actually get a discount on the sale price. That is the rebate, at the point of sale.

This bill targets this very popular electrification rebate program, a program that is already active in 12 States plus the District of Columbia. Those States include North Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, and Indiana. All but two States in the country have applied for the program funding.

What they are essentially doing is eliminating this rebate program, which is clearly popular, in the very middle of it, while Americans are taking advantage of it.

I think it is disingenuous to portray this as some kind of red State or blue State program. It is popular across the board amongst Republicans and Democrats.

With this bill, House Republicans are voting to rip funding away from 12 States that have active programs and against the interests of 46 total States who have applied for the program and are about to put it in the process.

At full deployment, the rebate program is expected to deliver \$275 million in annual energy savings with participating families projected to save about \$1,000 a year, and the installation of these appliances is projected to support 23,000 jobs.

Why are you eliminating a program like this that puts money back into Americans' pockets when they are concerned about affordability?

To date, electrification rebates have served 16,000 homes and resulted in \$7.6 million in annual savings. This is across only the 13 active programs that I mentioned.

These programs are all designed in unique ways to meet States' needs in local context, and obviously Americans are interested.

If Republicans are successful in repealing this rebate program, they are not just scrapping some hypothetical program. They are removing real dollars from real States, real people, including the States that they represent.

Again, we have this affordability crisis. Why eliminate a rebate that puts money back in Americans' pockets?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, returning to the legislation before us, we are here to debate H.R. 4758, the Homeowner Energy Freedom Act. Again, I thank the gentleman from Texas' 12th Congressional District for sponsoring this legislation.

This legislation is about reversing the damage caused by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act's aggressive regulatory agenda and taxpayer-funded spending spree.

Whatever happened to the free market? What has happened to consumer choice?

Housing affordability is a critical issue facing the American people. Look at the numbers.

The costs associated with IRA programs this bill seeks to repeal significantly add to the price of new homes and lead to higher energy bills for the American people.

According to the Federal Reserve, median home prices have skyrocketed over the past decade, with the largest increase from 2020 to 2022, which saw a 40 percent increase in median homes.

When you talk about the home rebates that we are talking about here today and who is getting them, it provides taxpayer subsidies for households earning over 150 percent of the median household income for the area.

The data from 2024 shows that the median income in the District of Columbia was \$104,800, meaning that households in Washington making up to \$156,000 can receive taxpayer subsidies to upgrade their appliances. In the same numbers in 2024, median income for Massachusetts was \$113,900, meaning that households making up to \$170,850, which is nearly double the nationwide median household income, qualify.

H.R. 4758 brings the dream of homeownership back to millions of Americans.

By the way, let's talk about electricity costs again. We talk about this a lot, reliable power, affordable power. Look at the increases. Where is it? It starts in Maryland and goes to Maine. It is California. If I lived in those States, as I said before, I would call my legislators in those States and say: What are you doing out there? What is the Governor doing?

Look where those States are and look where the affordability crisis is in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1075, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Castor of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4758 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. CASTOR of Florida is as follows:

Ms. Castor of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4758 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. CERTIFICATION.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy publishes a certification that the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act will not result in increased costs for homeowners and renters.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 208, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—198

Adams	Davids (KS)	Huffman
Aguilar	Davis (IL)	Ivey
Amo	Davis (NC)	Jackson (IL)
Ansari	Dean (PA)	Jacobs
Auchincloss	DeGette	Jayapal
Balint	DeLauro	Jeffries
Barragán	DelBene	Johnson (GA)
Beatty	Deluzio	Kamlager-Dove
Bell	DeSaulnier	Kaptur
Bera	Dexter	Kelly (IL)
Beyer	Dingell	Kennedy (NY)
Bishop	Doggett	Khanna
Bonamici	Elfreth	Krishnamoorthi
Boyle (PA)	Escobar	Landsman
Brown	Españillat	Larsen (WA)
Brownley	Fields	Larsen (CT)
Budzinski	Figures	Lee (NV)
Bynum	Fletcher	Lee (PA)
Carbajal	Poster	Leger Fernandez
Carson	Foushee	Levin
Carter (LA)	Friedman	Liccardo
Casar	Frost	Lieu
Case	Garamendi	Lofgren
Casten	Garcia (CA)	Lynch
Castor (FL)	Garcia (IL)	Magaziner
Castro (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Mannion
Cerfilus-	Gillen	Matsui
McCormick	Golden (ME)	McBath
Chu	Goldman (NY)	McBride
Cisneros	Gomez	McClain Delaney
Clark (MA)	Gonzalez, V.	McClellan
Clarke (NY)	Goodlander	McCollum
Cleaver	Gottheimer	McDonald Rivet
Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)	McGarvey
Cohen	Grijalva	McGovern
Conaway	Harder (CA)	McIver
Correa	Hayes	Meeks
Costa	Himes	Menendez
Courtney	Horsford	Meng
Craig	Houlahan	Mfume
Crow	Hoyer	Min
Cuellar	Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WI)

Morelle	Raskin	Suozi
Morrison	Riley (NY)	Takano
Moskowitz	Rivas	Thanedar
Moulton	Ross	Thompson (CA)
Mrvan	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Mullin	Ryan	Tlaib
Neal	Salinas	Tokuda
Neguse	Sánchez	Tonko
Norcross	Scanlon	Torres (CA)
Olshewski	Schneider	Torres (NY)
Omar	Scholten	Trahan
Pallone	Schrier	Tran
Panetta	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Pappas	Scott, David	Vargas
Pelosi	Sewell	Vasquez
Perez	Sherman	Veasey
Peters	Simon	Vindman
Pettersen	Smith (WA)	Walkinshaw
Pingree	Sorensen	Wasserman
Pocan	Soto	Schultz
Pou	Stansbury	Waters
Pressley	Stanton	Watson Coleman
Quigley	Stevens	Whitesides
Ramirez	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Randall	Subramanyam	

NAYS—208

Aderholt	Gimenez	Miller-Meeks
Alford	Goldman (TX)	Mills
Allen	Gooden	Moolenaar
Amodei (NV)	Gosar	Moore (AL)
Arrington	Graves	Moore (NC)
Babin	Griffith	Moore (UT)
Bacon	Grothman	Moore (WV)
Baird	Guest	Moran
Balderson	Guthrie	Murphy
Barr	Hageman	Nehls
Barrett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Newhouse
Baumgartner	Haridopolos	Norman
Bean (FL)	Harrigan	Nunn (IA)
Begich	Harris (MD)	Oberholte
Bentz	Harris (NC)	Onder
Bergman	Harshbarger	Owens
Bice	Hern (OK)	Palmer
Biggs (AZ)	Higgins (LA)	Patronis
Biggs (SC)	Hill (AR)	Perry
Bilirakis	Hinson	Prluger
Boebert	Houchin	Reschenthaler
Bost	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Brecheen	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)
Bresnahan	Hurd (CO)	Rose
Buchanan	Issa	Rouzer
Burchett	Jack	Roy
Burlison	Jackson (TX)	Rulli
Calvert	James	Rutherford
Cammack	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Carey	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Schmidt
Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Schweikert
Ciscomani	Joyce (PA)	Scott, Austin
Cline	Kean	Self
Cloud	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Clyde	Kelly (PA)	Shreve
Cole	Kennedy (UT)	Simpson
Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (MO)
Comer	Kiley (CA)	Smith (NE)
Crane	Kim	Smith (NJ)
Crank	Knott	Smucker
Crawford	Kustoff	Staubert
Davidson	LaHood	Steil
De La Cruz	LaLota	Langworthy
Diaz-Balart	Langworthy	Latta
Donalds	Lawler	Letlow
Downing	Lee (FL)	Loudermilk
Edwards	Ellzey	Lucas
Ellzey	Emmer	Luna
Evans (CO)	Estes	Luttrell
Ezell	Evans (CO)	Mace
Fallon	Ezell	Mackenzie
Fedorchak	Fallon	Malliotakis
Feenstra	Fedorchak	Maloy
Fine	Feenstra	Mann
Finstad	Fine	Massie
Fischbach	Finstad	McCaul
Fitzgerald	Fischbach	McClain
Fitzpatrick	Fitzgerald	McClintock
Fleischmann	Fitzpatrick	McCormick
Flood	Fleischmann	McDowell
Fong	Flood	McGuire
Fox	Fong	Messmer
Franklin, Scott	Fox	Meuser
Fry	Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)
Fulcher	Fry	Miller (OH)
Garbarino	Fulcher	Miller (WV)
Gill (TX)	Garbarino	

NOT VOTING—26

Crenshaw	Johnson (TX)	Spartz
Crockett	Keating	Stefanik
DesJarlais	Latimer	Stutzman
Dunn (FL)	Mast	Swalwell
Evans (PA)	Menefee	Sykes
Frankel, Lois	Nadler	Titus
Gonzales, Tony	Ocasio-Cortez	Velázquez
Gray	Ogles	Wilson (FL)
Hunt	Schakowsky	

□ 1028

Messrs. FRY, LAWLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Messrs. MEUSER, MURPHY, BARR, PALMER, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. GARCIA of Illinois and Ms. KELLY of Illinois changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 199, answered “present” 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 78]

YEAS—210

Aderholt	Ellzey	James
Alford	Emmer	Johnson (LA)
Allen	Estes	Johnson (SD)
Amodei (NV)	Evans (CO)	Jordan
Arrington	Ezell	Joyce (OH)
Babin	Fallon	Joyce (PA)
Bacon	Fedorchak	Kean
Baird	Feenstra	Kelly (MS)
Balderson	Fine	Kelly (PA)
Barr	Finstad	Kennedy (UT)
Barrett	Fischbach	Kiggans (VA)
Baumgartner	Fitzgerald	Kiley (CA)
Bean (FL)	Fleischmann	Kim
Begich	Flood	Knott
Bentz	Fong	Kustoff
Bergman	Fox	LaHood
Bice	Franklin, Scott	LaLota
Biggs (AZ)	Fry	Langworthy
Biggs (SC)	Fulcher	Latta
Bilirakis	Garbarino	Lawler
Boebert	Gill (TX)	Lee (FL)
Bost	Gimenez	Letlow
Brecheen	Goldman (TX)	Loudermilk
Bresnahan	Gooden	Lucas
Buchanan	Gosar	Luna
Burchett	Graves	Luttrell
Burlison	Griffith	Mace
Calvert	Grothman	Mackenzie
Cammack	Guest	Malliotakis
Carey	Guthrie	Maloy
Carter (GA)	Hageman	Mann
Carter (TX)	Hamadeh (AZ)	Massie
Ciscomani	Haridopolos	Mast
Cline	Harrigan	McCaul
Cloud	Harris (MD)	McClain
Clyde	Harris (NC)	McClintock
Cole	Harshbarger	McCormick
Collins	Hern (OK)	McDowell
Comer	Higgins (LA)	McGuire
Crane	Hill (AR)	Messmer
Crank	Hinson	Meuser
Crawford	Houchin	Miller (IL)
Davidson	Hudson	Miller (OH)
De La Cruz	Huizenga	Miller (WV)
Diaz-Balart	Hurd (CO)	Miller-Meeks
Donalds	Issa	Mills
Downing	Jack	Moolenaar
Edwards	Jackson (TX)	Moore (AL)

Moore (NC)	Rulli
Moore (UT)	Rutherford
Moore (WV)	Salazar
Moran	Scalise
Murphy	Schmidt
Nehls	Schweikert
Newhouse	Scott, Austin
Norman	Self
Nunn (IA)	Sessions
Oberholte	Shreve
Onder	Simpson
Owens	Smith (MO)
Palmer	Smith (NE)
Patronis	Smith (NJ)
Perry	Smucker
Pfuger	Spartz
Reschenthaler	Stauber
Rogers (AL)	Steil
Rogers (KY)	Steube
Rose	Strong
Rouzer	Stutzman
Roy	Taylor

NAYS—199

Adams	Garcia (TX)
Aguilar	Gillen
Amo	Golden (ME)
Ansari	Goldman (NY)
Auchincloss	Gomez
Balint	Gonzalez, V.
Barragán	Goodlander
Beatty	Gottheimer
Bell	Gray
Bera	Green, Al (TX)
Beyer	Grijalva
Bishop	Harder (CA)
Bonamici	Hayes
Boyle (PA)	Himes
Brown	Horsford
Brownley	Houlahan
Budzinski	Hoyer
Bynum	Hoyle (OR)
Carbaljal	Huffman
Carson	Ivey
Carter (LA)	Jackson (IL)
Casar	Jacobs
Case	Jayapal
Casten	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Kamlager-Dove
Cherfilus-	Kaptur
McCormick	Kelly (IL)
Chu	Kennedy (NY)
Cisneros	Khanna
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi
Clarke (NY)	Landsman
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)
Clyburn	Larson (CT)
Cohen	Lee (NV)
Conaway	Lee (PA)
Correa	Leger Fernandez
Costa	Levin
Courtney	Liccardo
Craig	Lieu
Crow	Lofgren
Cuellar	Lynch
Davids (KS)	Magaziner
Davis (IL)	Mannion
Dean (PA)	Matsui
DeGette	McBath
DeLauro	McBride
DelBene	McClain Delaney
Deluzio	McClellan
DeSaulnier	McCollum
Dexter	McDonald Rivet
Dingell	McGarvey
Doggett	McGovern
Elfreth	McIver
Escobar	Meeks
Españillat	Menendez
Fields	Meng
Figures	Mfume
Fitzpatrick	Min
Fletcher	Moore (WI)
Foster	Morelle
Foushee	Morrison
Friedman	Moskowitz
Frost	Moulton
Garamendi	Mrvan
Garcia (CA)	Mullin
Garcia (IL)	Neal

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Davis (NC)

NOT VOTING—22

Crenshaw	Dunn (FL)	Gonzales, Tony
Crockett	Evans (PA)	Hunt
DesJarlais	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (TX)

Tenney	Thompson (PA)
Tiffany	Timmmons
Turner (OH)	Valadao
Van Drew	Van Dwyne
Van Epps	Van Orden
Wagner	Walberg
Weber (TX)	Webster (FL)
Westerman	Wied
Williams (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Wittman	Womack
Yakym	Zinke

Keating	Ogles
Latimer	Schakowsky
Menefee	Stefanik
Nadler	Swalwell
Ocasio-Cortez	Sykes

Titus	Velázquez
Wilson (FL)	

□ 1040

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina changed his vote from “nay” to “present.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call Nos. 77 and 78. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77 on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 4758, and NAY on Roll Call No. 78 on Passage of H.R. 4758.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to the blizzard in New York City, I was unable to travel to Washington and I missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77 and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 7481, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Appropriations and Budget be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7481, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK). The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, am I to take from the definition that you gave as to why you could not accept the gentlewoman’s unanimous-consent request that the majority has not agreed to funding the balance of the DHS bill other than CBP and ICE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As indicated in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, it is not a proper parliamentary inquiry to ask the Chair to indicate which side of the aisle has failed under the Speaker’s guidelines to clear a unanimous-consent request.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and we are not objecting.

HONORING THE LIVES OF RHONDA AND AIDEN DORGAN

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, today, as Rhode Island digs out from a historic blizzard, we rise to honor two Rhode Islanders, Rhonda and Aiden Dorgan, whose lives tragically ended in the horrific shooting at a high school hockey game last week in Pawtucket.

Three other Rhode Islanders were injured in the shooting and remain in the hospital.

Today, we hold in the light the victims, their families, the teams, school communities, and the broader Rhode Island community as they work to heal from, yet again, another act of gun violence.

I thank Mayor Donald Grebien, Governor Dan McKee, law enforcement, and local leaders for their leadership in their response to this senseless tragedy.

We are grateful to the first responders for their prompt action on the scene and medical professionals for caring for the wounded.

We are forever indebted to the ordinary Rhode Islanders who stepped up to stop the violence and care for the wounded. Some of them include Michael Black, Robert Rattenni, Ryan Cordeiro, Chris Librizzi, Glenn Narodowy, and Maryann Rattenni.

We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

We continue to stand together to heal and work toward the safety that we all deserve, and I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BARRY KNIGHT

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues in the Virginia congressional delegation with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Barry Knight, a longtime member of the Virginia House of Delegates, who tragically passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer.

As a native Virginian, devoted public servant, and proud champion for the people of the Commonwealth, Barry was a giant.

With humble beginnings as a hog farmer in Pungo, Barry Knight rose to be, in the words of former Governor George Allen: "a hall of fame member of Virginia's government." Barry understood that public service wasn't about partisanship but about the people who he represented.

While he stood firm in his convictions, he embodied something too rare in public life today: a genuine willingness to work across the aisle. Whether he was leading efforts to widen I-64 or to remove abandoned vessels in our waterways, Barry led with respect and good faith for his colleagues and his constituents.

I will miss his counsel and his friendship, but most of all his deep love for our Virginia Beach community.

During this difficult time, our prayers are with his wife, Paula, and their three sons, who are mourning this tremendous loss.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that the House pause for a moment of silence in honor of Barry Knight.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE DAY

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Open-Source Intelligence Day, observed annually on February 26, and to commemorate the 85th anniversary of formal open-source intelligence activities in the United States.

February 26 marks the 1941 establishment of the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, created to systematically collect and analyze publicly available foreign information during a time of global conflict.

This effort laid the foundation for what we know as open-source intelligence, or OSINT, to include the responsible use of publicly and commercially available information to support national security policymaking and informed decisionmaking.

Over the past 85 years, OSINT has evolved alongside changes in media, technology, and global communications. In recent years, it has played a critical role in understanding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East, and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific. It has also been essential in enabling and cueing other intelligence collection and analysis.

Its value lies not only in access to information but in the rigorous analytic tradecraft applied to it, including adherence to privacy and civil liberty protections.

National Open-Source Intelligence Day recognizes the professionals, scholars, and organizations who advance the discipline and underscores the importance of transparency, accountability, and lawful practices.

I am honored to recognize February 26 as National Open-Source Intelligence Day.

□ 1050

HONORING FORMER MAYOR COY PAYNE

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to honor a man who spent his entire life in service to others, former Chandler, Arizona, Mayor Coy Payne.

He was born in 1929 to a hardworking family in Texas and came to Arizona in the 1940s. He earned everything he got. He worked his way through school, served in our Army during the Korean

war, earned a degree from Arizona State University, and then gave 30 years of his life educating the children of Chandler. He served on the Chandler City Council for many years, and then in 1990, he was elected mayor of the city of Chandler, the first Black mayor in Arizona history.

As mayor, he led a booming, growing city with steady hands and an open door. People trusted him because he listened, because he knew he was going to do all he could to make their lives better.

Mayor Payne passed away in 2019, but his legacy lives on.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today to introduce legislation to name the U.S. Post Office at 101 North Colorado Street in Chandler, Arizona, as Mayor Coy Payne Memorial Post Office.

It is only fitting that this memorial sits in the heart of Chandler, a token of our appreciation and a reminder that his first love was the people of Chandler and all of its wonderful activities.

HONORING CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF CHRIS STRATTON

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clermont County Sheriff Chris Stratton. With over three decades of service, Sheriff Stratton is a driving force, holding criminals accountable in our community and keeping illicit drugs like fentanyl off our streets.

Over the more than 30 years I have known him, I have seen firsthand his tireless work ethic, strong leadership of his team, and his unwavering commitment to Buckeye families.

Thanks to the action President Trump has taken to support our Nation's law enforcement, officers just like Sheriff Stratton now have the tools they need to do their jobs and better collaborate with Federal law enforcement to keep our communities safe. Through no tax on overtime that was passed in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, officers will take home more of the money they earn.

It is because of incredible officers like him that southern Ohio is a safer and more prosperous place to live today. Buckeye families can breathe a sigh of relief because they have law enforcement that are tough on crime and a President who backs them all the way.

HONORING MAMA GWEN REED

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend of St. Louis who passed away last week.

Mama Reed knew no strangers in her community. She lived a life of service.

As one of the first Black teachers in the Hazelwood School District, a committeewoman, a mentor, mother, sister, auntie, she led through her example, her advice, and her unconditional and sometimes tough love.

As I think about the term “rest in power,” its meaning, as I stand here, I have a moment of clarity because I stand here feeling an intense obligation to honor her and send her off right, and as I am going forward, a desire to make her proud although she is no longer with us. That is power.

Mr. Speaker, may Mama Gwen Reed rest in it, and we love her.

CELEBRATING WILLIAM L. “BILL” MCVEDA

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William “Bill” McVeda who this past Valentine’s Day celebrated 100 years of a life well lived.

Bill McVeda was born in Lewistown, Montana, on the 14th of February, the youngest of three, to a hardworking family in a hardworking community.

At the age of 17, Bill enlisted in the United States Navy. He would go on to serve in the Pacific theater, witnessing the historic second flag-raising at Iwo Jima and the surrender of the Japanese.

For his service, Bill received the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with two stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the war, Bill married his childhood sweetheart, Janet; raised two children; and built a respected career in human resources management with Lockheed Martin and with Northrop Grumman.

Mr. Speaker, Bill McVeda is a great American and a true patriot. The world needs more men like him, not fewer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bill for his example of service and his commitment to family and community. As a native son of Montana, our State is proud to call him ours and wishes him a happy birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL MEJIA

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of National City Firefighter Michael Mejia, a hero who was tragically lost in the line of duty in February.

Mike began his over three decades of service in 1993 with the Del Mar Fire Department.

In 2000, he joined the National City Fire Department, where he served for the rest of his distinguished career. He was a beloved member of this fire department.

Those who knew Mike best describe his bravery, kindness, professionalism,

and his dedication to his fellow fighters.

Service and community were at the heart of everything that Mike did, from his work as a founding member of the honor guard and color guard to his decades as medical unit leader and EMT at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Above all else, Mike was a devoted husband and father. His family was his greatest pride. He is survived by his wife, Marin, and their two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with Mike’s family, friends, and colleagues. Mike dedicated his life to helping others, and he will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS CARDEN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Thomas Carden.

General Carden has been promoted to Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the second highest position in the National Guard, overseeing soldiers and airmen. He is the first vice chief ever to wear the four-star rank.

Previously, General Carden served as commander of the Georgia National Guard from 2019 to 2024.

He began his journey of selfless service at age 18, when he enlisted as a private in the Georgia Army National Guard. Throughout his career, General Carden has held many leadership roles, serving as a shining example to those he led.

He has a strong academic background, with degrees in history, human resource management, and strategic studies.

Few people have demonstrated unwavering commitment, integrity, and dedication to duty the way that General Carden has.

As a fellow Georgian, I am proud of his exemplary service to our State and to our Nation. I am confident he will lead with honor in this new role.

Mr. Speaker, I thank General Carden for his lifelong service to this great country.

SUPREME COURT TARIFF DECISION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and every day on behalf of the people of northwestern Ohio: farmers, factory workers, small business owners, nurses, veterans, and retirees. They carry the heavy burden of President Trump’s reckless trade war.

Tariffs hit our region harder than almost anywhere in our country. Why? We make and grow America.

Our soybean growers saw foreign markets slam shut and prices tumble,

all because the President acted carelessly. Many are still waiting to be made whole as export markets vanish.

Our manufacturers, from steel processors to auto suppliers, are writing off huge losses, paying more on parts for materials, squeezing margins, and laying off workers.

Small retailers, restaurants, and childcare centers face higher costs they cannot absorb. Every family pays more at the checkout counter, and tariffs and reckless trade wars raise prices.

The Supreme Court affirmed that our Constitution still matters and President Trump overstepped his authority. These policies must be thoughtful, and Americans deserve stable markets and leadership that fights for our producers and workers.

□ 1100

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPUTIES MICHAEL HISLOPE AND GABRIEL RAMIREZ

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Deputy Michael Hislope and Deputy Gabriel Ramirez of the Christian County Sheriff’s Office who yesterday were killed in the line of duty while serving the people of southwest Missouri.

Deputy Ramirez was murdered during a traffic stop while doing what law enforcement officers across this country do every day: protecting the public and enforcing the law.

He was a United States Army veteran who continued his service at home, serving nearly 1 year as a deputy.

What followed was a dangerous manhunt that stretched through the night and ended near Reeds Spring where Deputy Hislope was killed while helping bring the violence to an end.

Deputy Hislope was also a United States Army veteran and had served his country as a deputy for more than 6 years.

Two other deputies were also shot, and countless officers placed themselves in harm’s way to protect others. Their courage and sacrifice stand in stark contrast to the evil they confronted.

Today, we grieve for two families who have lost sons, husbands, and brothers, and we honor the public servants who answered the call to stand between danger and their neighbors.

Please join me in praying for their families, the injured officers, and the entire law enforcement community as they carry this profound loss on their hearts.

I ask for a moment of silence, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING MONIQUE PERALTA

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary educator from Arizona's Seventh Congressional District and Tucson Unified School District, Mrs. Monique Peralta, and to celebrate a true full-circle story of public education.

Mrs. Peralta is proudly Tucson Unified grown. She attended Vesey Elementary School and Morgan Maxwell and graduated from Cholla High School. Today, she teaches in the same community that raised her.

For 25 years, she has walked into her classroom determined to make every student feel seen and to make sure they learn and they believe in themselves.

Her students, including all of my three children, know her as someone who cares deeply and inspires lifelong learning.

Her colleagues know her as a mentor, and her community knows she never forgot where she came from.

Mrs. Peralta reminds us that public schools build futures and that great teachers change lives.

On behalf of Arizona's Seventh Congressional District, we thank Mrs. Peralta for 25 years of dedication, compassion, and service. We are proud of her, and we are so grateful for her.

"We love you very much, Mrs. Peralta"; "Te queremos muchos, Sra. Peralta."

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate President Trump for his successful State of the Union Address last night.

With Republicans' help here in Congress, we have worked nonstop to bring down costs and empower everyday Americans.

For instance, President Trump has negotiated countless trade deals to bring manufacturing back to America. Tariffs have led to massive investments, particularly in Indiana, including investments from John Deere and General Motors and many small to mid-sized companies.

President Trump is also helping Americans by lowering prices on gas and food. Along with Republicans, he has worked to implement Trump accounts to ensure financial resources for future generations.

Above all, President Trump has built off the work of the late Charlie Kirk to put God at the center of American exceptionalism.

Our country has rebounded with safer streets, peace through strength, and tremendous tax cuts.

As America marks its 250th anniversary, I just thank him and support the work that Republicans and President

Trump are doing to make sure that America wins in the future and that God may bless America to continue to be the great Nation that we are blessed with.

NO MORE MIDDLE EAST WARS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, another war in the Middle East is not America First. That is why Congressman MASSIE and I will introduce a bipartisan Iran war powers resolution.

America First means Congress first on matters of war and peace. Every Member in this body must go on the record about whether we should have another endless war in the Middle East.

The American people are sick of billions of dollars going for overseas wars. They want that money for manufacturing jobs here, for healthcare here, for childcare here, and for education here.

There is no doubt the Iranian regime is brutal in killing protestors and murdering their own people, but an American war will only inflame nationalism and will not prevent them from getting the bomb.

We need a better approach. We need to focus on our country's economic development.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S GREAT SPEECH

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to one more time congratulate President Trump on a great speech last night. He is a great orator. I think of the six speeches I have heard him give in this Chamber. That was the best one yet.

He did a great job of recounting the successes he has had in immigration, the successes he has had in healthcare, the successes he has had using the tax code to help out parents with children, which is, I think, the one area in life in which having a decent revenue stream is most important.

However, he did lay out what is going to be a future conflict within the Republican Party, and it is important that our conservatives are aware of it.

President Trump is conscious of the fact that as revenue comes in from the tariffs, there are people who are going to want to spend it and people who are going to want to lower other taxes. It is important that all true Republicans weigh in and double their efforts to make sure that we do not use any of these increased tariffs to increase the role of government in people's lives.

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HILL of Ar-

kansas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of the Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today with my colleagues to lead the House of Representatives in reading President George Washington's farewell address.

Having just celebrated the 294th birthday of our indispensable first President, this is a fitting tribute as we celebrate the 250th year of our Nation's creation.

The farewell address is a remarkable document. Published in the American Daily Advertiser on September 19, 1796, it was never delivered in person, but it was widely read and remains one of the most important documents in American history.

President Washington completed his two terms as our indispensable first President. He was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Every step of the way, he viewed his actions through the lens of the precedent it would set for the Presidency and for future Presidents: his dress, his decorum, his relationship with Congress, his decisions about his Cabinet, and his approach to executive decision-making.

In this address, you will see clearly that he ended his extraordinary public career on a high note.

The practice of reading the farewell address began in a joint session of Congress on February 22, 1862, during the darkest days of the Civil War.

The Senate revived the ceremonial reading in 1888, and each year since 1896, the Senate has observed George Washington's birthday in February by selecting a Senator, alternating parties, to read the 7,641-word statement in their legislative session. This year, fittingly, in this year of America250, our semiquincentennial, it was Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia.

The House revived the ceremonial reading in 1889 and continued intermittently until 1933, after which it became an annual fixture in until 1979.

□ 1110

Today, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are delighted to return this tradition to the House floor accompanied by our handsome portrait of our first President by John Vanderlyn that has hung here in the House Chamber since the 1830s.

Mr. Washington's Farewell Address:
"Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

"The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being

not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

"I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

"The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

"I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety, and am persuaded whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

"The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to be-

lieve, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it."

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY) to continue our reading.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. "In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals that under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your Union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free Constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

"Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no than inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

"Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no

recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

"The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety, discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned, and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

"For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.

"With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), who joined us. He is the distinguished former Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. "But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

"The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the south, protected by the equal laws of a common government,

finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The south in the same intercourse, benefiting by the agency of the north, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the north, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The east, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home.

□ 1120

“The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one Nation. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength, or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

“While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government; which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

“These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can

embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

“In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—Northern and Southern—Atlantic and Western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views.

“One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our Western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have seen in the negotiation by the executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic States unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?”

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE) to continue our reading.

Mr. CLINE. “To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of gov-

ernment better calculated than your former for an intimate Union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

“All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force—to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party; often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

“Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexes. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the Constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as

necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions; that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country; that facility in changes, upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion, exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

"I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally."

□ 1130

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. "This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. . . . [B]ut, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

"Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

"It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomented occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through

the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

"There is an opinion that the parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into flame, lest instead of warming it should consume.

"It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and pub-

lic felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that the national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say: "It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?"

"Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

"As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

"Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all—religion and morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a

great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

"In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred or an habitual fondness is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim.

□ 1140

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. "So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one of enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions—by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained—and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) fa-

cility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

"As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, or influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

"The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

"Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities."

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. "Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provo-

cation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

"Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice?

"It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it—for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

"Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectably defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

"Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed—in order to give to trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them—conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having giving equivalents for nominal favors and yet being reproached for ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

"In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the

fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated.

“How far in the discharge of my official duties I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.”

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. “In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

“After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take—and was bound in duty and interest, to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as I should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance, and firmness.

“The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

“The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

“The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

“Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error. I am nevertheless too sensible of my own defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

“Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors, and dangers.”

□ 1150

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, MIKE KENNEDY of Utah, DON BEYER of Virginia, and BEN CLINE of Virginia, for joining me in this renewal of tradition in this, our semiquincentennial year, of reading George Washington’s Farewell Address.

Indeed, as that Member of the very first Congress from Virginia, American Revolutionary War hero Light-Horse Harry Lee, said at George Washington’s eulogy, he was, in fact, “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

I give my thanks also to Speaker JOHNSON and the Republican vice chairman, BLAKE MOORE, for allowing us to use this time on the House floor.

I encourage all of our citizens to participate in America’s 250th birthday in this year of 2026 as we celebrate on July Fourth the signing and publication of our Declaration of Independence from July Fourth, 1776.

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

WINNERS OF THE GLOBAL ENERGY RACE ARE BEING DECIDED

(Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, families across America are struggling with ever-increasing energy prices.

In the last year, electricity prices have soared, increasing by 13 percent under the Trump administration. Utility bills overall have increased at double the rate of inflation.

We all know what is driving those increases. We have soaring demand from data centers and other loads, rising prices for natural gas, and much-needed repairs to the grid that have been put off for years.

Those are all tangible, identifiable causes of these price increases, but at

the center of it all is one really simple reason: American energy policy has always put producers first and families second.

Mr. Speaker, you might think that, in a democracy, the fact that there are more consumers than producers would cause the reverse. Yet, in fact, for far too long, we have pursued an energy system with a single goal: Make sure that oil and gas and coal companies keep their profits as high as possible. We have pushed the most expensive, dirtiest forms of energy onto Americans because that is what has helped producers.

The Trump administration has done everything they can to curb the rise of more competitive, renewable energy. You hear a lot about how the Trump administration hates clean energy, but that is not true. They don’t hate clean energy. They hate affordable energy.

Mr. Speaker, there is some good news. We have a plan to fix it, and I am here today because of the Energy Bills Relief Act, a consumer-focused, family-first approach to American energy policy.

Renewable energy is the fastest, lowest-cost, most-affordable way to meet rising demand. Right now, there are bottlenecks in the system that prevent renewable energy from getting from where it is generated to where it can be used.

Our Energy Bills Relief Act removes the red tape. It makes sure that we can build our domestic energy supply so that we keep your beer cold and your showers hot, and lower your bills at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, to do that, we are also going to have to modernize our electric grid and increase capacity by providing much-needed, overdue upgrades using the latest technology.

We are starting to fall behind other countries, which means that those costs could rise even further if we don’t act, but we have time. We have time to catch up, and the Energy Bills Relief Act helps us to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend and partner in good trouble on this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding. It is an honor to work with the gentleman on this bill and other things.

Mr. Speaker, last night in this very Chamber, the President declared that America is in a golden age. He said that energy prices were plummeting. He said that we are winning so much that we don’t know what to do about so much winning.

He celebrated record fossil fuel production and assured the American people that drilling alone is delivering affordability. He dismissed clean energy as a scam and suggested that the path forward is simply to double down on the past.

I agree that every one of us should want America to be strong, prosperous, and secure. Yet, the real test of any energy policy is not what sounds good in

a televised address. It is whether working families feel relief when they open their utility statements. It is whether small businesses can forecast stable costs. It is whether seniors on fixed incomes are insulated from volatility rather than being exposed to it.

Families don't experience energy affordability through slogans. They experience it through monthly statements. Electricity costs are up 13 percent, and residential gas prices are up nearly 60 percent across the country.

One in six households is now behind on their electric or gas bills. Families are paying more to heat and cool their homes, more to keep the lights on, and more just to get through the month. For millions of Americans already stretched thin, this is yet another bill that they can't afford.

This comes despite the President promising on the campaign trail to cut energy bills by 50 percent. It is not just a broken promise on costs. It is a strategic failure at a defining moment for America's economic future.

We are living through the most important global energy transition since the industrial revolution. The countries that deploy clean energy the fastest are lowering costs, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and securing control over the energy supply chains that will define economic power for decades.

This is the moment when the winners of the global energy race are being decided, but instead of leading, the United States is being pulled backward.

Over the past year, more than 165,000 clean energy jobs have been wiped out or delayed. Projects capable of powering roughly 13 million homes have been canceled or frozen. Clean energy tax credits are under attack. Grants have been rescinded. Permitting for wind and solar has been effectively paused. Billions of dollars in private investment are sitting idle because Federal policy has injected uncertainty into the marketplace.

At the same time, the administration is doubling down on fossil fuel policies that leave families exposed to volatile global markets and rising prices.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest about what is happening. Families are paying more because this administration is choking off the supply of clean, low-cost electricity while forcing ratepayers to subsidize aging, expensive fossil fuel plants.

It is not ideology. It is math. It is math. If we are serious about affordability—truly serious—we must ask a different question. It is not how much we can drill, but rather how we build an energy system that delivers stable, low-cost power for decades?

The truth—and it is a truth grounded in financial analysis, not political branding—is that clean energy is the lowest cost new electricity in the United States. Wind and solar, on an unsubsidized basis, undercut new coal and frequently undercut new natural

gas generation. Utilities choose clean not because of ideology but because they are the least expensive options available to meet demand.

That isn't to say that I disagreed with everything that the President had to say last night. In fact, I was genuinely pleased that he acknowledged the pressure that data centers are placing on our electric grid. The explosion of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and advanced manufacturing is real, and it is transforming our economy. It is driving electricity demand upward at a pace that we haven't seen in decades. Ignoring that reality would be irresponsible, and confronting it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, the President suggested that tech companies should build their own power plants so that household rates don't rise. At its core, I think that intention is correct. Ratepayers should not be forced to subsidize infrastructure built to serve trillion-dollar tech companies.

Families living on fixed incomes shouldn't be forced to underwrite private server farms for Big Tech. Small businesses shouldn't be absorbing the transmission costs created by hyperscale expansion, and protecting consumers must be the starting principle.

Yet, the correct intentions of the President aren't enough. We need statutory guardrails so that utilities can socialize grid upgrade costs across all customers. Without clear cost allocation rules, transmission investments triggered by large new loads can be spread broadly rather than assigned to the source of the demand.

Without modernized planning, the infrastructure required for rapid load growth can crowd out other investments and create bottlenecks that ultimately drive rates higher for everyone.

□ 1200

There is a second layer to this. Even if data centers build dedicated generation, the broader grid still absorbs the consequences of rising demand. If demand rises and the cheapest new resources are constrained, prices rise for everybody. If transmission is insufficient, congestion increases and wholesale prices spike for everybody. If fossil fuel generation continues to dominate, the corresponding volatility is transmitted directly into higher retail electric bills for everybody.

In sum, if we restrict the cheapest sources of electricity while demand rises, prices are going to go up. It is not ideological. It is just supply and demand. If we slow the deployment of the lowest-cost wind and solar, if we delay transmission build-out, if we limit storage, then the system will rely more heavily on higher-cost generation, and consumers are going to pay the difference.

If, on the other hand, we modernize the grid, we deploy the lowest-cost resources at scale—if we accelerate transmission expansion, integrate stor-

age, and allow clean energy to compete fairly and fully—then rising demand can be met with falling costs and less volatility. Infrastructure will be built more intelligently, enhancing reliability rather than undermining reliability.

Again, this is not ideology. It is math. It is common sense.

Today, along with my friend from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), with whom I am so proud to work, we are embarking on really a new path forward, the Energy Bills Relief Act.

This is all about math, and it is all about common sense. It is all about how electricity markets actually function. It is all about the need for grid modernization as an economic imperative. It is all about fairness in who pays the bill for the modernized electric grid. It is all about protecting ratepayers with enforceable policy rather than with empty statements.

The American people deserve more than rhetoric. They deserve a system built on data and durability. They deserve leadership that understands that affordability is engineered, not declared.

They deserve lower bills. The path to lower bills runs directly through the clean energy deployment that markets are already telling us is the cheapest way forward. That is why we are here today, and that is what the Energy Bills Relief Act is designed to deliver.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LEVIN.

I am going to take a little bit of a personal privilege here and tell you a little bit about MIKE's and my background.

MIKE and I both came into Congress in 2018. Prior to that, we were both in the clean energy industry. I think it is safe to say that prior to the election of Donald Trump in 2016, neither of us thought that our paths involved eventually getting to Congress or certainly being in this moment here right now.

I say that because both of us spent our careers, before getting into Congress, building and deploying clean energy, building and deploying low-cost, affordable energy. If you are going to go and build one of those plants, you build the plant, you hook it up, you connect it to the grid. The person who now is controlling the dispatch of that plant never runs it unless it is cheaper than the electric grid. Every minute you own a solar panel, every minute you own a cogeneration plant, a wind turbine, all of these technologies that are out there, you are saying: Is this cheaper or more expensive than the alternative?

There is a saying back in the days when I was going and doing all of that, that asking a utility for permission to interconnect to the grid is like asking a man for permission to date his wife. It doesn't matter whether you are cheaper. It doesn't matter whether that is in the national interest. You are a competitive threat, and capitalism works on competition.

So fast-forward. MIKE and I run for Congress. We win. Speaker PELOSI appoints us both to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security and charges us, along with our wonderful leader (Ms. CASTOR), to figure out how to take this knowledge and make sure that we can deploy cheaper, cleaner energy. That work through the 116th Congress, through the 117th Congress ultimately led to the Inflation Reduction Act.

In 2022, we passed the largest climate bill in the history of this country, in the history of the world. The purpose of that bill was to make sure that your access to cheap energy was not a function of whether you had capital, whether you could hire the lawyers and the engineers to go and fight with the utility. It was to make sure that every American had access to the cheapest energy.

That bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, took a significant step forward in expanding access to cleaner, more affordable energy sources to lower costs for all Americans. I was really proud of the work we did to help write that bill. Then President Trump killed it.

Now, killing it didn't prevent all of those generators that got built from operating, because if you have got a solar panel on your roof, it is still cheaper than whatever anybody else is providing. It blocks new people's ability to bring those forward.

Last summer, he gutted programs that were designed to boost domestic renewable energy. He slashed incentives to help households save money. He arbitrarily blocked the development of affordable energy sources, while forcing more expensive coal plants to keep running, ensuring that the fossil fuel companies can keep raking in profits at taxpayers' expense.

The Energy Bills Relief Act puts an end to that. This is a consumer-focused bill. It is a bill that puts American families first. It restores the tax credits for home energy upgrades that were ended by President Trump. It incentivizes utilities to help consumers save money by funding home weatherization and energy efficiency. Wouldn't you like to spend less on your natural gas bill? Wouldn't you like your utility to be a partner in that?

It provides financial assistance to make sure that families don't have their power shut off. It puts an end to price gouging because utilities shouldn't profit while you are struggling.

It makes sure that places like data centers cover their own costs, and if a data center opens in your area, that doesn't mean that the costs are pushed onto your household. It gives a voice to the American people and makes sure they are consulted when new energy projects are being developed in their community.

This bill was put together in a way that I wish was not so innovative. A lot of bills around here must start by say-

ing what is politically possible. What can we do on a bipartisan basis? Well, if what is scientifically necessary exceeds what is politically possible, then we are failing in any ability to claim to be a leader.

What we did in this bill is, it says: What is the energy policy that is necessary? What is the energy policy that is most helpful to American consumers? That is what we set out to do. I am proud of the legislation that Congressman LEVIN and I have written to do that.

With that, I yield back to the great gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just spell out some basic facts and some myths about clean energy because there is a whole lot of misinformation out there these days.

The first thing I will say is that clean energy is the lowest-cost new electricity in America. Independent financial analysis confirms that utility-scale solar and onshore wind are the cheapest forms of new electricity generation available in the United States. This is from Lazard, their Levelized Cost of Energy analysis, showing that unsubsidized solar and wind consistently undercut new coal and new natural gas generation.

There was recently a report that solar projects are on average 41 percent cheaper than the lowest cost fossil fuel alternatives globally, and onshore wind projects are 53 percent cheaper. Another analysis shows that solar is approximately \$64 per megawatt-hour cheaper than coal and \$20 cheaper than combined-cycle gas. Wind is \$61 cheaper than coal and \$17 cheaper than gas.

Markets are already choosing clean energy because it is the least expensive option. In fact, States leading in renewable generation generally see lower electricity prices. According to EIA data, 17 of 22 States with above-average shares of wind and solar had below-average electricity prices last year. Thirteen of those States voted Republican in 2024, I might add. Another analysis showed that the 4 States with the highest renewable generation saw prices fall in 2025. While 9 of the 10 States with the lowest renewable energy penetration saw prices rise.

This isn't that hard. The cheapest, most affordable energy is the cleanest energy. Yet, instead of expanding that supply, the administration chooses to restrict it.

The second thing I want to talk about is coal and market distortion. At the same time that clean energy deployment is being obstructed, this Department of Energy has issued emergency orders forcing aging coal plants to remain online.

□ 1210

In Colorado, for example, that decision is estimated to cost ratepayers \$20 million over 90 days, roughly \$85 million annually, and potentially up to

\$150 million per year if required to operate continuously.

In Michigan, ratepayers paid approximately \$80 million over 4 months to keep a coal plant running. If coal were the lowest cost option, it would not need these sorts of emergency orders.

Ninety-nine percent of U.S. coal plants are more expensive to operate than replacing them with new wind or solar, according to Energy Innovation. Coal is aging, it is unreliable, it is costly, and more than half the fleet is already scheduled to retire. NERC reliability data shows increasing forced outage rates for coal plants in recent years.

This is not free market competition. This is protectionism for expensive incumbents while families are footing the bill.

The third thing I would like to talk about is reliability. Opponents sometimes argue that wind and solar are unreliable. The evidence says exactly the opposite.

Battery storage deployment is absolutely taking off. The U.S. is projected to add more than 18 gigawatts of new utility-scale battery storage. Just last year, 2025, there was a huge record number. Nearly 11 gigawatts were added in 2024. By the end of 2026, the assumptions are, there will be nearly 65 gigawatts of total storage capacity.

The majority of new solar projects in the western interconnection area now include co-located storage. Battery costs have dropped drastically in the last couple of years.

Transmission expansion connects regions experiencing different weather patterns, improving reliability and lowering costs for everyone, delivering the grid of the future, delivering the interconnected, flexible, diversified grid of the future.

Meanwhile, what is the alternative? Well, during Winter Storm Fern in January of 2026, coal plants ramped up as expected, but fuel prices spiked, stockpiles dropped to their lowest levels in years, and the system was strained.

We know that gas infrastructure can freeze. We know that peaker plants can be overstressed. We know that fossil fuels are not immune from failure.

Reliability comes from diversification and modernization, not by clinging to a single fuel.

Next, I hear that clean energy can't meet growing demand. That is not true either. Electricity consumption hit a record high last year, and it is projected to continue rising in 2026, according to EIA. AI-driven data centers, I think we all know, are a major contributor, with electricity demand from data centers expected to double by 2030.

Clean energy is the fastest resource to deploy. Not only is it cheapest, but it is fastest to deploy. The average solar project can be built in 15 to 17 months. A natural gas plant often takes 4 years or longer. Gas turbine shortages mean new turbines may not be available until the 2030s.

Solar and wind growth outpaced global demand growth in the first half of 2025, with solar alone meeting 83 percent of global electricity demand growth in the first half of 2025.

If we are serious about meeting rising demand and doing so affordably, we must accelerate the most affordable and fastest-to-deploy resources, which also happen to be the cleanest resources.

Next, I want to talk about data centers and fairness.

Data centers are expanding dramatically, and utilities are investing billions of dollars in transmission upgrades.

For example, in PJM, \$4.3 billion in transmission costs associated with data center growth were passed to ratepayers. An additional \$7.3 billion in increased generation costs were recorded.

Without guardrails, households and small businesses are subsidizing infrastructure where trillion-dollar companies are making the money.

That is why I am proud that our Energy Bills Relief Act includes protections for consumers to ensure that data centers pay for their own grid updates. It incentivizes clean, zero-emission electricity use to reduce overall system costs and pollution.

We need to make sure that as growth continues, that ratepayers are not stuck with the bill while trillion-dollar corporations reap all the benefit.

Now, I will turn close to my home for just a second and talk about wildfires and, in particular, California.

California's electricity rates have gone up since the mid-2000s. No question about that. That is despite the fact that we have led in energy efficiency.

Wildfire mitigation and grid hardening are now 16 percent of total utility costs, 16 percent. Ratepayers in California have borne more than \$27 billion in wildfire-related costs just between 2019 and 2024.

Investor-owned utilities have passed on bankruptcy settlements and infrastructure upgrades tied to wildfire liability, and they have stuck it to the ratepayer.

That is why blaming renewable energy for rate increases doesn't tell the picture. They are wildfire driven. These are simply misrepresented facts by those who have a grudge against renewable energy.

The Energy Bills Relief Act includes a grant program to support grid upgrades that would reduce wildfire risks, that would prevent catastrophic utility failures, lowering long-term ratepayer burdens.

Next, I want to talk about LNG exports and volatility.

As LNG exports increase, domestic natural gas prices increasingly reflect international demand. Global volatility becomes domestic volatility.

Wind and solar, on the other hand, have no fuel price. They have no geopolitical premium. They have no shipping constraints. When you build re-

newable generation, the fuel is free forever. The fuel is free forever. That is a big deal. That is long-term price stability.

What would our bill do? I am very proud of a lot of the things that it would accomplish.

Number one: It would rescind the tax hike on low-cost, clean energy, and it would restore tax credits for clean energy such as those in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Number two: It would reverse roadblocks to clean energy permitting and restrict the abuse of Department of Energy emergency orders.

Number three: It would ensure that data centers pay their fair share.

Number four: It would expand LIHEAP and weatherization assistance to help struggling families.

Number five: It would protect natural gas markets from international volatility.

Number six: It would build a nationally interconnected grid to improve affordability, reliability, and resilience.

Most importantly and lastly: It would share the economic benefits of clean energy with host communities.

It is a good bill. It is one that we worked on for a long time, and we are going to get as much support as we can.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM).

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone here today for all their hard work and leadership.

One of the things that the President said last night is he is doing so much to lower energy costs through drill, baby, drill and through all of the other actions he has taken.

I think on the campaign he said he was going to lower energy prices by 50 percent. Yet, last year, Americans paid more than 13 percent for their electricity bills compared to the previous year. The big reason is that the big, ugly bill added about \$250 billion to Americans' energy bills by picking energy favorites and slowing down new technology, so energy prices continue to rise for Americans.

Something the President said is that the data centers will help lower Americans' energy costs. One of the assumptions there is that they will pay for their own energy infrastructure and essentially not shift that burden to Virginians and Americans.

In Virginia, we are facing an additional 9 percent increase in energy costs this year, and data centers are a big part of that. They consume about 25 percent of the energy and could be more soon. It could be up to 40 percent. Last year, more than \$4.3 billion in transmission infrastructure costs for data centers were passed on to ratepayers.

With this pledge, basically the President is asking for technology companies building data centers to pledge to build their own energy infrastructure along with their data centers moving

forward and not shift the costs to ratepayers.

I welcome the idea of making sure that ratepayers aren't shouldering the burden of energy infrastructure and energy generation because the American people deserve better than that.

One of the things I would like to see more of is rather than a pledge, a concrete proposal, actual regulatory framework that will protect people's energy costs.

That is what we are doing in Virginia. Down in Richmond, there is now legislation that they are moving forward to essentially make sure that ratepayers aren't paying for the energy generation of data centers.

□ 1220

I look forward to having this bipartisan conversation, but I know that if the President doesn't come up with the framework that we need, then it is going to be another promise made, promise not kept when it comes to energy prices.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Congressman CASTEN for his great leadership and also Congressman MIKE LEVIN for drawing us together here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I do every day, on behalf of the people of the region I represent, but also for people across our country. Americans are facing the high cost of energy, and it is becoming unaffordable, but it is not their fault.

At the same time, many Federal incentives to help lower energy costs and to create the new energy systems for the future have been rolled back by the current administration. Actually, I am somewhat surprised that that happened.

America's grid is old. I hope President Trump hears this. It is under greater strain. Our country actually set new records twice this past July for peak electricity demand. It is getting hotter in many parts of the country during the summer months, and for those of us who live up north, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is getting colder. The old grid system is being tested like never before by hotter weather and cooler weather, cold weather, and frigid weather, and higher usage. When the grid strains, costs rise.

Every household, I would venture, in our country, is feeling the pinch. For us in the upper Midwest, it isn't a 9 percent increase. Our energy bills have doubled. In Ohio, rapid demand growth from Big Tech data centers are also pushing up energy costs before the public, the people who live in these areas, can even catch the wind that they can actually try to figure out and have meetings and say: Hey, wait a minute, what can we do about this?

That is because their prices are doubling across our State and region.

Families notice the increase. One constituent even told me that her family's bill increased from \$230 a month to \$494 in July. That is a huge increase. This increased cost spiral in energy is simply not sustainable.

The majority party and the Department of Energy, meanwhile, under the current administration, are rolling back energy investments in America's future to help lower costs. I represent the most important domestic solar manufacturer, First Solar. I don't take money from them, and I don't own their stock. What they have done for America, 10 percent of our energy production in this country is now renewable and energy savings.

We are smarter. We are smarter than we were 50 years ago. Our Nation must invest faster in modern infrastructure with an all-of-the-above energy strategy to truly become energy independent in perpetuity.

I see many younger people in the gallery. For those of them who are a little bit techie and they care about the future of our country, they can help us become energy independent within our own shores and do so in a way that doesn't damage the environment.

Just this last year, there were 354 clean energy projects or companies that the new administration canceled—new projects—delaying new investments. We have seen layoffs of workers across the country because these projects lost Federal funding.

In my district, one of the lodestar companies that I represent is called Libbey Glass. Toledo, Ohio, is the glass center of the world. The administration took away over \$40 million that was going to help them. This is legislation Congress passed, and the administration signed the bill. It was vetted by the agencies and so forth. It helped them save energy so that they could compete with glass against China, France, and Mexico, where workers are paid less and product is dumped on the global markets.

When we don't invest in companies and the jobs they create for the American people, then we shoot ourselves in the foot. There is no question that over 173,000 clean energy jobs actually have been eliminated between President Trump's election and swearing-in and February of this year.

Think about that, Mr. Speaker. That was building the future for our country. The ten top States that have lost the most jobs from this misguided assault on clean energy are the following: Texas, Massachusetts, Arizona, New Jersey, Michigan, New York, South Carolina, Illinois, North Carolina, and my home State of Ohio. It is interesting to me that three of the Members who are on the floor now are from Illinois, Mr. CASTEN; Mr. LEVIN from California; and myself from Ohio. We understand what these budget cuts mean. While at the national level, the rise in energy rates is affecting people in every single State in our Union.

For my own district, the prices have doubled. Every family in the country

knows what is happening. It is time for the executive branch to wake up. Meanwhile, China isn't asleep. It is investing in record levels in terms of energy development making its products more competitive worldwide.

President Trump said that he was going to fix this, and he has done completely the opposite. He did hint last night about something dealing with new energy investments and these AI terminals in centers that are being built across the country. I hope he follows through.

The American people certainly deserve better, and we need to stand up for affordability, not abdication. That sends our country backward.

I thank, Mr. Speaker, Congressman CASTEN and Congressman LEVIN and others who have spoken today this afternoon in order to stand up for the American people and help them manage their budgets, and energy is such a central account in every single family's budget.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this and for giving us a roadmap to lower America's energy bills.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield, again, to gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank my good friend from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR, from whom I have learned so much on the Appropriations Committee and otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, this debate should not be partisan, and it does not have to be partisan. The physical laws of energy do not care who is in the majority. The economics of electricity do not change with the party label or which district you are from, Mr. Speaker. The grid does not ask whether the power flowing through it came from a red State or a blue State.

We really need to answer only one question: Is there power when it is needed at a price families can afford?

That is why this ought to unite us. Republican and Democratic States alike lead wind and solar generation. Red and blue districts alike host clean manufacturing. Farmers earn steady lease payments from solar panels and wind turbines that help keep their family farms afloat through droughts, floods, and commodity swings. Veterans and skilled tradespeople are building the advanced technologies that strengthen our energy security and reduce our dependence on volatile fuel markets. This is an American project, happening in every region across every map.

The choice before us is simple: Do we want to play politics with the energy system that powers our economy, or do we want to win the future?

That is because the truth is that families do not experience energy policy as ideology. They experience it as a bill. They experience it as a choice between paying the utility bill and paying for groceries. They experience it as

small business owners deciding whether to hire or to cut hours. They experience it as seniors on a fixed income turning down the thermostat and hoping the next heat wave doesn't last too long. That is what energy affordability means in real life.

Right now, energy bills are higher. Too many jobs have been put at risk or pushed offshore. Too many families have been stretched thinner. Too many communities are being asked to subsidize decisions that protect the incumbent energy players instead of protecting consumers.

We can keep doing what we have been doing: restricting the cheapest new supply, forcing ratepayers to carry the cost of uneconomic fossil fuel plants, and letting the infrastructure needs of trillion-dollar tech companies get passed down to households.

We can keep pretending that the answer to every 21st-century challenge is the same 20th-century playbook. We can cling to the past and see the costs rise across the country for the average person, or we can do what responsible leaders do. We can modernize and we can compete.

We can build the grid that matches the economy that we actually have, not the economy that we used to have. We can expand transmission so that power can move to where it is needed. We can deploy storage so reliability is stronger in heat and cold and storms. We can make cost allocation fair so households aren't paying for private infrastructure that should be borne by the companies that profit from it.

□ 1230

We can strengthen resilience against wildfires and extreme weather so ratepayers are not trapped in a cycle of catastrophic costs. We can do what markets are already trying to do: scale the lowest cost electricity available.

Here is what cannot be debated away with partisan politics: Clean energy is the lowest cost new energy in America. Clean energy is the fastest path to stabilizing energy bills. Clean energy is how we meet rising demand without squeezing households. Clean energy is how we compete with China, rather than handing them the supply chain of the future. Clean energy is how we reduce volatility, because sunshine and wind do not spike in price when global markets panic.

That is why the question is not whether clean energy wins. It is already winning in every market that allows fair competition to function. The question is whether America leads.

Will we lead in building the industries that power the next generation of manufacturing? Will we lead in the technologies that make the grid more reliable, not less reliable? Will we lead in protecting consumers rather than protecting entrenched interests? Will we lead in an energy system that is affordable, resilient, and secure?

History is not going to remember who had the better slogan. History, I

think, will remember in this moment whether this body decided to make America more competitive or more brittle. It will remember whether we chose the future when the future was still a choice.

That is what the Energy Bills Relief Act is designed to do. It is about families first. It is about consumers. It is about fair markets. It is about building. It is about winning.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we don't argue too much about yesterday, and I hope we focus instead on building tomorrow.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN for his remarks.

As we prepare to close, I want to talk a little bit about how the Energy Bills Relief Act fits into the broader conversation we are having about energy permitting right now.

To do this, I want to ask you to consider that you saw someone on TV who said the reason we don't have a lot of houses in America is because of the permitting barriers to building houses out of straw. You would probably have two thoughts. The first is, who the heck wants to build a house out of straw? The second thought you might have is what little pig is behind this advocacy campaign.

I tell you that because you have to look at what is happening in the energy sector right now, among those in the fossil fuel industry who are telling you that the permitting problem we have is a difficulty deploying fossil fuel assets.

Let's look at some numbers. In the year 2010, the United States consumed 1.1 billion short tons per year of coal. Today, we consume about 500 million. That is a more than 50 percent drop in the amount of coal our country is consuming.

In the year 2000, the United States consumed about 20 million barrels of oil per day. Today, we consume about 20 million barrels of oil per day.

We drive more miles and have more people, yet we are consuming the same amount of oil. Our houses are just as well-lit, just as warm, yet we are consuming half as much coal.

How did we get to that point? The reason we got to that point is because vehicles got more efficient. Given the choice between driving a car that costs you \$40 to fill up and one that costs \$20, people prefer \$20. If the choice is \$100 versus \$50, people prefer \$50. Heck, if you have an electric vehicle, you don't have to pay at all, especially if you have a solar panel on your roof. People like not paying for energy.

The other way that that happened is that the fastest growing source of new energy in this country has been renewable energy. We now generate more power from non-hydro renewables than we do from all the coal plants in the country.

That is not because we got woke. It is because we got greedy. It is because markets said they want to build the cheap stuff, and consumers wanted to benefit from that cheap stuff.

Now, step back and say, okay, what do you do if you are a fossil fuel company that is selling something that is losing market share? There is a new technology coming out that is eating into your customer base. You can't sell as much.

They have done two things. Number one, they have shifted to exports. In 2016, the United States basically didn't export any natural gas at all. By 2021, we were exporting 300,000 million cubic feet per year. Today, we are over 500,000 million cubic feet per year. It is as if we invented cell phones and then decided to double down on exporting rotary phone technology to the rest of the world. We are still producing a lot of oil in the United States, but oil is increasingly also an export play.

If there is a permitting problem that is blocking our ability to produce and distribute oil and gas, how is it that it is so easy to get it down to the Gulf Coast and ship it out to overseas? The truth is, it ain't that hard.

The reason why we are having this conversation about permitting is really, really simple. Half of the businesses in this country, by definition, are below average. A competitive market does not reward below-average businesses. Now, we find ourselves in a position where energy industry participants that historically made sure that we kept our lights on, made sure that our cars could drive, and made sure that our homes were warm built the economy that we have, and we are grateful to them. They are now losing market share, and instead of pivoting to providing people with the technologies they want, they are, number one, shifting to exports to try to go places that are not blessed with the kind of competitive capitalistic markets that we have in the United States; and, number two, they are doing everything they can to ask people in this body to please prevent capitalism from eating my lunch because I cannot compete in a competitive market. That is what is going on.

The reason why we are spending this time talking so much about costs and energy is because we have this amazing opportunity right now that we can have our cake and eat it, too.

When we embrace clean energy, we are embracing affordable energy. When we embrace consumers, we are embracing competition. To turn against those is to turn against capitalism. It is to turn against everything that ever truly made America great. It is to turn against the things that have kept up.

Then you ask how much farther we could go. I will give you some crazy statistics. The United States' total GDP divided by the total amount of energy that the United States uses, we generate about \$200 of GDP per million Btu of primary energy.

The United Kingdom generates almost 350 million Btu, almost twice as much as we generate. The Danes generate over 500. Their economies are vastly more efficient at turning energy

into wealth than the United States is—vastly more, like twice as efficient.

Imagine if we were so bad at turning labor into wealth as our competitors. We would be having a crisis about why American labor is so uncompetitive. Imagine if you were running a business that did a terrible job at turning capital into wealth, and we were earning terrible returns on investment in the United States economy. We would be having a crisis.

We should be having a crisis about the fact that we have done such a horrible job at turning energy into economic activity. We can be depressed about that, or we can be enormously optimistic at the opportunity we have in front of us.

We don't have a lot of time to prevent massive ecological disaster from climate change, but we do have a way to move forward to avert that crisis and make us stupidly rich. My God, let's move forward.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing us the time. I thank Congressman LEVIN, Congresswoman KAPTUR, and Congressman SUBRAMANYAM. For goodness' sake, let's move forward. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026, TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026; ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, TO MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026, TO TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow; that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

PRICES IN CALIFORNIA ARE TOO HIGH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, over the last month, gas prices in California have risen by about 40 cents. This is very different from what is going on elsewhere in the country.

In fact, right now, gas prices in California average \$4.63 where the national average is \$2.97. California's gas prices are by far the highest in the country.

They are 23 cents higher than the next highest State, Hawaii, which, of course, is an island State.

Lest you think this is strictly a matter of red States versus blue States or Democrat versus Republican policies, take a look at what folks not far from here in Maryland are paying for gas.

In Maryland, the State average is actually \$2.98, \$1.65 cents cheaper than in California. Here are examples of a gas station in California and a gas station in Maryland.

Now, Maryland is actually a bluer State than California is, and so the reason our citizens in California have to pay so much is because of the uniquely bad policies that we have in California, such as the highest in the Nation gas tax, the so-called cap-and-trade program, and regulations around the fuel mix that make it incredibly difficult to source.

All of this has caused two refineries to now leave our State, which is going to spike gas prices even more. Indeed, it has recently been reported that California is now importing gasoline from The Bahamas, in addition to many other places overseas. By the way, this gasoline comes in on tankers that run on petroleum. The policies of California's politicians have somehow given us the Nation's most expensive gas and its most environmentally unfriendly gas.

Mr. Speaker, on top of all of that, while all of these taxes are supposed to be going toward our roads, we are routinely rated as having among the very worst roads in the entire country. This is the extraordinary price that Californians pay for political failure.

Mr. Speaker, to try to provide at least some relief, I have introduced the Gas Tax Reduction Act here in the House, which would place a national cap on how much a State can tax its own citizens for gasoline. This would save Californians at least 21 cents a gallon right off the bat.

Unsurprisingly, the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, has come out against it. I am hopeful that we can get bipartisan support for this common-sense, much-needed proposition in this House, get Californians a modicum of relief, and ultimately change the disastrous policies that have produced this reality for our citizens.

SERIAL CHILD MOLESTER RELEASED EARLY IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the alarming news that in California a serial child molester by the name of David Funston has been granted early release.

The parole board has granted parole to Mr. Funston, a serial child molester, who, according to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, used candy and toys to lure children 7 years old and younger. He was convicted of 16 counts of kidnapping and child molestation. According to the sheriff, multiple young children were victimized, some as young as 4 years old.

He was sentenced to more than 20 years in prison, along with three addi-

tional consecutive sentences of 25 years to life, with the judge describing him as "the monster parents fear the most." Yet the parole board has now released him or has recommended his release pursuant to a program known as the Elderly Parole Program that grants eligibility of parole to individuals over the age of 50.

Now, when this program was expanded to include anyone over 50, even for these most heinous and vile of crimes, I was a member of the legislature and voted against it. It, in fact, received broad bipartisan opposition, yet Governor Gavin Newsom nevertheless signed that bill into law, putting many Californians and many young Californians at risk.

Mr. Speaker, this is the outrageous consequence of reckless criminal laws in California that have removed consequences for criminal activity and provided for the early release of tens of thousands of serious, hardened criminals.

We have made some progress in California through a voter initiative to make crime illegal again, passed overwhelmingly by California voters in 2024, but we have a long way to go to reverse the reckless laws that remain on the books and protect Californians from the most heinous of offenders.

COST OF LIVING

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, it is undeniably true that many Americans continue to struggle with the cost of living in this country, but what is also true is that those struggles are not felt uniformly throughout the country, that prices are much higher in certain places than others.

In my own State of California, we have the highest cost of living in the country and our Governor, Gavin Newsom, was asked about this recently on CNN. Why does California have the highest cost of living in the country?

The Governor had no answer, but the answer is obvious. It is the State's failed policies that have—through this laboratory of democracy experiment we have in this country where you can compare the results of different policies side by side, State by State—driven up the price of just about everything in California.

We have the highest gas prices in the country, the highest electricity prices in the country, the second or third highest water bills in the country, the second or third highest grocery prices in the country, the highest taxes in the country, and the highest housing costs in all of the continental United States.

The list goes on, which is why when you look at the Census Bureau's measure of the real poverty rate, which accounts for the cost of living, California has the highest poverty rate in the entire country. By the way, we also have the highest unemployment rate and among the lowest rates of wage growth, so not only are our residents forced to pay the highest prices but they are experiencing the smallest boost in their earning capacity and paychecks.

Now, the policies that have created this unfortunate reality are not difficult to identify. California taxes its citizens more than any State. It regulates its businesses more than any State. It has the worst litigation environment of any State. It has the most onerous regulations on gas, electricity and energy. It has failed to build adequate water storage in many decades, although we are, thankfully, changing that. It places tremendous restrictions and frivolous litigation on building housing and imposes fees that make it cost tens of thousands of dollars before you even break ground, which is why Gavin Newsom claimed he was going to build 3.5 million new homes when he came into office and has produced less than 20 percent of that number.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lesson to be learned here. When we talk about an affordability agenda that we can pursue here in the House to lower costs and improve the quality of life for folks all across the country, it is to do the opposite of what States like California have done. It is to do the opposite of overregulating each and every sector.

Instead, we should look to unleash the extraordinary capacity of the people of this country to build, to start businesses, to build housing, to remove the barriers, to be on the side of those who are creating and making life and providing more opportunities to folks all across this country.

We passed some measures that are important steps in that direction, but we certainly have more to do. We should bear in mind the example of California as we move forward with that agenda and seek to raise the quality of life for folks across the country.

□ 1250

NO PATH FORWARD FOR CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the CEO of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was recently arrested and placed on leave, so the Rail Authority is now on its sixth CEO. That means there have been six more CEOs than there have been passengers because, of course, there haven't been any passengers, despite spending \$17 million over 17 years. There has been no track laid.

Nevertheless, the Governor recently, with quite a bit of hoopla, held an event in Kern County to celebrate the fact that a single railhead has now been completed. The Governor that crowed they are now entering the track-laying phase, whatever that might mean.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Governor to acknowledge what the U.S. Department of Transportation did in a recent compliance review. This project has no viable path forward.

Thankfully, in the House of Representatives, following a bill I introduced to this effect, there was a bipartisan vote to cut off all further Federal funding for high-speed rail. There is no

viable path forward for the project. I do believe when we have a new Governor in the State, the project will finally be wound down.

Taxpayers also deserve answers on where all of this money has gone. Curiously, as we are seeing new scrutiny to answer that question as to where the money is going, the Governor is pushing a bill in the legislature to keep records of the project secret and to create new exceptions to our public records laws that specifically apply to high-speed rail. That raises the question: I wonder what he doesn't want the public to see.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight to assure that our share of Federal tax dollars goes toward projects like our roads that will actually benefit Californians, now that we have cut off funding for high-speed rail, and in encouraging leadership at the State level to wind this project down immediately so we don't continue to throw good money after bad.

AUDIT OF NEXT GENERATION 911 SYSTEM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to hear that there is going to be an investigation, an audit, of the so-called Next Generation 911 system in California by the non-partisan State auditor. At least this is being requested.

For several years, since 2019, Californians were charged extra fees on their phone bills. This was to build a Next Generation 911 system. The fees were paid by the taxpayers, and they went into a pot of money to build out this system. The Newsom administration ultimately spent \$450 million building this new 911 system, which is needed. Our system is outdated in California.

Yet the Newsom administration has just announced it is scrapping the entire project because the technology doesn't work. How does that happen, Mr. Speaker? This is California, by the way. Silicon Valley is a stone's throw away from the Governor's office. How do we charge Californians fees for years on their phone bills, spend \$450 million, and get absolutely nothing for it because the technology doesn't work?

Now our taxpayers have lost that money, and we still don't have an upgraded 911 system. We are looking at ways we can bring some scrutiny at the Federal level, as well; but we need to get answers why, once again, Californians have been forced to sacrifice and gotten absolutely nothing in return.

WEALTH TAX CAUSING CALIFORNIA'S MASS EXODUS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the so-called wealth tax being proposed in California has now caused individuals worth a combined \$1 trillion, by some estimates, to leave the State. The latest are Mark Zuckerberg and Steven Spielberg. Others include Larry Ellison and the founders of Google, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, among many others.

The wealth tax would confiscate 5 percent of an individual's net worth if they are worth more than \$1 billion.

What is worse is it would actually go after people who have already left the State if they had been in California within a year of the measure's enactment.

That is why you are seeing this exodus simply based on the wealth tax being proposed. If you stick around too long before it goes into effect, if you miss the deadline, then they will come after you and seize your assets wherever you might be. I could not think of a more self-defeating proposition.

Let's start with the fact that a lot of individuals with a high net worth don't necessarily have 5 percent of their assets that are liquid. They will be forced to unwind their companies. When they are leaving the State, they are taking their businesses and investments with them. They are taking their income taxes with them.

That is why any country that has tried any such wealth tax has actually repealed it because it has had the opposite of the intended effect.

I have introduced the Keep Jobs in California Act to preempt the most blatantly unconstitutional provision of this measure, the one that would tax former residents. My measure simply says that a State cannot seize the assets of former residents.

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward proposition. If this goes into effect, then it will stop this mass exodus because people will not need to leave California simply based on the threat that this could eventually go into effect.

SHUTTING DOWN ILLEGAL BIOLABS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have joined with several of my colleagues, including the cosponsor of legislation I have introduced, Representative COSTA, in calling for immediate consideration of our bill to find, detect, and shut down illegal biolabs operating throughout the United States.

A couple of weeks ago, a second illegal biolab run by Chinese nationals was discovered in Las Vegas. This follows the lab that was found in Reedley, California, a couple of years ago. It was run by the same international fugitive with ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

While the samples are being tested now, it looks very similar to what was found in Reedley, where some of the world's most dangerous pathogens were being held, pathogens like E. coli, like malaria, like HIV, like COVID, like AIDS in this facility that no one knew was even there. They also had genetically modified transgenic mice in this facility in Reedley.

By the way, they had a freezer that was labeled "Ebola" at that Reedley facility. It should be noted that Ebola has a 50 percent fatality rate—a 50 percent fatality rate. While it is not especially transmissible, we know based upon our experience with COVID that in the Wuhan lab, they conduct gain-of-function research.

Imagine if they produced a strain of Ebola with its 50 percent fatality rate but at a higher level of trans-

missibility. I could not think of a more jarring threat to public health in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress needs to act with urgency in considering and passing this legislation that we have introduced. After the first lab was discovered, I said that we don't know how many others are out there. That concern was echoed by a report by the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

We now know that at least one other lab was out there. The question still remains: How many others are there? We need to get answers to that very quickly, and we need to make sure we are doing everything we possibly can to find and shut down any other labs that are indeed out there.

CONGRATULATING PRIDE INDUSTRIES' 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize PRIDE Industries on reaching their 60-year anniversary milestone.

In 1966, PRIDE Industries was founded in the basement of a church in Auburn, California, by a group of parents of young adults with developmental disabilities. These parents shared a simple, yet powerful, goal: To ensure their grown children had purpose and the opportunity to participate in the workforce.

Now, 60 years later, still based in Placer County, they are the leading employer in the Nation of people with disabilities. PRIDE has operations that span across 15 different States, as well as here in Washington, D.C.

Throughout the past six decades, PRIDE Industries has remained committed to making direct investments in breaking down barriers to employment, strengthening our local workforce, driving economic growth, and delivering a lasting and meaningful social impact.

It is an honor to represent exemplary organizations like Pride Industries in Congress. As such, I commend Pride Industries for their ongoing dedication to helping people with disabilities to realize their full potential and maximize their participation in the workforce.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I join Pride Industries in celebrating 60 years of service, and I look forward to seeing all that they will continue to accomplish in the years to come.

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

□ 1300

PEACEFUL, SILENT PROTEST

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and I rise, Mr. Speaker, a liberated, unbought, unbossed, fearless, unafraid Democrat.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, with a special message, one that concerns events that

transpired right here on the floor of the House of Representatives last night.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to speak truth to power and truth about power. To speak truth to power, you have to simply say to power: We have a problem, and let us solve the problem. But if you speak truth about power, you say: Power, there is a problem, and you are it.

I would like to address both. Let's start with the genesis of what occurred last night, and that genesis is a meme in some worlds, but it was actually something that AI concocted. It had President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama being represented as apes, portrayed as apes.

I find this unacceptable, and a good many people of good will found it unacceptable, as well. As a person of good will finding this unacceptable, I wanted to do more than simply tweet something about it or write something about it. I wanted the President to know that people of good will will confront him and let him know that he is doing things that are unacceptable.

It is unacceptable to portray *Homo sapiens*, especially persons of African ancestry, as apes—a little bit more than, in some worlds, of the ape family and a little bit less than a *Homo sapien*, something that is sort of in a twilight zone, maybe the missing link, if you will.

We are not the missing link. We are as human as anybody else, and we are going to demand the respect that everybody else is accorded. This is not a world where you are going to relegate some human beings to a lower life form simply because it pleases you and a host of people who you happen to communicate with. This is unacceptable.

So right here, I sat on this row. I was over one seat away from the aisle, but when the President approached, I then approached the aisle. When I approached the aisle, I wanted him to see a sign that I had that simply said—but it was truthful; I believe it was powerful—that Black people are not apes. Black people aren't apes.

I flashed that for the President to see. Based upon the way he turned away and tried to move briskly, it appears that he got the message but did not want to embrace the message.

As a result of this, he made his way up to give his speech, and I continued to stand silently, holding my signage. My signage was my means of silently protesting.

There were other persons over in this area who were protesting, and they were doing it peacefully. They had on signage. It was displayed on a cap—that is what I saw on one person, a cap—and it had language on it.

These kinds of things are done in this Chamber quite regularly. If someone thinks it is too often, I won't differ with them, but we all have to stop. If we are going to stop some of us, every one of us will have to behave in a similar fashion.

I stood there with my signage, and my colleagues became rather disturbed

about it. I did not create a disturbance. I stood there silently. They created the disturbance. They are the people who grabbed and ripped my signage. They are the people who said things to me as I traversed the aisle and tried to make my way out of the Chamber. They are the people who became rather rambunctious and behaved, in some ways, in an unacceptable fashion.

If there is to be some concern about who created the disturbance, then you have to look at the video, and you will see.

I am saying this to you because I have heard talk of someone wanting to censure me again. I have already been censured. This happened some time ago, and I have signage that I used to indicate that, while I have been censured, my signage indicates that I have not been silenced, and I will not be silenced, censured but not silenced.

This was when the President was here for a joint session of Congress. The President was indicating that he had a mandate. I wanted him to know that he didn't have a mandate to cut Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security, and I spoke up.

I was seated in that very same area. For this, I was removed, and I was censured. But for this that occurred last evening, there should not be a censure of me. If anybody is going to be censured, it should be the people who became so rambunctious as to create a disturbance.

I didn't do that. I silently stood, and I would do it again. The first time I engaged the President, it was with spontaneity. I did not plan this. I responded to this because I was concerned about Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, and well I should have been because about \$1 trillion has been cut from healthcare.

We are still fighting to get subsidies so that people can pay premiums that they can afford. This is a part of that affordability that the President refuses to recognize, but I did this with a degree of spontaneity. It was not planned.

What I did last night was planned, but it was only planned after I did have a conversation with my staff and asked them to tell me why I should and should not come over. We had that conversation, and I made the decision myself. My staff did not make the decision, but I welcomed their input. I came here to behave, as I did, and engage in peaceful, silent protest—peaceful, silent protest.

However, my colleagues caused it to metamorphose into something that was less than what some persons would call the standards that we have set for ourselves here in the House of Representatives.

I am not going to give a long message today. I wanted to make this message clear such that people would understand that I believe in what I did. The President should not portray persons of African ancestry as apes.

This is unacceptable given the history in this country of caricatures such

as this being utilized against people of color at an earlier time. The President would take us back to those ugly days when you could call Black people *n-words* with impunity, when you could demand that Black people show respect that was not deserved, when the Black people were relegated to the back of the bus. They were relegated to the balcony of the movie and the bottom of the jails.

This is unacceptable. Black people are not going back, Mr. President. Black people are going to move forward with the rest of this country.

I am giving notice today that we will not tolerate this level of injustice emanating from the highest office in this country, from the Presidency. We will not tolerate it, Mr. President.

I speak for a good many people of good will, of all hues, who have decided that they will not tolerate it.

Now, one final word on something else before I bring you to my closing. It seems to me that the news media—a good many, not all the outlets—not all of them, but a good many of these major outlets have decided that they will determine when a problem that African Americans are having to suffer—they will determine when it is worthy of being televised, worthy of when it should be challenged, when the problem itself should be taken on, and they will decide who is going to solve our problems.

If we allow other people who, for whatever reasons, have a timeline that does not coincide with our suffering, then we do ourselves a disservice. We cannot allow some of these major news sources to decide when they will give us the opportunity to protest our problems.

Those who would deny us this opportunity to engage in peaceful protest will only make it possible for other forms of protest to manifest themselves. This peaceful protest is an acceptable methodology by which problems can be brought to the attention of the public, can be properly litigated, and can be resolved, but not when you have a media—and there are many of them that would do this, and I will tell you who they are so that there won't be any question about it. I know that they don't favor me because I talk not only to them but about them.

They are the same people, the same networks, who are over in the Russell Office Building—over in the Russell Office Building, named in honor of a bigot and a racist. Richard Russell was a coauthor of the "Southern Manifesto." Richard Russell fought anti-lynching legislation.

□ 1310

Richard Russell fought civil rights legislation. We should not honor a bigot and a racist by placing his name on a building paid for with taxpayer dollars.

Who are they? They are the people who have themselves stationed above the statute of Richard Russell in the

Russell Senate Office Building. They are CNN. They are MSNBC. Yes, they are two of the major components of this group of folks who don't respect us enough to move themselves from the Richard Russell Office Building. Don't leave FOX News out. These are the people who talk as though they are our friends, who give the impression that they want to see our problems solved. Yet, they are part of the problem over in the Russell Senate Office Building. CNN, MSNBC—no longer that—it is MS NOW, and also FOX News, they are a part of the problem.

I speak truth not only to power. I told you I would speak truth about power. This is about them, and this is about what they are doing to prolong the suffering that we have to endure by having Richard Russell's name on the building and having them right there over Richard Russell in the Rotunda dedicated to Richard Russell.

How shameless are you? Why is it that you, who portray yourselves as the bearers of the torch of freedom, as the carriers of the words of "liberty and justice for all," how can you station yourselves in that building all of these years and not make a to-do of it?

You know you have the power to make the change come about. The Senate itself can do it, and you can influence the Senate. But rather than do that, you and the Senate, you are participants in the same coverup of Richard Russell being the racist that he is and having taxpayers pay for his name on a building.

Those are the people that I am talking about, and there are others. I just mentioned these three main characters in a sense because they are the ones that hold themselves out to be such great liberty-seeking people and wanting justice for everybody. Shame on you. You don't want justice for everybody. You just want to make the news for yourselves.

I marvel at how newspeople have decided now that if the story is to be told, they have to make the news too. Just report the news. Tell the truth about what is happening over in the Russell Senate Office Building. These are the people who want to decide when the problems of people of color can be solved and who will have the opportunity to solve them. Until they decide who it is that will have the opportunity to do this, it won't be done. Shame on you. Become the newspeople that you are supposed to be. Don't pick and choose. Just carry the news.

Unfortunately, they have become so interwoven with the various parties that they literally are mouthpieces for one party or another. You are a news source. You are not mouthpieces for any political party, or you shouldn't be. But that is what you have become. Shame on you. Do you have no respect for the profession that you are supposed to represent?

Now, as I come to my final close, sometimes I close more than once—and I am being handed a note, so let me

just see what my note says. So please forgive me.

All right. I shall honor this request.

I am honored to tell you that in my quest, which is not a quixotic quest, I see it as a noble calling. In my quest to bring some scintilla of justice to this cause associated with the President representing a former President and First Lady as persons who are less than *Homo sapiens*, maybe a little bit above the primates, but still not the human beings that other people happen to be.

In my quest to do this, it has become very clear to me that people of goodwill do not want to see us continue down the path that we are currently traversing. People of goodwill want to see us unite and deal with the great issues of our time.

But you can't deal with the great issues of the time if you have a President who is continually ignoring the norms, ignoring the rules, ignoring the Constitution. When you have a President who has decided that he can go to war at will, without conferring with the Congress. Who would allow a President to speak for 435 people? Who would allow him to have this awesome power to determine for the hundreds of millions of people in this country that we go to war when he says we go to war? This is totally unacceptable, and it is unconstitutional.

The President does not have the authority to unilaterally declare war. He has to consult with the Congress.

Well, there is a reason why he is not consulting. It is because there are too many pusillanimous politicians in Congress, people who have decided that they will bend the knee and kiss the ring. There are people who are afraid to speak not only truth to power but truth about power as well. If you won't speak truth to power, I guess it is far-fetched to assume you will speak truth about power; but there are too many.

The President has assumed the responsibility of Congress to declare war. He does it because Congress has been on the sidelines, not by accident, but with intentionality. They have just decided—and when I say Congress, I really mean my Republican colleagues. Democratic colleagues, please understand this does not refer to you.

My Republican colleagues know that I am speaking the truth. They know that the President should not be declaring war without us. Maybe there would be a majority of us who would say yes, let's go to war. Until that happens, we have to assume that there is not a majority of us saying it, and the President cannot assume that he can, on his own volition, just declare war. This is the kind of President that we have.

It is difficult to deal with some of these other issues concerning affordability when you have a President who disrespects the separation of powers. He doesn't believe that courts have the ability to make judicial and judicious decisions. He thinks that if they don't agree with him, they are wrong. If they

are wrong, he believes that they can be impeached. It took the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to remind him that he does not have that level of authority, that he must recognize the Court's authority as a separate branch of the government, the judiciary, and he has to honor the decisions or he can appeal the decisions. It took the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to influence him—I assume he was influenced by the Chief Justice—to get him to stop flouting court orders. That is what he does. He flouts the orders of courts.

He disrespects Congress' right to declare war. He disrespects the power of the judiciary to make decisions and, if you differ with them, to appeal. He also disrespects the notion that the Constitution provides something called due process, the right to be able to simply raise your hand and say: Hey, you got the wrong guy. I am not the person you are looking for. I am not the person who performed this dastardly deed. That is not me.

He just believes that if he thinks you are it, then you are it. You can be summarily removed from the streets of this country by persons in military regalia, with a mask and little identification, taken to some distant place, locked up. Family and friends don't know where you are because this President believes that you are somehow a criminal that has breached some code of his, not necessarily the law, given the way he understands the law, and you should be taken away.

When you have all of these things happening and then you couple this with the way he demeans people, he stood right there at the podium at the Joint Session of Congress and called Members of Congress lunatics. Well, when he does all of these things, it is difficult to deal with affordability. It is difficult to deal with the housing crisis. It is difficult to deal with what is happening not only in the stock market, which he seems to celebrate and appreciate, but also what is happening in the supermarket.

Most of my constituents are more concerned about the prices in the supermarket than the prices in the stock market. They are concerned about the necessities of life, not their ability to store away something so that they can have a better quality of life by virtue of playing what we call the stock market.

□ 1320

We have a responsibility to address all of these other issues, but this President distracts us from them, and he prevents us from resolving them. As a result of doing this, he is as much to blame for any of these problems associated with affordability as anybody else in this country. In fact, he is more to blame when you realize that the Supreme Court had to tell him that a tariff is a tax. It is a tax on the American people, and that he doesn't have the authority to impose these taxes.

He has got lawyers who are supposed to be advising him if he doesn't know.

Most people assume that if you are going to tax something coming into the country, into the hands of a person who is in this country and you put a tax on it—they call it a tariff, but when you put this tariff tax on it, that this person is either going to pay it himself to get the product into the country or the person that is sending it in is going to have to lower the cost or the person bringing it in can pay the cost and then pass it on to the consumer. At some point it becomes something that is passed on to the consumer. That is what has happened.

When you have that coupled with the other things I have mentioned, affordability becomes a difficult issue to negotiate. It is easy if you want to capitulate and call that negotiation, but capitulation is not negotiation. Capitulation means, in the President's world, he has won. He talks about winning. He has won, and you have lost. For him, it is an all-win-or-lose game, and he always has to win.

The President is the source of the upheaval that we are seeing in this country. Two people killed—American citizens, unarmed, were killed under the color of law by the constabulary. Members of our police protection force killed two people. We saw it with our own eyes. We saw what happened to Ms. Good as she was in a vehicle. We saw how she had her life taken from her. We saw what happened to Alex when his life was taken from him, shot 9 or 10 times, depending on who is counting, while he was unarmed, while he was on the ground, while he was subdued to the extent that he was not a threat to anybody.

Yet the President of the United States distracts us with other things, including buying Greenland and taking Canada and making it the 51st State. He goes on to something else. Now we are no longer mourning the lives of those two people that were lost tragically at the hands of the constabulary under the color of law.

These kinds of things are distractions that allow him to get away with other things, that allow his family and himself to make huge sums of money, profits. It allows them, while we are being distracted, to drive the market down, and he will then signal to people over his Truth—well, I don't even like to call it Truth—over his means of transmitting messages—he uses that to tell people: It is time to buy. His people buy, the market goes up, and they make billions.

This is what is happening. I know. I am on the Financial Services Committee. We have had the empirical evidence presented to us.

All of these things—other things are happening while the President is making billions by and through his family, billions of dollars.

We fight among ourselves such that we cannot coordinate and unify and acquire the unity necessary to deal with this reckless, ruthless President. We have to find a way to put a stop on his

behavior. His behavior is totally unacceptable.

I am here to tell you that what I did last night, I would do again. I would do it again by coming in and taking my seat and saying to people what I said because what I said was necessary.

It was not performative. It was not to get attention, other than to call attention to what the President is doing. It was not to get attention but to call attention to what the President is doing.

I still say that all of these other things that we find ourselves saddled with, they can be solved, but you have to have a President who is willing to behave with some degree of Presidential dignity, according respect to the people of this country, which he seems to have great difficulty doing. He seems to, for whatever reason, want to believe that his moral standards are the standards that everyone concurs with.

He has as much as said that the only thing that can get in his way would be his own moral standards. How bold. How can a person have the gall to say such a thing? Do you not want to hesitate and have the good sense to say to yourself that maybe this is not an appropriate thing to say?

But I think he believes this. Because he believes it, he imposes it on us, whether we like it or not. Well, Democrats don't like it, and Democrats want to do something about it, but Republicans are in the majority.

If there is a problem with these great issues of our time, don't lay them at the feet of Democrats. Democrats are doing as best as they can with what they have to work with, the resources that are available to them. These resources are not unlimited. We just don't have the same opportunity to bring legislation to the floor that Republicans have. We don't have the opportunity to deny things to get to the floor that Republicans can deny. We are in a weakened position because they have 218 votes or more in the House, and they have more than 51 votes in the Senate. They are in the majority.

When you are in the majority, don't blame President Biden for what you are doing. President Biden is no longer the President of the United States. He should not be blamed for what is happening currently within the United States. This is Donald Trump's watch. We ought to blame Donald Trump and the Republicans who side with him and prevent us from solving the great issues of our time because they have the power.

We have but one power that we can use without the consent of the other side. That one power is impeachment. We have one power: the power to impeach.

We are in a countdown. We are in a countdown because, whether the President likes it or not, whether I like it or not, the people of the country want to see him impeached. Whether he likes it or not or whether I like it or not or

anybody else, he is going to be impeached before he leaves office again. He should be for what he has done to the country in terms of its devolution into authoritarianism. He should be impeached.

Mr. President, you will be impeached for your dastardly deeds done and for the way you have demeaned the Presidency, the way you have harmed society with your behavior. You should be impeached.

I say to you: I would, without question, reservation, or hesitation, given the opportunity, bring the Articles of Impeachment to have him at least impeached. I would hope that the Senate would act and remove him from office.

But even if the Senate chooses not to act, we should proceed with our countdown to impeachment and impeach him. It is that impeachment that will make the difference in the lives of the people of this country when the signal is sent that we do not agree with his behavior.

People are waiting for us to let them know that we don't agree, and this is the best way to signal to them we don't agree, with Articles of Impeachment, where we can make our case, explain it to the public, and then take a vote on it and show the public that a majority of the people in the House of Representatives differ.

□ 1330

Someone would say: Why bring impeachment until you have a majority?

It is because we, quite often, build up to a majority by presenting legislation on the floor that doesn't get a majority of votes the first time.

The best example of this is healthcare. It took us almost one century to get the kind of healthcare that we have, so that people who have affordability problems will have healthcare in this country. It took us almost a century to do it, but we kept bringing it back and back until we were able to get a President, a House, and a Senate that could agree on something and get it done.

That is the way it is with impeachment. Somebody has to lay the foundation for it, Mr. Speaker, and when you lay the foundation for it, you are putting the country in a position to move forward with it.

I am assuring you, Mr. President, should you continue with what you are doing, articles will be filed whether they are agreed-upon by a majority or not. We will file the Articles of Impeachment, and we will have votes on them. This is what I believe the Constitution not only allows but requires. This is what I think that the Constitution requires.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to take these last words to heart: I still rise unbought, unbossed, and a liberated Democrat.

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

JOINT APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE AS INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader, their joint appointment, pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual to serve as Inspector General for the U.S. House of Representatives:

Ms. Christen Stevenson, Brandywine, Maryland

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2939. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2024 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 295c(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title VII, Sec. 768(d) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 10501(m)); (124 Stat. 1002); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2940. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removing Obsolete Regulations Related to the Voluntary Consumer Product Information Labeling Program [Docket ID: 260107-0006] (RIN: 0605-AA74) received February 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2941. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's 2024 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation, pursuant to section 3 of the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act, Public Law 110-144, codified at 42 U.S.C. section 273b; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2942. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Final Repeal [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794; FRL-6716.4-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW68) received February 23, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2943. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerances; Implementing Registration Review Decisions for Certain Pesticides; Terbacil, et

al. [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0502; FRL-11773-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-ZA16) received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2944. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerances; Implementing Registration Review Decisions for Certain Pesticides; Diphenylamine, et al. [EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0153; FRL-12748-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-ZA16) received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2945. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pydiflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0502; FRL-13086-01-OCSP] received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2946. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Inpyrfluxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0433 and EPA-HQ-OPP-0833; FRL-13125-01-OCSP] received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2947. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerance(s) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0630; 13166-01-OCSP] received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2948. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Commitments Compliance Act of 1989; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2949. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2950. A letter from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [CPCLD Order No.: 01-2026] received February 19, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2951. A letter from the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation (RIN: 1601-AB16) received February 23, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2952. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Brakes on Portable Conveyors [Docket No.: FMCSA-2025-0119] (RIN: 2126-AC93) received February

23, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2953. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Obsolete References to "Water Carriers" [Docket No.: FMCSA-2025-0112] (RIN: 2126-AC86) received February 23, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2954. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports [Docket No.: FMCSA-2025-0115] (RIN: 2126-AC89) received February 23, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2955. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Restoring Integrity to the Issuance of Non-Domiciled Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL) [Docket No.: FMCSA-2025-0622] (RIN: 2126-AC98) received February 18, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.J. Res. 139. A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced budget for the Federal Government (Rept. 119-520). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1078. A bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-521). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1181. A bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from general-merchandise retailer or sporting-goods retailer, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-522). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3959. A bill to except quotations of fixed-income securities from certain regulatory requirements, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-523). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 4624. A bill to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to establish requirements for unified boxing organizations, to further enhance the well-being of professional boxers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-524 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4130. A bill to amend

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exclude qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors when calculating holders of a security for purposes of the mandatory registration threshold under such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-525). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6541. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-526). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6544. A bill to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to review the cumulative impact of regulations issued by such agencies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-527). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6546. A bill to require the Inspector General of each Federal prudential regulator to carry out a review every 3 years of the regulator's handling of insured depository institution merger applications, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-528). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6550. A bill to require annual reporting on interactions between Federal banking supervisory agencies and global financial regulatory or supervisory forums, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-529). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6551. A bill to require annual reports on national bank and Federal savings association charter applications, depository institution holding company applications, Federal deposit insurance applications, and State depository institution charter applications, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-530). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6552. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study how partnerships between fintechs and banking organizations can support new banking organization formation and community bank health, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-531). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6553. A bill to index statutory thresholds, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-532). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6554. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to specify additional responsibilities of the member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System who was appointed as the member with experience working in or supervising community banks, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-533). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6555. A bill to require the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to carry out a study on shelf charters and modified bidder qualification processes, and for

other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-534). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6570. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study the use of commitments and conditions in connection with insured depository institution merger applications by Federal depository institution regulatory agencies to ensure they align with statutory requirements, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-535). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4624 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 7669. A bill to require a report that describes the current restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women and girls in Afghanistan since August 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. SALINAS):

H.R. 7670. A bill to require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 7671. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish the position of the Assistant Director and Student Loan Borrower Advocate of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, to provide a framework for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Department of Education to coordinate in providing assistance to and serving borrowers seeking to resolve complaints related to their private education or Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 7672. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include Guam; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 7673. A bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam to provide an exception to the "public purpose" requirement for certain land transfers in the case of a transfer restoring such land to the original landowner or heirs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 7674. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a strategy to

support a democratic transition in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 7675. A bill to require the Secretary of State to establish the Initiative on Foreign Investment Screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 7676. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to authorize States to develop directories of career and technical education programs of study and career pathways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7677. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding fraud prevention measures in certain Federal early childhood education, child care, and child nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. EZELL, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HAGEMAN, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JACK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. LETLOW, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MESSMER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROY, Mr. RULLI, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. VAN EPPS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, and Mr. EDWARDS):

H.R. 7678. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GILLEN (for herself and Ms. KING-HINDS):

H.R. 7679. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to include public information and education activities as authorized programming under highway safety programs and to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out an education campaign on the dangers associated with noncompliant or counterfeit child restraint systems, including car seats and booster seats, and methods for identifying and avoiding such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 7680. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to require that certain non-profits comply with E-Verify; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself, Mr. BARRETT, and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS):

H.R. 7681. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 7682. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to base the numerical limitations for H-2B nonimmigrants on economic need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7683. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and expand the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 7684. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study, and publish guidance on, calculating and reporting scope 3 emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 7685. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to specify that hair straightening or smoothing products containing formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing substances will be considered adulterated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 7686. A bill to recognize the importance of clinical roles of locum tenens physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. OGLEs):

H.R. 7687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income gain from the conversion of property by reason of eminent domain; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 7688. A bill to modernize and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 7689. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide basic and emer-

gency supplemental living assistance grants under the student support services program; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 7690. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the maximum stipend amounts provided under Upward Bound projects; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. FROST (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 7691. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to local educational agencies to cover the costs of challenges to determinations not to discontinue the use of specific instructional materials, or the availability of specific school library materials, in public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 7692. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to establish an Office of Ethics Counsel and an Office of Investigative Counsel within the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 7693. A bill to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on incentives under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for the development of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 7694. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a public awareness campaign to increase participation by women in clinical trials that are conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. DOWNING, Ms. MALOY, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 7695. A bill to provide that the final rule titled "Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation" and issued on January 12, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 3244) shall have no force or effect and require the Secretary of Agriculture to construct certain roads on National Forest System lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. LICCARDO, and Mrs. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 7696. A bill to establish a grant program to provide awards to National Laboratories and institutions of higher education to develop secure artificial intelligence (AI) cyber-physical testbeds to simulate grid-scale cyberattacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. LICCARDO, and Mrs. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 7697. A bill to establish an international strategy for AI research and development to improve outdated electrical grids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. MANN, Mr. COLE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 7698. A bill to allow members of federally recognized Tribes to use their Tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed

firearms dealer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 7699. A bill to ensure that Federal laws that enable Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply equally to Tribal law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7700. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study with respect to public housing inspections and the number of inspectors needed to ensure that all inspections are completed annually; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7701. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to reduce rent in public housing for police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7702. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize capital punishment for certain sexual abuse offenses against children; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. FINE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ROY, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MILLS, Mr. OGLEs, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. FRY, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. RULLI, Mr. ROSE, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina):

H.R. 7703. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that the prohibition on the possession of firearms and ammunition by certain aliens shall apply with respect to the use of firearms and ammunition by government entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself, Mr. VAN EPPS, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 7704. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require call centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to use multi-factor identification to verify the identity of callers in connection with high-impact veteran or beneficiary actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. YAKYM, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COLE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 7705. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian Tribal Governments in the same manner as State governments for certain Federal tax purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7706. A bill to change the spousal notification and consent requirements for the payment of lump-sum retirement benefits in cases of domestic violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OGLLES:

H.R. 7707. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on income earned from competing in global athletic events on behalf of foreign entities of concern; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 7708. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to return identification documents to individuals upon their release from custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SIMON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. RANDALL):

H.R. 7709. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from obligating or expending Federal funds for the acquisition of, or utilizing, full-body restraints, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. RANDALL (for herself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 7710. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include Indian tribes in the defense community infrastructure program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 7711. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to compensate individuals who were prosecuted for their involvement in the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 7712. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate with various entities, and to establish a grant program, as a means of supporting nurseries and seed orchards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 7713. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure the appropriate availability of personal care services under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Ms. ANSARI):

H.R. 7714. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 North Colorado Street in Chandler, Arizona, as the "Mayor Coy Payne Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 7715. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit coercing protected adults to send or otherwise transmit an intimate visual depiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. MORRISON, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 7716. A bill to prohibit the imposition of additional tariffs on agricultural inputs imported from countries to which the United States has extended normal trade relations,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 7717. A bill to establish a pilot program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support local jurisdictions in developing neighborhood-level, publicly accessible health data platforms, to establish a National Neighborhood Health Data Repository, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. MIN):

H.R. 7718. A bill to revise administrative procedures relating to public safety officers' death benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WIED (for himself and Mr. TIFANY):

H.R. 7719. A bill to require the Attorney General to administer grants to discourage repeat offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CAREY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. ROSS):

H. Res. 1077. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, as an entity of the United States Postal Service, should issue a commemorative stamp in honor of Charity Adams Earley; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H. Res. 1078. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the "Defend the Spend" freeze on child care payments to all States, Tribes, and Territories; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 1079. A resolution recognizing the significance of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and the need for robust funding of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of

Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. RIVAS):

H. Res. 1080. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the significance of Black History Month 2026 and its theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H. Res. 1081. A resolution raising awareness for the sarcoma cancer chordoma; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 1082. A resolution recognizing 250 years of Polish-American friendship and reaffirming the interest of the United States of America in the democracy, sovereignty, prosperity, and security of Poland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H. Res. 1083. A resolution honoring Mr. William DeHart Hubbard; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 1084. A resolution support for the designation of February 28 as "HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day" and affirming that people living with HIV should not be criminalized based on their HIV status; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RULLI:

H. Res. 1085. A resolution censuring Representative Al Green of Texas; to the Committee on Ethics.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 7669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 7672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 7673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 7674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 7675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 7676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution."

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 7678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. GILLEN:

H.R. 7679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 7680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States; . . ."

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 7681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper

for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 7684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 7685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 7686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 7687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 7688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 7689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 7690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 7691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 7692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 7693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 7694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 7695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 7696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 7697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 7698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 7699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 7703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 7704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 7705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 7708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. RAMIREZ:

H.R. 7709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. RANDALL:

H.R. 7710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One Section Eight

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 7711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 7712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 7713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 7714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 7715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 7716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 7717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 7718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. WIED:

H.R. 7719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 151: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 161: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
 H.R. 379: Mr. BARRETT.
 H.R. 492: Mrs. FLETCHER.
 H.R. 631: Mr. GOODEN.
 H.R. 637: Ms. BARRAGAN and Mr. BERGMAN.
 H.R. 752: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 1085: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 1189: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 1421: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 1525: Ms. LETLOW.
 H.R. 1538: Mr. MANNION.
 H.R. 1628: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mrs. SPARTZ.
 H.R. 1648: Mr. SCHMIDT.
 H.R. 1877: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 1957: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
 H.R. 2028: Mr. MAGAZINER and Ms. DEXTER.
 H.R. 2033: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 2036: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mrs. CAMMACK.
 H.R. 2221: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 2459: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 2623: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 2678: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 2715: Mr. EZELL.
 H.R. 2725: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 2784: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 2789: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2964: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3052: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 3184: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3304: Mr. KEAN and Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 3376: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 3447: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 3514: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 3522: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 3532: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 3544: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.R. 3680: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 3683: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 3706: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 3747: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 4167: Ms. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 4206: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 4669: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 4716: Ms. MALOY.
 H.R. 4731: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 4966: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H.R. 5073: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 5271: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Mr. DOGETT.
 H.R. 5490: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 5499: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 5521: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 5658: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H.R. 5688: Mr. FONG.
 H.R. 5835: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 6000: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 6001: Ms. MCBRIDE.
 H.R. 6091: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 6302: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 6303: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 6383: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
 H.R. 6440: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 6505: Mr. FIELDS.
 H.R. 6527: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 6574: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 6643: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
 H.R. 6671: Mr. MANNION.
 H.R. 6677: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H.R. 6731: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H.R. 6856: Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 6997: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7033: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 7039: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
 H.R. 7100: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7120: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
 H.R. 7230: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 7333: Mr. SWALWELL.
 H.R. 7346: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7360: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 7367: Ms. RANDALL.
 H.R. 7371: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 7391: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7392: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7415: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 7460: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 7481: Mr. CORREA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FIELDS, and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 7516: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 7540: Mr. BARR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. JACK.
 H.R. 7583: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 7590: Ms. NORTON and Mr. BISHOP.
 H.R. 7591: Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 7593: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 7608: Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 7613: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MESSMER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KEAN, and Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 7615: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 7623: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. GILLEN.
 H.R. 7651: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JACK, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
 H.R. 7652: Mr. PALLONE.
 H. Res. 866: Ms. MALOY.
 H. Res. 925: Mr. KEAN.
 H. Res. 1028: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1035: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H. Res. 1040: Ms. SIMON.
 H. Res. 1059: Ms. ADAMS.
 H. Res. 1065: Mr. TAKANO.
 H. Res. 1073: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. LAWLER.



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No. 37

Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, a few days ago, I stood here and congratulated Lithuania on its Independence Day. Well, there is another Baltic State that had Independence Day yesterday, the country of Estonia. Just as we celebrate Independence Day on the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, yesterday marked the anniversary of Estonia's Declaration of Independence in 1918.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Estonia 4 years later in 1922, and that recognition and relationship with Estonia has continued uninterrupted until today. That is right. We even had accredited Estonian diplomats working in the United States throughout the 50 years that Estonia was illegally occupied by the Soviet Union and Moscow considered Estonia as a legitimate part of the Soviet Union.

So we never gave up on Estonia's freedom. That is something that we Americans can be proud of: standing by our friends.

Today, Estonia is very free, very prosperous, and very pro-American.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, yesterday was also a more somber anniversary. Four years ago, Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russian forces

reached the outskirts of the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv in an attempt to overthrow the democratic-elected government of Ukraine.

As we know, that failed. That failed due to the courage and determination of the Ukrainian people who were able immediately to push back Russian forces out of at least half the territory that they initially took.

Russian troops have failed to make any major breakthrough, taking tiny amounts of territory at the cost of tens of thousands of Russian lives. Those losses would be unsustainable for any country that values the lives of its people or that must answer to its citizens for its actions in democratic countries.

What was supposed to be only a 3-day military operation has been 4 years of all-out warfare. Ukrainians are going without power or without heat in sub-zero temperatures because Russia has targeted civilian powerplants. Churches in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine have been closed, and Christians have been persecuted if they do not accept the authority of the Russian Orthodox Church and its KGB leader of that church who answers only to Putin.

But just like the brave Estonians, for now 100 years-plus under the Soviet occupation, Ukrainians will never concede their sovereignty, and they will never give up on their countrymen who are currently suffering under brutal Russian occupation.

Just like we did for Estonia, we ought to not give up on Ukrainian freedom and independence, and the United States should do everything it can to make sure that the Ukrainian people are helped to preserve their country and preserve their freedom. Nothing could be more American.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, as we reflect on the state of our national union, may we also remember the importance of our union with You. Lord, You desire for us to be in alignment with Your will, to strive for oneness with each other, and to make our world a place where Your grace, mercy, and goodness can prevail.

Today, give our lawmakers a union with You that will transform their lives, to become mirrors of Your divine attributes. Provide them with the divine traits of humility, patience, and perseverance as You fill them with a peace that the world cannot give or take away.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING EDEN HOLGUIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention Special Agent Eden Holguin, a member of the Capitol Police's Dignitary Protection Division, who passed away last week following a brief illness.

It is men and women like Special Agent Holguin who allow us to complete our work here each day in safety. I am profoundly grateful for his service and for that of our other Capitol Police officers.

My prayers today are with Special Agent Holguin's loved ones and his family.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. President, it was a pleasure to hear from President Trump last night on some of the achievements of his first year in office and his continued plans to make life better for hard-working Americans.

It is something to remember the situation the President was facing 13 months ago, when he took office. America and Americans had been through a lot under President Biden—a historic inflation crisis and the worst border crisis on record. On top of that, hard-working Americans were facing the prospect of a \$2.6 trillion tax hike in 2026.

President Trump and Republicans took office last January determined to turn the page on these crises. We knew things weren't going to get fixed overnight, but we also knew we could do a lot to make life better for hard-working Americans.

We got right to work. A prime order for business was stopping that \$2.6 trillion tax hike on hard-working Americans, something we achieved with our signature 2025 legislation, the working families tax cuts.

But we weren't going to stop there. We were determined to put more money in American families' pockets. That is exactly what we did.

In addition to preventing a \$2.6 trillion tax hike and making permanent the tax relief Republicans passed in 2017, the working families tax cuts implemented a slew of additional tax relief. We increased the child tax credit by hundreds of dollars and linked it to inflation so its value will never go down. We boosted the standard deduction, which is claimed by 90 percent of taxpayers in this country. We instituted a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for lower and middle-income seniors. We implemented no tax on tips and overtime, allowing hard-working Americans, from nurses to ride-share drivers, to keep more of their own money—and more. Americans are already seeing this relief in the form of bigger tax refunds.

But the working families tax cuts didn't end with tax relief. We repealed the Democrats' natural gas tax and took steps to unleash American energy production to ensure that Americans have a stable, plentiful, and affordable supply of energy. We took measures to modernize the farm safety net, something very important to the financial well-being of farmers in my State of South Dakota and around the country.

And, of course, the working families tax cuts also addressed border security and national defense. Thanks to President Trump's work to stem the national security crisis at our southern border, encounters at our southern border are currently a tiny fraction of what they were under President Biden. Unlike under President Biden, individuals apprehended attempting to cross our southern border are not being released into the interior of the country.

The working families tax cuts bill helps ensure that we have the resources to maintain this kind of secure border for the long term.

The working families tax cuts may have been a signature legislation last year, but it is far from the only thing we have been doing to help make life more affordable for hard-working Americans. The President and Congress have taken action to repeal a number of burdensome rules and regulations—regulations that would have driven up energy and appliance prices in this country.

In this year's healthcare appropriations bill, we prioritized measures to make prescriptions less expensive at the pharmacy. We are looking to soon take up major housing legislation to make homeownership more affordable and accessible for everyday Americans.

My Democrat colleagues may talk a good game about helping hard-working Americans, but Republicans are actually putting them to work. We are putting more money in Americans' pockets and working hard to make life affordable for American families. As President Trump made clear last night, we are just getting started.

Before I close, the President awarded medals to several military members last night, including the Medal of Honor to South Dakota native Royce Williams. Then-Lieutenant Williams heroically took on multiple Soviet MiGs during action off the Korean Peninsula in 1952, hitting not one but several of the aircraft before piloting his own heavily damaged plane back to an American aircraft carrier.

I know from personal experience—my dad—that South Dakota has produced some incredible naval aviators, and we are incredibly proud of our South Dakota heroes, including Mr. Williams. And, Mr. President, we are grateful for their service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night was not America's State of the Union. It was Donald Trump's state of delusion. For 2 long hours the President stood in the House Chamber congratulating himself, inflating his own ego, but offering no solutions to our country's many problems.

He is in a bubble. He doesn't even have a clue about what the average American family is going through. Donald Trump patted himself on the back so many times I thought he would fall down. While Donald Trump kept claiming that "America is back" and that we are winning so much we don't know what to do about it, that is only half true. We are not winning so much, but he sure has no idea what to do about the problems in America, and he admitted it right there himself.

People back home were asking something different than what the speech addressed. They are asking: What about my electricity bill? How am I going to pay for my groceries? How am I going to afford a doctor? Donald Trump ignored all these things during his speech last night. Frankly, I have never heard a State of the Union speech—and I have heard quite a few—where the President's rhetoric and the country's reality were so far apart. Instead, Donald Trump spent most of his speech focused on the accomplishments, not of his administration, but on the accomplishments of other Americans whose accomplishments he has nothing to do with.

We are all proud of the men and women hockey teams that just won gold in the Olympics. We are all proud of and grateful for our veterans. They deserve honor. But Donald Trump didn't have anything to do with these accomplishments. He had so little to say about what he accomplished that he had to just go on and on about accomplishments of others, and folks back home want to hear about what the President is doing to help with their problems. They don't want to hear a fantasy that everything is going great.

But it got worse. Trump didn't simply ignore the affordability crisis. He mocked it yet again. The average American sitting at their table trying to figure out how they are going to pay that damn bill was furious that he said it doesn't matter. It is truly stunning to watch a billionaire like Donald Trump make fun of people's financial struggles during a State of the Union speech. The guy doesn't have a clue. He is in a bubble so thick, he can't hear what people are going through.

And of course, he lied about the economy. This man is an inveterate liar.

Everyone knows that. He said last night that manufacturing jobs have gone way up. That is a lie. Manufacturing is down by 100,000 jobs since he took office. He bragged last night about job creation. Well, job creation is at its lowest point in over 20 years outside of a recession—its lowest point in 20 years, and he brags about it.

Donald Trump claimed that the fight against inflation is over. That is a lot of BS. Just go to the grocery store, and you will see. Donald Trump's speech was filled with fluff and hype. When was the last time Trump bought a cup of coffee? When is the last time Trump walked into a grocery store? His speech shows that he never has.

It was also rich last night to hear Donald Trump announce that he will put JD VANCE in charge of investigating corruption. Now, I think putting JD VANCE in charge of corruption is actually something that might work out because he is right in the midst of it; he is all around it. And I have some suggestions for where he can begin.

If Vice President VANCE wants to investigate corruption, he should look into the billionaires who are donating to Donald Trump's fancy ballroom. He should look into how so many within the administration are making a killing—a personal killing—off crypto deals. He should investigate why Donald Trump pardoned the ex-President of Honduras, who was convicted of drug trafficking. If he wants to look into corruption, let him investigate the luxury jet Donald Trump received as a gift from the Middle East. He has got a lot to do right around him if he wants to investigate corruption because this is the most corrupt administration I think ever—certainly in decades and in maybe over a century. If JD VANCE wants to get to the bottom of corruption in government, the good news is that all he has to do is walk down the hall into the Oval Office.

So, in sum, last night, Donald Trump did what he does better than anyone else—one of the few things he does better than anyone else: He boosted his own ego and patted himself on the back. He didn't address the needs of Americans and just broke promise after promise after promise.

If anyone watching last night was hoping to hear about how Donald Trump is going to lower their costs and their economic pain, his speech was an anemic dud. So I suggest Americans who care about the high cost of living, about affordability, which Trump knocks, get a copy of Governor Spanberger's speech. She focused on it like a bull's eye. Her speech was so much more in tune with where the American people are than Donald Trump's. The contrast is glaring.

I also want to salute Senator PADILLA. He gave an outstanding speech as well.

Compare Trump's speech to their speeches, and you will know why Trump is in such trouble with the American people; you will know why

the Republican Party is panicking about what might happen in November of 2026.

REMEMBERING EDEN HOLGUIN

Mr. President, now one more sad note—the passing of Special Agent Eden Holguin. Today, the entire Senate honors the memory and the service of a great American: Special Agent Eden Holguin, who passed away last week after a sudden illness.

Special Agent Holguin joined the Capitol Police Force in May of 2023. He was assigned to the Capitol Division's First Responders Unit and House Chamber section before he was detailed to the Dignitary Protection Division. These are hard jobs. They demand immense personal sacrifice: time away from home, from loved ones, long hours, and sometimes dangerous situations. Most of all, they are indispensable, necessary, vital jobs. And it is because of people like Special Agent Holguin that the rest of us who come to the Capitol are safe, and he fulfilled his duties with dignity and with honor.

Today, the Senate grieves the passing of this great person. We give thanks that he served the U.S. Congress and the American people so admirably for 3 wonderful years. We pray for his family, for his friends, and his colleagues.

As always, to every single member of the Capitol Police, we say: Thank you. We stand with you. We join with you in remembering the memory of Special Agent Holguin.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just heard the minority leader, and he talked about the State of the Union Address last night. I heard the same speech that he did. I thought it was outstanding. Apparently, the difference is that I was actually listening.

The American people agree with me in terms of what they saw and heard and witnessed last night with Donald Trump's state of the Union. What Americans saw last night was quite simple: Republicans stood with them; Democrats didn't. They didn't stand for much. Republicans cheered for lower taxes, for safe communities, and for safer elections—secure elections, elections people have faith in.

Senator SCHUMER said he thought the speech was delusional. The American people didn't think that. Immediately after the State of the Union, CNN conducted a poll. Here is what they found: 62 percent of the viewers said that President Trump's economic and immigration policies would move the country in the right direction.

That is what we have been trying to do for the last year—get the country back on track. Those are the common-sense policies for which the Democrats refused to stand.

The President said to the whole body:

If you agree with this statement, then stand up and show your support.

He then read the statement:

The first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens.

Every Republican stood up. Not the Democrats. They sat silently.

This is the first responsibility of a government of a nation—to protect its citizens. Why in the world would Democrats refuse to stand for such a statement, such a basic understanding of what the role of government is in our lives, what our Founding Fathers fought for? The Revolutionary War. Here we are 250 years into the United States, and the Democrats in the Senate and in the House and in the Chamber last night don't believe that is the responsibility of government, the No. 1 first duty—to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens? That is delusional on the part of the Democrats. It is astonishing.

I am happy to see CNN report that so many Americans agree that we are getting the country back on track, doing what we should do, what we were elected to do—to provide safety and prosperity for the American people.

What do the Democrats stand for? Raising taxes. They sit on their hands when it comes to protecting American citizens. Their priorities are wrong. We are in a shutdown right now for the Department of Homeland Security. Why? Because they want to stand with illegal immigrant criminals instead of the safety and security of the American people. To me, that was the most telling moment of the evening, and the American people will not forget that. They will not forget that visual. They will not forget seeing the President of the United States make his statement and the Republicans jump up and cheer and the Democrats sit in silence.

Last night, we heard about the great American comeback. The President's remark proved two things: Our country is strong, and our fellow citizens—boy, they are courageous. And we heard great stories of courage last night. More than a dozen heroes were honored, and rightfully so, heroes like 100-year-old Navy pilot retired CAPT E. Royce Williams and helicopter pilot CW5 Eric Slover, both of whom received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Well earned. Well done. Well deserved. Heroes like Pennsylvania mom Megan Hemhauser, who homeschools her two children and works in the evenings as a waitress; heroes like Coast Guard rescue swimmer Scott Ruskan, who rescued many young girls from the deadly Texas flood.

These American heroes remind me of two sailors I met with this past weekend. I was on a Navy destroyer within firing distance of Iran. These sailors

from Wyoming were nine time zones away from home in Wyoming. One that I talked to is from Gillette, WY. He went to Sheridan High School. He is from Gillette. His father works at a coal mine in Gillette. Another is from Wheatland, WY. His father works at the powerplant. Both of them said that President Trump and Republicans had saved their fathers' jobs, and they asked me to portray that and give that thanks to the President. I did that last night as a member of the Escort Committee when I met with the President before he entered the Chamber to deliver the State of the Union.

He knows that what he is doing is making a difference for the men and women—the working men and women—of our country, for the jobs in our communities, for good-paying jobs, and for American energy. That is what we are doing for America.

The success that the President outlined last night is just the beginning. It is being felt by working families everywhere around the country. People are going to continue to feel that success because of our Republican comprehensive economic plan.

Being from Wyoming, of course, my focus is small businesses that make our State thrive. Wyoming is proud to be a small business State. Ninety-nine percent of our businesses are small businesses. Two out of three jobs in our State are all from small businesses, and what we are talking about is farmers, ranchers, construction workers, energy workers, so many more; people who feed our country, people who power our homes, people who make our communities better.

During the previous administration, small businesses struggled. They chocked on a witch's brew of higher taxes and burdensome regulations. Punishing good people for honest work did not make life in America more affordable; it made it more challenging. It led to higher costs. It led to smaller paychecks. It led to fewer jobs. That is what the Biden administration and the Democrats did.

But now, because of our Working Families Tax Cut law, taxes on small businesses are going down, and they are going to stay down. The Working Families Tax Cut law is already helping create jobs.

This year, in every State, new Main Street jobs are going to be created. Small businesses receive a permanent tax cut. In my home State of Wyoming, 50,000 small businesses will benefit from them.

The Working Families Tax Cut law encourages investing here at home. Small businesses can now write off 100 percent of their costs for new equipment. It is called full expensing. It matters to the small businesses on Main Street all along this great Nation.

Full expensing simply means that small businesses will be able to build more and grow faster. They can invest in their business and their workers.

Faster growth means lower costs for families. It means more jobs. It means bigger paychecks. That is what the American people want.

The Working Families Tax Cut law supports farmers and ranchers. They receive major relief from the dreaded death tax. This relief is permanent. Death tax relief has significant consequences for rural livelihoods and for feeding our country.

Now, families across Wyoming and your home State of Montana, Mr. President, will not have to worry about whether they can keep the farm or the ranch when Grandma or Grandpa passes away. They want to keep it in the family. In the past, they had to sell it to pay the tax man. That is wrong.

All these changes mean immediate savings for small businessowners, for their employees, as well as for their customers. This year, small businessowners will receive about \$27 billion in additional tax refunds. That is money in their pockets. And because these provisions are permanent, small businesses can hire, invest, and grow with confidence now and in the future. The only people who don't want this success to continue are the Democrats.

People in mainstream Wyoming—and you know, think of a small community in Wyoming, Newcastle, WY, a great place. I go every year. They do what is called Madness on Main Street. All the small businesses are out. They have tables out. The firefighters do a pancake breakfast. That is what America is all about: small communities, local community jobs, local schools where they still teach the students the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence. The kids can actually recite it. They can come to the—they stand up. I have been in their classrooms. It is astonishing what is going on in small communities, in small schools, all across America.

That is what President Trump was talking about and what he is doing for small businesses in our communities in rural America, but that is not what we saw with the Democrats. No.

Last night, how did they respond last night after the President's magnificent speech? Well, they chose the newly elected Governor of Virginia to deliver their State of the Union response.

She was sworn in just a month ago. But this is the mindset now of this far-left party over there, the Democrats, because since she was sworn in last month as the Governor of Virginia, she has introduced 50 new taxes—50 new taxes.

Democrats in Virginia are trying to raise taxes on barbershops, nail salons, dry cleaners, and gyms. Every one of those—if we were talking about Newcastle, WY, it would hurt Newcastle, WY, or the small communities in Wyoming and in your home State of Montana. But that is what Virginia wants to do. That is what the liberals that run the house, the senate, and their new Governor, whom the Democrats chose as the face of the Democratic

Party—somebody who has been in office for 1 month and has introduced 50 new taxes: Barbershops, nail salons, dry cleaners, and gyms, tax them all.

You will love this. She wants to raise sales taxes on firearms and ammunition by 11 percent. That is not something that works in Wyoming or Montana. She wants to give instate tuition benefits for illegal immigrants. That is not something the American people agree on.

She wants to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. She is still living in that age of focusing on the carbon footprint instead of what we need in America today, which is all the energy and affordable energy. That is whom the Democrats chose to give the response, a person who wants to put sales taxes on everyday services all across the State.

You know, I said it before, and I am saying it again: Democrats are committed and determined to raise your taxes, and Virginia and what we heard from her last night—what they are doing in Virginia is just a roadmap to the radical policies that the Democrats want all over this country.

Remember, it was the Democrats, under Joe Biden, who brought us the worst inflation in 40 years. Democrats voted last year to raise taxes by \$4 trillion. Democrats stood for higher taxes last night but not for tax cuts, not for working Americans, not for American heroes, not for the priorities of the safety of the American people. Nope.

The Democrat agenda continues to be higher taxes, higher prices that the American people cannot afford. Affordability isn't improved by taxing and by spending more government money; it is improved by allowing the American people to keep more of what they earned so they can make the decisions for themselves on what to spend, what to save, what to invest.

Americans are better off today because Republicans cut taxes, because we protect farmers and ranchers, because we support small businesses. And after just 1 year, inflation is falling, wages are rising, and more Americans are working.

This is the great American economic comeback. This is what we heard from the President last night. This is what we are proud of is a record of providing safety and prosperity for the American people, and there is more work to be done, as the President said.

Our Nation is returning to a position of safety, security, and prosperity. For small businesses in Wyoming and all across America, the future is bright.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The distinguished other Senator from Wyoming.

2026 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I am so pleased to join my esteemed colleague from Wyoming in this next presentation where we rejoice and celebrate our Olympians.

Last night was an incredible display of Americana, of the joy of celebrating

our athletes. It was particularly joyous when our gold medal U.S. Olympic hockey team came into the Gallery in their beautiful USA sweaters with their gold medals around their necks so every American who was watching the State of the Union last night could join with them to celebrate this tremendous achievement and to have a moment where America was rejoicing together over something that is so quintessentially a North American sport and a triumph for our Olympic teams.

Today, I want to continue that joyous celebration by congratulating and highlighting and punctuating three Wyoming athletes who were at the U.S. Olympic Games in Italy.

The three are Breezy Johnson, Anna Gibson of Jackson, and Jaelin Kauf of Alta. They did not just compete; they embodied grit, resilience, and the determination that really defines Wyoming. I have no doubt that they inspired every person in Wyoming, especially our young student athletes who watched them on TV.

I was so overjoyed that I got to watch Breezy Johnson's win in realtime. Breezy Johnson got America's medal run off to a tremendous start. Her race was early in the Olympic Games, and she took the gold medal in the women's skiing downhill, racing nearly 80 miles an hour to the finish line. It was an incredible moment for our country—incredible—and a truly incredible moment for Wyoming.

In addition to Breezy's gold medal, she also came home with a fiance. So congratulations to Breezy and Connor. We are so happy for you both.

Jaelin Kauf made history by becoming the most decorated Olympic mogul skier in U.S. history, earning her second and third career silver medals. From learning to ski in Teton Valley to competing on the world's greatest stage, Jaelin's journey reflects years of discipline, perseverance, and unwavering community support.

The strength that is required in your legs to be a mogul skier is absolutely unparalleled. Through two Olympic Games, she has represented Alta and the United States with exceptional courage and joy. We could not be prouder.

Anna Gibson became the very first American to compete in Olympic ski mountaineering—which is a relatively new sport in the Olympics—finishing fourth alongside her partner in a sport she grew up with in Jackson.

Anna demonstrated the courage to step into uncharted territory. As I said, it is a very new sport, and stepping into uncharted territory is a quality Wyoming knows well. So she just did a bangup job representing Wyoming and the United States in our skimo Olympic debut.

These three women remind us that greatness is not born in stadiums, but it is built in gymnasiums and on training courses and on ski mountains and early morning trainings; in weight

rooms, in your diet, your exercise, and particularly in tight-knit communities that support these athletes.

These communities believe in one another. They believe in celebrating each other's hard work. Wyoming has always stood for toughness, independence, and quiet excellence. Breezy, Jaelin, and Anna carried that spirit with them to the world stage. They made Wyoming and the entire country so proud. We are lucky to call them ours.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise alongside my friend and colleague Senator LUMMIS to celebrate these three talented Olympians: Breezy Johnson, Jaelin Kauf, and Anna Gibson. The 2026 Olympic Games were the most successful winter games in our Nation's history.

Team USA won an astonishing 12 gold medals. It is the most gold medals our country has ever won in the Winter Olympics. America brought home the second most medals of any country—33 medals overall. This was a record-setting year for Team USA, and Wyoming is no small part of the success.

Breezy started the historic medal run that first day by winning our Nation's first gold medal of the 2026 Games by winning women's downhill alpine skiing. Her victory comes just 4 years after she was forced to withdraw from the 2022 Olympics due to injuries, injuries sustained on the very mountain that she conquered in 2026.

Her comeback is an inspiring story for every young American who aspires to a day as an Olympic athlete.

Jaelin Kauf was next. She took home two silver medals in mogul skiing. She is now a three-time Olympic silver medalist, and that makes her the most decorated mogul skier in U.S. Olympic history.

And everyone in Wyoming is so, so very proud of Anna Gibson. Look at that—the determination, the look in her. And what a sport it is. As Senator LUMMIS just said, this is the first year for ski mountaineering in the Olympics, and it was Anna's first Olympics ever. She made history as the first American woman to compete in ski mountaineering at the Olympic Winter Games. She finished in fourth place and accomplished this even though, incredibly, she picked up this event only a few months ago. I will tell you, she is a trailblazer, as are all of these Olympic athletes.

Watching her event on Saturday, I saw a Wyoming flag waving in the crowd and cheering her on. The people of Wyoming always show up for one another. You know, in Wyoming, we follow the Cowboy Code: Live each day with courage, take pride in your work, and do what needs to be done.

So congratulations to our Wyoming Olympic champions. They have done so much to make history. We are so very proud of all of them. They make our State and our Nation very proud.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the DeLeeuw nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the whole world knows, yesterday evening President Trump gave his State of the Union Address. It is one of our country's finest traditions that the President personally gives an update to the American people on what he has done over the last year, before a joint session of Congress, and what he intends to do in the future. It was an exciting night, with Members of the House, Senate, and the Supreme Court gathered, along with our military leadership, to hear about the impressive year that we have had under President Trump here in the Congress and, of course, at the White House.

And as we just heard from our friends from Wyoming, we had an appearance from the U.S.A.'s men's hockey team, who recently won the gold medal at the Olympics. And the President recognized, appropriately so, so many of our Nation's heroes in a tremendous display of patriotism that, I know, I welcomed.

Unfortunately, many of our Democratic colleagues disgracefully chose to boycott the President's Address. But their collective temper tantrum couldn't stop the rest of us from enjoying the President's speech.

I was honored to have as my guest the president of the National Border Patrol Council, Paul Perez, who has worked for 29 years in the U.S. Border Patrol and who has done a magnificent job leading that organization of incredible patriots, when Democrats have demonized law enforcement across the country, starting with defunding the police, abolishing ICE, and, of course, then the disrespectful way that President Biden's administration treated all of our professional law enforcement officers whose job it was to secure the border.

As we heard last night, President Trump has many achievements that we can all be very proud of, from securing the border from the massive surge of illegal immigration our country experienced during the Biden administration to reestablishing America's credibility on the world stage. But one of the accomplishments that I would like to highlight today is the improvement in our Nation's fiscal situation through the Working Families Tax Cut Act and the work of Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought.

Now, this may be the first speech on the Senate floor in a long time that has praised Russ Vought, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, but I think praise is due, as you will hear in a moment.

Through the Working Families Tax Cut Act, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill, we were able to extend and make permanent many parts of President Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Unfortunately, no Democrat voted to protect the American people from a massive tax increase. It took exclusively Republican votes to do that. We prevented more than a \$4 million tax increase on the American people and saved my constituents in Texas an average of \$3,000.

Now, people want to talk about affordability. Allowing a \$3,000 tax increase to go into effect by effectively voting against this bill certainly does nothing to make affordability better. It makes it worse. But Republicans stepped forward where Democrats would not, in order to answer the call and respond to the needs of our constituents.

We helped working families by increasing the child tax credit to \$2,200, and indexing it to inflation, so people who have children and who have the additional expense associated with that will have some relief, have some money, to basically pay for their necessities of life.

And we strengthened the paid family and medical leave and employer-provided childcare credit. One of the things I hear the most from working moms is the difficulty of finding affordable childcare. We responded, by the paid family and medical leave and employer-provided childcare credits, by incentivizing employers to provide childcare to their employees, allowing working moms the peace of mind and the convenience of having childcare for their children.

And we delivered historic relief to hourly wage workers, as well, like folks who work in restaurants. I think most of us—I know I did when I first started out. I waited on tables at a Steak and Ale restaurant in San Antonio, TX. And I know from talking to a lot of young people who are just starting out, as I did at that point in my life, that they are welcoming the fact that now they don't have to pay taxes on income from tips up to \$25,000.

But it doesn't just affect people who wait on tables in restaurants. Hair stylists and anyone who receives tips as part of their compensation will benefit.

And then there is no tax on overtime. You know, many of our law enforcement personnel work more than 40 hours a week because, frankly, they don't get paid sufficiently by just working a 40-hour week. So many of them work overtime, and they are not alone. But by saying no tax on overtime, we not only provide American businesses the workforce that they need, but we also reward people who are willing to continue to work hard and provide for their families, to make sure they can keep more of their hard-earned money.

No tax on tips, no tax on overtime.

Of course, in addition to these, there are many other savings for the Amer-

ican people. President Trump made significant strides in getting our fiscal house in order by starting to rein in runaway government spending. Our national debt currently sits at about \$38 trillion, and I know that number boggles the mind. None of us can really adequately conceive of how much that is. But here is one indication: We spend more money on interest on the national debt than we do on defense, which is unsustainable in a dangerous world.

Thankfully, President Trump has made a commitment to request \$1.5 trillion for defense spending next year. But the truth is, unless we begin to deal with our runaway debt, that money is just going to be borrowed, and we need to do better. We need to do significantly better.

But the good news is we made a down payment in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, saving \$400 billion over 10 years.

You may think: Well, \$38 trillion, \$400 billion—that is just a drop in the ocean. But it is a start. We need to do more, and I trust that we will. We have to.

As many people know, our national debt is actually not a revenue problem. It is not how much—it is not that we don't collect enough taxes, as our friends on the Democratic side seem to think. They don't think there is any tax that shouldn't be raised. It is a spending problem.

I just came from a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where a new anti-fraud prosecutor has been nominated by President Trump. He testified that what we saw happen in the Somali daycare scandal is just the tip of the iceberg—make believe, non-governmental organizations providing nonexistent daycare services and bilking the American taxpayer of billions of dollars.

The Government Accountability Office has documented that there is between \$2 billion and \$500 billion of improper payments. That is money that should not be paid to the recipients of those funds.

And part of it is structural, it seems to me, because when the Federal Government appropriates money, much of that money is then contracted out to service providers or grantees or the like.

But one of the things we have to do is to make sure that there is accountability for those funds and that they are being spent for their intended purpose, not that they are being syphoned off by fraudsters and people that are taking advantage of the generosity of the American people.

But it is not just about the fraudsters and the generosity of the American people. It is about that this is money that could be used to address our debt and to make sure we can allocate the money that we do spend for proper purposes, like maintaining our national security.

Well, unfortunately, when it comes to spending, you know, the saying

goes: Somebody is spending like a drunken sailor—which shows a lot of disrespect to sailors. And, unfortunately, it is much, much worse than that. It is like the mindset of an alcoholic giving into the addiction, accepting the notion that our current situation is hopeless. So we might as well enjoy ourselves in the meantime. Well, that is a recipe for disaster.

Time and time again, we hear such tropes as this: Well, the real problem is mandatory spending. So why should we even try to cut discretionary spending?

Well, we need to look at all of it. We shouldn't shy away from any and all conversations when it comes to addressing our spending problem.

But the truth is, just like someone with an addiction to alcohol or gambling who wants to reform, you have got to start somewhere. And, last year, we made important reforms in our mandatory spending programs to make sure that, for example, illegal aliens don't receive free healthcare, and we strengthened work requirements for able-bodied adults who are receiving government benefits. It is not too much to ask that an able-bodied adult get off the couch, quit watching soap operas or playing video games, and contribute to their own support and the support of their family and their community and Nation. It is not too much to ask.

But I would argue that we need more than just trimming around the edges. We need a full change of mindset when it comes to our spending problem. That is where Russ Vought comes in.

Russ Vought is President Trump's Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and he has helped create a paradigm shift that Washington has long needed in order to get our spending under control. Instead of throwing up his hands, as many in Washington have done before him, Mr. Vought and his team have put their noses to the grindstone to cut spending anywhere and everywhere possible.

Under his leadership, the Office of Management and Budget are on track to reduce the deficit by more than \$15 trillion over the next 10 years. That is real money. That is real money.

Let's take a look at some of the places where these savings are coming from. For starters, mandatory spending reforms in Medicaid, student loan forgiveness, and food stamps will add up to \$2 trillion in savings over the next 10 years. Revenue from President Trump's tariffs add up to another \$200 billion, which the Office of Management and Budget projects will raise \$4 trillion in debt over time.

In addition, deregulation—taking the handcuffs off of huge American jobs' engines—and tax reforms are expected to spur economic growth, which the Office of Management and Budget projects would account for an additional \$5.6 trillion in savings. OMB's projections include nearly \$2 trillion in savings from lower debt servicing payment. So not only is the debt the problem, but the interest you have to pay

on that debt just racks up more debt. But when you begin to cut, that debt service or those interest payments go down, which help address the issue.

This is where it gets pretty interesting. With such a high national debt, our debt servicing costs or the interest payments on the debt have eclipsed spending on national defense, as I said a moment ago. This is a very troubling sign when we spend more money on interest on the national debt than we do on defense. The good news is that in the same way that paying off a credit card can reduce your monthly interest payments through these spending reforms championed by Mr. Vought and the administration, they will decrease our interest expenses on our debt. And over 10 years, that can really add up.

I was recently with Secretary Bessent, the Secretary of the Treasury, and he shared that the government is projected to save between \$26 and \$30 billion due to a reduction in the Federal workforce.

Mr. Vought's determination has encouraged those of us here in Congress who are inclined toward fiscal responsibility to return to the regular-order appropriations process and pump the brakes on continuing resolutions and omnibus spending packages, which have been the norm for a long time. Fortunately, we refrained from passing an omnibus spending package this Congress. But we have also made progress through regular-order appropriations on lowering year-over-year spending. Fiscal year 2026 nondefense discretionary spending totalled \$18 billion less than 2025, and overall spending levels were about a billion dollars less. Of course, while a billion dollars may sound like pocket change compared to our national debt, again, it is heading in the right direction.

Considering the totality of what President Trump and his Office of Management and Budget have done, it is incredible to see that he has put the United States on track to erase, not just billions, but trillions in projected spending over the next 10 years. For too long, Washington has limited our imagination to think that our fiscal situation is hopeless. We have no choice.

President Trump and the excellent team he has put in place has changed all of that. All of us should be thankful for the excellent work that the President and OMB Director Vought and his team have done to meaningfully shift our fiscal situation in the right direction, save taxpayer money, and protect our Nation.

Of course, this work on taxes and spending represents just one small piece of the President's impressive record, as we were reminded last night. President Trump is helping to make America great again and his State of the Union was a powerful reflection on how far we have come this last year and what the future might look like—the bright future might look like—ahead of it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: Senator CANTWELL for up to 10 minutes, Senator RICKETTS for up to 5 minutes, Senator MORENO for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RICKETTS. Since Senator CANTWELL is not here, I will go ahead and get my program rolling.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Mr. President, Nebraska is the best place in the world to live. Nebraska is what America is supposed to be. Sadly, in Nebraska, the dream that most Americans have of home ownership is also becoming more difficult, just as it is in the rest of the country. First-time home ownership in this country is difficult because housing is expensive, hard to get. In fact, the average age of a first-time homeowner in America today is 40. Ten years ago, that was 31.

It is redtape that is helping to drive up the cost of homes—redtape and regulation. In fact, it is estimated that 25 percent of the cost of a new home is actually regulation. If you are talking about an apartment building, that is actually 40 percent of the cost of an apartment build is regulation. This is not a new problem; it has been around for a while.

When I was Governor, we faced the same issues, especially in rural Nebraska. When I was Governor, I worked with my legislature, and we passed our Rural Workforce Housing Act, and we dedicated \$7 million, and we created this fund that communities and developers could apply to. What many communities did is they got this grant money, they created essentially a revolving fund to be able to loan out to developers to allow them to either get bridge funding or cover some of the costs. And, ultimately, those developers and communities would repay that fund back to the communities who could then loan it back out again. This was very successful. It allowed us to be able to encourage developers to move outside of Lincoln and Omaha and build housing in our smaller towns and rural communities. In fact, it was so successful, we went back and added another \$10 million to that.

It is these kind of Nebraska solutions that I am bringing to Washington, DC, for the rest of America. How can we create more housing supply to address the issue to bring the cost of housing down? That is what we need to attack here in Washington, DC. In fact, that is what we are doing in the Banking Committee, with the leadership of Chairman SCOTT, we have put forth the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream Act or ROAD to Housing Act.

This bill came out of our Banking Committee unanimously because both Republicans and Democrats understand the need to create more housing supply

to address the issue of home ownership in America. The House has a similar bill that came out of their committee nearly unanimously. And now I expect that within the next few weeks, we will be voting on the ROAD to Housing Act here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

In this bill, the ROAD to Housing Act, I have a piece that I introduced called Streamlining Rural Housing Act, and this is because many rural communities draw upon both housing and urban development money, as well as U.S. Agriculture Department money to be able to create more housing supply. However, both HUD and USDA have conflicting or overlapping regulations that create confusion and adds redtape.

What my part of the ROAD to Housing Act would do would help streamline so that we are not doing things in series. We are doing them in parallel, that we are actually trying to consolidate the review and inspection process, all those sorts of things that would help us get that money out faster, which would create housing supply fastest, which would help bring down the cost of housing.

I also cosponsored the Housing Supply Frameworks Act. This is a bill that was led by one of my colleagues in my delegation, Congressman MIKE FLOOD. It really helps create a framework for best practices for zoning, to be able to help communities look to see what they can do with regard to their zoning practices to be able to encourage building housing that will create more supply, which will bring the costs down.

The ROAD to Housing Act is an important step. It is how we are fighting for Americans to be able to create the opportunities for home ownership, to fight to allow those families to achieve the American dream, to be able to own their own home, which is so important to so many Americans. It is often their first big investment. It is how they create wealth. It truly is one of the things that makes this country great.

If we can pass the ROAD to Housing Act, we will be able to help cut the redtape that exists there. We will be able to unlock billions of dollars in private capital. This will help us create more supply and bring the cost down. This bill is great for American families, for our veterans, and for helping people achieve the American dream. It is especially great for our rural communities.

As Governor of Nebraska, we worked very hard to be able to create more housing supply. I am so pleased to be able to be here in the U.S. Senate to be able to continue to fight to make that dream of affordable home ownership, again, something that Americans can aspire to in this country.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the ROAD to Housing Act so we can pass this important piece of legislation to be able to help make housing more affordable for Americans and help restore that dream of home ownership to Nebraskans and Americans all across this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3746

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I rise today to propose a very simple bill that I think most Americans can understand. It has a very simple basic principle: If you are on any type of government aid, you are restricted from sending money overseas. It is pretty straightforward. We want to help American citizens who are in need, but if they are in need, why would they need to send money overseas?

I would say this: A nation's strength lies in its people's ability to sustain themselves and their countrymen first. To divert public benevolence overseas weakens the bonds of union at home, inviting dependence where independence should prevail. We cannot allow the fruits of American labor meant to nourish our own be scattered to foreign soils. True charity begins with securing the liberties and livelihoods of our fellow citizens.

Government aid is a ladder for the American worker to climb from poverty to prosperity. To send it beyond our borders is to weaken that ladder, denying our people the fruits of their own toil and the promise of a more perfect Union.

We have framed laws to protect our citizens from poverty's grasp, ensuring homes, livelihoods, and security for Americans. Diverting those resources overseas betrays that compact, for our progress is measured by providing for those who have little within our own shores.

And, finally, I would say this, Mr. President: Welfare should lift Americans up, not fund foreign dependencies. When those in public aid send money overseas, it is a sign the system is broken, trapping people in poverty while draining our Nation's hard-earned resources from those who need it at home the most.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3746 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this legislation prohibits any individual—senior citizens, people with disabilities, our veterans, refugees, and the poorest of the poor—from sending money to friends or family overseas for any reason. That prohibition includes American citizens as well. So if you are a veteran who served our country and who counts on your VA benefits, you had better not provide any financial support to your grandmother living abroad or, under this legislation, you could be fined \$100,000.

The legislation comes straight from a very cruel playbook: First, target public programs that provide a lifeline to low- and middle-income people; second, smear the recipients of this help by characterizing them as fraudsters; and third, use the exaggerated claims as a pretext to slash funding. That was the playbook at the heart of the Republicans' major legislation, which made the biggest ever cuts to healthcare and food assistance in the history of America.

Why were those awful cuts made that are causing hospitals to shutter their labor and delivery units and slash staff? To fund the ICE surge that has led to untrained Federal agents roaming the streets of America's communities, committing violence with impunity.

That major legislation also lavished tax breaks onto the ultrawealthy while doing nothing to crack down on the billions that wealthy tax cheats don't pay their fair share with each year.

This legislation represents a dark heart—a dark heart of the Republican agenda: Scapegoat those who don't have a voice while letting the wealthy and well connected get off the hook.

If my colleagues on the other side really were worried about money leaving the United States, I can tell you, as the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, they can look at their own tax laws that encourage giant corporations to ship jobs and factories overseas. They ought to figure out why the Trump economy is driving investors and their dollars away from America and into foreign markets.

It would be an understatement to say this legislation is a solution in search of a problem. This legislation is obviously some kind of messaging bill that would challenge the very foundations of what draws people from all over the world to America—the chance to imagine and create a better life for themselves and their families.

For those reasons, I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. To my colleague from Oregon, who I don't really know well, let me say this. As somebody that actually came to this country from a foreign land legally, I find it decently insulting that you would paint a picture of immigrants coming here to be dependent on the government. Let me just tell you, the exact opposite is true.

But that is actually the playbook of the Democratic Party—smearing with racist undertones immigrants, thinking that the only reason we would ever come to America is to be dependent on government.

Let me just be clear to the Americans out there who want to understand what is actually happening in DC, because I have only been here 13 months. My colleague has been here for 30 years. When you have been here for 30 years in Washington, DC, you think it

is perfectly normal for government to provide aid to those in need and then have those people send that money overseas. To them, that is normal.

And in terms of your comment, to my colleague from Oregon, that we are shipping jobs overseas or incentivizing companies to send jobs overseas, welcome to the Republican Party's position on tariffs. I am happy to see, finally, that we have a Democrat who is willing to embrace tariffs, because we are sick and tired of seeing our jobs shipped overseas.

So I am disappointed that we couldn't agree on a basic premise, that U.S. taxpayer dollars intended to help our citizens should stay within our shores. That should highlight why, yesterday, the Democrat Members of both Houses could not stand up when President Trump asked a simple question: Is it the first duty of an elected official to defend and protect American citizens?

And you were there, Mr. President. Not a single Democrat could stand up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Since my colleague is talking about my family's background, you might be interested to know that my parents fled the Nazis in the thirties. Not all got out. And we were especially proud of my two parents, who weren't at all interested in coming to America for any benefits, as my colleague is suggesting; they persuaded themselves that they should be in our Army. My dad was one of the famous Ritchie Boys, renowned for their service to the country, writing the propaganda pamphlets we dropped on the Nazis. So my colleague is way off base with his comments about my family.

Finally, you might want to do some checking. When I first read this, I thought maybe my colleague and his staff just didn't get the text written correctly because the people who are really upset now are the veterans, people who wore the uniform of the United States, who my colleague is putting in a hardship situation, according to staff.

I just wanted to make sure the record was correct.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I will remind the Senator: I in no way disparaged your family. I didn't even mention your family. What I did mention is that you made the point that we are harming immigrants who come here who might be dependent on social safety net programs and sending that money back overseas.

And I came here from another country—not my parents. I came here. I wasn't born in this country. I came here to seek the American dream, and I am honored every day to be here—although, on a day like today, not so much, because it is grossly disappointing that the Democrat Party that I once knew, a party of the working class, is not willing to make a very

simple statement: When we help American citizens, we expect that money to stay in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF JOHN DELEEUEW

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to speak about the opposition to the nominee before us that we are going to vote on soon, Mr. John DeLeeuw. It is not necessarily about Mr. DeLeeuw's qualifications; it is about the dangerous precedent we are making as we confirm someone to replace an independent NTSB board member who was removed by the President without cause, while they are actively challenging this removal in court. And it is about a needless jeopardizing of public confidence in NTSB's critical work, which I will speak about in a minute, particularly as it relates to the House not taking up the ROTOR Act on suspension yesterday, a bill that we passed by 100 votes here in the U.S. Senate.

It has been less than 2 years since this body unanimously confirmed Alvin Brown to be on the NTSB. The Senate's overwhelming support for Mr. Brown should not be surprising. As a former mayor of Jacksonville, FL, and a former senior adviser to the Department of Transportation, Mr. Brown's background and experience qualified him to be on the NTSB.

My colleague Senator SCOTT of Florida introduced Mr. Brown at his nomination hearing before the Commerce Committee, praising his "excellent record of service" and noting that he would "do excellent work on behalf of the American people in this role." Senator SCOTT's prediction that Mr. Brown would focus on the NTSB and safety—shortly after he was sworn in, he began conducting critical work on the NTSB investigation into the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which killed six people and caused billions of dollars in damage.

He was also leading the NTSB response to the March 13, 2025, highway accident on Interstate 35 in Austin, TX, that killed 5 people and injured 11 more. But seeking to unravel Congress' will and insert its own will, even though we voted on this gentleman and he is serving the NTSB focusing on safety, the White House basically is trying to remove Mr. Brown and replace him with Mr. DeLeeuw. As I stated earlier, Mr. Brown has filed a lawsuit challenging his removal. This remains in the courts and pending; the Supreme Court is prepared to rule this year on this decision to bring legal clarity to Mr. Brown's case.

So I ask my colleagues, why are we rushing to confirm Mr. DeLeeuw to a seat that isn't even really vacant under current law? Why would we needlessly create confusion, especially when the Supreme Court is expected to rule on this issue very soon? And why would the Senate allow the executive branch to undermine the confidence and the

independence of the National Transportation Safety Board?

As we pointed out, moving ahead with this nomination before us—Mr. DeLeeuw's—is especially problematic when the White House has still not nominated a single member of the opposing party to any independent board or commission, including the NTSB. I guarantee you, that is not the way the FTC, the FCC, the NTSB should run. You are undermining the confidence in these Agencies and the fact that we have both Democrats and Republicans who are supposed to serve on them.

This is not about might makes right. This is about policy and expertise and having both Democrats and Republicans on commissions so that you can continue the focus of bipartisan adherence to these principles that each Agency is supposed to profess confidence in and move forward on. So do we want an FTC that is driven just purely by politics, an FCC that is purely driven by the President's will or desire? Do we want an NTSB decided by the President of the United States? I guarantee you we don't because, yesterday, he couldn't deliver a vote on the House floor that would have gotten us the ROTOR Act—100 votes in the U.S. Senate and he couldn't do that. But he is going to tell us over our processes and over historical precedent about how Democrat and Republican nominees should be appointed. He is throwing the Democrats off, appointing his own person, and then basically leaving into question how strong is the NTSB really going to be on safety.

Congress established the NTSB in law as an independent Agency. It reauthorized the Agency as recently as 2024. So, if all of a sudden, everybody here didn't want to have appointments to the NTSB by the normal process, well, you had a big chance to say you didn't like that, but nobody did. In fact, we renewed it, so we should now not be rewarding the President's unlawful removal of Vice Chair Brown by rushing to confirm a nominee in a position that is not really vacant. I call on my Republican colleagues not to go down this path. Instead, uphold the constitutional duty to provide checks and balances and protect the American people.

ROTOR ACT

Mr. President, now, as I was mentioning—yesterday—an unbelievable failure of the House of Representatives to pass what this body did as one of the elements in response to the horrific crash on the Potomac when an Army helicopter collided with a commercial jet—carrying 67 individuals total that were involved in this accident. No one survived. So the Senate, starting this work, has really pushed the ROTOR Act out with 100 votes. It literally said the military has to, in this instance, provide the same kind of signaling and information that would allow this airspace to work—100 votes out of the U.S. Senate. And as my colleague Senator CRUZ from Texas tried to get this legislation passed as part of the NDAA, ev-

erybody said, "OK. You know what? We'll do this, but we just don't want to do it on this NDAA bill."

OK. That should have raised suspicion right then and there because, if this is one of the recommendations by the NTSB—oh, actually, it is not one of the recent recommendations of the NTSB. This recommendation has been out of the NTSB for 20 years—20 years, the NTSB has been saying that they believe that this kind of important pilot awareness in airspace, around airports, needs to be better coordinated.

And so for 20-plus years now, the NTSB has been making this recommendation, and smartly, after the tragic accident that took 67 lives, we passed legislation out of here—100 votes—and my colleague Senator CRUZ was promised by the Speaker that he would get this on the consent calendar. Oh, so yesterday, that is what happened—a vote in the House of Representatives on the consent calendar. That means there is not really opposition, and you can just get two-thirds of the body and get the bill expedited, and it would have gone to the President's desk.

But, no, that is not what happened yesterday. At the eleventh hour, people tried to subvert the will of the families that were there to talk about safety, subvert the NTSB from doing its job and advocating on behalf of the ROTOR Act—and all of a sudden, after a vote was called—closed, quickly—one vote short, this bill did not make it to the President's desk.

So I am calling on Speaker JOHNSON to get the 26 Members—who were unable to participate in this vote because of weather in the Northeast—to allow them to come back, schedule another vote, and allow the U.S. House of Representatives to do its job. Get the ROTOR Act onto the President's desk so he can sign it, and we can get safety. And let's move the other reforms that have to happen to the FAA so that we can ensure that our airspace is safe.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 647, John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Bernie Moreno, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, Ted Cruz, Roger Marshall, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Joni Ernst, Jon A. Husted, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory

quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hassan	Whitehouse	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BANKS and I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the scheduled recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, I started my 46th executive year of holding meetings in each of Iowa's 99 counties. During the Q&A's in 13 southwest Iowa counties, we discussed the

need to lower prescription drug costs by reining in pharmacy benefit managers, PBMs for short. We also spoke about the Working Families Tax Cut Act, which puts more money back into Iowans' pockets. For the average Iowa household, that is \$2,063 of your hard-earned money back to you. I look forward to hearing directly from more Iowans throughout the year as I continue with all the meetings in each of our 99 counties.

On February the 3rd, President Trump signed into law the fiscal year 2026 funding package that included a very important priority of mine, legislation called Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. This law is meant to simplify the process so that kids with complex medical needs can get the specialized healthcare that they need in a timely manner.

I would like to spend a few minutes explaining the importance of this new law and how we got to this point. Kids with complex medical needs often face redtape, face delays, and face frustrations when getting their specialized medical care.

The Federal Government defines kids with complex medical needs as having a life-limiting illness, a rare pediatric disease, or one or more chronic conditions that impact multiple organ systems and reduce cognitive or physical abilities.

This can be kids with cancer, cystic fibrosis, or congenital heart disease. These kids, on average, see 5 to 6 specialists and up to as many as 20 or 30 allied health professionals. You can see, managing these types of medical needs takes patience and help because parents are often overwhelmed at the scope of that care and overwhelmed how to navigate the system to get that care for their special needs kids.

The specialized medical care for kids with complex medical needs tends to come from only a few providers, and here is the rub: often out of State at a pediatric hospital.

This requires coordination with in-state and out-of-State providers and State Medicaid officials to allow this care to happen. The process to get care is difficult and full of redtape, delaying care that these kids desperately need and, in some cases, not receiving care at all.

To solve this problem, in 2018, I introduced the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care bill. Our aim was simplification of this redtape process. This law will give States the ability to use a streamlined screening and enrolling process for out-of-State specialized pediatric care providers that need to enroll in the State's Medicaid Program. We do this while also retaining safeguards to protect program integrity.

When I first started on this law in 2018 during the 115th Congress, we had eight bipartisan sponsors. In this, the 119th Congress, it garnered 46 bipartisan sponsors and became one of the most cosponsored Medicaid bills before the Finance Committee.

Over the past few years, we built support from well over 200 organizations dedicated to pediatric care. I also worked with my colleagues, including those on the Finance Committee, and I want to give a special shout-out to Chairman CRAPO of the Finance Committee for his partnership in getting this law passed.

The passage of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act is a win for kids with complex medical needs and also very helpful to the families that care about their children.

It is a win for kids like Charlie, a brain tumor survivor who also spoke before the Finance Committee in 2023 about the importance of this legislation.

It is a win for kids like 3-year-old Edwens from Perry, IA, whose family travels out of State so he can receive pediatric gene therapy at the M Health Fairview Hospital in Minnesota. Only a few medical centers provide this kind of care in the country for Edwens' rare disease. There are many other kids whose lives will improve because of this law.

Another person I can think of when I talk about this law is the late Katie Beckett. Katie was from Cedar Rapids, IA. She was born in 1978, and at 5 months, she contracted a brain infection that required a ventilator to breathe.

After many years in the hospital, Katie was unable to leave because Medicaid rules didn't allow her to receive care outside of the hospital, even though it was possible for her to get care at home being with family and, of course, having this treatment at home be very cost effective to the taxpayer. In the early 1980s, President Reagan heard about Katie Beckett's story, and he removed redtape for Katie through a Medicaid waiver.

I had a colleague from Iowa in the House of Representatives at that time, Congressman Tom Tauke of Iowa, who was the main mover to get the President to grant this waiver, and I will never forget Tom Tauke's hard work in this area.

Since then, Katie Beckett waivers have resulted in more than a half a million disabled kids being able to receive care at homes with their families rather than being forced into hospitals and institutions.

This law also established the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers. Today, these centers in each State are helping families and their kids navigate the complex system of services and support. This is the kind of empowerment Washington ought to promote—public policy that illuminates opportunities instead of keeping people in the dark.

In my time in the Senate, we have seen medical advancements for kids with complex medical needs, and Congress has responded by giving these kids and their families the proper medical resources. One of these resources was the Family Opportunity law that

President Bush signed 20 years ago this very month. That law did several things. This, by the way, was a cooperation between this Senator from Iowa and then-Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts.

First, the legislation, the Family Opportunity Act, enabled middle-income families who have kids with disabilities to buy into Medicaid. It has helped families get the healthcare they need for their kids with disabilities without going into poverty. It was a pro-work, pro-family, and pro-taxpayer piece of legislation.

More recently in 2019, Congress passed my Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids law, or a law that goes by the short term of ACE Kids. ACE Kids better aligns Medicaid rules and payment to incentivize coordination of care. It does this by establishing a pediatric health home for kids with complex medical conditions.

Kids with complex medical conditions often see multiple doctors and dozens of healthcare professionals. You can see, that is a lot of care coordination that often doesn't happen, or it is left to the parents to figure out. ACE Kids fixes this and ensures care coordination happening.

While I am sure more work will need to be done, I want to recognize the hard work that went into the passage of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care law and the importance of it—its bipartisanship, its backing by a couple hundred organizations that advocate for kids with special needs. Yet it is another step towards supporting the dignity of exceptional kids.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Indiana.

(The remarks of Mr. BANKS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3917 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BANKS. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:24 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BANKS).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON DELEEUW NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the DeLeeuw nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hassan	Whitehouse	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Tennessee.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 651, Ryan McCormack.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, new court documents that were made public last week revealed that nearly one in five—one in five—young teenagers have reported seeing "nudity and sexual images on Instagram" that they did not want to see. That is one in five—things that were just fed to them. They were not aware they were going

to see this pop up on their screen. That is what was reported. These are the kids that said: Hey, this is what has happened on my Instagram screen.

That is just one shocking fact that we have learned from a landmark trial that is taking place in California that is focused on how social media platforms are harming our Nation's children.

It is appalling what these companies have done. Yet when he testified last week, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg actually doubled down on his record of denial. While sitting just feet away from parents who have tragically lost their children due to social media harms, he said: We didn't do this—nothing to see.

And, once again, he asserted that there is no link between youth, social media use, and, worse, mental health outcomes.

But we know that this is not what the facts and the data and the research tell us. We also know it is not what parents and principals and teachers and pastors and pediatricians and psychologists are telling us. We also know it is not what the kids are telling us.

We know that Meta has buried their child safety research because it didn't fit their narrative. They didn't like the results. They did not want to admit that the product that they are pushing is something that is harming kids. We learned that last year. We learned from brave whistleblowers who testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law that Meta knows what is going on, but they tried to hide it.

The whistleblowers have alleged that there is a toxic culture at Meta, starting at the top with Zuckerberg and the C-suite, and that they have encouraged a coverup and a denial of what their own research is telling them.

Years ago, internal reports showed that Meta downplayed the toxic impact of Instagram on teenage girls. To no one's surprise, Zuckerberg dodged questions last week about how Instagram can worsen anxiety, depression, body image issues, and eating disorder risks.

He claims that their platform does not allow people under the age of 13 to be on the platform. Yet internal Meta documents—their own documents—show that the company was building "social products"—using their term—"social products" that are targeting children as young as 6 years old. Let's start this addiction early.

Now, Meta promises that their Instagram "Teen Accounts" are going to protect kids online. Yet reports show that only 17 percent of their safety features work as advertised. You know, that is a failing rate, and Big Tech companies have proven that you cannot trust them to police themselves. They cannot be trusted to tell the truth about the way their products are affecting young users.

Well, what we have seen is that parents are indeed outraged. And they have the right to be outraged. These

are their kids, and this is a product that is addicting their kids, and the company does nothing about it.

Research and a poll that we saw last week said 86 percent of Americans—86, a pretty good majority there—now say that they want tech companies to be held accountable for their role in the social media addiction crisis, and Congress should listen to them.

Last year, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I reintroduced the Kids Online Safety Act. That legislation passed the Senate on a 91-to-3 vote. It has a veto-proof majority of 75 Senate cosponsors. I thank each of my colleagues who have cosponsored this bill. This legislation would place a duty of care on social media companies to ensure their platforms are safe for children—a duty of care, safety design, safety as the default.

Now, I think it is important to note that every industrial sector has safety standards and safety-by-design requirements. Whether you are buying a car or a toaster or a mattress or a curling iron, safety standards have to be met. The only industrial sector without safety product design is the virtual space—these AI companies and social media platforms.

We are finally seeing momentum that is saying: Let's pass some restrictions. Let's get the Kids Online Safety Act to the President's desk.

Last week, Vice President VANCE called KOSA a "great piece of legislation about child safety online."

There is a reason Big Tech has fought us over the last 5 years, trying to keep this bill from passing. It is because they put profit over our children's safety. When a child is online, they are the product. The longer they are online, the richer their data. The more eyeballs they collect to a platform, the longer those eyeballs stay on that platform, and the data is richer.

And what do they do with that data? They sell it. They sell your child's data. They don't want to change their business model.

So last year, Meta spent roughly \$20 million fighting the Kids Online Safety Act—greed, selfish.

They hired—get this—one lobbyist for every six Members of Congress. That is the extent they will go to to make certain they keep their business model and they keep your kid scrolling on their site. They have even gone so far as to assign a dollar value to each kid who is on their platforms.

SOCIAL MEDIA BIAS

Mr. President, more than 150 million Americans have an iPhone, and each of those phones is preloaded with Apple News. But according to some shocking new reports, Apple has suppressed conservative, center-right publications while boosting left-leaning outlets, turning their app into a tool of political propaganda for the left.

The Media Research Center—that is a watchdog group—analyzed every story featured by the app during the mornings of January 1 to January 31. Mr.

President, 620 top stories were featured, and 440 of those stories were published by left-leaning outlets. The remainder? They came from centrist or unaffiliated sources. But there were zero—not one, nada, none—zero that came from center-right and right-leaning outlets. Zero. Nothing from conservatives. Zero.

A separate study analyzed stories featured on Apple News over a 2-week span in October and, once again, guess what. There were zero articles from right-leaning publications, and 54 percent came from left-leaning sources.

We have seen this playbook before. For more than a decade, social media platforms have suppressed and censored conservative speech. If you criticized Democrats' COVID lockdowns, they took down your post. If you objected to the far-left BLM movement, you were banned. If you reported on Hunter Biden's laptop and his foreign entanglements, like the New York Post did just days before the 2020 election, your post was suppressed. This censorship undermined the free and open debate that has sustained our Nation for now 250 years.

Apple has another thing coming if they think—Big Tech thinks they are going to pull this off again.

Earlier this month, FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson sent a letter to Apple CEO Tim Cook calling on the company to review its policies and warning that the suppression of viewpoints, regardless of political affiliation, could violate consumer protection rules.

Last week, I sent a letter to Tim Cook demanding answers about how featured articles on Apple News are chosen, how the company reviews or audits those decisions, and how third-party news outlets can appeal unfair exclusions from its platform. We want to know: What is their criteria? What is their decision making? Is this subjective?

So we have given a deadline of March 4 to hear from Mr. Cook. I am looking forward to his reply.

I think it is important to note that Americans increasingly rely on services like Apple News for their information. They deserve to have the point and the counterpoint, to know two sides of the story.

I am grateful that under President Trump, the era of Big Tech censorship is drawing to a close. We are going to continue to fight until these companies abandon their blatant bias and censorship against conservatives.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to mark a solemn anniversary.

Yesterday marked the fourth anniversary of Vladimir Putin's unprovoked, unjustified, brutal, full-scale invasion of Ukraine. He sought to extinguish a democracy. He sought to erase a whole people's identity, their culture, their way of life, their language. He sought to redraw the map of Europe by force, against all of the norms and accepted rules that have preserved a peace for decades since World War II.

He failed.

Four years later, Ukraine stands proudly, resolutely, bloodied, scarred, but unbroken. Russia is not winning. There is a false narrative, in fact, that Russia is prevailing because it is taking bits and tiny pieces of territory at humongous cost in lives and resources. That false narrative must be dispelled, and I am here to say to my colleagues, to America, to the world: We know Ukraine can win if it has the tools to prevail. It has the will and the determination, unquestionably. It has the courage and the strength. It needs the weapons and the economic sanctions that will enable it to prevail.

Peace is our devout hope, but peace will be achieved only through strength because Vladimir Putin is unserious about peace now and will become serious only by demonstration—unequivocally and unambiguously—of strength.

I have just come back from a trip to Ukraine, both to Kyiv and to Odessa, meeting the engineers who are repairing the electric generation sources that Putin has bombed—he has bombed all of the nonnuclear sources—children who have been kidnapped and saved and brought back; they are among the 20,000 that Putin has abducted; President Zelenskyy, who remains absolutely firm in his determination to lead the people of Ukraine, to push back the Russians; and in Odessa, the frontline forces on the Black Sea who are not only detecting but destroying the invading drones and missiles; and the faith community there who have remained so absolutely supportive.

The fact is that Putin is bombing not only Ukraine—civilians in their hospitals, homes, and education centers, schoolrooms—he is also bombing American businesses. Of the 600 major corporations with operations in Ukraine, almost half of them—300—have been damaged or destroyed in some way by Putin's bombing, drones, missiles. Putin is attacking Ukraine, but he is also attacking America, and America should be outraged by these attacks on American businesses.

In the meantime, my main takeaway from this trip—my ninth—was the incredible endurance and resilience of the Ukrainian people. But they don't want our applause; they want ammunition. They need weapons. They want weapons, not words. And so I am here to advocate, on this fourth anniversary, that we give them the tools they need to prevail because they are fighting on.

This conflict is the most destructive in Europe since the Second World War.

Entire cities have been reduced to rubble. Tens of thousands have been killed. Millions have been displaced. Families sleep under the threat nightly of drone and missile attacks. And they are fighting not only for their homes and their children but for a principle that protects us all. We all have a stake in it. Our national security is at risk here. And the principle is that borders cannot be changed by tanks and terror, sovereignty is not negotiable, and democracy is not disposable through force.

I have traveled to Ukraine—in fact, nine times—and I have met soldiers defending their homeland with extraordinary guts and grit. I have met parents who have lost sons and daughters in Russian bombing. I have met families whose children were kidnapped and taken across the border in a really grotesque campaign of abduction and indoctrination—war crimes that stain the people of Russia, not just their leader. And the world has demanded accountability, designating Vladimir Putin as a “war criminal.”

He is not seeking peace. He is seeking domination. He is unserious about the negotiations that are taking place right now. He wages war not only with artillery and armor but with cyber attacks, propaganda, disinformation, energy blackmail, systematic brutality. And he believes that time is his ally. He believes that democracies grow weary and that America will blink. And we must prove him wrong.

The Senate has demonstrated bipartisan resolve before, and it must do so again now. We have proven that when freedom is under assault, this body will rise above partisanship. We need to sustain that unity and make unmistakably clear to Putin and the people of Russia that aggression carries consequences. That means advancing stronger sanctions on Russia’s war economy; designating Russia a “state sponsor of terrorism” if it fails to return those abducted children; shutting down the Kremlin’s shadow fleet transporting oil and gas to the countries that are buying it and fueling Russia’s war machine; and, in fact, sanctions and even tariffs targeting those countries, focusing on them because they are truly enabling this slaughterous invasion by Vladimir Putin.

The Russian assets that now are in bank accounts in Europe can be used to finance the purchasers of weapons, Tomahawks, F-16s, interceptors for the Patriot systems, 155s, all of the munitions and weaponry that Ukraine needs to win.

We must be unified in this Chamber and so must America across this great land with other democracies that are under attack through the hybrid warfare that Putin is waging. We have reaffirmed our deep partnership with the Ukrainian people, their Parliament, their President. And as Ukraine conducts the business of democracy while sandbags literally line their hallways, we must be behind them.

Four years of this unjustified invasion, and Ukraine is fighting not only for itself but for all of us—all democracies. Russia remains the most immediate and direct threat to NATO. Supporting Ukraine is not about charity; it is a strategy. Appeasement is not a strategy, nor is hope. Appeasement and reliance only on hope are the way to further conflict, wider war, which we must avoid.

Ukraine has endured these 4 years standing strong for democracy, and they are not only in this fight for themselves; they know that peace going forward is also at stake. Democracy is at risk.

I want to shift to the democracy that is at risk here at home, the democracy that is dependent on free and fair elections, the democracy that we must preserve against efforts to degrade and decimate it.

President Trump has called for a nationalization of American elections. Now, Americans may ask themselves: What is nationalization of elections? Well, you need to look no further than the so-called SAVE America Act, which would create absolutely horrendous burdens for all Americans registering to vote and then, in fact, voting.

It would create burdens for States which have the constitutional responsibility to administer elections. It would require Americans to use their driver’s license or other governmental-issued IDs alone in registering to vote.

Now, I support the requirement that voters identify themselves when they go to vote. It is mandated in Connecticut. I do it every time I go to vote, presenting my driver’s license.

But the SAVE Act is not about voter identification; it is about voter purges. In effect, it would require States to provide information—private information that is not available to the public—to the Federal Government, which would then purge voter rolls.

Purging voter rolls is an anathema when it relies on inaccurate ICE information. That is essentially what the SAVE America Act would require. The SAVE America Act requires voters not just to present voter identification; it enables voter purges and federalizes that requirement in a way that is antithetical to all the principles of our Constitution that maintain State responsibility for voting.

I am proposing that we also protect our elections by ensuring that ICE cannot be used at the polls, that ICE agents and officers be barred from the polls. We need to make sure that there is an absence of intimidation and fear when voters approach the poll because, otherwise, they will be discouraged from voting.

ICE has no business in front of voting booths. It has no right or responsibility at the polls. The discouragement of voters is happening in realtime, sending Tulsi Gabbard to Fulton, GA, continuing the false narrative that somehow there was fraud in the Georgia

vote, continuing the false narrative that there is voting fraud rampant in the Nation. The statistics and facts prove that contention absolutely wrong. The intimidation of poll workers, the demand for voting information, all of it absolutely unjustified.

President Trump is pushing Republicans in Congress to pass the SAVE America Act, a bill that would constitute the most significant restriction on the right to vote in generations. He has devoted a full web page to the bill on the White House website, and ironically, it would make it harder to vote than to buy an assault rifle. Voting by noncitizens, which is the issue the bill claims to address, is already illegal, and it has been proven time and time again: Voter fraud rarely, if ever, occurs.

But while the problem is a fake, the bill would have real effect. It would make the sacred act of voting exponentially more difficult for all Americans. Over 20 million American citizens—1 in 10 voting-age Americans—simply don’t have the access to the documentation that this bill would require to vote.

Voting identification in some form ought to be required but not in the way that this bill does it, restrictively and discriminatorily.

Mr. President, 250 years ago, America broke from the chains of monarchy and chose democracy—a government that is supposed to be by and for the people—but as we approach this Nation’s birth date, we are challenged as never before to defend democracy, to defend it in Ukraine by supporting the brave freedom fighters there, and by supporting it here by defending and advocating the right of every American to vote in free and fair elections.

Thankfully, we still have our democracy. It is under threat as never before, but as the saying goes, “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” We will have it only as long as we can keep it, as Benjamin Franklin said to the person who asked him about it after the Constitutional Convention. We have a republic only as long as we can keep it.

We need to emulate the courage of the people of Ukraine and of our Founding Fathers and to fight back against President Trump’s effort to silence us and to potentially threaten our democracy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Maine.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3924 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Ms. COLLINS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMOKE-FREE SKIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of the most important votes that I ever cast in the House or the Senate was the result of a challenge from a complete stranger. The year was 1986. I was running late to the airport, heading back to Chicago from Phoenix, AZ.

Now, those were the days when you could get a ticket at the airline counter at the last minute, but if you were too late, the good seats on the plane would all be gone. When I was handed my boarding pass in Phoenix, I saw that I was put in a middle seat in the smoking section at the back of the plane.

I asked the United Airlines attendant: Isn't there something you can do about this?

She looked down at my ticket and my title and said: No, but, Congressman, there is something you can do about it.

I thanked her and made the flight. As I squirmed in my seat to try to avoid the smoke clouds, I began to look around the plane. In front of me, only a few rows away, was an older person. Near him was a new mom with a baby. I thought to myself: This makes no sense at all. These people are supposed to be sitting in the nonsmoking section. I am in the smoking section, yet they are just a few rows ahead, breathing the same secondhand smoke that I am breathing.

When I got back to DC, I called my House staff together and told them I had an idea: I wanted to ban smoking on airplanes. My staff told me I was crazy. The tobacco industry was the most powerful lobby force in Washington, with support from the top leadership of both political parties.

I can remember going through orientation in the House when a leader who will go unnamed on the Democratic side in the House closed the door to the room for all 50 new Members of the House—Democrats—and said: Let me explain to you about tobacco and politics. Keep your hands off of it.

That was the advice.

Here I was, a relatively new Member of Congress who wanted to take on the tobacco lobby. Everyone said I didn't have a shot. With the leadership on both sides against me, I didn't have a prayer. But this was personal to me and to a lot of people who served in Congress. My father died of lung cancer when I was 14 years old. He was 53 years old. He smoked two packs of Camels a day. I thought of him when I was sitting on that flight from Phoe-

nix, and I remembered him as I began to pursue this cause.

One thing I did have going for me was that the U.S. House of Representatives was, I thought, the largest frequent flyer club in the world. Many other Members told me privately they hated breathing in cigarette smoke on airplanes just as much as I did. But to pass the bill, we would need to overcome opposition from many of our colleagues who were avid smokers, including the then-chairman of the House Public Works Committee.

One of those colleagues was on the Appropriations Committee, where I served, the late Congressman Marty Sabo of Minnesota. He had the power to make or break our bill, and he was a chain-smoker. I went up to him, and I said: Marty, what is the longest you can go without a cigarette?

He told me: Two hours.

So I said 2 hours it will be. We introduced a bill that would ban smoking on all domestic flights that were 2 hours or less so I could clear the hurdle of Marty Sabo. We passed the bill in the House by some miraculous chain of events after the Rules Committee literally defied the Speaker and let me offer an amendment.

The chairman of the Rules Committee was a man named Claude Pepper. Claude Pepper was a legendary Congressman from Florida and a spokesman for senior citizens across the Nation. He had a unique way of speaking, and I won't try to imitate it. But when he voted for me over the Speaker and gave me a chance to bring my amendment to the floor, I went to meet with him personally afterwards and thank him. He said to me: You know I was a Member of the Senate at one time.

I said: Yes, I do. And you came back after you lost running for the Senate to serve in the House for many years.

He said: When I was in the Senate, I created the National Cancer Institute, so I wanted to give you a vote.

Thanks to his help and the help of the late Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, the bill cleared the Senate shortly thereafter.

It seems strange that major legislation can be determined by such minor personal details like how long a Congressman can go without a smoke, but the personal issue is everything in Congress. Pick any cause championed by myself or one of my colleagues, and there is a good chance there is a story behind it and a personal story it is. When we take the time to sit down with our fellow Members and hear their stories, their interests, their worries, we often can find a compromise that makes a difference. That is how we got the support we needed to ban smoking on airplanes.

The 2-hour ban became law in 1988. Two years later, it was expanded to all domestic flights. People had experienced smoke-free skies, and they were not going back.

Today is the 36th anniversary of that law prohibiting smoking on all domes-

tic flights. It is also the anniversary of one of the biggest tipping points in the fight against smoking and Big Tobacco. After my ban passed, Americans started asking obvious questions: So if secondhand smoke is dangerous on an airplane, why isn't it dangerous in a bus or a train or an office building or a restaurant or a hospital? And as more Americans asked these questions, smoking disappeared gradually from public life.

I used to joke that when Members of Congress were elected back in the 1980s, one of their first stops was at the stationery store to buy a big, honking ashtray that they stuck on their coffee table in their office for all the visitors all during the day who came in with either a "yes," a "no," or a "maybe" and smoked their cigarettes. You can't even find those ashtrays anymore, thank goodness.

In the year 2000—listen to this—almost 30 percent of high school students smoked cigarettes—30 percent; today, 2 percent. And thousands of lives have been saved from deadly disease along the way.

This accomplishment is more than my own, and I am not taking personal credit for it. It is a culmination of work over decades from activists, lawyers, doctors, and so many other people who decided to fight Big Tobacco, against the odds. Their bravery and efforts deserve recognition. Their contributions are felt every time we take a breath of fresh air in public.

I tell this story because more Americans—essentially, young people—feel they have no control over their destiny. They see endless doom on social media and feel as if their lives are controlled by powerful sources with the money, resources, and time to dictate policy. But that can be overcome. It may not feel like it, but in our democracy, there is no limit to what we can accomplish in defense of the public good.

The tobacco lobby was the big boy in town. They had billions of dollars, lawyers, politicians, and more money than friends and investigators who were ready to squash any threat. Yet I beat them. We beat them. They still lost. They lost to a group of concerned citizens who had fewer resources and far less power than they did, but these citizens had the truth, a noble cause, and resilience.

As we confront the big battles of today, may that spirit of resilience and justice propel us against those hoping we sit on the sidelines. It was a memorable day in my career that changed America, and, like Malcolm Gladwell writes, it was a tipping point. I didn't know it was coming. I thought we were just going to make the flight on airplanes a lot more comfortable for most passengers, but it changed America.

Now, that is not the end of the challenge. Many of those young high school students who no longer smoke tobacco cigarettes are into vaping and other things that are going to be dangerous

to them if they become addicted to it. So let's be vigilant, let's be realistic, but let's never give up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, we all swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, and that means that we have an obligation to fund the government—but only a government that is complying with the Constitution, that is obeying and being restrained by the Bill of Rights, that is upholding the laws of the land.

Right now, the Department of Homeland Security is out of control. They are not upholding the Constitution. They are not complying with the law. They are not respecting Americans' rights.

They are tear-gassing schools. They are murdering American citizens. They are disappearing legal immigrants to this country.

Right now, we are not funding the Department of Homeland Security because Democrats have made it clear that we would be violating our oath of office if we funded a Department that is using taxpayer dollars to violate the Constitution and the law.

I wanted to come down to the floor this evening to remind my colleagues about what is happening all over the country, because now that we are trading legislative texts, now that we are deep in the weeds of immigration policy, the real life experience of people in this country, of communities that are being terrorized by an out-of-control ICE, risks getting lost in the discussion.

So I want to spend just a few minutes reminding my colleagues on both sides of the aisle what the stakes are here, what the real world looks like out there if you are on the receiving end of a Department of Homeland Security that doesn't care about your rights as an American citizen or as a resident of this country.

And so I want to go through some of the most egregious, out-of-control, illegal, unconstitutional practices that ICE has been utilizing all across the country over the course of the last year. I want to get specific with you so that you know why we believe this moment is so serious, why American citizens believe this moment is so serious, because this isn't just an opinion held by Democrats, who are simply saying: If we are going to fund ICE, it has got to be an ICE that is obeying the law.

This is what the American people think, who have watched images like this and others that I will show you and have said from both sides of the aisle—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—that we don't want this ICE; we don't want this Department of Homeland Security. We want the immigration laws of this country to be upheld but not through the abuse of people's rights, not through violence.

This is a screenshot of a video that went viral all across the country about

a month ago. The man in this video's name is Ramon Menera. He was stopped by a Border Patrol agent outside his home in a Minneapolis suburb.

First of all, you may ask: Why is a Border Patrol agent outside a Minneapolis suburb? That is not on the border.

Well, that is the first thing that has gone wrong here. CBP, HSI, and all sorts of Agencies that we fund in order to do very specific jobs are now doing an entirely different job—interior immigration enforcement. That is violative of the appropriations law. We don't fund CBP to be wandering suburbs in Minneapolis, looking for people who they want to detain.

This should be a prerogative that matters to both Republicans and Democrats. Our spending power and the spending power in the Constitution is vested in the legislative branch. Our spending power is mute, is pointless—we are powerless—if we tell the administration we are giving you this amount of money to spend on protecting the border, and they just say: Screw it. We are not going to use that money to protect the border. We are going to take those people, and we are going to put them on a different job that they are not trained for.

Well, when you have CBP agents who are not trained to wander apartment complexes, searching for people they want to detain, things like this happen every single day.

Ramon Menera was stopped and cuffed because of his accent. This is actually what the agent tells him in this video. If you go online and watch this video, you will hear the agent tell Ramon Menera that he is being detained because he has an accent.

Ramon Menera is a U.S. citizen. Guess what. There are a lot of U.S. citizens who have accents. Frankly, most of us have forefathers that, when they came to the United States, had an accent. That is not a justification for you to be detained.

He was even carrying his ID on him. All the agent had to do was check his ID to confirm that he was a U.S. citizen. But the agent did not check his ID. Instead, that agent arrested him, put his wrists in zip ties, and took him away from his property. He was forcibly detained by Border Patrol even though he was a U.S. citizen.

This didn't happen just once. This has happened thousands of times all across the country. It is still happening today—that individuals who are legally in this country are being detained, zip-tied, and arrested because they have an accent, because they look like they might be from Mexico or from Central or South America.

It gets worse, though. Ramon's 5-year-old daughter was inside and watched this entire incident through the window—5 years old. To this day, she has refused to go outside since because she fears for the masked men that arrested, zip-tied, and detained her U.S. citizen father.

The reason that we are demanding that these indiscriminate roving patrols—these "show your papers," "arrest you if you have an accent" patrols—end is because they are fundamentally un-American, and they are illegal. And yet they continue. So unless we restrain them in law, unless we stop ICE and CBP and HSI from wandering through suburban neighborhoods, listening for people who may have accents and zip-tying them until they can prove that they are an American citizen, then they will continue.

This should upset Republicans just as much as it upsets Democrats—the idea that this man, a U.S. citizen, was zip-tied, detained, and arrested while his 5-year-old daughter watched, even though he had ID on him proving he was an American citizen. This has to end, and we shouldn't fund ICE until it does end.

In another quiet Minnesota suburb—this one called St. Peter—a woman sat alone in her car, observing and recording ICE officers as they patrolled her community. This should go without saying, but it clearly needs to be said anyway: What this woman was doing is fully protected by the Constitution. Observing and recording Federal agents and local law enforcement is a First Amendment right. You get that right by being born in the United States of America, being a resident of the United States of America. It is not suspicious. It is not a crime. But ICE doesn't like that people are watching them, tracking their illegality.

So what happened next should alarm every American citizen. Three unmarked ICE vehicles began chasing this woman down a rural road. When she didn't pull over, they boxed her in. As soon as she stopped, these three masked agents jumped out of their vehicles immediately with guns drawn, screaming at her to get out of her car.

Again, she has committed no crime, no traffic violation. She refused. She calmly asserted her rights. The agents then forced her door open, dragged this woman onto the road and handcuffed her. This is an unarmed woman who had committed no crime. She is alone on a country road, and an unmarked car boxes her in, and out jump masked men with guns and drag her out of her car.

That is not the United States of America. That is Stalinist Russia. That is Maduro's Venezuela. We don't allow, in this country, masked men to pull over law-abiding citizens, in unmarked cars, and drag them out onto the road.

They put her in her vehicle. They began driving her in this car to Minneapolis. About 20 minutes later, the agents received a call from their supervisor. The woman's husband had contacted the St. Peter Police Department and reached the police chief, and the chief called the ICE officers and told them they were violating the law and to let this woman out.

The only reason we know this story is because, when her husband arrived,

he started recording it and we have these frightening images.

For every incident that we see like this, there are hundreds of others that we don't, and it won't end until we decide as a body to require that ICE officers stop wearing masks, identify themselves, and record what they are doing.

This should alarm anybody who believes in the rule of law. This photo was taken—I want to get this one right. It is outside of Roosevelt High School, and on a Wednesday afternoon in Minneapolis while students and faculty were gathered outside of the high school for early dismissal, armed, masked Border Patrol officers, some from the elite special forces team, crossed over onto school property and began tackling people.

They handcuffed two members of the faculty. They released chemical irritants into the crowd of students and teachers, and in videos taken by witnesses, you can see the agents firing tear gas. This is at a school. Just when the kids are all congregated after school outside the school, they are firing tear gas into these students.

Chaos erupts. Dozens of kids run. They take shelter at a nearby library. Let me say that again. Children are running from Federal agents who are tear-gassing them to find shelter in a nearby library. One school official told a reporter that the agents "didn't care. They're just animals. I've never seen people behave like this."

The school was forced to close for the rest of the week. Under both Republican and Democratic administrations, before the Trump administration, there was a policy that ICE did not operate in sensitive locations, in schools, in hospitals, in churches, and daycares, places where there were lots of little kids, sacred places.

These aren't supposed to be battlegrounds. These are places where children and other vulnerable populations are known to be. But this continues. Schools are under assault.

And so what are we saying? Not another dime for DHS if they are going to use taxpayer dollars to turn schools into scenes of terror. The use of Federal funds to conduct immigration enforcement at sensitive locations should be prohibited, full stop.

You probably recognize this car. That is the blood of Renee Good. This photo was taken after an ICE agent shot and killed her, an unarmed American citizen, a mother of three. But here is the story I want to tell—not the story of the incident, the story of what happened after the incident.

After the incident, career Federal prosecutors did exactly what they were supposed to do, they moved quickly to preserve evidence. They began coordinating with State authorities to investigate a potential use of excessive force. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension—these are the experts when it comes to police shootings—were prepared to work alongside the FBI to determine the facts.

But they never got to determine the facts. The career Federal prosecutors never got to do their job because the Trump administration intervened.

Senior officials at the Department of Justice shut down the investigation. The Trump administration shut down the investigation of the murder of Renee Good.

Why? Because they worried that the investigation would actually come to a factual conclusion because the Trump administration had decided within hours that Renee Good was a terrorist and they were only interested in an investigation that confirmed their political judgment.

The career prosecutors refused to go along, and instead, they resigned. When political pressure overrides independent investigation, justice fails, and democracy dies. This is exactly why we are demanding that if we are going to send our taxpayer dollars to fund ICE, we have to be able to protect the authority of States and localities to investigate potential crimes, including excessive force by Federal officers.

Evidence has got to be preserved and shared, and investigations have to be impartial. That is not a wild demand. Just investigate murders. Investigate the killing of American citizens, like we have always done. Under no circumstances should we be funding a Department of Homeland Security that believes, as the Vice President said, that they have complete immunity for killing American citizens.

Independent investigations, a pretty reasonable demand.

Finally, this is a letter. You are not going to be able to read this 14-year-old's actually pretty legible handwriting, but her name is Ariana. And Ariana and her mom Stephanie were in the country legally. They were immigrants in this country, but they were playing by the rules. Her mom had gotten a work permit. They were doing their regular check-ins with ICE, and then everything changed.

One day, they walked in to do their regular check-in, again, complying with the law, applying for asylum, had gone and gotten a work permit, not working under the table. They went to do their check-in, and they were swept away and detained.

You have this image that the Trump administration tries to proffer that they are going after violent criminals or maybe they are going after only the people who snuck into the country.

No, no. Ariana and her mom Stephanie came to the United States legally, applied for asylum legally, got a work permit legally, were showing up to their check-ins, and they were sucked into the detention system—14 years old.

The law says you are supposed to keep kids in detention for only 25 days. Ariana was there for 45 days. Again, ICE violated the law. She was sent to a detention center called Dilley. I went down to Dilley, tried to do an inspection of Dilley. I am the ranking Demo-

crat on the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations. I was denied entry to Dilley.

I met, later that night, two younger boys, younger than Ariana, who had been in Dilley for over a month, month and a half through Christmas.

I sat and looked at these boys. I sat across the table from them for about an hour. They were alive on the outside, but they were dead on the inside. They were dead on the inside.

They spent Christmas in a detention center. They call it the baby jail in Texas because there are literally hundreds of kids, most of them under 5 years old, who are being detained in prison cells.

Ariana wrote this letter to try to tell the world what the conditions were like inside: Since I got to this center, all you feel is sadness and depression. People have their courts, but they only last 15 minutes. Our rights are not being provided. We don't have schools, doctors. All they have here are nurses. If you need medical attention, the longest you have to wait is 3 hours, but to get any medicine, pill or anything, it takes a while. There are viruses here all the time getting people sick. Serious situations happen, and the officers can't take them serious enough. There are no consequences. They don't care.

Limited or no access to medical care, no access to legal representation, apathetic guards, traumatized kids, that is the reality of what is happening inside of these detention centers.

In a center down the road from Dilley called Pearsall, there is—I don't know—1,500, 2,000 people in that facility. That facility is just for adults. Do you know how many rooms there are for legal consultations? Four. It is all rigged. It is all rigged. They sweep up legal immigrants like Stephanie and Ariana. They throw them into detention. They don't let them see their lawyers, and they disappear them back to their home country.

This isn't America. The Bill of Rights still matters here. The Constitution still matters here. In this country, we don't have unidentified masked men ripping American citizens out of their cars. We don't allow Federal law enforcement officers to shoot and kill American citizens with impunity.

We allow people to apply for legal status. We don't choose to intentionally traumatize children. We don't let officials wander around communities listening for accents and zip-typing people who don't speak the way that they think Americans should speak.

We are demanding that ICE follow the law. We are asking our Republican colleagues to join us in strengthening the law to make sure that these roving patrols, these murders with impunity, this traumatizing of children, the tear-gassing of schools ends.

We would still enforce American immigration laws, but we would do it in a humane, legal way. So I appreciate the time of my colleagues today.

I wanted to walk you through what is happening. This is all still happening. Just because all the TV cameras aren't in Minneapolis any longer doesn't mean that these practices aren't still real. And until ICE decides to act in a legal manner, we shouldn't give them one more dime.

That is our constitutional—that is our constitutional—responsibility.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as many Americans are beginning to understand, artificial intelligence and robotics is in the process of transforming the world.

The truth is that we are at the beginning of the most profound technological revolution in world history, a revolution which will bring unimaginable changes to our society.

This is a technological revolution which will impact our economy with massive job displacement. It will threaten our democratic institutions; it will impact our emotional well-being; it will impact how we educate and raise our kids; and it will impact the nature of warfare.

Further, and frighteningly, some very knowledgeable people fear that what was once seen as science fiction could soon become a reality, and that is that superintelligent AI could become smarter than humans, could become independent of human control, and pose an existential threat to the human race.

In other words, human beings could actually lose control over the planet. AI and robotics are creating the most sweeping technological revolution in the history of humanity. And the scale, scope, and speed of that change is unprecedented.

According to Demis Hassabis, the head of Google's DeepMind, the AI revolution will be 10 times bigger than the Industrial Revolution and 10 times faster.

In other words, this technological revolution will have 100 times the impact that the Industrial Revolution had. And the Industrial Revolution had a major impact on the lives of people.

As we speak, AI companies are making their models smarter and smarter and smarter.

According to the Model Evaluation & Threat Research group, the length of tasks—the length of tasks—AI can complete is doubling roughly every 7 months—doubling.

And it is not just what AI companies are saying. Take a look at what they are doing. This year, four—one, two, three, four—four AI companies are spending some \$670 billion to build out data centers. As a percentage of GDP, that is 10 times greater than what we as a nation spend each year on the Moon landing.

Bottom line: We are looking at the most significant investment in human history, which is bringing about the

most rapid societal transformation in human history.

Let me be very clear. Congress is way, way behind where it should be in understanding the nature of this revolution or understanding its impacts. We have to catch up, and, frankly, we don't have a lot of time.

In my view, here are just a few questions that Members of Congress and the American people should be asking. Question No. 1: Who is pushing the AI and robotics revolution? Who is going to benefit from this revolution, and who is going to get hurt by this revolution?

The answer will not surprise the American people. At a time in American history when we have more income and wealth inequality than we have ever had in the history of our Nation, the AI revolution is being pushed by the very wealthiest people in our country, including people like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, Mark Zuckerberg, and Peter Thiel.

Now, why is that? Ask yourself a very simple question: Why are these multibillionaires investing hundreds of billions of dollars into AI and robotics? Is it because they want to improve the lives of the 60 percent of our people who are living paycheck to paycheck, Americans who are struggling to pay for groceries, healthcare, housing, and education? Is that their motive? Is that why they are developing AI and robotics—because they are deeply concerned about the well-being of ordinary Americans? Maybe, but I don't think so.

I think the answer is obvious: These multibillionaires are investing in AI and robotics because those investments will increase their wealth and power—and power—exponentially. In other words, the richest and most powerful people on Earth will become even richer and even more powerful.

But what happens to the average American? What happens to the working people in our country, the vast majority of our people, during this revolutionary upheaval? Well, let's hear from the owners and the leaders of this revolution in their own words—not just me; let's hear what they have to say.

Elon Musk, who has invested hundreds of billions of dollars in AI and robotics, recently said that "AI and robots will replace all jobs. Working will be optional." Elon Musk, the wealthiest guy on Earth, investing hundreds of billions of dollars, says that "AI and robots will replace all jobs." Maybe we should take him seriously.

Bill Gates, who has also made huge investments in these technologies, founder of Microsoft, predicted that humans "won't be needed for most things." Humans "won't be needed for most things."

Mustafa Suleyman, the CEO of Microsoft AI, said that most white-collar work—listen to this; this is the CEO of Microsoft AI—most white-collar work "will be fully automated by an AI within the next 12 to 18 months." That is the CEO of Microsoft AI.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei wrote that recent breakthroughs had made it clear that we are only "a few years" away from the point when "AI is better than humans at essentially everything."

Jeff Bezos, the fifth richest person in the world, has reportedly pushed his staff for years to think big and envision what it would take for Amazon to fully automate its operations, run it without workers. Bezos plans to replace at least 600,000 workers at Amazon with robots.

Their goal, the goal of the AI leaders, is not simply to replace specific jobs; their goal is to replace workers.

According to Dario Amodei, the head of Anthropic, AI "isn't a substitute for specific human jobs but rather a general labor substitute for humans."

According to OpenAI's charter—listen to this—its mission—this is what OpenAI say its wants to do—is to build "highly autonomous systems that outperform humans at most economically valuable work."

That is what the leaders of the AI industry are saying. Are they exaggerating? May they be wrong about this or that detail? Perhaps. But I think we should listen carefully to what they are saying.

As the ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I released a well-researched report finding that AI automation and robotics could replace nearly 100 million jobs in America over the next decade, including 47 percent of truckdrivers. Right now, we are seeing in major cities cars that are self-driving. I was in one recently—Waymo in San Francisco. We are going to see more and more of them. There are large trucks on the road right now in Texas that are self-driving. There is no reason to believe that we are not going to see more and more of them all over the country.

Our report talks about the loss of 64 percent of jobs that accountants have right now and 89 percent of fast food workers, people who are behind the counter, among many other occupations. We are already starting to see the impact right now, the impact of AI on workers.

Researchers at Stanford released a paper in November called "Canaries in the Coal Mine?" That study found that there has already been a 16-percent relative decline in employment for younger workers in jobs exposed to AI, like computer programming and customer service. In other words, the AI revolution is already making it harder for young college graduates to find decent jobs.

If OpenAI is successful in building "highly autonomous systems that outperform humans at most economically valuable work," I have a very simple question that I think is on the minds of millions of working-class Americans, and that is, what happens to the workers who have lost their jobs? That is a pretty simple question. How will they

be able to find new jobs if there are no new jobs to find? It is one thing to talk about telling a truckdriver who loses his job to go into computer programming, but what happens if that computer programming job no longer exists? If AI and robotics eliminate millions of jobs and create massive unemployment, how will people survive if they have no income? How will they feed their families or pay for housing or healthcare?

I have to be honest and say that I am not aware that anyone in the U.S. Congress, which is supposed to be representing the American people, is even talking about this issue in a serious way.

Further, I am concerned not only about the economic impact of AI, which will be enormously profound, I am talking about the impact of AI on our humanity and how we relate to each other.

Work, in many instances, gives our lives meaning and purpose. We all, whether we are doctors or scientists or janitors or truckdrivers or snowplow operators, feel a basic need to serve our community, to be useful, to be productive members of society. In other words, work is what gives us meaning, and it is also how we connect to each other. We have our family. We have our friends. But we also work in an environment where we get to know each other and relate to each other. Well, what happens when millions of people lose their jobs and their source of connection to other human beings?

I am also deeply concerned about the impact that AI will have on the emotional well-being of our kids—in fact, all people but especially the children.

According to a recent poll by Common Sense Media, 72 percent of U.S. teenagers say they have used AI for companionship and more than half do so regularly. What does it mean for young people to form friendships with AI and become increasingly isolated from other human beings? Does anyone in our country think that the past 20 years of social media have been good for children's mental health and cognitive capabilities? Does anyone think we should now entrust these very same companies with even more power over our children's well-being and development?

This is an issue that needs an enormous amount of discussion that we have not begun in a serious way.

Let me also say that I am deeply concerned about the existential threat posed by AI. I recently met with researchers in California who told me that the AI companies are building this plane—this AI plane, if you like—as they are flying it. They are building it on the tail, and nobody knows what the end result will look like. In other words, they are feverishly going ahead, and every day, we read about another breakthrough, but they do not know what the end result will be.

Now, I know this may sound like science fiction, but many experts, in-

cluding the godfather of AI, Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, have told me that there is a real chance that human beings could lose control to AI. Now, why is that? AI is moving so quickly that experts who make AI acknowledge—they acknowledge—that they do not fully understand how AI makes decisions.

Now, I am not a computer scientist—in fact, I failed physics in college, if truth be told—but here is what experts have told me: AI is trained on a massive amount of data and calculations. The scale of the data is almost beyond comprehension. Training the most advanced AI models is expected to soon require an octillion calculations—that is 1 followed by 27 zeroes; that is a lot of zeroes—or the estimated total number of grains of sand on planet Earth. Think about that for a moment. That is the amount of data in calculations involved in creating a most advanced AI.

We are, at this moment, creating an extraordinarily complex and powerful technology that is not fully understood even by the people who are building it. How insane is that and how dangerous is that?

AI already does weird stuff. It can lie. It can cheat. It can even blackmail. Left unchecked, what will AI be able to do in a decade from now, when it will be far, far, far smarter than it is today?

I am also concerned about the impact of AI on our environment. AI requires zillions of calculations. Those calculations require huge data centers, which, in turn, require a massive amount of electricity and water.

For example, Meta is building a data center, in Louisiana, the size of Manhattan—size of Manhattan—that will use as much electricity as 1.2 million homes. One data center the size of Manhattan will use as much electricity as over a million homes.

Mr. President, these are just some of the questions that we should be asking. And yet, instead of a global conversation about these serious issues, we are letting a handful of billionaires race forward to develop AI for power and for profit.

Let me be clear. In my view, we should not be racing with China or anyone else to see who is the first to eliminate millions of jobs or the first to build an AI that destroys the planet. That is not a race anyone should win.

What we need is a serious conversation in our community, in our country, and around the world about the role of AI and how we make it beneficial to all humanity. AI can do a lot of good things, but it has to be beneficial to all humanity and not just the billionaires who currently own it. In other words, we need to take a deep breath.

For all of these reasons, I will soon be introducing legislation to ban the development of new AI data centers. We need to slow down the development of AI to give democracy a chance to catch up. A moratorium will give us the chance to figure out how to make sure AI benefits workers, not just a

handful of billionaires. A moratorium will give us time to figure out how to ensure AI is safe and effective and prevent dangerous outcomes. A moratorium will give us time to figure out how to make sure AI does not harm our environment or jack up the cost of electricity.

Bottom line: A moratorium will give the American people the time to determine how AI impacts their lives. It will give the global community the time to work together to address the risks posed by AI.

This is an enormously important issue. The time is long overdue for Congress to begin the serious discussion that it deserves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM VINATIERI

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the selection of South Dakota's Adam Vinatieri as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2026. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest kickers in NFL history, scoring 2,673 career points and winning four Super Bowls during his 24-year career. He is the third kicker and the second South Dakota State University—SDSU—Jackrabbit to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Adam's rise to fame began in my home State of South Dakota. He was born in Yankton, SD, and attended Rapid City Central High School where he earned All-State honors in football in 1989 and 1990. Continuing his punting and kicking career, he then attended SDSU in Brookings, SD, where he finished his collegiate career as the school's alltime leading scorer. In his senior year at SDSU, Vinatieri earned NCAA Division II All-America recognition after setting the school's single-season punting record of 43.5 yards per attempt. Additionally, he set SDSU's then-record for career field goals, 27; extra points, 104; points by a kicker, 195; and longest field goal, 51 yards.

Adam initially went undrafted by the NFL, but he did not let the adversity stop his passion and love for the game. He spent a season playing internationally with the Amsterdam Admirals, and the New England Patriots signed Adam in 1996 as a free agent. He set a rookie franchise record at the time with 120 points. He went on to play 10 consecutive seasons with the Patriots,

and he helped the Patriots claim three Super Bowl Championships in four seasons—2001, 2003, and 2004—kicking off one of the longest dynasties in NFL history. He had a long list of accomplishments during his run with the Patriots, and perhaps his most notable was kicking the NFL's first-ever Super Bowl winning field goal in Super Bowl XXXVI and returning to do it again in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

As a free agent in 2006, Adam signed with the Indianapolis Colts, where he went on to play for another 14 seasons, win Super Bowl XLI, and establish records for the franchise, including 44 consecutive field goals and 37 field goals made from 50 yards or beyond. Both of these records have yet to be broken.

Adam holds the NFL's record for career points, 2,673; career field goals, 599; postseason points, 238; consecutive field goals made, 44; most seasons with more than 100 points, 21; and overtime field goals made, 12. His four Super Bowl wins are the most of any NFL kicker. Additionally, he was a member of the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team and the NFL All-Decade Team for the 2000s.

I congratulate Adam for his remarkable career as a professional athlete and applaud his well-deserved induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He represents the best of South Dakota's values: grit, determination, humility, and fortitude. He defined excellence in the game, overcoming unimaginable pressures and delivering record-breaking accomplishments. From his start as a Rapid City Central Cobler to helping two NFL franchises to Super Bowl victories, Adam's leadership and legacy will continue to inspire generations of South Dakotans to come.

NOMINATION OF LTG JOSHUA M. RUDD

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I oppose the nomination of Joshua Rudd to be Director of the NSA. His responses to questions posed to him at his confirmation hearing, as well as to written questions, reveal a lack of familiarity with basic constitutional rights that is incompatible with the position for which he has been nominated.

The NSA's surveillance authorities are vast and, if anything, underappreciated by the American people. The Agency plays a central role in executing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, but also conducts extensive operations outside of FISA and pursuant only to Executive order. The potential for abuse is enormous, as we saw when the Agency secretly conducted an illegal, warrantless surveillance program that it hid not only from the public but from Congress.

Our country faces a dangerous moment in which constitutional rights are under attack. For example, we recently learned that the administration secretly decided that the government

doesn't need a judicial warrant to break into a private home. In other words, the administration is trying to invalidate the Fourth Amendment.

It was in that context that I asked General Rudd what he would do if directed to target people in the United States for surveillance without a judicial warrant. I offered him the opportunity to answer with a yes or a no. I didn't get an answer. I proposed that he offer general thoughts on the matter, but got nothing of substance. I did everything in my power to allow him to demonstrate some understanding of the basic guardrails of NSA's authorities and got nothing but vague assurances about following the law.

There were other topics on which General Rudd's responses were disappointing. He wouldn't associate himself with NSA's previous commitment not to buy and use Americans' location data. He also refused to say whether the government should be allowed to mandate backdoors into encryption used by Americans.

His responses related to transparency were also troubling. In addition to statutes and the Constitution, NSA is bound by numerous procedures and guardrails which are publicly available. So I asked General Rudd whether, if the NSA were to operate in violation of those procedures and guardrails, he would inform the American people. He refused to make that commitment. He even refused to promise to inform the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The Director of NSA has another job, that of Commander of U.S. Cyber Command. The demands of this job are mind-boggling. The cyber threat to the United States cannot be overstated. And, as SALT TYPHOON demonstrated, our adversaries have succeeded in inflicting serious damage to U.S. national security. The Commander of CYBERCOM needs to have a sophisticated understanding of this threat and how it has evolved over time. He or she needs to be able to see this threat in its geopolitical context and to fully grasp both the technical capabilities and the policy options that might help counter the threat. General Rudd, despite his service, does not have the background that would allow him to immediately step into this role. He is not qualified for this job. And, when it comes to the cybersecurity of this country, there is simply no time for on-the-job learning. The threat is just too urgent for that.

For these reasons, I oppose the nomination.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE DECISION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following decision from the Government Accountability Office be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan
File: B-337705
January 15, 2026

DIGEST

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Grand Staircase RMP). The Grand Staircase RMP designates BLM-administered lands within the decision area as available or unavailable for certain uses.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude that the Grand Staircase RMP meets APA's definition of a rule, and that no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

DECISION

On January 13, 2025, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Grand Staircase RMP). We received a request for a decision about whether the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule for purposes of CRA.

Our practice when issuing decisions is to obtain the legal views of the relevant agency on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Interior to obtain the agency's views. We received Interior's response on September 18, 2025.

BACKGROUND

BLM Public Land Management

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), BLM is responsible for developing, maintaining, and, when appropriate, revising "land use plans which provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands." BLM land use plans, referred to as "resource management plans" (RMPs), establish goals and objectives to guide future land and resource management actions implemented by BLM. Pursuant to FLPMA, BLM established procedures for the development, revision, and amendment of RMPs.

The objective of resource management planning is to maximize resource values for the public through a rational, consistently applied set of regulations and procedures which promote the concept of multiple use management. An RMP generally establishes land use designations; allowable resource uses; resource conditions, goals, and objectives; program constraints and general management practices; areas to be covered by more specific plans; and other related information.

BLM may amend an RMP to account for, among other things, new data, new or revised policy, or a change in circumstances. Amendments are to be made through an environmental assessment of the proposed change or an environmental impact statement, if needed, and must involve public involvement and interagency coordination.

The Antiquities Act of 1906

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President authority to designate national monuments on federal lands that contain historic landmarks, structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest. The President may also reserve parcels of land as part of the national monuments, but the statute mandates that such reservations be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the protected objects. Proclamations under the Act are self-executing and do not require further action by Congress. Both Congress and the President have designated monuments to be overseen by federal land agencies including, for example, the National Park Service and BLM.

Grand Staircase-Escalante Resource Management Plan

BLM issued the Grand Staircase RMP to establish a management plan consistent with Presidential Proclamation 10286 (Proclamation 10286). Proclamation 10286 restored the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) to its pre-December 4, 2017, boundaries. Proclamation 10286 also directed BLM to manage the lands for the specific purpose of protecting and restoring objects identified in Proclamation 10286 and Proclamation No. 6920, 61 Fed. Reg. 50419 (Sept. 26, 1996) (Proclamation 6920). Proclamation 10286 incorporated Proclamation 6920 by reference. Proclamations 6920 and 10286 (collectively, Proclamations) provide that BLM shall develop a management plan for the GSENM in accordance with the Proclamations, FLPMA, and other applicable laws.

BLM initiated development of the Grand Staircase RMP in July of 2022 and completed the process with the issuance of the Grand Staircase RMP on January 13, 2025. The Grand Staircase RMP encompasses 1.87 million acres of public land managed by BLM. It delineates goals, objectives, and management direction intended to ensure consistency with the protection of monument objects and the direction provided in the Proclamations.

For example, the Grand Staircase RMP establishes a zonal system that assigns different levels of protection and access, including for example more than 1.2 million acres of “primitive area” closed to off-highway vehicle use. The RMP also designates areas for particular uses, limits camping to a set number of days, identifies specific pastures as unavailable for grazing or open only for trailing, distinguishes recreational shooting from game hunting, adds explicit protections for old-growth trees, and institutes protection measures for migratory birds. To protect sensitive resources, the Grand Staircase RMP creates new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Some measures within the Grand Staircase RMP are directly mandated by Proclamation 10286. For instance, the RMP implements the withdrawal of all federal lands within the decision area from mineral and geothermal leasing, as directed by Proclamation 10286. Additionally, the RMP reflects Proclamation 10286’s instruction that lands covered by voluntarily relinquished grazing permits or leases will be retired from livestock grazing. And it preserves tribal members access to sites and resources for customary usage. Finally, the Grand Staircase RMP affirms that management actions based on Proclamation 10286 are subject to valid existing rights and that all actions within the GSENM will be consistent with the protection of GSENM objects.

Congressional Review Act

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking,

requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General for review before a rule can take effect. The report must contain a copy of the rule, “a concise general statement relating to the rule,” and the rule’s proposed effective date. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove rules issued by federal agencies for a period of 60 days using special procedures. If a resolution of disapproval is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect.

CRA adopts the definition of a rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which states that a rule is “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency.” However, CRA excludes three categories of rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

Interior did not submit a CRA report to Congress or The Comptroller general on the Grand Staircase RMP. In its response to us, Interior provided additional information about RMP procedures related to the release of the Grand Staircase RMP. Interior noted that it followed the notice and public comment procedures for RMPs in accordance with FLPMA and its regulations. However, Interior did not state a position as to whether the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule under CRA.

DISCUSSION

At issue here is whether the Grand Staircase RMP meets CRA’s definition of a rule, which adopts APA’s definition of a rule, with three exceptions. As explained below, we conclude that it does and that no exceptions apply. Consequently, the Grand Staircase RMP is subject to review under CRA.

The Grand Staircase RMP is a Rule under APA

Applying APA’s definition of a rule, the Grand Staircase RMP meets all of the required elements. First, the Grand Staircase RMP is an agency statement as it was issued by BLM, a federal agency. However, because the RMP was issued in response to a presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, we must assess whether the RMP represents an agency statement or a presidential action. The President is not an agency for purposes of APA, accordingly presidential actions are not rules under APA. Thus, we have distinguished between an agency acting under its own statutory authority, which would constitute an agency statement, and an agency acting under authority delegated by the President, which constitutes a presidential action.

For example, in B-333725, Mar. 17, 2022, we considered whether guidance issued by a presidential task force and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) constituted a rule under CRA. Pertinent here, we examined whether OMB’s approval of the guidance was taken under the President’s sole authority or the authority vested in the agency. There, the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (the Property Act) vested the President, not any agency, with the authority to prescribe the policies and directives the President considered necessary to carry out the statute’s purposes. The President subsequently delegated this authority to OMB. OMB’s involvement therefore existed solely by virtue of that presidential delegation. Because the President is not an “agency” under the APA, we concluded that when an agency acts solely

pursuant to authority vested exclusively in the President—effectively standing in the President’s shoes—the resulting action is attributable to the President rather than to the agency.

By contrast, in B-336512, Aug. 29, 2024, we concluded that an OMB Controller Alert suggesting that agencies identify projects funded by statutes enacted pursuant to initiatives of the Biden Administration constituted an agency statement because it was issued pursuant to OMB’s statutory authority to issue such guidance, rather than under authority delegated by the President.

The crux of our analysis here lies in whether BLM was merely a conduit for the President’s Antiquities Act authority or whether it exercised its own independent authority under FLPMA. As explained further below, we conclude that the Grand Staircase RMP operates as a hybrid regulatory instrument, reflecting both the implementation of the Proclamations directives and BLM’s independent exercise of its discretion and authority under FLPMA.

The Antiquities Act vests the President with the authority to declare certain landmarks, structures, and objects as national monuments and to reserve parcels of land as part of the national monuments. In certain respects, the Grand Staircase RMP affirms the Proclamations’ directives and implements measures to protect the GSENM. The Grand Staircase RMP provisions that acknowledge GSENM and specify its boundaries simply reflect the legal status of the land as established by the President under the Antiquities Act. Some directives of the Proclamations also include the administration’s policy for the protection of the GSENM and other policy interest. For example, the withdrawal of GSENM from disposition under mineral and geothermal leasing laws, recognition of valid existing rights, the provision of access to tribal members for customary uses, and adoption of a mandatory policy on grazing permit relinquishment.

However, BLM’s implementation of the Proclamations’ policy directives and other discretionary provisions were developed under BLM’s independent authority to manage public lands and resources under FLPMA. More specifically, BLM prepared the Grand Staircase RMP pursuant to Interior’s land-use planning regulations implementing FLPMA, codified at 43 C.F.R. part 1600. In developing the Grand Staircase RMP, BLM proposed five alternatives, Alternatives A-E, for the protection of the GSENM and the management of federal land and resources within the decision area. The development of management alternatives, and the selection of an alternative, is the hallmark of BLM’s discretion under FLPMA. BLM selected its Proposed RMP, Alternate E, which builds on Alternative C and incorporates its assessment of the best available scientific information, public comments, cooperating-agency input, government-to-government consultation, and elements of other alternatives. Accordingly, BLM exercised its independent authority and discretion in choosing Alternative E, as the best alternative to manage land use and resources within the decision area.

As noted above, the Antiquities Act grants the President authority to identify objects of historic or scientific interest and to reserve the smallest area of land necessary for their protection. By its plain terms this authority, while exclusive to the President, is narrow in scope. It does not encompass the development of land-use plans, or the allocation of resources on public land. Congress assigned those responsibilities to the Secretary of the Interior and BLM under FLPMA. The Grand Staircase RMP explains that Alternative E

designates management areas primarily as a tool for managing visitation and allowable uses, while also ensuring protection of GSENM objects. Whereas the President through Proclamations was empowered to establish the GSENM and its boundaries under the Antiquities Act. Because the Grand Staircase RMP relies on a separate statutory grant of authority, FLPMA, rather than delegation of the President's statutory authority under the Antiquities Act, BLM was not "standing in the President's shoes" when it developed a land use plan for the GSENM. Although the proclamation directs the Secretary and BLM to provide for the care and management of the monument, such directives do not expand the President's statutory authority under the Antiquities Act or displace BLM's obligations under FLPMA. Unlike the case in B-33725, where OMB acted solely under the authority delegated by the President under the Property Act, the legal authority to manage federal land and resources is vested in BLM.

The Grand Staircase RMP's affirmation of the GSENM's legal status, and its initiation pursuant to the Proclamations, does not render the RMP a presidential action. To conclude otherwise would create a loophole for "hybrid" actions by insulating significant regulatory actions from legislative oversight under CRA. The Grand Staircase RMP reflects the agency's determination of how it will exercise its independent authority and discretion under its statutory mandate to develop land use plans for public lands and the government's mineral estate. Because the GSENM's legal status exists independently of the Grand Staircase RMP, provisions that affirm the Proclamations do not change the RMP's fundamental character—an agency level administrative action. Accordingly, the Grand Staircase RMP constitutes an agency statement for purposes of the APA.

Second, returning to the three elements of the definition, the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule of future effect because it is designed to apply prospectively to guide all subsequent management decisions and it implements and directs the long-term allocation of public land for certain uses, establishes permissible resource uses, and defines the conditions and constraints necessary to achieve the specific goals and objectives outlined within the RMP. The management decisions made in the Grand Staircase RMP became effective January 6, 2025, when the Record of Decision was signed. As of that date, the Grand Staircase RMP establishes a framework upon which further decisions will be made. Therefore, the Grand Staircase RMP has future effect.

Finally, the Grand Staircase RMP implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, because it implements a management plan as directed by and in accordance with the Proclamations. We have recognized that "a statement by an agency that simply restates an established interpretation 'tread[s] no new ground' and 'le[aves] the world just as it found it, and thus cannot be fairly described as implementing, interpreting, or prescribing law or policy.'" However, while the RMP restates certain provisions in Proclamation 10286, it also establishes management policies pursuant to BLM's authority under FLPMA that were not included in the Proclamation. Additionally, the RMP establishes conditions on land use, allocates resources for specific purposes, and prohibits certain activities pursuant to BLM's authority under FLPMA.

Our conclusion here is consistent with our previous decisions finding similar land use plans and RMPs implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. Accordingly, the Grand Staircase RMP satisfies the third ele-

ment of the APA definition of "rule." Having met all required elements, the Grand Staircase RMP constitutes a rule under APA.

CRA Exceptions

We must next determine whether any of CRA's three exceptions apply. CRA provides for three types of rules that are not subject to its requirements: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(1) Rule of Particular Applicability

Consistent with our previous decisions, the Grand Staircase RMP is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability. For example, in B-337163, June 25, 2025, BLM issued the Miles City Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) that established land use designations to govern all coal mining activities by any person or entity within the planning area of its Miles City Field Office. Because the Miles City RMPA governed all coal mining activities by any person within its purview, we concluded that the Miles City RMPA was a rule of general applicability. Similarly, the Grand Staircase RMP establishes land use designations, forecloses certain activities, allocates resources, and imposes conditions upon land use that are applicable to any person or entity within the GSENM, making it a rule of general applicability.

(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel

The Grand Staircase RMP is not a rule of agency management or personnel. We have previously found that rules that fall into this category relate to purely internal agency matters. Because the Grand Staircase RMP primarily focuses on how the public may use resources and public land rather than BLM's internal management or its personnel, the RMP does not meet CRA's second exception.

(3) Rule of Agency Organization, Procedure, or Practice That Does Not Substantially Affect Non-Agency Parties

Lastly, the Grand Staircase RMP is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for "rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice." The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure "that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations," so long as such rules do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties.

Following this principle in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA's third exception to rules that primarily focus on the internal operations of an agency. For instance, in B-329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we found that updates to a Social Security Administration (SSA) hearing manual governing SSA adjudicators' use of information from the internet qualified as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. There, the manual outlined procedures for SSA employees to follow in processing and adjudicating benefits claims. Because the manual was directed to and binding only on SSA officials without imposing new burdens on claimants, we concluded that the manual met CRA's third exception.

In contrast, rules that are directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior of non-agency parties do not fall within this category. Thus, in B-337163, June 25, 2025, we declined to apply CRA's third exception to BLM's Miles City RMPA, because it was

not limited to changes in BLM's internal operations. Instead, the Miles City RMPA was directed at non-agency parties as it foreclosed these parties from leasing coal within designated areas of the decision area. Similarly, in B-337200, June 25, 2025, we declined to apply CRA's third exception to the Central Yukon RMP because the plan primarily regulated the conduct of non-agency parties by foreclosing certain actions through the establishment of land use designations and the delineation of the activities that may be undertaken in the decision area.

Here, the Grand Staircase RMP includes some procedural changes, such as the new requirement for personnel to utilize a revised drought index when determining whether to implement grazing reductions. However, like the Miles City RMPA and the Central Yukon RMP, the Grand Staircase RMP is not primarily focused on making changes to internal agency operations. Instead, the Grand Staircase RMP is directed at, and concerns itself primarily with the preservation of the GSENM by delineating the use of public land and resources by non-agency parties within the decision area. Therefore, the Grand Staircase RMP does not qualify as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

We must also consider whether the Grand Staircase RMP substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. When analyzing this aspect of CRA's third exception, "the critical question is whether the agency action alters the rights or interests of the regulated entities." Along similar lines, courts have determined that "[a]n agency rule that modifies substantive rights and interests can only be nominally procedural, and the exemption for such rules of agency procedure cannot apply." In previous decisions, we have concluded that where an RMP designates use by non-agency parties in the areas it governs, it has a substantial effect. For instance, in B-337163, June 25, 2025, we explained that the Miles City RMPA altered substantive rights and obligations of non-agency parties by excluding 1,745,040 acres of BLM-administered land from coal leasing, effectively precluding these parties from pursuing coal leases within the Miles City planning area. Similarly, in B-337200, June 25, 2025, we concluded that the Central Yukon RMP substantially affected non-agency parties by imposing, among other things, land use restrictions, such as designating areas of critical environmental concern and closing certain tracts of land for mineral extraction and recreational use.

Consistent with our prior decisions concerning other RMPs, the Grand Staircase RMP has a substantial effect on non-agency parties. The Grand Staircase RMP substantially affects the rights and obligations of non-agency parties by, for example, designating specific grazing pastures, e.g., Circle Cliffs, Upper Paria, as "unavailable" or "trailing-only", and closing approximately 1.2 million acres (classified as a Primitive Zone) to off-highway vehicle use. Furthermore, the RMP imposes time limitations for camping, restricts or closes areas to recreational shooting, and provides direction regarding access for mineral exploration and timber harvesting. Accordingly, the Grand Staircase RMP fails to meet CRA's third exception.

CONCLUSION

The Grand Staircase RMP is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the definition of a rule under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Grand Staircase RMP is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,
General Counsel.

TRIBUTE TO MARK SIEGEL

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, Mark Siegel was born in 1946 in Brooklyn, NY, and has spent more than five decades as one of the Democratic Party's most versatile and enduring figures, serving at various points as a strategist, speechwriter, academic, and international democracy advocate.

Siegel attended public schools in Brooklyn before earning his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College in 1967. He went on to Northwestern University, where he completed both a master's degree in 1968 and a Ph.D. in political science in 1972, focusing on elections, party reform, and the Presidential nominating process.

His entry into national politics came during the reform-minded era of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the Democratic Party was undergoing profound organizational and ideological change. Siegel served as a legislative assistant to Senator Hubert Humphrey from 1971 to 1972 and was chief strategist for Humphrey's 1972 Presidential campaign. He later served as political director of the 1976 Democratic National Convention and coordinated the "Draft Ted Kennedy" movement in 1980, roles that placed him squarely at the center of the party's most consequential internal battles of the era. He also served as an elected at-large member of the Democratic National Committee, DNC, for more than a decade and participated in the commissions that shaped Presidential nominating rules, leaving a durable mark on the party's institutional structure. At one point, he served as executive director of the DNC itself.

As a speechwriter and political adviser, Siegel worked with some of the most prominent figures in American public life, drafting speeches for President Jimmy Carter, Vice Presidents Walter Mondale and Al Gore, Senator Ted Kennedy, and Senator Bill Bradley.

During his tenure in the Carter White House, Siegel served as the administration's liaison to the American Jewish community. Remarkably, he was the first to propose a national memorial to the Holocaust, an idea that led directly to the creation of the President's Commission on the Holocaust and, 15 years later, the Holocaust Memorial Museum on the National Mall in Washington. Siegel continues to serve on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which acts as the governing board of trustees of the museum.

The combination of Siegel's working-class roots, his faith, and his unrelenting commitment to human dignity meant that his focus was never constrained by the geographic borders of our country. Indeed, his reach extended far beyond them, as he served as a trusted confidant and writer for leading international figures, including Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan.

Siegel's international profile also includes his long association with the

National Democratic Institute, NDI, the nonprofit organization that promotes democratic governance around the world. He served on the NDI board for 15 years and chaired programs focused on political party development and election monitoring, with particular emphasis on Asia.

Throughout his career, Siegel maintained a parallel life in academia. He taught political science and political management at American University, George Washington University, Loyola University Chicago, and New York University, bringing his practical experience in campaigns and party organization directly into the classroom.

A committed advocate for civil liberties and electoral reform, Siegel has remained an active commentator and strategist within Democratic circles across decades of American political life. He contributed public analysis during major political moments, including the contested 2000 Presidential election recount.

Across roles spanning government, academia, and international affairs, Mark Siegel represents a rare continuity of engagement with Democratic politics from the reform era through the modern day. He has dedicated his life to the promise of America, striving every day to make it kinder, fairer, and stronger. Our Nation is better for the life and service of Mark Siegel—a proud resident of Delaware—and we are grateful for him.

TRIBUTE TO TEAM USA'S JAKE SANDERSON, KONNOR RALPH, AND KATIE VERDERBER

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Jake Sanderson, Konnor Ralph, and Katie Verderber as Montanans of the Month.

These three Montanans representing the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics have shown exemplary dedication to their sports. They are some of the best that the Treasure State has to offer.

Jake Sanderson, a native of Whitefish, MT, is a defenseman on Team USA's men's hockey team. Growing up, Sanderson competed for the Glacier Avalanche of the Glacier Hockey Association alongside his brothers. In 2026, he was named to Team USA's roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Sanderson helped Team USA go 6-0 at the Milan Cortina games and win its first Olympic gold medal since the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980.

Konnor Ralph is an American freestyle skier from Helena, MT. Ralph represented the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics in the slopestyle and big air events. Ralph placed ninth overall in slopestyle and fifth overall in men's big air.

Katie Verderber is scheduled to compete at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games for Team USA's wheelchair curling squad. Raised in Valier, MT, Verderber received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montana.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Jake Sanderson, Konnor Ralph, and Katie Verderber as Montanans of the Month for their hard work, dedication to their country and teams, and their representation of Montana on the international playing field.

RECOGNIZING VERMONT OLYMPIANS AND MEDAL WINNERS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I join with Vermonters in celebrating the exceptional Vermont athletes who represented the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Our State's athletes competed with great distinction, earning seven medals. The State of Vermont has a proud tradition of producing world-class athletes, and the 2026 Games were a powerful testament to that legacy.

Athletes with Vermont roots and connections won seven medals at the games, representing more than 20 percent of all medals earned by Team USA. Vermont's contribution to American Olympic success this year was historic by any measure.

Across alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and freestyle disciplines, Vermont athletes competed at the highest level and delivered performances that will be remembered for years to come. These achievements did not happen overnight. They are the result of years of rigorous training, personal sacrifice, and an unrelenting commitment to excellence—supported by the world-class coaches and ski schools and training programs that Vermont has long been proud to call its own.

I congratulate Ben Ogden, Ryan Cochran-Siegle, Mac Forehand, Jessie Diggins, Paula Moltzan, and Mikaela Shiffrin for medaling. I also applaud Julia Kern, Jess Perlmutter, Jack Young, Sean Doherty, Margie Freed, Maxime Germain, Olivia Giaccio, Deedra Irwin, Lauren Jortberg, and Nina O'Brien for competing and making Vermont proud.

The Winter Games are a reminder of why our winter sports and outdoor recreation communities are so vital to the identity and economy of our State. Vermont's ski areas, trails, and training programs are not only excellent athletic institutions, but they are also the reason generations of young Vermonters have grown up with a love of the outdoors.

We are deeply proud of all our Vermont athletes have achieved, and we wish them continued success as they pursue the next chapters of their athletic careers and beyond. Their accomplishments will inspire young skiers and outdoor enthusiasts across Vermont for generations to come and serve as a lasting reminder of what is possible when talent and the spirit of the Green Mountains come together on the world's greatest stage.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING STILLWATER AND EAST BOULDER PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM MINES

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize the Stillwater and East Boulder Platinum Palladium Mines in Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties, MT.

Montana's mining industry is critically important to not only our State, but our country. Hard rock mining provides over 18,000 good-paying jobs in Montana and adds nearly \$430 million to the State's economy. Additionally, Montana is home to the only primary producer of platinum and palladium in America: the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines.

Platinum-group metals, including palladium, are critically important metals for automobile production, medical and electronic devices, as well as the defense industry, and are primarily mined in Montana, Russia, and South Africa. Several years ago, Russian palladium dumping drove down the price and caused the mines to lay off nearly 700 employees. Not only was this devastating to the Montana communities, it forced America to become more reliant on foreign imported palladium.

However, the mine and the hard-working Montanans persisted. Each day, miners and refiners came to work and continued to produce this important metal for the country. Montanans are united to supporting our miners and combating illegal Russian dumping. Thankfully, due to the hard work of many folks, we have seen actions to turn the tide and support the longevity of the mines.

Today, we recognize the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines, their employees, and all miners in the State for their perseverance and hard work. Mining is a critical industry and miners work long days in dangerous conditions. On behalf of Montana, we thank you for your contributions to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WASHINGTON

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, Montana's proud mining history has defined our State and powered America's growth and industrial strength. The copper mined in Butte electrified the Nation, fueled American industry, and helped our country win two World Wars. But by the 1980s, major mining operations had gone dormant, and the future of large-scale mining in Butte was uncertain.

Dennis Washington made the decision to restart operations at the dormant Continental Pit. What began as a potential salvage effort became a long-term commitment: investing in Montana miners, modernizing equipment, and restoring confidence in one of the world's most historic mining districts.

On July 16, 1986, the first blast at the reopened Continental Pit marked the

return of large-scale mining in Butte under the leadership of his Montana-based, American-owned company.

Since resuming operations, the mine has produced more than 2.5 billion pounds of copper and over 300 million pounds of molybdenum, minerals essential to American infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, energy systems, and national defense. Today, Montana miners and engineers working in Butte continue to supply the materials that strengthen our Nation and support good-paying jobs here at home.

As we honor the industry that helped build Montana and America, we recognize that responsible mining remains central to our State's future. Because of leaders like Dennis Washington—and the hard-working men and women of Butte—Montana mining continues to power opportunity for the next generation.

Montana mining helped build America, and it continues to build Montana's future.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4626. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4758. An act to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6329. An act to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4626. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4758. An act to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6329. An act to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2790. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcast Stations, Hutchinson, Kansas" ((DA 26-120) (MB Docket No. 25-287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2791. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Tryon Foothills Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AD04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2792. A communication from the General Counsel, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2793. A communication from the Commissioners of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2025 FAIR Act Inventory of Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2794. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2795. A communication from the Chairman, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2796. A communication from the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation Final Rule; Technical Amendment" (RIN1601-AB16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2797. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removing Redundant Language From the Regulations Governing the Furnishing of Personal Census Data" (RIN0607-AA71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2798. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department

of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Streamlining the Regulations Governing the Official Seal of the Census Bureau” (RIN0607-AA70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2799. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Eliminating Unnecessary and Overly-Restrictive Regulations Related to the Release of Decennial Census Population Information” (RIN0607-AA69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2800. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2801. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2802. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2803. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Final Repeal” (RIN2060-AW68) (FRL No. 6716.4-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2804. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Eliminating the Census Bureau’s Redundant Regulatory Part Related to Public Information and Disclosure” (RIN0607-AA68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2805. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removing Obsolete Regulations Governing the Cutoff Dates for Recognition of Boundary Changes for the 2010 Census” (RIN0607-AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2806. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Eliminating Regulations Contemplating Collaboration with USAID to Train Foreign Participants in Census Procedures and General Statistics”

(RIN0607-AA67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2807. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clarifying and Streamlining the Regulatory Procedures for Requesting a Challenge to the Census Bureau’s Annual Population Estimates” (RIN0607-AA72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2808. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rice bran wax in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance” (FRL No. 13128-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2809. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sulfonic acids, C14-16-alkane hydroxy and C14-16-alkene, sodium salts in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance” (FRL No. 13167-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2810. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Afidopyropen; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 13127-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2811. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 13116-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2812. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerance(s)” (FRL No. 13166-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2813. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inpyrfluzam; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 13125-01-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2814. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pydiflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 13086-01-OCSPP) re-

ceived during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2815. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pesticide Tolerances; Implementing Registration Review Decisions for Certain Pesticides; Diphenylamine, et al.” (FRL No. 12748-02-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2816. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pesticide Tolerances; Implementing Registration Review Decisions for Certain Pesticides; Terbacil, et al.” (FRL No. 11773-02-OCSPP) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2817. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Health & Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2818. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Whiskeytown Unit, Whiskeytown-Shastatrinity National Recreation Area; Bicycling” (RIN1024-AE52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2819. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Texas Regulatory Program” (30 CFR Part 943) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2820. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards Under the Clean Air Act” (FRL No. 12715-02-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2821. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Policy and Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval: Ohio; Second Maintenance Plan for 2008 Ozone NAAQS” (FRL No. 12534-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3908. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow payments under the Medicare program for certain items and services furnished by off-campus outpatient departments of a provider to be determined under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3909. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that the prohibition on the possession of firearms and ammunition by certain aliens shall apply with respect to the use of firearms and ammunition by government entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3910. A bill to support marine carbon dioxide removal activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3911. A bill to designate the Pride flag as an authorized flag eligible for display at units of the National Park System, to express the sense of the Senate that the Pride flag should be on display at the Stonewall National Monument in the State of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 3912. A bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3913. A bill to establish a task force to identify potential countervailable subsidies, dumping, and circumvention with respect to trade; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3914. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to establish an Office of Ethics Counsel and an Office of Investigative Counsel within the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 3915. A bill to require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3916. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3917. A bill to prohibit the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to individuals

who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States or holders of certain work visas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3918. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that notice of criminal surveillance orders be eventually provided to targets, to reform the use of non-disclosure orders to providers, to prohibit indefinite sealing of criminal surveillance orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUDD:

S. 3919. A bill to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 with respect to the hurricane forecast improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 3920. A bill to strengthen homeland security by expanding Urban Areas Security Initiative grant eligibility criteria to promote cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to advance election security protections; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 3921. A bill to establish eligibility requirements for the use of Federal funds for Special Event Assessment Rating support in sanctuary jurisdictions and to reallocate such funds to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for immigration enforcement efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3922. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing, and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SHEEHY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3923. A bill to improve the weather research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, and expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3924. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permit disabled individuals to elect to receive disability insurance benefits during the disability insurance benefit waiting period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3925. A bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 613. A resolution recognizing the Army-Navy football game as America's Game; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 614. A resolution designating February 2026 as "American Heart Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BLUNT, Mr. ROCHESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Mr. KIM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 615. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 441

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan to reorganize Federal wildland fire response, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 679

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 679, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to allow Federal employees who are involuntarily separated from Government service while serving a probationary or trial period to resume that period upon reinstatement, and for other purposes.

S. 952

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide a uniform 8-digit subheading number for all whiskeys.

S. 1183

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name and the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were withdrawn as cosponsors of S. 1383, a bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1383, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1383, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1383, *supra*.

S. 1415

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1415, a bill to amend section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude certain disability benefits from income for the purposes of determining eligibility for the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), and for other purposes.

S. 1417

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1417, a bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title

XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of "medical services" includes medically necessary automobile adaptations, and for other purposes.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1832

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1832, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure College for All.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 2624

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2624, a bill to eliminate the period of limitations for certain non-capital homicide offenses.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2813

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2813, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit capacity-based restrictions on firearm magazines, and for other purposes.

S. 2891

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2891, a bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to

the guiding principles for Federal architecture, and for other purposes.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 3159

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3159, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to temporarily provide for long-term care pharmacy supply fees in connection with the dispensing of certain drugs.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3478, a bill to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land.

S. 3498

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3498, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to make adjustments to the environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes.

S. 3660

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3660, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reduce excessive credit card late fees, and for other purposes.

S. 3733

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3733, a bill to amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize certain public libraries to collect and retain a fee for the execution of a passport application.

S. 3747

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3747, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize

students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, and for other purposes.

S. 3855

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3855, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3869

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added as cosponsors of S. 3869, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 3893

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3893, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reauthorize and reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

S.J. RES. 104

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 104, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 61, a resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and negotiated constraints on Russian and Chinese strategic nuclear forces.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3911. A bill to designate the Pride flag as an authorized flag eligible for display at units of the National Park System, to express the sense of the Senate that the Pride flag should be on display at the Stonewall National Monument in the State of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PRIDE FLAG FOR DISPLAY AT UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM; SENSE OF THE SENATE ON DISPLAY OF PRIDE FLAG AT STONEWALL NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the Stonewall National Monument in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City, New York, commemorates the June 1969 uprising that occurred at the Stonewall Inn in response to a targeted police attack and longstanding discrimination against the LGBTQ community;

(B) the uprising described in subparagraph (A) was a critical moment in the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States;

(C) on June 24, 2016, the Stonewall National Monument was established as the first national monument in the National Park System to be dedicated to the protection of LGBTQ individuals and the ongoing fight for freedom in the United States; and

(D) the Stonewall National Monument serves as a daily reminder not only to the LGBTQ community but to all residents and visitors of New York City of the Stonewall Inn uprising in June 1969.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(A) to designate the Pride flag as an authorized flag eligible for display at units of the National Park System;

(B) to condemn the removal of the Pride flag at Stonewall National Monument; and

(C) to express the sense of the Senate that the Pride flag should be restored at Stonewall National Monument.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Pride flag is designated as an authorized flag eligible for display at units of the National Park System.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE DISPLAY OF THE PRIDE FLAG AT THE STONEWALL NATIONAL MONUMENT.—It is the sense of the Senate that a Pride flag should be on display within the boundary of the Stonewall National Monument established in the State of New York by Presidential Proclamation 9465, as issued on June 24, 2016 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note).

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3917. A bill to prohibit the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to individuals who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States or holders of certain work visas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I came to the floor 2 weeks ago to speak about illegal immigrant truckdrivers causing chaos on our roads. Earlier this month, a father, his two sons, and a family friend were killed on an Indiana highway when an illegal immigrant swerved his semitruck right into them.

Two weeks ago, when I came to the floor to speak about this, I asked how many more people would have to die before we get serious about deporting illegal immigrants, and I am absolutely devastated that we now have one more name since I spoke here 2 weeks ago to add to that count. Tragically, just last week, another Hoosier was killed on an Indiana highway by an illegal immigrant truckdriver in a horrific accident. Terry Schultz was a 64-year-old man who was killed by an ille-

gal immigrant from India when the illegal truckdriver reportedly ran a red light. Although the truckdriver is now in ICE custody, nothing can bring back Terry Schultz.

I am tired of coming to this floor and sharing the news about people being killed on Indiana roads because of illegal immigrants. This is the eighth Hoosier killed by an illegal immigrant on an Indiana road in just the last 6 months, that I know of, and the seventh because of illegal immigrant truckdrivers, specifically.

This is a national crisis, and I am sick of it. We need real accountability and a major overhaul of the system. Too much blood has already been stained on Indiana's roads. Things need to change, and they need to change now.

Last night, President Trump delivered an incredible State of the Union Address. One of the President's guests was a little girl named Delilah Coleman. When Delilah was just 5 years old, she suffered life-changing injuries caused by an illegal immigrant driving a semitruck in California, and it was the Democrat State of California that gave the illegal immigrant his commercial driver's license.

She is one of way too many people who have been hurt or killed by illegal immigrant truckers on our roads. Eight Hoosiers have been seriously injured—again, that is just what I know of—on Indiana roads by illegal immigrant drivers in the past 6 months. And that is just the eight that we know of.

Thank God Delilah, whom we saw last night up in the Gallery, is recovering well. In honor of Delilah, President Trump called on Congress to pass the Delilah Law, which would bar any State in the country from granting an illegal immigrant a commercial driver's license.

Many illegal immigrants cannot speak English or read the basic road signs. They have no business being on our roads, especially not behind the wheel of a semitruck.

Well, today, I am answering President Trump's call, and today, I am introducing the Delilah Law in the U.S. Senate. The Delilah Law not only bars States from giving CDLs to illegal immigrants, but it also revokes all trucking licenses that are currently issued to illegals and mandates that the CDL knowledge and skills tests are only given in English. This is common sense.

This will be a commonsense law, and I hope that we will get a chance to vote on it in the Senate very soon.

Another way that we can make our roads safer is by aggressively going after chameleon carriers that are employing illegal drivers. As I said 2 weeks ago, when I spoke on the floor about this, chameleon carriers are trucking companies that, after being shut down or heavily fined, just disguise themselves by changing their name or address or Department of Transportation number to continue operating.

It turns out that the trucking company that employed the illegal immigrant who killed those four people earlier this month in Jay County—they were four Amish men—was a company called AJ Partners. And they have been put out of service after it was investigated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and deemed a chameleon carrier. Since then, Secretary Sean Duffy and the Department of Transportation have shut down two other shady carriers connected to AJ Partners, as well as the sham school that helped the illegal immigrant get his CDL in the first place.

Last year, the Department of Transportation closed 7,500 sham commercial driver schools, known as CDL mills. The Department of Transportation has also placed 14,000 drivers out of service for English language proficiency violations. And I want to thank Secretary Duffy right here, right now, for his leadership. The Department of Transportation is cracking down, and what they are doing is making our roads safer because of it.

The carrier reportedly involved in the accident that killed Terry Schultz just last week was incorporated from an address in Greenwood, IN. That is the principal place of business for six other carriers. Six carriers at one address.

Earlier this week, I sent a letter to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and urged them to investigate carriers operating out of Greenwood and elsewhere in my home State. We need to know about chameleon carriers that are operating in Indiana and shut them down, and that is why, last week, my office announced the creation of the Truck Safety Tip Line. The tip line is for those who work in the trucking industry to report concerns about companies that are operating illegally, hiring drivers who can't read or speak English, and hiring drivers who are illegally in the country and without the proper licenses and documents. The tip line gives truckers and people working in the trucking industry a way to speak up when they see carriers that are breaking the law and putting lives at risk on the road.

Any reports that are submitted to the Truck Safety Tip Line will be reviewed and shared with the U.S. Department of Transportation and its Office of Inspector General to help protect roadway safety and ensure a fair and lawful trucking industry. But the job of keeping our roads safe depends on more than just government. We need everyone—but especially truckers—to help us out.

Look, Indiana sits at the crossroads of America. It is a proud slogan for our State. And as I said before, Indiana is the fifth busiest State in the country for commercial freight traffic. Each year, 724 million tons of freight travel through Indiana. The truckers who operate in Indiana and throughout the country keep our economy going and going strong. They help us get the food we eat and the clothes that we wear.

Over 90 percent of truckers in America voted in the 2024 election. They are patriotic and good people who love this country and care about what is going on in America. Law-abiding truckers care about law and order, and they are outraged by what is happening on our roads. They are tired of unsafe drivers and companies who hire illegal immigrants because they can pay them less and take good jobs away from hard-working Americans. Hard-working American truckers are tired of being turned away from jobs because carriers hire cheap foreign labor instead, and it shouldn't be this way.

So if you are a trucker and you have concerns about illegal trucking companies and practices, we want to hear from you. In fact, we need to hear from you. That is why I am encouraging truckers who are on the road or those who are in the business to visit our website, banks.senate.gov, where you can find the Truck Safety Tip Line in the top corner.

We can't wait any longer. We have to do everything that we can to deport illegal immigrants from this country and get them off of our roads. We cannot allow illegal immigrants to terrorize our roads and kill more innocent lives like we have seen happen over and over again. I can't tell you how many people I have heard from who have texted me recently and said that they are afraid to take their families on the road in their vehicle and drive on the highways because this keeps happening over and over again. It is a national crisis.

While Democrats continue to moan on and on about ICE, shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of it, I will work to keep the people of Indiana safe from illegal immigrants, especially illegal immigrants who are behind the wheel of semitrucks.

The time to act is now. President Trump called on us to do something about this national crisis now. I hope that truckers will use the tip line to help keep our roads safe, and I hope that we will get to vote on the Delilah Law soon. It is long past time to do something about it.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3924. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permit disabled individuals to elect to receive disability insurance benefits during the disability insurance benefit waiting period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the We Can't Wait Act, a bipartisan bill with my colleague from New Hampshire Senator HASSAN. This legislation addresses a pressing and unnecessary hardship in our Social Security Disability Insurance Program. This program, known as SSDI, provides eligible individuals with benefits if they become disabled and are unable to work. Our bill would

give eligible individuals with disabilities the option of bypassing the current 5-month waiting period and allow them to access the benefits that they have earned without further delay.

As my colleagues are aware, SSDI benefits are available only to those who have worked long enough and contributed sufficiently through payroll taxes to the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

When an individual becomes disabled and meets the program's strict eligibility standards, he or she should be able to rely on the benefits that they paid for, benefits intended to provide critical support during a time of great need.

Imagine that you have worked for many years and you find that you have contracted a disease that is fatal and that you have very little time to live. Surely, you should be able to tap into what essentially is an insurance fund set up for people in exactly that situation. But because of the 5-month waiting period, there are individuals who receive no payments at all.

During those 5 months, no payments are made, even though the disability has been confirmed by the Social Security Administration. This delay prevents individuals from accessing the insurance they have earned, at a critical and difficult time in their lives.

Lack of benefits can make it more difficult to obtain timely medical treatments, cover basic living expenses, and, in some cases where it is not a terminal condition, begin the process of rehabilitation toward an eventual return to work, if possible.

The burden of this delay can be heartbreaking. I have heard from constituents whose loved ones could get no help from SSDI when they were overtaken by a sudden and terminal diagnosis. Faced with a terrible disease that demanded every ounce of their energy and their total focus, they were forced instead to worry over their finances at the very end of their lives.

This just isn't right. The broader disability determination process already imposes significant hardships. A 2020 Government Accountability Office report documented what can be severe consequences of the long wait times for applicants who appealed initial denials for a Social Security disability.

Between fiscal years 2014 and 2019, approximately 48,000 individuals were forced to file for bankruptcy while awaiting a final decision on their appeals. From 2008 through 2019, an estimated nearly 110,000 people died before receiving a final decision.

These heartbreaking outcomes occur even before many applicants reach the point of approval. Yet even once they are approved, the additional 5-month exclusion period compounds the suffering for those who have already proven their eligibility.

Congress has already acted to address this delay in certain circumstances. In 2020, we passed the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. It eliminated the

5-month waiting period for individuals with ALS, a progressive, terminal disease where every month, every day is critical. That bipartisan reform was the right thing to do, and I was proud to cosponsor it.

The We Can't Wait Act builds directly on that precedent. Under our bill, claimants would have a choice. They could either opt to begin receiving benefits immediately after approval, rather than waiting 5 months, in exchange for a modest actuarially sound reduction in their monthly benefit amount, or they could decide to wait the 5 months and receive the full amount.

As the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration explains in a letter released today, this small reduction in benefits maintains the actuarial balance in the trust fund over the 75-year projection period.

Let me emphasize that this bill makes no other changes in the SSDI Program. It does not alter eligibility criteria, the determination process—although that should be speeded up—benefit levels for those who choose not to bypass the wait, or any other core element in the program.

It is a precise reform that honors the contributions hard-working Americans with disabilities have made while removing an arbitrary barrier to the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

While this reform is carefully targeted, its impact would be profound. It would end the tragic reality in which Americans with disabilities suffer and, in some cases, die during an unnecessary 5-month delay after their disability has been officially certified by the Social Security Administration.

This is a key point made in a letter supporting the bill by a broad coalition of organizations committed to the rights, dignity, and well-being of people with disabilities—groups that advocate every day for those who need this relief most.

The letter, which is signed by more than two dozen organizations, goes on to make the point that the 5-month exclusion period is unnecessary and harms disabled Americans who are often financially hanging on by a thread.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter of endorsement from this coalition printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The We Can't Wait Act is straightforward, compassionate, and fiscally responsible. It would provide a crucial option to Americans who simply can't wait even 5 months for the benefits they have worked for and desperately need.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense and much needed legislation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WE CAN'T WAIT

The undersigned organizations are proud to join in support of the We Can't Wait Act.

Today, hundreds of thousands of Americans with disabilities are unable to access Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits when they need them most, even though they have paid into the SSDI program all their working lives. In fact, current law and policy impose obstacles to workers that unfairly delay their insurance, medical treatment, and return to work.

By design, SSDI is not a benefits program—it is a funded insurance program supported by workers' paycheck deductions, is only available to those who have contributed enough through work, and is limited based on how long one has worked. In return, SSDI ensures that if eligible workers ever become disabled, they will be able to access the insurance they need to survive.

However, hundreds of thousands of American workers who have paid into SSDI face obstacles each year as they try to access the benefits they need. Disabled workers are denied their insurance for the first five months after becoming eligible. This exclusion period is fundamentally unfair. As the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported, more than 100,000 American workers died while awaiting a decision on their SSDI eligibility, a process that can often take 18 months. In addition, an estimated 50,000 workers were forced to file for bankruptcy while they waited for SSDI coverage. The five-month exclusion period is unnecessary and harms disabled Americans who are often financially hanging on by a thread.

By passing the We Can't Wait Act, Congress can ensure an equitable and cost-effective system that supports all individuals with significant health challenges and does not harm the SSDI Trust Fund. The We Can't Wait Act would allow disabled Americans to elect to access their benefits during the five-month exclusionary period in exchange for a small reduction in their monthly benefits. The election would be voluntary and the Social Security Administration would be required to provide a benefits calculator and other resources to help applicants decide. The adjustment rate would be set initially at 5.75%, which is much less than the interest rates at which people often have to borrow money to meet their immediate needs. The Social Security Administration would assess and adjust the rate periodically to ensure it does not reduce the SSDI Trust Fund.

Considering these crucial factors, we, the undersigned, urge Congress to pass the We Can't Wait Act.

Alliance for Aging Research; American Association of People with Disabilities; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; American Council of the Blind; Assure Disability; Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bender Consulting Services, Inc.; Brain Injury Association of America; Center for HIV Law & Policy; Communication First; disABILITY Law Center of Virginia; Disability Rights Maine; Disability Rights North Carolina; Disability Rights Pennsylvania; Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association of Disability Representatives; National Association of the Deaf; National Disability Institute; National Disability Rights Network; National Federation of the Blind; National Industries for the Blind; National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives; National Organization on Disability; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Respectability; World Institute on Disability.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3925. A bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 3925

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a unit of the National Park System—

(A) to commemorate the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, who—

(i) was the son of German-Jewish immigrants;

(ii) helped make Sears, Roebuck and Co. the leading retailer in the United States for many years;

(iii) used his enormous fortune to become a visionary philanthropist; and

(iv) partnered with Booker T. Washington and approximately 5,000 African American communities in the segregated South to build schools for children who had few or no educational opportunities;

(B) to recognize the impact of the Rosenwald Schools, which—

(i) were constructed between 1912 and 1932 in 15 States; and

(ii) educated more than 600,000 African American children, including a number of graduates who became leaders in the civil rights movement, such as—

(I) Representative John Lewis;

(II) Maya Angelou;

(III) Medgar Evers;

(IV) Nina Simone; and

(V) Carlotta Walls LaNier; and

(C) to honor other important parts of the legacy of Julius Rosenwald, including—

(i) the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which—

(I) between 1928 and 1948, awarded fellowships to nearly 900 talented men and women—

(aa) $\frac{2}{3}$ of whom were African Americans; and

(bb) including—

(AA) Marian Anderson;

(BB) Langston Hughes;

(CC) Ralph Bunche;

(DD) James Baldwin;

(EE) Dr. Charles Drew;

(FF) Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Phipps Clark;

(GG) Ralph Ellison; and

(HH) Woody Guthrie;

(II) supported early legal cases of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that led to the Supreme Court opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954); and

(III) provided support for a significant number of historically Black colleges and universities, particularly to train teachers;

(ii) the founding, and service as the first president of, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago;

(iii) service as a member of the board of Jane Addams' Hull House for 20 years;

(iv) being the founding donor of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry; and

(v) otherwise embodying social justice;

(2) to preserve a small number of representative sites of the Rosenwald Schools (including the San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, a 3-teacher restored school built during the Tuskegee phase of the Rosenwald School program, the Saint George Rosenwald School in Saint George, South Carolina, a 6-teacher restored school

built during the Julius Rosenwald Fund phase of the Rosenwald School program, and the Woodville Rosenwald School in Gloucester County, Virginia, a restored 2-teacher school built during the Julius Rosenwald Fund phase of the Rosenwald School program) and to establish a headquarters and visitor center for the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park within or near the former Sears Merchandising Complex in North Lawndale in the city of Chicago, Illinois, to enlighten visitors on—

(A) the overall life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald; and

(B) the ways in which the Rosenwald Schools—

(i) significantly improved African American education in the South; and

(ii) helped to make the United States a more democratic society; and

(3) to establish a network in the National Park Service to connect the remaining Rosenwald Schools to disseminate more fully the story of the Rosenwald Schools throughout the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map prepared under section 4(b)(2)(A).

(2) NETWORK.—The term “Network” means the Rosenwald Schools National Network established under section 5(a)(1).

(3) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park established by section 4(a)(1).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. JULIUS ROSENWALD AND ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established as a unit of the National Park System the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

(2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

(A) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land within the boundary of the Park has been acquired to constitute a manageable unit.

(B) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of a determination under subparagraph (A).

(b) BOUNDARY; MAP.—

(1) BOUNDARY.—The Park shall consist of the following:

(A) The 40-acre site selected for the Sears merchandising complex constructed in 1905–1906, which includes the original Sears Administration Building, the catalog building, the power plant, and the Nichols Tower, which now comprise the Sears Roebuck and Company Complex National Historic Landmark, and the Sears Sunken Garden directly across the street from the Sears Administration Building.

(B) The San Domingo Rosenwald School in Sharptown, Maryland, as generally depicted on the Map.

(C) The Saint George Rosenwald School in Saint George, South Carolina, as generally depicted on the Map.

(D) The Woodville Rosenwald School in Gloucester County, Virginia, as generally depicted on the Map.

(E) Any Rosenwald School or other area designated by Congress to be included in the Park after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) MAP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a map of the boundary of the Park.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(C) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer land within the boundary of the Park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES.—For the purposes of establishing the Park, the following properties shall be associated with the Park but shall not be transferred to, or directly managed by, the National Park Service:

(A) The Saint George Rosenwald School in Saint George, South Carolina.

(B) The Woodville Rosenwald School in Gloucester County, Virginia.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To further the purposes of this section and notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, the States of Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia, other appropriate State and local government officials, and public and nonpublic entities, subject to subparagraph (B)—

(i) to support collaborative interpretive and educational programs at non-Federal historic properties within the boundary of the Park; and

(ii) to identify, interpret, and provide assistance for the preservation of non-Federal land within the boundary of the Park and at sites related to the Park but located outside the boundaries of the Park, including providing for—

(I) the placement of directional and interpretive signage;

(II) exhibits; and

(III) technology-based and other interpretive devices.

(B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—A cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph shall provide for reasonable public access to any property subject to the cooperative agreement.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use appropriated funds to carry out a project to mark, interpret, improve, restore, or provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of any property that is subject to a cooperative agreement under paragraph (3).

(B) INCONSISTENT PURPOSES.—Any payment made by the Secretary under this section shall be subject to an agreement that the conversion, use, or disposal of a project carried out under subparagraph (A) for purposes that are inconsistent with the purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to reimbursement in an amount that is the greater of—

(i) the amount provided by the Secretary to the project; and

(ii) an amount equal to the increase in the value of the project that is attributable to the funds, as determined by the Secretary as of the date of the conversion, use, or disposal.

(5) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, within the National Historic Landmark District in Chicago, Illinois—

(i) acquire a facade or other easement interest on the Nichols Tower; and

(ii) enter into a lease or other agreement for purposes of providing for administration of the Park and appropriate visitor services.

(B) OUTSIDE OF PARK BOUNDARY.—If the Secretary is unable to identify appropriate space for administration and visitor services in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary may acquire the appropriate land or interests in land, or enter into other appropriate agreements, in the vicinity of, but outside the boundary of the Park, for administration and visitor services.

(C) LIMITATION.—The San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, may only be acquired by the Secretary under this section by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated funds; or

(iii) exchange.

(6) INTERPRETATION.—To further the dissemination of information about the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, with an emphasis on the partnership of Julius Rosenwald with Booker T. Washington and the approximately 5,000 communities in the South that led to the establishment and success of the Rosenwald Schools, the Secretary shall include interpretation of the story of Julius Rosenwald at—

(A) the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, within the boundary of which is located the childhood home of Julius Rosenwald; and

(B) the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in the State of Alabama, which was founded by Booker T. Washington for the education of African Americans and at which architects designed the early Rosenwald Schools.

(7) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall complete a general management plan for the Park in accordance with—

(A) section 100502 of title 54, United States Code; and

(B) any other applicable laws.

SEC. 5. ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the “Rosenwald Schools National Network”;

(2) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites, facilities, and programs interested in being a part of the Network; and

(3) administer the Network.

(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of the Rosenwald Schools;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational and promotional materials relating to the life and work of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools that are part of the Network, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide assistance, as appropriate;

(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under this paragraph;

(5) conduct research relating to the Rosenwald Schools;

(6) make recommendations for any additional Rosenwald School sites that should be considered for inclusion within the Park due to the significance, integrity, and need for

management by the National Park Service of the sites; and

(7) have the authority to provide grants to Network elements described in subsection (c).

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the story of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines—

(A) relate to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools; and

(B) are included, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion, in the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this section and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—RECOGNIZING THE ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME AS AMERICA'S GAME

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 613

Whereas, since 2009, the annual football game played between the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy (referred to in this preamble as the “Army-Navy Game”) is played on the second Saturday of December;

Whereas the Army-Navy Game is a tradition dating back to 1890, serving as a living symbol of patriotism, unity, and the true spirit of college football, and inspiring current and future service members;

Whereas the Cadets and Midshipmen that play in this game exemplify American values of service, sacrifice, and leadership;

Whereas any competing college football games risk diminishing the singular national attention and patriotic spirit that the Army-Navy Game inspires, including its role in celebrating current, and motivating future, service members;

Whereas it is in the national interest to preserve the Army-Navy Game as the only college football game during its broadcast time slot;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has an interest in understanding how broadcasting impacts access to, and prominence of, events that serve the United States; and

Whereas the Department of Defense has an interest in ensuring that the Army-Navy

Game continues to create public engagement with the Armed Forces and military service academies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the annual football game played between the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy (referred to in this resolution as the “Army-Navy Game”) is a cornerstone of the collegiate sport tradition of the United States and an important influence on military recruiting;

(2) the Army-Navy Game should retain its preeminent and exclusive status as the only college football game played on the second Saturday of December aired during its scheduled time slot to promote nationwide viewership, shared civic engagement, and recognition of the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces;

(3) broadcasters, collegiate athletic associations and conferences, and institutions of higher education should avoid scheduling college football games during this time slot; and

(4) relevant Federal agencies should review existing policies to enhance coordination around, and the public promotion of the civic importance of, the Army-Navy Game.

SENATE RESOLUTION 614—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2026 AS “AMERICAN HEART MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 614

Whereas cardiovascular disease (referred to in this preamble as “CVD”) affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States;

Whereas CVD continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of over 919,000 individuals in the United States in 2023;

Whereas heart disease and stroke claimed more lives in 2022 in the United States than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined;

Whereas, from 2019 to 2020, deaths from heart disease increased by 4.8 percent, the largest increase in heart disease deaths since 2012;

Whereas the United States has made great progress in reducing the death rate for CVD, but this progress has been more modest with respect to the death rate for CVD among certain racial and ethnic minority populations;

Whereas CVD results in tremendous health care costs and lost productivity, and it is estimated that the United States will spend over \$1,000,000,000 by 2035 on costs relating to CVD;

Whereas, between 2020 and 2021, heart disease accounted for \$417,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity in the United States;

Whereas approximately every 40 seconds an individual in the United States will have a heart attack;

Whereas, in 2022, stroke accounted for approximately 1 in every 20 deaths in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, sudden cardiac arrest accounted for over 19,000 deaths in the United States;

Whereas heart valve disease accounts for approximately 28,000 deaths in the United States every year;

Whereas CVDs are a leading cause of maternal death among women in the United States, accounting for more than 1 in 10 pregnancy-related deaths in 2021;

Whereas congenital heart defects are—

(1) the most common types of birth defects in the United States; and

(2) a leading cause of death for infants with birth defects;

Whereas extensive clinical and statistical studies have identified major and contributing factors that increase the risk of CVD, including—

- (1) high blood pressure;
- (2) high blood cholesterol;
- (3) poor diet;
- (4) tobacco use and exposure to nicotine;
- (5) physical inactivity;
- (6) insufficient or poor-quality sleep;
- (7) obesity; and
- (8) diabetes mellitus;

Whereas an individual can greatly reduce the risk of CVD through lifestyle modification coupled with medical treatment when necessary;

Whereas greater awareness and early detection of risk factors for CVD can improve and save the lives of thousands of individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, under section 101(1) of title 36, United States Code, the President is requested to issue an annual proclamation designating February as “American Heart Month”;

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate National Wear Red Day during February by “going red” to increase awareness about CVD as the leading cause of death for women; and

Whereas, every year since 1964, the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as “American Heart Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2026 as “American Heart Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of American Heart Month;

(3) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to fighting cardiovascular disease (referred to in this resolution as “CVD”) by—

(A) promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of CVD;

(B) supporting research on CVD; and

(C) improving access to affordable, quality care to reduce long-term disability and mortality;

(4) recognizes and supports efforts to address the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its influence on cardiovascular health and mortality rates;

(5) commends the efforts of States, territories, and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support American Heart Month; and

(6) encourages every individual in the United States to learn about their risk for CVD.

SENATE RESOLUTION 615—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Mr. KIM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr.

SCHIFF, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 615

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2026, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll, Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary McLeod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, John Hope Franklin, Colin Powell, bell hooks, Bob Moses, Sidney Poitier, Bill Russell, Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, Willie Mays, Jr., and James Earl Jones, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation

of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through *The Journal of Negro History*, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “We have a wonderful history behind us . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4302. Mr. MORENO (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 602, supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4302. Mr. MORENO (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 602, supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; as follows:

In the third whereas clause, strike “won 2,077” and all that follows through “during” and insert “won, between 2000 and 2026, 622 gold medals, 622 silver medals, and 559 bronze medals, totaling 1,803 medals, during”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd for appointment in the United States Army to the grade of general, dated February 25, 2026.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

APPOINTMENT

On February 24, 2026, the Senate agreed to the following Appointment, as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 98-183, as amended by Public Law 103-419, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, for a term of six years: Sarah Frankenstein vice Gail Heriot

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 613, S. Res. 614, and S. Res. 615.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2026 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 602.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 602) supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Klobuchar amendment to the preamble at the desk be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 602) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4302), to the preamble, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the number of medals won by Team USA)

In the third whereas clause, strike "won 2,077" and all that follows through "during" and insert "won, between 2000 and 2026, 622 gold medals, 622 silver medals, and 559 bronze medals, totaling 1,803 medals, during".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 602

Whereas, for more than 100 years, the Olympic and Paralympic Movements have—

(1) educated young people through amateur athletics;

(2) brought together athletes from many countries in friendly competition; and

(3) forged new relationships among athletes bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games will take place in Italy from February 6, 2026, to February 22, 2026, and the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games will take place in Italy from March 6, 2026, to March 15, 2026;

Whereas the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams (referred to in this preamble as "Team USA") have won, between 2000 and 2026, 622 gold medals, 622 silver medals, and 559 bronze medals, totaling 1,803 medals, during the past Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas, at the 2026 Olympic Games, over 2,900 athletes from 93 countries will compete in 16 sports disciplines and 116 medal events, and at the 2026 Paralympic Games, 665 athletes from more than 50 countries will compete in 16 sports disciplines and 79 events;

Whereas, at the 2026 Olympic Games, Team USA will compete in 16 sports disciplines and 111 contested events;

Whereas the United States plans to send 232 athletes to participate in the 2026 Olympic Games, including 115 women and 117 men;

Whereas the United States has already qualified at least 36 athletes to participate in the 2026 Paralympic Games, with many more expected to qualify;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect, admiration, and pride for the athletes of Team USA and their athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, grace under pressure, goodwill toward other competitors, and commitment to excellence;

Whereas the many accomplishments of Team USA would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many sports organizations, administrators, coaches, and family members who have provided critical support to the athletes;

Whereas the United States maintains a commitment to the safety and security of Team USA;

Whereas the United States Government is grateful to Italy for hosting the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas, upon the conclusion of the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the United States will assume the role of host-country of the next Summer Games and stands ready to support the athletes and organizers of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games and those of the 2034 Utah Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; and

Whereas Team USA exemplifies rigorous competition, fair play, and the pursuit of dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams (referred to in this resolution as "Team USA") and the families who support them;

(2) commends the Government of Italy and the regional and local governments of Italy, including the governments of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, for their efforts to commit tremendous resources to provide a safe and secure environment for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

(3) supports the athletes of Team USA in competing at the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; and

(4) commits to ensuring a safe and secure environment for the fans attending and athletes competing in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games, at events in both Los Angeles and Oklahoma City, and in the 2034 Utah Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 651, Ryan McCormack, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion ripen at 11:45 a.m., and if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORENO. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:06 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 25, 2026:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

JOHN DELEEUW, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY VALLEY GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM ON THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the Fort Worth Trinity Valley School girls' soccer team for capturing their fourth consecutive Southwest Preparatory Conference Class 3A state championship—an outstanding achievement that reflects sustained excellence and dedication.

The Trinity Valley Trojans secured the title with a commanding 6–0 victory over the Episcopal School of Dallas at Jones Field, completing an impressive 12–2 season. Freshman Paige Zavaleta and senior Alli Zavaleta each recorded two goals in the championship match, while senior Charlotte Goldman opened the scoring and senior Audrey Deem added the final goal. Goldman, along with seniors Sydney Fewins, Isabel Gonzalez, and Brown University signee Claire McKnight, were members of all four championship teams, a truly remarkable accomplishment.

The Trojans were equally dominant on the defensive end, with goalkeeper Blake Corder posting shutouts in both postseason matches and anchoring a disciplined and resilient defense throughout the playoffs.

This sustained success is a testament to the leadership of Head Coach Claire Pearce, a Trinity Valley alum who has guided both the girls' soccer and field hockey programs to multiple conference championships. Under her leadership, the program has fostered a culture grounded in teamwork, accountability, and high character.

The Trinity Valley School's girls' soccer team exemplifies the very best of high school athletics and brings great pride to their school and the Fort Worth community. I commend the student-athletes, coaches, and families for an outstanding season and for upholding a distinguished tradition of excellence.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the Trinity Valley School girls' soccer team on this incredible state championship victory.

HONORING DR. FREDERIC "FRITZ" A. REID

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Frederic "Fritz" A. Reid, a new California Waterfowlers Hall of Fame Inductee, who is being recognized for more than 45 years of extraordinary contributions to the preservation of waterfowl and their habitats.

Dr. Reid grew up in Edina, Minnesota, where he developed a lifelong passion for waterfowl hunting alongside his grandfather. In 1978, he earned an A.B. in Biology from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He later attended the University of Missouri—Columbia, where he received a Master of Science in 1983 and a Doctorate in 1989, both in Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology.

For decades, Dr. Reid has played a central leadership role in wetland conservation efforts at the local, state, national, and international levels. He joined Ducks Unlimited in 1990, where he served in multiple roles, including analyst, biologist, and ultimately Director of Boreal and Arctic Conservation. In these roles, Dr. Reid worked closely with public agency conservation partners, private land managers, and nonprofit organizations, conducting more than 100 workshops and co-authoring over 90 peer-reviewed conservation manuscripts.

Dr. Reid is widely recognized for his groundbreaking research and leadership within Ducks Unlimited, helping to establish and strengthen wetland complexes throughout California's Central Valley and San Francisco Bay. He also helped map more than 150 million acres of wetlands across Alaska and played a key role in raising more than \$200 million for conservation efforts through the Boreal Conservation Program. Additionally, he has provided leadership to the Central Valley Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, International Sea Duck Joint Venture, and Arctic Goose Joint Venture, and has served as Chair of the Central Valley Joint Venture.

Dr. Reid's contributions have earned him prestigious awards, including the J. Martin Winton Conservation Award, the Holly Andre Award, and the International Canvasback Award. Dr. Reid is beloved by volunteers, respected by colleagues, and widely regarded as a national treasure in the field of conservation.

Dr. Reid's induction into the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor. Established in 2006, the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to enhancing waterfowl populations and their habitats in California. Inductees have played a critical role in conserving waterfowl by preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats; managing agricultural lands with wildlife in mind; advocating for conservation-focused policies; and implementing land-use practices designed to benefit nesting and wintering waterfowl populations.

Outside of his professional work, Dr. Reid enjoys traveling and spending time with his partner, Kim Forrest; her son, Forrest Hansen; and his Labrador retriever, Taiga.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Frederic "Fritz" Reid is most deserving of recognition and appreciation for his decades of dedication to conservation and stewardship of our natural resources. His work has left an enduring legacy that will benefit waterfowl and wetlands for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Fritz here today.

HONORING STEPHEN R. WILKINS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen R. Wilkins upon his retirement after more than 43 years of exemplary service to our Nation. His career spans over three decades in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard and more than 16 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Veterans Integrated Service Network 6 (VISN 6).

Throughout his time at the VA, Mr. Wilkins played an integral role in shaping how the network communicates, collaborates, and serves. As Deputy Director and Congressional Liaison for VISN 6 Strategic Communications, he helped guide complex initiatives across the region while strengthening coordination between federal, state, and community partners. His steady leadership and commitment to service ensured that veterans and their families remained at the center of every effort. In fact, he was often the first call my staff would make when helping constituents navigate the VA bureaucracy, and each time, he helped us deliver results for the people of North Carolina.

Renee and I extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Wilkins for his years of dedicated service to our country and to VISN 6. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he embarks on his next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Stephen R. Wilkins on his retirement and thanking him for his distinguished service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING M.L. LEDDY'S ON BEING INCLUDED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES LIST OF THE TOP 50 CLOTHING STORES IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize M.L. Leddy's boot shop for being included in the New York Times list of the Top 50 Clothing Stores in the United States. This distinguished honor reflects the dedication and commitment to tradition that has defined M.L. Leddy's legacy for generations.

Since 1922, M.L. Leddy's has stood as a symbol of Texas craftsmanship and authenticity. Situated in the heart of the Fort Worth Stockyards, the shop stands as a lasting symbol of the area's Western heritage and strong sense of community. While it's known for its unrivaled custom boots and saddles, M.L. Leddy's also offers western clothing, hats,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

buckles, and accessories. Each piece is crafted with meticulous attention to detail, a time-honored technique inspired by the store's namesake. When M.L. Leddy's first began crafting handmade boots and saddles, he did so with the passion and drive of a young Texan in the 1920s. He and his brothers set out to make the highest quality products while maintaining a deep commitment to customer service. This milestone is a testament to the success of their endeavor. As a forth-generation family business, Leddy's iconic storefront in the Fort Worth Stockyards is much more than a preferred store, but rather shines as a living landmark of Fort Worth History.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my congratulations to M.L. Leddy's on their outstanding achievement and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; and NAY on Roll Call No. 74.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ALEDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Aledo Municipal Complex in Aledo, Texas on January 10, 2026. Aledo, the oldest city in Parker County, began as a farming settlement and was later incorporated in 1963. This new facility represents an important milestone in the city's continued growth and development.

The Aledo Municipal Complex brings essential city services together under one roof, thoughtfully combining accessibility with contemporary design. The use of carefully selected materials pays tribute to Aledo's rural roots and reflects the city's motto, Rich Heritage, Dynamic Future. As Aledo continues to grow, this new building stands as a symbol of the community's commitment to progress while remaining firmly grounded in the values and spirit that define it.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the City of Aledo as it enters a new chapter of service.

HONORING BILLIE JO MEDDERS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Billie Jo Medders

and to recognize her lifetime of steadfast service to the Bakersfield community.

Born on March 8, 1931, in Indianola, Mississippi, Billie Jo graduated from Indianola High School, where her interest in civic life first took shape. As a senior, she was selected as a delegate to Mississippi Girls' State and was elected lieutenant governor, an experience sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that foreshadowed a lifetime of engagement in public affairs. She went on to attend Delta State University in Cleveland, where she met her husband, Clarence Medders, and began a lifelong partnership rooted in service.

In 1956, Billie Jo and Clarence relocated to Bakersfield, joining the Bakersfield City School District and making our community their permanent home. Together, they raised their daughters, Emily and Pamela, while investing deeply in the civic and educational life of Kern County. Clarence devoted 44 years to education as a teacher, counselor, and principal. Billie Jo also served the district for 13 years as a school secretary.

As Billie Jo's family took root in Bakersfield, so too did her public service. She joined Assemblyman Thomas's staff as a part-time aide and, following his election to Congress, continued in his Bakersfield office as a caseworker and eventually director of constituent services. Over the course of 29 years, she assisted countless constituents in navigating complex federal agencies, exemplifying the vital role district offices play in responsive government.

I worked directly with Billie Jo for many years as a field representative in the district I now have the honor of representing in Congress. During that time, she demonstrated that constituent services is about serving people with diligence, integrity, and respect. She made clear that every issue—from veterans' benefits to immigration casework to small business assistance—deserved urgency, careful attention, and professionalism. That standard continues to guide how I approach the responsibilities of this office and how I serve California's 20th Congressional District today.

In addition to her government service, Billie Jo remained engaged in the broader nonprofit and civic community. Her decades of involvement have strengthened local institutions and reflected her enduring commitment to Bakersfield's families and seniors. In recognition of that commitment, she was recently honored by Family-to-Family Mentoring, a division of Garden Pathways, Inc., with the "Heart for Bakersfield" award—an apt description of her life's work. Today, she enjoys time with her seven grandchildren, along with traveling, reading, gathering with friends, and adding to her well-known elephant collection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Billie Jo Medders for her decades of service and for the example she continues to set in our community.

HONORING COACH GARY PATTERSON'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND INDUCTION INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Gary

Patterson on his induction into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. This honor reflects more than four decades of excellence, leadership, and service to the college football.

Coach Patterson's 43-year coaching career, including 24 years leading Texas Christian University, culminated in his distinction as the winningest coach in TCU history. A transformational leader both on and off the football field, he guided the Horned Frogs through an era of sustained excellence and national prominence while navigating many transitions and challenges.

Over the course of 260 total games, Coach Patterson earned 181 victories, led his teams to 18 bowl appearances with 11 bowl victories, and coached five defensive units that ranked number one nationally. Widely regarded as one of the Nation's preeminent defensive coaches, his success was recognized across college football, including being named National Coach of the Year a total of 22 times. He was inducted into the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the class of 2025 and is set to receive the Davey O'Brien Legends Award in February.

His leadership extends well beyond wins and championships. He has mentored generations of student-athletes, many of whom went on to professional careers, academic distinction, and leadership roles of their own. Coach Patterson also co-founded The Big Good Foundation, earned the National Football Foundation Gridiron Club of Dallas' Distinguished Texan Award, and served as president of the American Football Coaches Association.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I join the people of Texas, the TCU community, and college football fans across the Nation in congratulating Gary Patterson and all those who shared in this journey on this well-deserved and historic honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the first vote series on February 24, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; and YEA on Roll Call No. 71.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB JAMESON AFTER 13 YEARS WITH VISIT FORT WORTH

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and public service of a distinguished leader in Fort Worth's tourism and economic development community. After 13 years of service, Bob Jameson will retire this April from his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Visit Fort Worth.

For more than a decade, Mr. Jameson guided the city's official destination marketing organization through a period of remarkable growth and increasing national recognition. Under his leadership, Fort Worth's tourism economy expanded significantly, with gains in economic activity, visitation, employment, and tax revenue reaching unprecedented levels. These achievements supported thousands of local jobs and elevated Fort Worth's standing as a premier destination for travel, sports, arts, culture, and conventions. Local leaders have noted that his tenure established a durable framework for continued success.

During his time at Visit Fort Worth, Mr. Jameson helped position the city as one of the fastest-growing tourist destinations in the Nation. Annual visitation grew to more than 11 million visitors each year, generating an estimated \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact. His leadership raised the profile of Visit Fort Worth and transformed its annual meeting into a major citywide event. Through the creation of the Fort Worth Sports Commission, the Hear Fort Worth music office, the Fort Worth Film Commission, and the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, his influence can be seen across numerous sectors of the local economy. This has reinforced sustainable growth, enhanced collaboration across public and private sectors, and solidified Fort Worth's commitment to cultural vitality and economic opportunity.

Beyond his executive role, Mr. Jameson has been an instrumental civic leader in Fort Worth, serving on the boards of Arts Fort Worth; the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce; the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Near Southside; Fort Worth Opera; the Cliburn; the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra; Fort Worth Sister Cities International; and Downtown Fort Worth Inc. His service reflects the dedication, leadership, and pride that define Fort Worth as a community.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate Bob Jameson on his retirement and to extend my sincere best wishes as he begins the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ETHEL L. CUFF BLACK

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ethel L. Cuff Black, a trailblazing educator and one of the 22 visionary founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Born on October 17, 1890, in Wilmington, Delaware, Mrs. Cuff Black was raised with a commitment to excellence and service that guided her life. She pursued her studies at Howard University, where she became one of the 22 young women who boldly established Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on January 13, 1913. The sorority was founded on principles of scholarship, sisterhood, and service; values that Mrs. Cuff Black carried into every facet of her life.

In one of their first acts of service, Mrs. Cuff Black joined her sorority sisters in the historic

1913 March down Pennsylvania Avenue, standing at the forefront of the struggle for equality and representation. Her courage and vision laid the groundwork for one of the Nation's most influential Black women's organization, which continues to uplift communities more than a century later.

After graduating, Mrs. Cuff Black dedicated herself to education, serving as a teacher in Missouri, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Later in New York, she became the first Black teacher in Richmond Hills, Queens. Mrs. Cuff Black joined 10 other dedicated women in chartering the Queens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Together, they worked hand in hand with the community to advance educational opportunities, promote civic engagement, and uplift families across Queens. This act of leadership and service ensured that the sorority's mission remained deeply rooted in community partnership for decades to come. Since 1952, the Queens Alumnae chapter has awarded over \$400,000 in scholarship to students in the Queens community.

Mrs. Cuff Black is most honorably remembered for her unwavering devotion to education, community, advancing opportunities for Black Americans, and her pioneering spirit in the fight for social justice. She is survived by the enduring legacy of her students and the hundreds of thousands of Delta women who follow in her footsteps across four continents.

RECOGNIZING THE ALL SAINTS
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize All Saints Episcopal School on their state championship win in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II Football Championship. This exceptional achievement is a testament to the discipline, perseverance, and balance these students maintain in their athletic and academic pursuits.

Throughout the season, the All-Saints football program exemplified determination, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to success. Under the leadership of dedicated coaches and with the steadfast support of their community, these student athletes secured a historic record-breaking season. Their championship win marked an impressive 28th consecutive victory, a milestone that reflects strength and consistency within the program. All Saints players successfully defended their 2024 state championship title, further cementing their legacy of excellence. I am honored to represent these exceptional students and commend them for their achievements both academically and athletically.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate the Fort Worth All Saints football team and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF
THELMA PETTIS

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and extraordinary service of Thelma Pettis, a distinguished leader of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, whose passing is deeply felt across the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the South Atlantic Region.

Soror Pettis devoted more than eight decades of faithful service to Delta Sigma Theta, exemplifying the sorority's highest ideals of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. Just recently, she was lovingly celebrated by the Richmond Alumnae Chapter for her remarkable 80 years of membership and was honored as a panelist during "Delta Days" in the Virginia General Assembly, continuing her commitment to civic engagement and public service until her final days.

From 1986 to 1989, Soror Pettis served as the ninth South Atlantic Regional Director, leading with wisdom, grace, and an unwavering dedication to strengthening chapters, developing leaders, and advancing the sorority's mission. Her tenure left an indelible mark on the Region, and her leadership continues to inspire generations of Delta women.

At the local level, Soror Pettis twice served as President of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter, where under her leadership, she deepened the chapter's impact and reinforced its role as a pillar of service in the community. She also played a pivotal role in helping to charter the Rho Rho Chapter at University of Richmond, extending the reach of Delta Sigma Theta's mission to a new generation of student leaders and ensuring the sorority's legacy of excellence and service would endure on campus and beyond. As a charter member of Rho Rho, I benefited greatly from her leadership and kindness.

Soror Thelma Pettis lived a life of purpose and principle. Her legacy is one of service rendered with humility, leadership exercised with compassion, and commitment sustained across a lifetime. She will be deeply missed by her sorors, her community, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Soror Karen Pettis Walden, her family, loved ones, and the members of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter. May they find comfort in knowing that Soror Pettis' life had a profound impact, and that her legacy will continue to guide and uplift generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PARKER COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Parker County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Chamber

was founded with the purpose of promoting business development and economic growth within a budding region of our state. Over the past three decades, it has grown into a thriving organization that exemplifies community leadership, advocacy, and economic expansion. This significant milestone reflects the dedication, perseverance, and service of countless local business owners, leaders, and volunteers who have contributed to the Chamber's enduring success.

The Parker County Chamber of Commerce was established through the vision and leadership of Mr. Randy Keck, along with Judge Graham Quisenberry and Mr. Roy Ray. From its humble beginnings—holding potluck meetings in an RV park, acquiring two small-town chamber charters, and building a foundation grounded in a clear understanding of the needs of local businesses—the Chamber experienced immediate and sustained growth. Today, its culture reflects the spirit of Parker County and encourages participation from more than 600 members. This distinctive and inclusive structure draws business owners together and fosters continued engagement throughout the year. Through networking opportunities, civic involvement, ribbon cuttings, and community festivals, the Parker County Chamber of Commerce consistently strengthens both its members and the community it serves.

As the Parker County Chamber of Commerce marks this 30-year anniversary, I commend its leadership and members for their lasting contributions to the economic vitality and civic life of Parker County.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to extend my congratulations to the Parker County Chamber of Commerce on the momentous occasion of its 30th anniversary and offer best wishes for many continued years of success in the Chamber's future.

HONORING MICHEAL A.
PASSAGLIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Micheal A. Passaglia, a new California Waterfowlers Hall of Fame Inductee, who is being recognized for his lifelong commitment to the preservation of waterfowl and their habitats throughout California.

Dr. Passaglia and his wife, Coral, reside in Yuba City and are the proud parents of four children: Michael, Jr.; Teal; Patricia; and Nicholas. He honorably served in the United States Navy before pursuing higher education, earning an associate degree from Chabot Junior College, followed by a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He later attended the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, where he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery.

Throughout his life, Dr. Passaglia has been a steadfast leader in wetland conservation and a respected advocate within the waterfowler community. He co-founded the C and P Duck Company, which at its height managed more than 3,500 acres of wetlands, provided individuals with access to responsibly managed

hunting lands, and helped promote long-term participation in waterfowling.

Dr. Passaglia has been recognized by the California Fish and Game Commission for his leadership and experience with the Live Oak Gun Club, where he implemented forward-looking wetland habitat management practices that significantly increased local waterfowl populations. He has also been recognized for multiple years by the Butte Sink Landowners Association for his contributions to improving waterfowl habitat in the region. In addition, he has served as a Board Director of the California Waterfowl Association, remains an active member, and is also a member of Ducks Unlimited. His philanthropic support includes donating more than \$100,000 to the California Waterfowl Association.

Dr. Passaglia's induction into the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor. Established in 2006, the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to enhancing waterfowl populations and habitats in California. Inductees have played a critical role in conserving waterfowl by preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats; managing agricultural lands with wildlife in mind; advocating for sound conservation policy; and implementing land-use practices specifically designed to benefit nesting and wintering waterfowl populations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Michael Passaglia for his persistence, generosity, and decades of service to conservation, our environment, and the broader community. His legacy will benefit California's wetlands and waterfowl for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCCER
TEAM ON THEIR HISTORIC SEA-
SON

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Texas Christian University Women's Soccer Team for an extraordinary and historic season that has brought distinction to TCU and the State of Texas.

For the first time in program history, the Horned Frogs advanced to the NCAA College Cup Final Four following a hard-fought 2–1 victory over Vanderbilt University. This milestone win marked the team's nineteenth victory of the season and confirmed its inaugural appearance in the NCAA College Cup. Throughout the season, the team demonstrated consistent excellence, compiling an outstanding record, outscoring opponents by an incredible average of 54–22 and excelling against nationally ranked Top 25 competitors.

The team's collective success was matched by exceptional individual achievements. Seven Castain earned recognition as an NCAA Elite 90 Scholar-Athlete and Honda Sport Award finalist. Morgan Brown, Seven Castain, Kamdyn Fuller, Cameron Patton, and Sydney Becerra were named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Midwest Team, with Brown and Castain also receiving United Soccer Coaches All-

American honors. Kamdyn Fuller and Emma Yolinsky earned All-Freshman Team recognition, while Head Coach Eric Bell was named National Coach of the Year by Top Drawer Soccer.

The Texas Christian University Women's Soccer Team exemplifies dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Their composure under pressure and commitment to excellence have earned the admiration of the TCU community and residents throughout Tarrant County and beyond. Their success serves as an inspiration to student-athletes across our state and a testament to what can be accomplished through teamwork, discipline, and unwavering determination.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I, along with the people of Texas and the TCU community, congratulate the Texas Christian University Women's Soccer Team and all those who contribute to this historic and well-deserved honor.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 3

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine an update on the National Defense Strategy; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars and multi VSOs.

SD-G50

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness

To hold hearings to examine AI that improves safety, productivity, and care.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism
To hold hearings to examine confronting child trafficking and the failure to protect America's most vulnerable.

SD-226

MARCH 4

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 933, to authorize programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal year 2025, S. 3923, to improve the weather research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, and expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and certain coast guard promotions.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine a discussion draft of an original bill entitled, "the Toxic Substances Control Act Fee Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2026."

SD-562

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multi VSOs.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine evaluating the U.S. competitiveness and investment advantages of a Destination-Based Cash Flow Tax (DBCFT).

SH-216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of the Joint Force.

SH-216

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition and monopsony in the proposed Netflix-Warner Brothers transaction.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine responding to China's infiltration and coercion in Europe.

RHOB-2247

MARCH 11

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine Federal policies governing Indian water rights settlements, including S. 953, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.

SD-628

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S657–S689

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3908–3925, and S. Res. 613–615. **Page S681**

Measures Passed:

Army-Navy Football Game: Senate agreed to S. Res. 613, recognizing the Army-Navy football game as America’s Game. **Page S687**

American Heart Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 614, designating February 2026 as “American Heart Month”. **Page S687**

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 615, celebrating Black History Month. **Pages S687–88**

2026 United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 602, supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S689**

Moreno (for Klobuchar) Amendment No. 4302, to modify the number of medals won by Team USA. **Page S688**

McCormack Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. **Pages S667–74**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2026, and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination ripen at 11:45 a.m.; and that if cloture is invoked, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m. **Page S689**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 41), John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National

Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026. **Page S667**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 40), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S665–66**

Messages from the House: **Page S679**

Measures Referred: **Page S679**

Executive Communications: **Pages S679–80**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S681–83**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S683–87**

Additional Statements: **Pages S681–83**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S687**

Notices of Intent: **Page S688**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S688**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—41) **Pages S666–67**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:06 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S689.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Stevan Pearce, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, who was introduced by Senator Lummis, Kyle Haustveit, of North Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Energy, and David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Water Resources Development Act of 2026, focusing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, programs, and priorities, after receiving testimony from Adam Telle, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr., Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Casey Means, of California, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Marshall, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Colin McDonald, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

INTEGRITY IN SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine from fraud to recovery, focusing on restoring integrity in small business programs, including S.1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, after receiving testimony from William W. Kirk, Inspector General, Small Business Administration; and Kenneth R. Dieffenbach, Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 51 public bills, H.R. 7669–7719; and 9 resolutions, H. Res. 1077–1085 were introduced. **Pages H2326–28**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2330**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.J. Res. 139, resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced budget for the Federal Government (H. Rept. 119–520);

H.R. 1078, to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–521);

H.R. 1181, to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from general-merchandise retailer or sporting-goods retailer, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–522);

H.R. 3959, to except quotations of fixed-income securities from certain regulatory requirements, and

for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–523);

H.R. 4624, to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to establish requirements for unified boxing organizations, to further enhance the well-being of professional boxers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–524, Part 1);

H.R. 4130, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exclude qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors when calculating holders of a security for purposes of the mandatory registration threshold under such Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–525);

H.R. 6541, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–526);

H.R. 6544, to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to review the cumulative impact of regulations issued by such agencies, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–527);

H.R. 6546, to require the Inspector General of each Federal prudential regulator to carry out a review every 3 years of the regulator's handling of insured depository institution merger applications, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-528);

H.R. 6550, to require annual reporting on interactions between Federal banking supervisory agencies and global financial regulatory or supervisory forums, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-529);

H.R. 6551, to require annual reports on national bank and Federal savings association charter applications, depository institution holding company applications, Federal deposit insurance applications, and State depository institution charter applications, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-530);

H.R. 6552, to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study how partnerships between fintechs and banking organizations can support new banking organization formation and community bank health, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-531);

H.R. 6553, to index statutory thresholds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-532);

H.R. 6554, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to specify additional responsibilities of the member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System who was appointed as the member with experience working in or supervising community banks, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-533);

H.R. 6555, to require the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to carry out a study on shelf charters and modified bidder qualification processes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-534); and

H.R. 6570, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study the use of commitments and conditions in connection with insured depository institution merger applications by Federal depository institution regulatory agencies to ensure they align with statutory requirements, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119-535).

Pages H2325-26

Homeowner Energy Freedom Act: The House passed H.R. 4758, to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and other purposes, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 199 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 78.

Pages H2301-06

Rejected the Castor motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a yea-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 77.

Pages H2305-06

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-20 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill.

Page H2301

H. Res. 1075, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4626) and (H.R. 4758) was agreed to yesterday, February 24th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, February 26th; that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026; and further when it adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 for morning-hour debate.

Page H2319

Inspector General for the U.S. House of Representatives—Appointment: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader, their joint appointment of the following individual to serve as Inspector General for the U.S. House of Representatives: Ms. Christen Stevenson of Brandywine, Maryland.

Page H2325

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2305-06 and H2306.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, and Brian Birdwell, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine an update from the Prudential

regulators, focusing on rightsizing regulation to promote American opportunity, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on tech competition, critical minerals, and supply chain security, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 1602, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, S. 1558, to require a standard financial aid offer form, S. 3747, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, S. 1782, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants, S. 1552, to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors, S. 3315, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to coordinate to improve cybersecurity in the health care and public health sectors, and other pending business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider H.R. 6719, to prohibit threats to a minor, S. 3398, to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child

sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims, S. 3397, to make coercion of children to commit harm a criminal offense, S. 3394, to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guideline relating to child sexual abuse material, S. 3798, to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, and the nominations of Gregory Gilmore, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Andrew B. Davis, and Christopher R. Wolfe, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Anna St. John, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, John Thomas Shepherd, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Robert Rotter, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, Daniel Satterlee, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota, and David St. Pierre, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine, all of the Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SD-106.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine FDA bureaucracy, focusing on regulator to roadblock, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, February 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:45 a.m. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9:30 a.m.

Extension of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Auchincloss, Jake, Mass., E164
Conaway, Herbert C., Jr., N.J., E164

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