United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 *No. 36*

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

OPEN BORDERS BETRAY BLUE COLLAR WORKERS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, before the lockdown left took a wrecking ball to our economy, we were enjoying one of the greatest expansions of economic opportunity in our lifetimes. Unemployment was at its lowest rate in 50 years. The poverty rate was at its lowest rate in 60 years. Most importantly, wage growth was the strongest in 40 years, and the wage gap between rich and poor was narrowing for the first time in many years as blue-collar wages increased dramatically. The unemployment rate for women was the lowest in 70 years. For African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, veterans, disabled Americans, and those without a high school diploma, unemployment was the lowest ever recorded.

Now, the tax and regulatory relief we won in 2017 and 2018 explained much of that success. But something else was going on that caused the extraordinary improvement of wages for unskilled or low-skilled workers. It was because the Trump administration restored control of our borders and stemmed the flood of low-wage labor that had been suppressing wages for American workers for decades. Big business and big agriculture hated this policy because it required them to pay higher wages to Americans, but in the growing economy it produced, working Americans who had been left behind for decades finally began to prosper.

Now, did we learn nothing from this blue-collar boom?

The Democrats that these families trusted to look out for their interests in the recent election are betraying them at every turn. Nowhere is that clearer than the Democrats' zeal to open our borders to a new wave of illegal immigration.

The President's executive orders have already produced a new migrant crisis on the southern border. One abandoned the border wall in mid-construction. Another undermines the longstanding requirement that immigrants be able to support themselves and not burden American taxpayers.

Another ends the Remain in Mexico policy for those making asylum claims, the vast majority of those claims being dubious. Yet another effectively releases illegal immigrants accompanied by youths under 18 directly into the United States.

Another grants what amounts to sanctuary status for a wide variety of criminal offenses, including drunk driving and sex offenses. Another restores unrestricted travel from hotbeds of international terrorism.

The worst one orders ICE not to deport illegal immigrants for 100 days. That order now enjoined by a Federal judge begs the question: What is the difference between abolishing ICE and forbidding ICE to do its job?

Customs and Border Protection agents report in the last month the flow on the southern border has nearly doubled from 2,000 a day to 3,500 a day. The number of illegal immigrants encountered on the southern border during the first 4 months of the last fiscal year was nearly 165,000. That number has nearly doubled this year to more than 295,000.

Every American needs to clearly understand what this means to their lives, their families, their communities, and their futures.

How are American workers helped by flooding the labor market with another wave of illegal immigration?

How are our children, who have been robbed of an entire year of their educations, helped by filling their classrooms with non-English speaking classmates?

How are our streets made safer by allowing aliens who drive drunk to remain on our roads rather than be arrested and placed in removal proceedings?

How is our Nation made safer by reopening virtually unrestricted travel with nations that foster terrorism?

How are our communities made safer by making it harder to deport criminal illegal aliens and gang members?

How are our hospitals made more accessible by overwhelming emergency rooms by illegal immigrants demanding care?

Why would they pursue these policies that strike most acutely and painfully at America's working families? Especially now when those families are reeling from the effects of a year of repressive lockdowns?

Those blue-collar workers who made the greatest gains during the Trump economic expansion are the most harmed by reversing the immigration enforcement that produced it.

Let us not forget that millions of legal immigrants who obeyed our laws, respected our Nation's sovereignty, waited patiently, and have done everything our country has asked of them have also been made victims of the Democrats' pursuit of open borders.

Printed on recycled paper.

Without enforcement of our immigration laws, our borders are meaningless. And if our borders are meaningless, then America ceases to be a nation and instead becomes a vast international territory between Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I fear that is the ultimate objective of the left and that the only force that can stop them now is the American people at the ballot box.

EXPANDING CIVIL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Equality Act, a long overdue measure I cosponsored to expand important civil rights protections to every American.

This is personal for me and my district. Central Florida is an area that prides itself on its diversity, compassion, and inclusiveness. But tragedy struck in June 2016, when a gunman walked into the Pulse nightclub and took the lives of 49 innocent individuals. Our community relied on those same values—diversity, compassion, and inclusiveness—to overcome hate and move forward together with love.

But despite tremendous progress our Nation has made toward equality, too many LGBTQ Americans still live in fear. That is because LGBTQ people across the country remain vulnerable to discrimination on a daily basis. The Equality Act ensures protections that already exist for other protected classes are equally available to all Americans. It is past time we pass this bill so that no American faces discrimination because of who they are or whom they love.

HONORING DAVID KING

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David King, a constituent of mine who passed away recently.

David was born and raised in Tennessee. He attended Tennessee Technical College and Vanderbilt Law School, where he was an editor of the law review. David then served honorably in the Marine Corps, deploying to Vietnam. Following his military service, David relocated to Orlando with his college sweetheart, Marilyn, by his side. Together, they made central Florida home.

David was a trial attorney of skill and integrity, earning the esteem of fellow lawyers and judges. David fought vigorously for his clients but always treated his courtroom opponents and the justice system itself with respect.

David served as lead attorney for the Fair District Coalition, which worked to end partisan gerrymandering in Florida. David was dedicated to the cause of free and fair elections and to the principle that every vote matters in our democracy. David was deeply committed to his central Florida community, generously giving his time, energy, and financial support to many local nonprofit organizations.

David's proudest accomplishment was his family, especially his 56-year marriage to Marilyn and the sons and grandchildren their happy union produced.

May God bless the memory of this wonderful man, and may God bless his family, his friends, and all those who loved him.

REMEMBERING RONNIE MOHR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my friend and fellow Hoosier, Ronnie Mohr.

Ronnie was a 1966 graduate from Hancock Central High School before receiving a degree at Purdue and then serving in the United States Army 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam war.

Ronnie was a pillar in the Greenfield community and a well-respected farmer across the State. He was also a member of my Agricultural Advisory Board on top of being a member of the Indiana Corn Growers Association, Hancock County Sheriff's Merit Board, NineStar Connect Board, and Hancock County Drainage Board.

My thoughts are with his wife, Sarah; his three children; and his 10 grandchildren. Ronnie's legacy will live on forever.

COLUMBUS, INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of my hometown, Columbus, Indiana's bicentennial.

For 200 years, Columbus has been a vibrant community sitting between Indianapolis and Louisville. Today, it is world renowned for its modern and contemporary architecture. It has been my home for my entire life, and I am proud to be serving my hometown community.

Happy 200th birthday to Columbus, Indiana.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE CONNIE LAWSON

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson, on her retirement.

Secretary Lawson is a true public servant who dedicated her life to helping Hoosiers. Having served 32 years in public office, Connie was a champion for secure elections and the first woman to serve as majority floor leader in the Indiana Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Secretary Lawson for all the work she has done for the State of Indiana, and I wish her good luck on her future endeavors.

MOUNT SURIBACHI

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Battle of Iwo Jima and the taking of Mount Suribachi.

On February 23, 1945, U.S. Marines were battling the Japanese to gain control of Iwo Jima. It was that day that Mount Suribachi was captured and the flag was raised for all to see. The Battle of Iwo Jima would become the deadliest battle in the United States Marine Corps history. Having visited Iwo Jima during my service, I will always remember those sacrifices of my fellow marines.

Semper Fi. God bless the Marine Corps and the United States. Oorah.

DEMOCRATS' LATEST COVID BILL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Democrats' newest proposal is, yet again, a political statement rather than a sincere effort at COVID relief.

Last year's CARES Act distributed money mainly by State population, but much of the $220 billion for States in the new bill will be allocated based on average unemployment over the 3-month period ending in December.

In other words, States who fought COVID–19, took care of their small businesses, and helped their citizens stay afloat during the pandemic by being open are receiving less funds. Meanwhile, leftwing States—like New York, Illinois, and California—are getting rewarded for crushing small businesses.

Relief for hardworking Americans must be bipartisan, and it must be fair, end of story.

MARCH MADNESS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Indiana on hosting March Madness this year.

We are going to have divisions I, II, and III all over the State. We owe this opportunity and achievement to Governor Holcomb and his great work leading our State through our fight with COVID. With our Nation's eyes upon the Hoosier State, our deep-rooted history with basketball will be well-represented.

Congratulations to the NCAA and Indiana. It is sure to be an extraordinary tournament.

RECOGNIZING KAPPA RHO ZETA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the resilience of the residents in my district who have seen the traumatic impacts of the pandemic but they continue to show up for each other.

The sisterhood among the women of the Zeta Phi Beta's Highland Park Michigan chapter, Kappa Rho Zeta, in my district are a true testament to our community's strength. This sorority was founded with the purpose of upholding the tenets of sisterhood and service. Over the past 40 years, the sisters have given countless hours of community service to the people of Highland Park.

Their service and charity work has extended to so many organizations across my district. Even during some

of our district's most challenging times, they continue to show up for our neighborhoods and community members who are most vulnerable. They have spearheaded annual holiday celebrations for our seniors, provided workshops and assistance for pregnant mothers, and uplifted the graduating high school students of Highland Park by awarding scholarships to support them in their academic pursuits.

This is our district's strength. I am honored to uplift the 40 years of sisterhood, service, and strength of the women of Zeta Phi Beta's Kappa Rho Zeta Chapter and their many outstanding contributions to the residents of Highland Park and 13th District Strong.

□ 1015

HONORING WAYNE COUNTY RESIDENTS LOST TO COVID–19

Ms. TLAIB. The people define my district and its history, so it is essential that I give reverence to the residents who are among the 500,000 people in the United States who lost their lives as a result of the coronavirus.

I would like to honor a valuable member of the community who has passed, Ms. Abena Hogan.

Ms. Hogan was born and raised in Detroit and was a proud daughter of our community.

She began her first career in public service working for southeast Michigan's regional public transit system. After 20 years of service, Ms. Hogan briefly retired before she was called back into service to work for our Wayne County Clerk.

Ms. Hogan took immense pride in serving the people of Wayne County, and Ms. Hogan believed deeply in the power of the people and grassroots action. She will be dearly, dearly missed.

I also want to give tribute to a very highly respected public servant. This is Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon. He left a tremendous mark on our community and the community that he truly loved to serve.

Benny Napoleon served as our Wayne County Sheriff from 2009 until the time of his death. His love for Detroit and its people was unwavering. His tenure as Wayne County Sheriff was marked by his work to reduce inmate populations by utilizing alternatives to incarceration and employing electronic tethering.

Napoleon was well-known for his personality and his big heart, and he had a smile that would just light up a room.

Shortly after his death, we lost yet another public servant in our district, Mayor Dan Paletko.

Mayor Paletko served the Dearborn Heights community from 2004 until his death late last year. He prioritized making Dearborn Heights a welcoming place for all of its residents to call home and was especially proud of his city's rich cultural diversity and recreational resources. His pride in Dearborn Heights was evident in his dedication.

We will continue to honor the memories of not only the mayor, the sheriff, and Abena, but also the countless other residents of 13th District Strong who have lost their lives to this deadly disease.

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, Dearborn Heights Mayor Dan Paletko, and Abena Hogan are three of more than 16,000 Michigan residents who have lost their lives to COVID.

It is essential that our families who have suffered such a great loss this past year get the resources and support they need from our government so that they do not face financial struggles and hardship because of the pandemic.

We must act now. Our families and our communities can't wait any longer. Our families deserve recurring payments. Our local communities deserve direct aid. Our residents deserve to be vaccinated, and our students deserve to be educated in a safe environment where they can not only learn but thrive.

So today, I rise in remembrance of those we have lost due to COVID but lean on the strength and the resiliency of my district who deserves more.

STUDENT PHILANTHROPISTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two students in my district, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, who have gone out of their way to better their communities recently. After reading about their work, I felt that they deserved this recognition.

Richard Clark is a student at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania. Richard is an MBA student and decided to use a class project opportunity, assignment, as an opportunity to help the Keystone Regional Fire and Rescue Department. He helped the president of the fire department write an application, a grant application, that resulted in a $10,000 grant to benefit that organization and, certainly, the citizens, families, and communities that that emergency service organization serves.

Before serving in Congress, I spent nearly 30 years as a State-certified volunteer firefighter. It was an honor to serve my community, and I know firsthand how big of a deal, how big of a difference those funds can make in a small-town company in a rural area. Dave Fulton, president of the fire company, said that the funds would be combined with support from the county to purchase a new radio system.

Richard's professor, Dr. Leah Spangler offered high praise, saying: ''I'm just so happy to have a student who is so invested in an organization to really do this kind of work for them. It's so much more than a grade for a class that you can do something so positive for the community.''

I would like to thank Richard for his hard work, his dedication, and his commitment to serving his community.

In Indiana, Pennsylvania, a 17-year-old named Lily Palfrey recently reached the highest service level possible in 4–H by completing her Diamond Clover project.

Lily's father, Sergeant Frank Palfrey, has spent more than 30 years with the Army National Guard, serving as the inspiration for her service project. She collected more than $9,000 in donations and sent more than 150 boxes filled with personal care items to our National Guard troops, our citizen warriors who are deployed overseas.

Accompanying her service project is a video called ''We Serve Too,'' a presentation that Lily developed through her church to share the stories of military families.

Though she has fulfilled her service project obligation, Lily continues to collect morale-boosting donations like board games, snacks, and coffee.

I am encouraged by the kindness and the generosity of both Richard and Lily. Thank you to these two for their spirit of service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CALVIN C. GOODE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin C. Goode, a civil rights leader and longest-serving Phoenix City Council member in the city's history.

Mr. GOODE passed away in December 2020 at the age of 93, but his impact on Phoenix will be felt for generations to come.

Calvin moved to Arizona with his family when he was just 10 months old, and later had to move across the State to find a high school that would enroll Black students. He eventually graduated from Carver High School in 1945 and went on to earn a master's in education from Arizona State University.

In 1971, Calvin became only the second Black American ever elected to the Phoenix City Council. In his 22 years on the council, Calvin advocated for historic preservation, affordable housing, more accessible neighborhoods, and educational programs such as Head Start.

Calvin was married to his wife, Georgie Mae Goode, a Phoenix activist and educator, for 55 years.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I would like to recognize and share my appreciation for Calvin C. Goode's commitment to the Black community in Phoenix and to advancing the lives of young people in the city. His spirit will be missed, and his leadership will be felt for years to come.

RECOGNIZING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a transformational partnership announced in my districtbetween Florida International University and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

In what will become a national model for public-private collaboration to meet industry needs and further fuel the current momentum for technology and entrepreneurship in South Florida, the Knight Foundation has made a $10 million gift and FIU a 10-year commitment of $106 million to catalyze the development of the local tech ecosystem.

Today, FIU is Miami-Dade's top 50 public research university and is a top producer of minority graduates in STEM fields. This partnership will strengthen FIU's standing, allowing for the doubling of computer science graduates, researchers and making FIU a hub for research in artificial intelligence, smart robotics, bioinformatics, biodevices, and digital forensics.

I am proud of the work we did at the county level when I was the mayor of Miami-Dade County to make Miami and our South Florida communities a world-class destination for tech entrepreneurs. The resources and support for accelerators, incubators, our colleges and universities, and all the places that serve as creation centers for innovation through the use of technology has positioned South Florida as a leader in the economy of the future.

I look forward to everything this partnership between FIU and the Knight Foundation will do for our South Florida communities.

JAZZ & FRIENDS DAY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY READINGS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to participate in the HRC Foundation Welcoming Schools Jazz and Friends Day of School and Community Readings.

Each year, this day is meant to inspire caring community members to join together to affirm the rights of trans and non-binary youth and show support for LGBTQ children and youth to have safe, affirming, and welcoming schools and communities.

To take part in this year's readings, I am proud to stand on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to read from ''When Aidan Became a Brother,'' by author Kyle Lukoff:

When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl. His parents gave him a pretty name. His room looked like a girl's room. And he wore clothes that other girls liked wearing.

But as Aidan got bigger, he hated the sound of his name. He felt like his room belonged to someone else. And he always ripped or stained his clothes accidentally-on-purpose.

Everyone thought he was just a different kind of girl.

Some girls had rooms full of science experiments and bug collections.

Lots of girls didn't wear dresses.

But Aidan didn't feel like any kind of girl. He was really another kind of boy.

It was hard to tell his parents what he knew about himself, but it was even harder not to.

It took everyone some time to adjust, and they learned a lot from other families with transgender kids like him.

Aidan explored different ways of being a boy. He tried out lots of names until one stuck. They changed his bedroom into a place where he belonged. He also took much better care of his new clothes.

Then one day, Mom and Dad had something to tell him.

''I'm going to have a baby,'' Mom announced.

''A baby,'' Aidan said? ''Does that mean I get to be the big brother?''

''Of course,'' said Dad, ruffling his hair.

Aidan thought that being a big brother was an important job for a boy like him. He wanted to make sure this baby would feel understood right away.

The baby needed clothes, so Aidan and his mom went shopping. There were so many choices! Would the baby like seahorses or penguins better?

''Are you having a boy or girl?'' asked a lady.

Aidan didn't like it when people asked if he was a boy or a girl, and he hoped the baby couldn't hear yet. He was glad when Mom just smiled and said, ''I'm having a baby.''

The baby's room needed to be painted, so Aidan and his dad went to the hardware store. Dad chose a gallon of sky-blue paint, and Aidan added a puffy-cloud white.

''Are you excited for your new brother or sister?'' asked the paint guy?

''I'm excited to be a big brother,'' Aidan said.

The paint guy looked confused. Aidan could tell that he wanted to ask a different question, and he was glad to have his dad there.

The big rollers were fun to paint with. ''This room feels just like being outside,'' Aidan exclaimed. He had always felt trapped in his bedroom before they fixed it, but his new sibling wouldn't have to feel that way.

''You're right,'' said Dad. ''Let's make some shapes in the clouds.''

Every baby needs a name. Aidan loved getting to choose his own, but he remembered that it had been hard for his parents to let go of the name they gave him. He looked for names that could fit this new person no matter who they grew up to be.

Babies needed someone to read to them, so Aidan practiced and practiced and practiced.

Dad wanted to teach Aidan how to change diapers. ''Um, maybe later,'' said Aidan. He decided that picking flowers for his mom was more important.

Two weeks before the baby's due date, Aidan started to worry. Maybe he should have picked different clothes. The blue walls might be too bright. He wished he could ask the baby which name they liked best.

Mom came to tuck him in. ''Are you feeling okay, sweetie?'' she asked.

Aidan put his hands over where he thought the baby's ears would be. ''Do you think the baby will be happy with everything?'' he whispered. ''I don't want them to feel like I did when I was little, but what if I get everything wrong? What if I don't how to be a good big brother?''

Mom hugged him tight. ''When you were born, we didn't know you were going to be our son. We made some mistakes, but you helped us fix them. And you taught us how important it is to love someone for exactly who they are. This baby is so lucky to have you, and so are we.''

The next morning, Aidan found the boxes of his old baby pictures. He looked so different back then! It hadn't been easy, but he liked the boy he was growing into.

Maybe everything wouldn't be perfect for this baby. Maybe he would have to fix mistakes he didn't even know he was making. And maybe that was okay.

Aidan knew how to love someone, and that was the most important part of being a brother.

□ (1030)

REMEMBERING NOREEN REALE FALCONE

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Noreen Reale Falcone, who passed away on February 6, just shy of her 84th birthday.

Quite simply, Noreen led a remarkable life. She was a lifelong educator, a passionate philanthropist, and a cherished community leader who lived her life in service to others.

A Syracuse native, Noreen started her career working as an elementary school teacher. There she developed a passion for helping young people achieve their dreams and become well-rounded adults who strive to make the world more just and humane.

Even before she started teaching, Noreen always focused on philanthropy. Her family recounted a time to me when she was a child and received a new bicycle for Christmas. Instead of keeping it for herself, she gave it to someone less advantaged than her. That is Noreen.

In adulthood, she served on countless charitable boards, an incredible amount of boards that she was on. She also served as president of the board of trustees at Manlius Pebble Hill School and in a wide range of roles at her alma mater Le Moyne College.

In recognition of Noreen's contributions to education and her service to the community, in 1998, Le Moyne named its library the Noreen Reale Falcone Library.

Beyond her love for education and philanthropy, Noreen was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She leaves behind her beloved husband of 60 years, Michael, better known as Mickey, 4 kids, and 13 grandkids. She so loved her grandkids and her kids that she actually put statues in her yard so when they weren't there in the later years, she could look out and be reminded of them when she sees these statues. That is the kind of person she was.

She was also a woman of strong Catholic faith who was an active parishioner at St. Mary's of the Lake in

Skaneateles and participated in service missions around the world. Remarkably, she was the first female ever elected president of the 900-plus-year-old order of the Knights of Malta, an incredible feat.

Noreen will leave behind an enduring legacy that will live on through the many community works she championed and the countless lives, including mine, that she uplifted through her educational endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and legacy of Noreen Falcone. May she rest in peace.

HONORING EARLINE AND CHUCK ROGERS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to wish my daughter Genevieve a happy 18th birthday.

It is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2021 theme, ''The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.''

This year's theme reflects on the unwavering resilience of the Black family as a nurturing and loving foundation for Black excellence, even as it continues to face systemic racism and significant disparities in our society. The Black family has positively impacted our Nation throughout its history, and it is important to acknowledge and affirm that Black history is American history.

Today, I would like to take a moment to honor a Black family that has played an instrumental role in public service in Indiana, and that is the family of former State Senator Earline Rogers and Earline's late husband, Louis Charles ''Chuck'' Rogers.

Chuck and Earline married in 1955 and had two children, Keith and Dara, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. From working selflessly as a public schoolteacher to Earline's decades of service in the Indiana General Assembly, and Chuck having been a dedicated firefighter and first responder, the Rogers family is an exemplary pillar of the northwest Indiana community.

In her pursuit for education, Earline graduated with honors and as senior class president from Roosevelt High School and later went on to earn both a bachelor and master of science in education from Indiana University.

After earning her degrees, Earline's early career included teaching in the Gary Community School Corporation and being an active member of the American Federation of Teachers, which subsequently encouraged her to run for office.

Earline went on to serve in numerous roles during her time in public service and was one of Indiana's most accomplished and effective legislators, working with all her colleagues, including my father, State Senator Frank Mrvan, in a bipartisan fashion to improve the lives of all Hoosiers.

One of her many accomplishments is her legislation to address child exploitation. A decade ago, Indiana had the second highest rate of girls being sexually assaulted in grades 9 through 12, with Black and Latino students among the most vulnerable. These devastating statistics prompted Senator Rogers, along with my father and countless other advocates, to champion Heather's Law, which requires the Indiana Department of Education to develop a program for Indiana schools to better educate students about predators and sexual abuse.

I am especially proud to note that when I was first beginning my career in public service, I had the opportunity to intern for Earline in the Indiana General Assembly. I am proud to call Earline one of my mentors. As a legislator in the U.S. House of Representatives, I will continue to strive to be as dedicated as Earline in improving economic opportunity and prosperity for all residents of northwest Indiana.

I would also like to honor Chuck, who recently passed away, on December 7, 2020. He will be remembered as a loving father, a supportive husband, and a great public servant.

Chuck attended East St. Louis High School in Illinois and went on to graduate from Indiana University. After school, Chuck held several esteemed positions, including as a member of the U.S. Army, a high school sports coach, and a high school educator of Black studies.

Chuck was also a dedicated firefighter, as he eventually earned the title of fire battalion chief of the Gary Fire Department, where he served for 40 years.

Chuck also served as a precinct committeeman in Indiana's Third State District, where he played an essential role in Earline's career as a State senator.

As we recognize and celebrate the contributions of the Rogers and others, we must also acknowledge and address the structural factors that continue to create challenges for the Black family.

In the last year, the COVID–19 public health emergency and the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others have exposed these inequities.

Regarding the pandemic, I would note that, regrettably, minorities account for more than 50 percent of all hospitalizations and deaths from COVID–19 in the United States. We must remedy the early governmental failures to distribute COVID–19 vaccines in an equitable manner to the communities that have suffered the most.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, let us recognize the indelible contributions of Black families to the strength of our communities as well as recommit ourselves to fighting the pernicious influence of systemic racism and ameliorating the ongoing harms experienced by too many Black families in our society.

SAYING NO TO H.R. 5

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, the non-equality Equality Act.

This legislation is not about promoting equality but provides preferential rights to some people at the expense of the rights of others. This bill is a blatant attempt to normalize and promote laws that are both unfair and dangerous to our society.

H.R. 5 circumvents the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, making it illegal to oppose abortion and forcing taxpayers to fund abortion and healthcare professionals to perform abortions in violation of their sincerely held beliefs.

H.R. 5 will also violate women's right to privacy and safety by opening the door for predatory men to prey on them in the most vulnerable of places: in shelters, changing rooms, and showers.

It will strip parental rights by permitting children to undergo life-altering sex changes without parental consent, which is nothing short of child abuse.

It will undermine both individuals' and businesses' faith-based convictions.

Today, I proudly stand in defense of our women, our children, and people of faith by saying no to H.R. 5; no to biological males in women's sports; no to biological males in women's shelters, locker rooms, and showers; no to religious oppression of any kind; no to taxpayer-funded abortion; and no to transgender medical treatments for children, which is child abuse. Yes, child abuse. Transgender medical treatments for children is child abuse.

God help us, have we lost our ever-loving minds? Just think, think for a minute.

I ask my colleagues to consider the threats this bill poses to their families, their communities, and join me in protecting and upholding our Constitution by opposing this shameful legislation, H.R. 5, that shows favoritism to some while trampling on the rights of others.

HONORING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor Mahina ʻOlelo Hawaii, or Hawaiian Language Month.

Colleagues, I have the wonderful privilege of being native Hawaiian. My culture has served as a guiding light throughout my entire life, a light that has survived because of the many kupuna, our elders, who protected this

light and who protected our Native indigenous language.

For Native Hawaiians and so many other indigenous peoples, our language is essential for our people to live and thrive. In fact, we have an 'Olelo No'eau, a proverb, that says: ''I ka 'olelo no ke ola; I ka 'olelo no ka make.'' ''In the language rests life; in the language rests death.''

Established in 1840, Hawaii's public education system is the oldest west of the Mississippi. In fact, in the 19th century, Hawaii was one of the most literate nations in the world, with over 90 percent of the population able to read and write.

January 17, 1893, is a date that is etched in the consciousness of almost every Hawaiian, the day the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown. At the time of the overthrow, our language was used in all sectors of society by all of the kingdom's citizens, from our homes and schools to businesses and government, and even the halls of justice.

In 1896, just 3 years after the overthrow, a law was enacted that stated: ''The English language shall be the medium and basis of instruction in all public and private schools.''

That one sentence dealt a smothering blow to our language. If you want to extinguish a people, you extinguish their language by taking it from the ears and mouths of future generations. You take it away from their children.

Piece by piece, action by action, the racist provisional and republic government and others with influence attempted to stem the flow of oxygen to our 'olelo Hawaii. But they could not extinguish our fire.

While Hawaiian was relegated to use in isolated spaces, even perhaps to whispers in private, we spoke, and we spoke in Hawaiian. We kept the embers burning for nearly a century.

How do you revive a language? The same way they tried to extinguish it. We share it with our children. Fire-keepers started private preschool language nests, or Punana Leo, and in 1978, Hawaiian became an official language of the State. But it would take 100 years to change that 1896 law banning Hawaiian in schools when, in 1986, K–12 Hawaiian language immersion was reestablished in Hawaii's Department of Education.

These early language pioneers continued to rebuild the fire, step by step, action by action. By the 1980s, we graduated our first bachelor's degrees in Hawaiian language. From less than 50 Native speakers under the age of 18 to more than 25,000 now self-identifying as Hawaiian language speakers today, our fire still burns, and it is growing.

It is no longer novel to hear Hawaiian spoken in our local coffee shops and our grocery stores, and my family proudly joins along fellow fire-keepers to stoke the 'olelo Hawaii flame, as my daughters attend Hawaiian language schools Punana Leo 'O Hilo and Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalani'opu'u.

While I am filled with pride, Mr. Speaker, it comes with a mix of other emotions: disappointment at underfunding; frustration at the lack of equity in government use of Hawaiian as an official language; and trepidation, knowing how close we came to having our language snuffed out.

While I am encouraged by our progress, I know there is more work ahead. We must continue to raise up the languages of all of America's first peoples.

UNESCO states that a third of the world languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers left. Language is essential to cultural diversity, and diversity is essential to our shared humanity.

While Mahina 'Olelo Hawaii, or our month of celebrating Hawaiian language, is coming to a close, we will continue to stoke the flames of 'olelo Hawaii month by month, year by year, generation to generation because, Mr. Speaker, ''I ka 'olelo no ke ola; I ka 'olelo no ka make.'' ''In the language rests life; in the language rests death,'' and our resolve is greater than ever to ensure that our languages will live on.

''E Ola Mau Ka 'Olelo Hawaii a me na 'Olelo 'Oiwi A Pau Loa.'' ''The Hawaiian language, and all indigenous languages, shall live.'' Mahalo.

□ 1045

REMEMBERING WILLIAM ''WILL'' HOWARD INGRAM II

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a great Georgian and a great American, William ''Will'' Howard Ingram II of Richmond Hill, who tragically passed away at the age of 43.

Will lived a successful life and began his career in the military after remarkably receiving appointments to all three of the United States service academies. He was a 1999 graduate of West Point.

After he honorably served his country as an Army officer, Will went on to earn a graduate degree from the University of Washington. Following his Active Duty service, he went on to serve his country as an Army civilian for over 15 years.

During that time, he served as the chief of master planning for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division for several years before he took on responsibility as the chief of operation and maintenance at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Among all of his many accomplishments, Will was most proud of his son, Gabe.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF CLYDE SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the longest-serving public servant in Bryan County and a great American. Longtime Bryan County Sheriff Clyde Smith recently retired after more than 54 years in law enforcement.

Sheriff Smith's exceptional career was highlighted when he was presented with the key to the city of Richmond Hill by Mayor Russ Carpenter. The key to the city is the highest honor Richmond Hill can give, and it was presented in recognition of Sheriff Smith's honest and faithful service to the citizens of Richmond Hill and Bryan County.

Sheriff Smith began his career in law enforcement in Savannah, Georgia, and he positively impacted every resident and business owner there from the start. He is a man marked by his bravery and compassion, and he is the epitome of a dedicated public servant.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work Sheriff Smith did throughout his career, and I wish him the best as he begins his retirement.

HONORING BETTY MINER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Betty Miner of Richmond Hill, who, sadly, passed away at the age of 87.

Betty lived a remarkable life and touched countless lives. She was a lifelong resident of Richmond Hill and became the first woman council member for the city in 1971. Betty also served as mayor pro tem.

In addition to her work to lead and improve Richmond Hill, she served on the DNR board for the State of Georgia, for which she was instrumental in bringing the fisherman's co-op to Bryan County.

Through every position she had, she worked to better her community and every life she touched.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, and all who knew her, during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING FORD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ford Avenue Historic District in an officially designated area in the city of Richmond Hill.

After 2 years of planning, the Richmond Hill City Council approved an amendment to an ordinance creating the city's first historic district on January 5.

The Ford Avenue Historic District is at the heart of Richmond Hill's history and contains primary locations and buildings Ford Motor Company built between 1925 and 1947.

When Henry Ford came to Richmond Hill, the town was known as Ways Station. Upon his arrival, the town grew and become known as Richmond Hill. You can feel the history simply walking down the street.

Mr. Speaker, designating this remarkable historic district is just another positive effort by the city to promote, protect, and remember its roots. I am thankful for the Richmond Hill City Council's diligent work on this and everything they do.

DENOUNCING HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly and fervently denounce hate crimes in any form anywhere in America.

Since the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, this country has witnessed a shocking rise in hate crimes against Asians and Asian Americans. Between the onset of the pandemic to the end of last year, there have been over 2,800 reported incidents of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans.

In New York City, an Asian woman was waiting in line at a bakery when she was brutally pushed to the ground, hitting her head. On the New York City subway, racial slurs have been uttered toward Asian riders and seniors have been physically attacked. In fact, in 2020, the NYPD reported that 10 percent of all bias attacks were targeted towards Asians. That is a ninefold increase over the incidents probed in 2019.

I am proud to represent New York City's Chinatown on the lower east side of Manhattan and Brooklyn's Chinatown around 8th Avenue in Sunset Park.

On February 12, I joined so many others in welcoming in the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Ox. But this year, a dark undercurrent and collective anxiety around the rise in violence dampened the celebrations.

It goes without saying that my constituents and every one of our constituents ought to be able to go to work, walk to the grocery store, or ride public transportation without fear of a bigoted and even dangerous attack.

Mr. Speaker, this is not who we are as a nation. We do not let xenophobia, racism, and violence run rampant on our streets, in our cities, in our hearts. No. We take pride in our diversity. We understand that what brings us together is far greater than what divides us. And we need to bring justice to all the victims of these heinous crimes.

I am glad that in New York City, our mayor has created the Asian Hate Crime Task Force, and I encourage other cities and localities to take similar action.

We also need a sustained Federal presence to combat and prevent hate crimes. That is why in the past I have introduced legislation to allocate $50 million in Federal funds to help prevent, track, and prosecute hate crimes and assist victims. I look forward to reintroducing this bill.

I was also proud to cosponsor my colleague, Representative GRACE MENG's, resolution to denounce the anti-Asian sentiment that has occurred since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Every one of us, everyone, has a responsibility to condemn and speak out against these attacks.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MICHAEL J. HALL

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Hall to his community, country, and the fight against COVID–19.

Service to one's country is rarely convenient, particularly not for a father of four with a thriving orthopedic surgery practice. Yet, in September 2019, Dr. Hall overcame adversity to join the Navy Reserve at the age of 48.

Earlier that year, one of Mike's boys showed interest in joining the Navy. A concerned father, Dr. Hall wanted to speak directly to the recruiter. By the end of the call, he inquired about joining himself.

Just 6 months after his commissioning, Dr. Hall was given 36 hours' notice to voluntarily deploy to hard-hit New York City, wearing the only uniform he had without having even completed his basic officer training.

While many of us were scrambling to buy toilet paper, Dr. Hall fought an unknown virus in a makeshift ICU unit with dozens of intubated patients.

Now a seasoned veteran of this pandemic with a deployment under his belt, Dr. Hall is finally attending his basic officer training. No amount of instruction can teach the qualities that Mike Hall already personifies: honor, courage, and commitment, not when it was convenient, but when it mattered most.

Inspired by his father, Mike's son has now also joined the military, building on a new family vision formed in a makeshift ICU ward during a very dark spring in New York City.

Dr. Hall, I thank you for your service, and Mrs. Hall, I thank you even more for your service. You have made Ogden proud.

RESCUE AMERICANS NOW

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the American Rescue Plan. This past January marked 1 year since the first case of coronavirus was found in the United States. In my home State of Alabama, nearly 10,000 people have contracted COVID–19 and almost 9,000 have died, and over half a million of the workers have filed for unemployment.

We know that the effects of this pandemic have disproportionately impacted our communities of color and low-income workers, who are more likely to be frontline workers and less likely to be able to afford access to quality healthcare.

Thankfully, because of the leadership of the new Biden administration, we recently witnessed a record drop in COVID cases and hospitalizations in Alabama; and with over 815,000 vaccine doses administered in our State, hope is finally on the horizon.

That said, we have a long way to go before there are enough of the vaccines available to our communities to be really safe from the virus.

As this pandemic continues, I know Alabama families are struggling to make ends meet.

The time for decisive action is now. I strongly support the American Rescue Plan because it will not only crush the virus, but also help us to get back to schools safely, as well as to provide emergency financial support to struggling families and small businesses.

First, the President's American Rescue Plan will create a national vaccination program that will make sure that underrepresented communities are not left behind. The bill also ramps up testing and contact tracing, increases the supply of critically needed PPE, and makes healthcare more accessible by enhancing the Advanced Premium Tax Credit.

That was so important to so many Americans who could not afford otherwise to purchase quality healthcare coverage. This is critical in a non-Medicaid expansion State like Alabama, where people have fewer available healthcare coverage options.

Secondly, the American Rescue Plan delivers immediate financial relief to working families. This bill would provide critically needed $1,400 economic assistance checks to individuals so we can help families recover and cover the costs of necessary expenses, like childcare, groceries, rent, utilities, and so much more.

I also fought to ensure that the unemployment insurance was extended and expanded to $400 a week from $300 a week. This is so important. When we think about the fierce urgency of now, we know that the unemployment, the Federal pandemic unemployment insurance benefits will actually expire March 14 if we do not act. That is why it is so incredibly important that we here in Congress do our part.

I also worked with my colleagues in the Ways and Means Committee to ensure that the American Rescue Plan includes important provisions for our most vulnerable families. I am proud that the package includes an additional $7.6 million in childcare funding for the State of Alabama, which will help our frontline and hourly workers, who have been our true heroes in this pandemic.

Furthermore, the package provides over $10 million for Alabama through a TANF pandemic emergency fund so that families with necessary emergency needs get the essentials that are so necessary for their survival.

I am especially proud this bill will also include lifesaving expansion to child tax credit and earned income tax credit, and I have championed that for many years. In my district alone, 53 percent of the children do not receive the full benefits of this credit because it is not fully refundable. We will make it fully refundable and we will expand it, lifting millions of children out of poverty.

This bill also provides direct support to local government, cities, and counties directly who have not benefited from their States directly. This is critically important to small communities and large communities all across this Nation.

Finally, the American Rescue Plan supports our small businesses and our frontline workers in our minority communities. In this bill, we expand PPP eligibility and we provide critical resources to our frontline healthcare workers, transit workers, and teachers.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, economists and healthcare experts agree, if we do not take bold action now, we will have more deaths later and risk an economic downturn.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to listen to President Biden's call for bipartisanship and pass this bill.

I am reminded during this Black History Month of the powerful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, ''We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.''

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this package so that we can begin to Build Back Better and reassure our constituents that help is indeed on the way.

FUND LOCAL AND STATE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days, the House is expected to vote on a $1.9 trillion spending bill that the majority claims will help fight the COVID–19 crisis. Despite this massive price tag, less than one-half of 1 percent of those dollars in this bill will go to fund a local and State public health workforce.

As a former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I have seen firsthand the great work our local public health departments do, and I know how necessary they are in this fight against COVID–19. It is unthinkable to me that any so-called COVID relief bill will dedicate such a miniscule portion of its funding to local public health departments, the same departments that are in our community, with us every day, working around the clock to defeat this pandemic. In contrast, FEMA is allocated $50 billion, and they have no medical personnel to dispense vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about defeating this virus, I urge my colleagues to prioritize our public health officials and those on the frontline against COVID–19, instead of directing billions of dollars to programs and initiatives unrelated to this crisis.

This funding should go as a pass-through to the CDC and directly to noncompetitive, local public health grants.

In our 99 counties in Iowa, local public health officials are intelligent, experienced, and capable to dispense vaccines in a rapid and efficient process. They have proven their capabilities by setting up drive-through clinics for flu vaccines, and also in the H1N1 pandemic as well. And given their preparedness training, they have worked with our local emergency management associates to do drive-through testing. These are the same nurses and individuals who live in your communities and who have vaccinated your children and have been the source of information and calm and support throughout this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, let's work together to defeat this virus by supporting our State and local public health teams by getting them the funding they need directly to them at the community level through noncompetitive, local public health grants. Acknowledging the tremendous work that our local public health workforce does on a daily basis and funding their efforts will defeat this virus and get America back on its feet.

AMERICAN RESCUE PACKAGE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, none of us can rise to the floor of the House and talk about the cruciality of the American Rescue package and the absolute imperative nature of this particular legislation passing without acknowledging 500,000 lives—not numbers, but names of mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles and cousins, sisters and brothers, just plain good friends, and loved ones that extend beyond one's family. And then for the love of this country, just our fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these are hardworking people, many of them essential workers on the front lines. Unfortunately, with the horrific and insulting effort that was made by the last administration, essential workers were out and about in grocery stores and delivery trucks, first responders, and no one attempted to stop the community spread. We had no testing protocol, and it was in my Congressional district that I worked with United Memorial Hospital to ensure that we had testing sites and opened the first testing site in my Congressional district to reach hard-to-serve areas on March 19.

Mr. Speaker, since that time, we have done 55 with UMMC, a small hospital that I call, ''the little red engine that can.'' But that was all done by the energy and determination in a city that was clearly one of the hotspots as part of the State of Texas, complete inertia by our leadership until we began to see the high numbers of loss of life in the African-American and Latinx community.

Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to reinforce my continued and emphatic support for the American Rescue Plan, because I don't see the 500,000 lives as just numbers, I see them as persons who are in need.

This plan will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide. It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment—a real fight against COVID–19 and all of its variants, including the UK, South Africa, and one that is just starting up. It delivers immediate relief to working families. It will give the $1,400—that will make it $2,000, increase in the minimum wage as well, and continued unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, let me cite the city of Houston, that we have lost jobs in 9 key service sectors:

Healthcare, 391,000 jobs lost; retail, 303,600 jobs lost; food services, 267,000 jobs lost; finance, 166,000; private education, 63,000; art and entertainment 37,000-plus; accommodations, $28,000; air transportation, $20,200.

One of the reasons my motion passed in the Budget Committee to ensure the protection of the public funding where Harris County will receive $141 billion plus. The city of Houston will receive $141 billion plus, because we are desperate to provide these dollars for our public resources, our municipal workers, our healthcare workers, our firefighters, our paramedics, our law enforcement, police. We are all in need to continue this fight. We need this money to support struggling communities, as indicated with the loss of jobs in Houston and Harris County.

Mr. Speaker, the plan will provide crucial support for the hardest hit small businesses, and I am glad we have worked to target these small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that experienced systemic discrimination, along with EIDL grants that my faith communities and nonprofits are asking about, and as well, the expanded eligibility for those entities and resources for jobs, to protect the jobs of first responders, as I indicated.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear: We are hard hit. If we do not pass the American Rescue Plan, which I intend to support enthusiastically, we will end up with 4 million fewer jobs. It will take us more than a year to return to full employment. We will lower the lifetime earnings of our young generation. Millions of parents, particularly mothers—women have been hurt by this even more—will be forced to stay at home, and another 4 years of suffering before real returns come.

Mr. Speaker, we had to experience this, but we are not going to continue to experience it. Let's support the American Rescue Plan as the Biden administration has asked us to do.

EQUAL PROTECTION AND RIGHTS FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Equality Act, long overdue legislation to continue the progress made under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Opportunity Act, and other vital laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

These civil rights laws were passed to provide critical protections for people who unnecessarily live in fear and were unfairly persecuted simply because of who they were. They were passed because the promise of America—equal treatment under the law—was nonnegotiable. It is still nonnegotiable.

So with the Equality Act, we must take the next step to guarantee equal protection and rights under the law for all, no matter who you love or your gender identity. The Equality Act seeks to stamp out discrimination against the LGBTQIA community—something that we, unfortunately, see far too often.

Mr. Speaker, no one should face discrimination in employment, housing, education, public space, or federally funded programs because of who they are or who they love. I am proud to be an ally of the LGBTQIA community and have worked to advance these rights and protections with groups and individuals throughout my career in public service, including hiring an out, HIV positive, gay man to serve as my first Congressional chief of staff.

In 1986, while serving on the New York City Council, I introduced the first bill to legally recognize same-sex partnerships in New York State history, and I had to threaten the city of New York to even get the bill printed. City officials said the bill was unconstitutional and could not even be printed. And while we have made great progress—the bill was printed and passed since then—we still have work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that New York State recently enacted legislation to repeal the ''walking while trans'' ban, but we must ensure that the LGBTQIA community has these protections and equal rights all throughout the country. Access to equal rights should not depend on your ZIP Code.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me today in voting to pass the Equality Act so that every American, regardless of who they love has equal protection under the law.

HONORING THE DIVINE NINE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to an end, I rise today to honor the organizations that have served as the training ground for many of our Nation's most extraordinary leaders. These organizations have fostered and empowered generations of bold, brilliant, and humane leaders, and they continue their transformational work today.

Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the Divine Nine, the historically Black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. This past year, they have played a pivotal role in helping communities deal with the COVID crisis, and they have also registered many people to vote and brought many people to the polls.

The Divine Nine organizations are:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity founded in 1906 at Cornell University. Their brotherhood includes the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, and includes the president of the National Urban League, Marc Morial. Also, in Congress, we are honored to have Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER, DANNY DAVIS, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, DAVID SCOTT, BOBBY SCOTT, STEVEN HORSFORD, and Senator WARNOCK. They are led by the honorable General President Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their sisterhood proudly boasts having civil rights leaders, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and, of course, their sisterhood also includes our very own Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS.

Members of Congress are: SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, NIKEMA WILLIAMS, and LAUREN UNDERWOOD.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity founded in 1911 at Indiana University. Among their notable achievers are: Astronaut, Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr.; civil rights leader, the Reverend Ralph Abernathy; and former congressman, the late John Conyers.

Members of Congress include: SANFORD BISHOP, ALCEE HASTINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, AL LAWSON, and DON MCEACHIN. And they are led by the Grand Polemarch Reuben A. Shelton, and a former colleague, Lacy Clay.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity founded in 1911 at Howard University. They include in their ranks: Poet, playwright, and author, Langston Hughes, and civil rights activist and reverend, Jesse Jackson, Jr.

House Members are: House Democratic Whip, JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, HANK JOHNSON of Georgia, and KWEISI MFUME of Maryland. Their honorable Grand Basileus is Dr. David Marion.

Delta Sigma Theta founded in 1913 at Howard University. Deltas count as their sisters, the first Black congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm, and Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women.

Their membership in the House includes: Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, VAL DEMINGS, STACEY PLASKETT, LUCY MCBATH, and BRENDA LAWRENCE. Their honorable President is Beverly E. Smith.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity founded in 1914 at Howard University. Not only are the Sigmas the fraternity of my husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, they also include: The late, great Congressmen John Lewis and Elijah Cummings, civil rights pioneer and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Philip Randolph, and also record-setter, Jerry Rice, and a current congressman, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT. Their honorable International President is Michael Cristal.

□ 1115

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, founded in 1920, just finished celebrating their 100th year. Notable sisters include: inventor Annie Turnbo Malone; Zora Neale Hurston; the House also was honored to have the late Congresswoman Julia Carson and former Congresswoman Donna Edwards; and their honorable president, Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker.

Sigma Gamma Rho, my favorite sorority, was founded in 1922 at Butler University. The late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs and former Congresswoman Corrine Brown honored this House. Also, they join members who are the first African-American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel; the first Black woman CPA, Mary T. Washington Wylie; and our esteemed grand basileus, Rasheeda S. Liberty.

Finally, Iota Phi Theta was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Members of their crew are Spencer Christian from ''Good Morning America''; Terrence C. Carson, known as ''Kyle'' from ''Living Single''; and also our fellow colleague, Congressman BOBBY RUSH. Their honorable grand polaris is Andre R. Mason.

From standing up for women's suffrage, civil rights, and ending Jim Crow to leading industries, medical advancements, and e-innovation, the Divine Nine has been at the forefront of progress, and I am so proud to be a member.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Test our hearts today, O God.

May the clashes we endure and the roadblocks we encounter serve like a crucible for silver, that in the midst of these ordeals, You would rid us of ugliness, wrongful attitudes, and hurtful ways.

In the heat of our arguments and in the intensity of our discussions, refine us as a furnace does gold.

Remove from us our long-held grievances and free us from our unseemly behaviors.

Purify our thoughts of corrosive intent. Then forge us, that we would be molded and shaped to Your will and useful to the common good.

Into Your hands, O God, we yield our spirits and in the strength of Your name, we offer our prayers.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

SUPPORT THE EQUALITY ACT

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the LGBTQ-plus community throughout Chicagoland and Illinois in support of the Equality Act.

While we have come a long way in the fight for equality through the Supreme Court's decisions on recognizing the marriage of same-sex couples in Obergefell v. Hodges, and protecting workplace rights for the LGBTQ-plus community in Bostock v. Clayton County, it is time to codify protections into law.

The Equality Act would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and extend existing nondiscrimination laws to ensure that LGBTQ-plus individuals are treated equally in all facets of their life.

In 2021, it is unconscionable that LGBTQ-plus people continue to face harassment and outright discrimination while attempting to access healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities.

It is past time that Congress pass legislation so that all people, no matter your race, color, creed, or sexuality, are treated equally under the law in this country.

I rise as an ally in support of the Equality Act because no one should be discriminated against for who they love or who they are.

CONGRATULATING THE LURAY BULLDOGS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Luray Bulldogs Girls Basketball Team who won the Virginia Class 2 State championship this weekend.

After falling just short to Gate City in last year's state title game, the Lady Bulldogs were ready to enact their revenge in Saturday's rematch.

It was a nail-biter of a game as the two teams traded leads heading into the fourth quarter. And with just a minute and 40 seconds remaining, the game was tied at 54 apiece.

Following back-to-back steals and uncontested layups by senior, Brynlee Burrill, the Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead by four and maintained their lead. When all was said and done, Luray had avenged their previous loss to Gate City with a 61–56 victory. This win capped off a perfect 13–0 season and was the first State title in the program's history.

The team has had a remarkable 2 years, with an overall record of 42–2; and after battling obstacles all season, the win shows true toughness, determination, and resiliency.

Congratulations to Coach Lucas and the entire Lady Bulldogs squad on this incredible achievement.

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, all across the country, including my home district in Ventura County in California, Americans continue to feel the overwhelming burden of the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic.

I regularly hear from small businesses fighting to keep their doors open; from parents struggling to put food on the table after losing their jobs; and from people who live in fear of being evicted from their homes. It is imperative that we invest in our communities and help our neighbors now.

With money specifically dedicated for vaccine development and distributions, testing, the production of PPE, more relief for small businesses, and additional aid for the unemployed and struggling families, passage of the American Rescue Plan is critical to ensuring economic recovery, getting our kids back to school, providing relief to small businesses and, most importantly, saving lives.

My Republican colleagues went big when it came to massive corporate tax cuts. It would be incomprehensible that we nickel and dime working families and small businesses during the worst pandemic in over a century.

DEEP FLAWS OF THE DEMOCRAT COVID BILL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the legislation that we are scheduled to consider on the floor tomorrow, the so-called American Rescue Plan.

The sad truth, Madam Speaker, is that this bill does very little to address the real issues impacting communities across the country. Instead, the majority has elected to weaponize the reconciliation process to push through a Democrat wish-list of what are, frankly, left-wing policies.

Only 9 percent of this bill actually goes to combating COVID. But Democrats have found the wisdom to insert $510 billion to bail out poorly run blue States; $470 billion-plus for a policy that we know will kill jobs; a $100 million earmark for a rail project in the Speaker's district; a $1.5 million earmark for a bridge to Canada for the Senate majority leader. All the while, there is still $1 trillion in unspent funds from previous COVID packages.

Madam Speaker, these are just a few of the many deep flaws in the Democrat COVID bill, and I am grateful so many of my colleagues are coming forward to help highlight the shortcomings of this bill, and how we should move forward to best serve the American people.

I urge everyone to oppose this monstrosity.

DELIVERING ON PROMISED COVID–19 RELIEF

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, in December, this House passed a COVID–19 relief compromise, during which time we pledged to the American people that we would do more. Now is the time for us to deliver on that promise.

The American Rescue Plan is that promise delivered. It is something that enables us to put people back to work; put kids back in schools; to put $1,400

checks in people's hands, the people who are struggling to keep body and soul together, to make ends meet, the people who really need this money.

No American economist of repute disagrees that this kind of relief is necessary. Now is the time for us to do it. Let's come together and enact the American Rescue Plan.

REVERSAL OF OPERATION TALON

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, ever since President Biden has taken office, he has been laser-focused on overturning every great initiative from the previous administration, regardless of how good it was for the American people.

Today, I want to shed light on President Biden's tragic reversal of Operation Talon. Operation Talon was a program run by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to capture illegal alien sex offenders in America and deport them.

Sex offenders commit some of the most unspeakable and despicable crimes imaginable. We monitor where they are in the United States when those individuals are here legally. Now we have no idea where they are when they are here illegally.

Biden's misguided reversal threatens the physical and mental health of American children and their families.

Even setting aside the debate about illegal immigration, we should all be able to agree that sex offenders who are in this country illegally should be deported.

Of all things that are common sense and bipartisan, we should agree that sex offenders are criminals and are a risk to our citizens. To not deport these individuals just because the present administration wants to erase the last administration is unconscionable.

I strongly urge President Biden's reversal of Operation Talon and urge him to reinstate it immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VALERIE WARD

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a community leader, a constituent, and a friend, Ms. Valerie Ward, who passed away January 6, at the age of 80.

Ms. Ward devoted her life in service to others, as president of the Willow Grove branch of the NAACP, and as an Abington PAL board member.

Val had the heart of a teacher, spending her time mentoring younger generations well into her own retirement. Clipboard in hand, Val could be found most weekends spearheading community events, always leading by example.

Val was a woman of great faith, leading several ministries at her beloved New Bethel AME. As a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she was proud to share her sisterhood with Vice President KAMALA HARRIS.

She was known for her direct, no nonsense approach and her dry sense of humor, warm smile, and infectious laugh.

I join Ms. Val's family, friends, and the wider Abington community in mourning the loss of an incredible woman. The world is a better place for her life.

PELOSI-SCHUMER PARTISAN PAYOFF TO PROGRESSIVES ACT

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

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the reckless spending plan being pushed through this Congress. This so-called COVID relief bill is nothing more than a liberal wish list of special-interest pork completely unrelated to COVID relief.

With more than $1 trillion of previous COVID relief funds remaining unspent, it would be irresponsible to rush through a massive, partisan spending bill that does nothing to help the American workers or get our kids physically back into school. Our priorities should be reopening our economy, getting students physically back in school, and spending more for our vaccine distribution.

COVID relief should be temporary, targeted and tied to COVID. But this plan does nothing of the sort.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the $1.9 trillion spending boondoggle that is going to be on the House floor this week.

While there are many irresponsible and careless facets of this bill worth noting, the elimination of alternative wage programs for workers with disabilities is one of the most devastating aspects of this bill, impacting over 5,800 Missourians and thousands more across our Nation.

In fact, this provision will likely cause the end of these programs. By doing that, it will strip many individuals of their voice, workplace family, independence, and sense of community.

That is why I am offering an amendment to protect the choices and voices of the Missourians next to me. They deserve a government that supports their efforts, not one that runs them out of business.

With only 35 percent of individuals with disabilities employed in the competitive market, it is our duty to look for ways to expand employment opportunities for them, not diminish them. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and, if it does not pass, please oppose this bill.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING SAKA NANKANA SAHIB

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the co-chair of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus to recognize and create national awareness about the Saka Nankana Sahib massacre.

The Sikh community across the world is observing 100 years of this horrific event. The massacre refers to the grim episode during the Gurdwara Reform Movement in which a peaceful batch of reformist Sikhs was subjected to a murderous assault on February 20, 1921, in the holy Gurdwara at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of the founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak.

More than 260 Sikhs were killed, including children as young as 7. Sikhs pay tribute to all those martyred on this day. Their valor and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Their memory inspires us to work even harder to voice for religious freedom and the right of worship.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National FFA Week.

FFA is a national leader in agricultural education, inspiring our Nation's young people to pursue careers that help support a robust rural economy.

Agriculture is rooted in American heritage, and our Nation's producers provide the food, the fiber, and the energy that we all depend on.

Agriculture is science. It is technology. It is innovation. And the young men and women of the FFA are helping to shape the industry's future.

Every time I see a distinctive blue FFA jacket, I am reminded of the strong character and impressive leadership abilities that come along with it. FFA leaders have gone on to become Ivy League graduates, Federal court judges, innovative farmers, famous performance artists, and even U.S. Presidents.

This week, we celebrate the important success of FFA, and we look forward to what FFA leaders have in store for the future of rural America.

HONORING KATHIE GREEN ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathie Green, a member of my staff and a trailblazer in the field of constituent services.

Kathie will be retiring next week after 13 years of service to northeast Indiana and the congressional office of the Third District. She was originally hired by former Congressman Mark Souder. She worked for former Congressman Marlin Stutzman and has worked for me for my entire time in Congress as well.

More than anything, Kathie has an uncommon passion for helping others in need, and that passion was perhaps most evident during the initial outbreak of the coronavirus last year. She made hundreds of phone calls every week to help those who needed it most during a very difficult time, and that is what she did for 13 years.

Today, I want to pay tribute to her for her distinguished career in service to our district. Thank you, Kathie Green.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank President Joe Biden, the first President I have ever noted that asked for a review of America's supply chain for manufactured goods. It grew out of his interest in the pandemic and the fact we couldn't supply our ventilators, our face masks, our gloves, all the protective equipment for our healthcare workers.

He is on the right track because all of that has been outsourced. I think one of the reasons we can't get vaccines at the level we need is because the ingredients have been outsourced. America needs to bring back industry here.

Today's New York Times has a story, ''In China, an Electric Car Maker Loses Money but Thinks Big,'' and I commend this story to the Biden administration and everyone who is listening.

We have to have a fair playing field globally in order to maintain manufacturing in this country because places like China play under the table. They have vehicles that lose money in the marketplace, but it is a state-run economy, and they will subsidize what they have to in order to win that market share.

Congratulations, President Biden, you are on the right track.

NOT TARGETED COVID RELIEF

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to a massive spending bill filled with payoffs to progressives.

We should be focused on defeating COVID, getting Americans back to work, and helping small business recover. Instead, House Democrats are tossing bipartisanship aside to ram through a one-sided $1.9 trillion bill.

We need a full accounting of the $1 trillion in existing COVID relief that hasn't even been spent before asking taxpayers to foot the bill for trillions more.

And this isn't even emergency relief. Less than 10 percent is for actually fighting COVID. The rest will only make it harder for small business to recover, hire workers, and rebuild our economy.

On top of that, it is a massive bailout for fiscally irresponsible cities and States. Put simply, Hoosiers should not have to pay for the bad decisions of progressives in California.

This is not the unity President Biden called for. It is not the bipartisanship Americans expect. It is certainly not the targeted COVID relief our country needs.

AMERICA'S GREAT TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, we had a Judiciary Committee meeting on the rise of white nationalism and the concerns it should pose to our country.

It was a pertinent meeting, and I was shocked to hear some of the remarks of my colleagues on the Republican side who still have not accepted the fact that what happened on January 6 was an attack on our Constitution that they take an oath to and an attack on our country. They seem to think it was just a demonstration, a small, polite demonstration of 200 people; that it was, some said, people other than Trump people posing as Trump people.

Those were Trump people. They wore Trump hats. They had Trump flags. They hollered ''Trump.'' They were there to stop the steal for Trump.

America faced a great traumatic experience, as I did being in this Chamber on January 6, and I ask my Republican colleagues to accept it, accept the fact that it was a big lie, and Joe Biden is the properly, lawfully elected President of the United States.

ANOTHER MASSIVE WASTE OF MONEY

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

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, the COVID relief bill, which Democrats want to pass and spend $1.9 trillion, is not about COVID or relief. Sadly, it is just another massive waste of taxpayer dollars.

Here is the proof: 91 percent of this money doesn't even go to fighting COVID, and the bill isn't bipartisan. There were 229 amendments by Republicans, 99 percent of which were rejected.

This so-called American Rescue Plan includes $750 million for global health activities outside our country. It also includes $135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, $135 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, $50 million for an increase in Planned Parenthood, $60 billion for union pension bailout, and a $350 billion bailout for mismanaged Democratic-controlled States that have run out of money and people to tax.

This $1.9 trillion proposal, which incidentally is $1,900,000 millions, is a colossal waste of money. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''no.''

REPUBLICANS DO NOT CONDONE CAPITOL ATTACK

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to my Democrat colleagues that there is no Republican Member of Congress that condones the attack on the Capitol on January 6.

I was also a victim in this Chamber when it happened, and we are very offended at your constant attacks on us for claiming we had anything to do with it. So that needs to stop.

EQUALITY ACT CAUSES DISCRIMINATION

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. I would also like to address the entire 117th Congress and say that the Equality Act is not about stopping discrimination. It is about causing discrimination against women and religious freedoms.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE).

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 199, nays 219, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 38]

YEAS—199

Aderholt	Biggs	Cawthorn
Allen	Bilirakis	Chabot
Amodei	Bishop (NC)	Cheney
Armstrong	Bost	Cline
Arrington	Brooks	Cloud
Babin	Buchanan	Clyde
Bacon	Bucshon	Cole
Baird	Budd	Comer
Balderson	Burchett	Crawford
Banks	Burgess	Crenshaw
Barr	Cammack	Curtis
Bentz	Carl	Davidson
Bergman	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Bice (OK)	Carter (TX)	DesJarlais

Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NAYS—219

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Boebert
Brady
Buck
Calvert
Diaz-Balart
Fudge
Gaetz
Gibbs
Huffman
Kinzinger
LaMalfa
Vela
Young

□ 1325

Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Messrs. HOYER, GALLEGO, LARSON of Connecticut, VEASEY, JOHNSON of Georgia, and CARBAJAL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. FITZGERALD, WALTZ, WESTERMAN and MOONEY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Barragán (Beyer)
Bowman (Clark (MA))
Buchanan (Donalds)
Budd (McHenry)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Cawthorn (McHenry)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Deutch (Rice (NY))
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Gonzalez, Vincente (Gomez)
Gosar (Wagner)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Himes (Courtney)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Trahan)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nunes (Garcia (CA))
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Pingree (Kuster)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Bass)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Vargas (Correa)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as you know, as a result of COVID–19 and our discussions with the Capitol physician, we have organized voting in a way that we have seven different segments at 5-minute intervals so that a limited number of Members will vote in every 5-minute segment. That is obviously designed to keep us as safe as possible, our staffs as safe as possible, so we get off the floor, and they have to be on the floor.

This vote that we just had was about 1 hour and 5 minutes. Obviously, if you take seven segments at 5 minutes a segment, that is 35 minutes. We have added another 5 minutes for people who missed their segment, which would be 40 minutes. We are starting to average 20, 25, 30, 35 minutes beyond that 40 minutes.

Therefore, I wanted to announce to every Member that I will be recommending that we close votes 45 minutes after they start. Bang.

Now, I will tell my side—which probably has this responsibility more than the other side because we use proxies more than you do—that if you hold a proxy, not only do you have a responsibility to yourself to vote in a timely fashion, but if you miss the vote, acting in a fiduciary capacity for another Member who can't be here because of health-related issues, and you do not vote, that will not be a happy situation.

So I want you to know, I am going to be talking to the Speaker—I have already talked to her—that 45 minutes after that first bell rings I want the gavel to come down. And, hopefully, we will all recognize when the bell rings that we will have to vote in the next 45 minutes. Now, that cannot be a real burden on anybody. Cannot.

It is simply that we look to see how many people have voted—oh, well, there are 20 people out, so I don't have to worry, and that is after we have gone by the 40 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I am going to send out a notice on this as well, and I want to confirm with the Speaker, but I know, having talked to the Speaker numerous times about this issue, that she shares my view that if we are going to run this institution with respect to one another— DON YOUNG didn't come on this vote. DON YOUNG is the famous—call it on time.

I want every Member to understand, this is not to penalize anybody. It is, however, to try to run this institution in a way that Members' time, which is valuable, is respected, and we simply don't waste it waiting around for one or two or five or six other people to come. I do not cast aspersions. Sometimes it is hard to get here on time, particularly if you have done something and you are in some other place.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time. I will be talking to the Speaker. I will notify everybody when that is going to be implemented. It may be implemented as soon as today, and we will be sending out a notice. And, by the way, everybody I talked to agrees with this.

□ 1330

EQUALITY ACT

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 147, I call up

the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 147, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5

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 ''Equality Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Discrimination can occur on the basis of the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition of an individual, as well as because of sex-based stereotypes. Each of these factors alone can serve as the basis for discrimination, and each is a form of sex discrimination.

(2) A single instance of discrimination may have more than one basis. For example, discrimination against a married same-sex couple could be based on the sex stereotype that marriage should only be between heterosexual couples, the sexual orientation of the two individuals in the couple, or both. In addition, some persons are subjected to discrimination based on a combination or the intersection of multiple protected characteristics. Discrimination against a pregnant lesbian could be based on her sex, her sexual orientation, her pregnancy, or on the basis of multiple factors.

(3) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to as ''LGBTQ'') people commonly experience discrimination in securing access to public accommodations—including restaurants, senior centers, stores, places of or establishments that provide entertainment, health care facilities, shelters, government offices, youth service providers including adoption and foster care providers, and transportation. Forms of discrimination include the exclusion and denial of entry, unequal or unfair treatment, harassment, and violence. This discrimination prevents the full participation of LGBTQ people in society and disrupts the free flow of commerce.

(4) Women also have faced discrimination in many establishments such as stores and restaurants, and places or establishments that provide other goods or services, such as entertainment or transportation, including sexual harassment, differential pricing for substantially similar products and services, and denial of services because they are pregnant or breastfeeding.

(5) Many employers already and continue to take proactive steps, beyond those required by some States and localities, to ensure they are fostering positive and respectful cultures for all employees. Many places of public accommodation also recognize the economic imperative to offer goods and services to as many consumers as possible.

(6) Regular and ongoing discrimination against LGBTQ people, as well as women, in accessing public accommodations contributes to negative social and economic outcomes, and in the case of public accommodations operated by State and local governments, abridges individuals' constitutional rights.

(7) The discredited practice known as ''conversion therapy'' is a form of discrimination that harms LGBTQ people by undermining individuals' sense of self worth, increasing suicide ideation and substance abuse, exacerbating family conflict, and contributing to second-class status.

(8) Both LGBTQ people and women face widespread discrimination in employment and various services, including by entities that receive Federal financial assistance. Such discrimination—

(A) is particularly troubling and inappropriate for programs and services funded wholly or in part by the Federal Government;

(B) undermines national progress toward equal treatment regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

(C) is inconsistent with the constitutional principle of equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(9) Federal courts have widely recognized that, in enacting the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Congress validly invoked its powers under the Fourteenth Amendment to provide a full range of remedies in response to persistent, widespread, and pervasive discrimination by both private and government actors.

(10) Discrimination by State and local governments on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance, violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In many circumstances, such discrimination also violates other constitutional rights such as those of liberty and privacy under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

(11) Individuals who are LGBTQ, or are perceived to be LGBTQ, have been subjected to a history and pattern of persistent, widespread, and pervasive discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity by both private sector and Federal, State, and local government actors, including in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. This discrimination inflicts a range of tangible and intangible harms, sometimes even including serious physical injury or death. An explicit and comprehensive national solution is needed to address this discrimination, including the full range of remedies available under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

(12) Discrimination based on sexual orientation includes discrimination based on an individual's actual or perceived romantic, emotional, physical, or sexual attraction to other persons, or lack thereof, on the basis of gender. LGBTQ people, including gender nonbinary people, also commonly experience discrimination because of sex-based stereotypes. Many people are subjected to discrimination because of others' perceptions or beliefs regarding their sexual orientation. Even if these perceptions are incorrect, the identity imputed by others forms the basis of discrimination.

(13) Numerous provisions of Federal law expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and Federal courts and agencies have correctly interpreted these prohibitions on sex discrimination to include discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex stereotypes. In particular, the Supreme Court of the United States correctly held in Bostock v. Clayton County, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020) that the prohibition on employment discrimination because of sex under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 inherently includes discrimination because of sexual orientation or transgender status.

(14) This Act makes explicit that existing Federal statutes prohibiting sex discrimination in employment (including in access to benefits), healthcare, housing, education, credit, and jury service also prohibit sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

(15) LGBTQ people often face discrimination when seeking to rent or purchase housing, as well as in every other aspect of obtaining and maintaining housing. LGBTQ people in same-sex relationships are often discriminated against when two names associated with one gender appear on a housing application, and transgender people often encounter discrimination when credit checks or inquiries reveal a former name.

(16) National surveys, including a study commissioned by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, show that housing discrimination against LGBTQ people is very prevalent. For instance, when same-sex couples inquire about housing that is available for rent, they are less likely to receive positive responses from landlords. A national matched-pair testing investigation found that nearly one-half of same-sex couples had encountered adverse, differential treatment when seeking elder housing. According to other studies, transgender people have half the homeownership rate of non-transgender people and about 1 in 5 transgender people experience homelessness. Another survey found that 82 percent of gender nonbinary people experiencing homelessness lacked access to shelter.

(17) As a result of the absence of explicit prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, credit applicants who are LGBTQ, or are perceived to be LGBTQ, have unequal opportunities to establish credit. LGBTQ people can experience being denied a mortgage, credit card, student loan, or many other types of credit simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

(18) Numerous studies demonstrate that LGBTQ people, especially transgender people and women, are economically disadvantaged and at a higher risk for poverty compared with other groups of people. For example, the poverty rate for older women in same-sex couples is twice that of older different-sex couples.

(19) The right to an impartial jury of one's peers and the reciprocal right to jury service are fundamental to the free and democratic system of justice in the United States and are based in the Bill of Rights. There is, however, an unfortunate and long-documented history in the United States of attorneys discriminating against LGBTQ individuals, or those perceived to be LGBTQ, in jury selection. Failure to bar peremptory challenges based on the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual not only erodes a fundamental right, duty, and obligation of being a citizen of the United States, but also unfairly creates a second class of citizenship for LGBTQ victims, witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants.

(20) Numerous studies document the shortage of qualified and available homes for the approximately 424,000 youth in the child welfare system and the negative outcomes for the many youth who live in group care as opposed to a loving home or who age out of care without a permanent family placement. Although same-sex couples are 7 times more likely to foster or adopt than their different-sex counterparts, many child-placing agencies refuse to serve same-sex couples and LGBTQ individuals. This has resulted in a reduction of the pool of qualified and available homes for youth in the child welfare system who need placement on a temporary or permanent basis. It also sends a negative message about LGBTQ people to children and youth in the child welfare system about who is, and who is not, considered fit to be a

parent. While the priority should be on providing the supports necessary to keep children with their families, when removal is required, barring discrimination in foster care and adoption will increase the number of homes available to foster children waiting for foster and adoptive families.

(21) LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system by at least a factor of two and report twice the rate of poor treatment while in care compared to their non-LGBTQ counterparts. LGBTQ youth in foster care have a higher average number of placements, higher likelihood of living in a group home, and higher rates of hospitalization for emotional reasons and of juvenile justice involvement than their non-LGBTQ peers because of the high level of bias and discrimination that they face and the difficulty of finding affirming foster placements. Further, due to their physical distance from friends and family, traumatic experiences, and potentially unstable living situations, all youth involved with child welfare services are at risk for being targeted by traffickers seeking to exploit children. Barring discrimination in child welfare services will ensure improved treatment and outcomes for LGBTQ foster children.

(22) Courts consistently have found that the government has a compelling interest in preventing and remedying discrimination. For example, the Supreme Court of the United States found there to be a compelling government interest in eliminating sex discrimination in Board of Directors of Rotary International v. Rotary Club of Duarte, 481 U.S. 537, 549 (1987). Because discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity inherently is a form of sex discrimination, as held in Bostock v. Clayton County, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020), this Act furthers the compelling government interest in providing redress for the serious harms to mental and physical health, financial security and wellbeing, civic participation, freedom of movement and opportunity, personal dignity, and physical safety that result from discrimination. Consistent with the role nondiscrimination laws play in protecting lives and livelihoods, alleviating suffering, and improving individual and public health, the Supreme Court of the United States has long recognized, under the decision in Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States, 379 U.S. 241 (1964), that these laws also benefit society as a whole by ending the ''disruptive effect'' discrimination has on travel and commerce, and by creating a level field for all participants in a given sector.

(23) As with all prohibitions on invidious discrimination, this Act furthers the government's compelling interest in the least restrictive way because only by forbidding discrimination is it possible to avert or redress the harms described in this subsection.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to expand as well as clarify, confirm and create greater consistency in the protections and remedies against discrimination on the basis of all covered characteristics and to provide guidance and notice to individuals, organizations, corporations, and agencies regarding their obligations under the law.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION OR SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS.—Section 201 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''stadium'' and all that follows and inserting ''stadium or other place of or establishment that provides exhibition, entertainment, recreation, exercise, amusement, public gathering, or public display;'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

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

''(4) any establishment that provides a good, service, or program, including a store, shopping center, online retailer or service provider, salon, bank, gas station, food bank, service or care center, shelter, travel agency, or funeral parlor, or establishment that provides health care, accounting, or legal services;

''(5) any train service, bus service, car service, taxi service, airline service, station, depot, or other place of or establishment that provides transportation service; and''.

(b) PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION OR SEGREGATION UNDER LAW.—Section 202 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000a–1) is amended by inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Title II of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 208. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

''A reference in this title to an establishment—

''(1) shall be construed to include an individual whose operations affect commerce and who is a provider of a good, service, or program; and

''(2) shall not be construed to be limited to a physical facility or place.''.

SEC. 4. DESEGREGATION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

Section 301(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000b(a)) is amended by inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''.

SEC. 5. DESEGREGATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 401(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000c(b)) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''.

(b) CIVIL ACTIONS BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Section 407 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000c–6) is amended, in subsection (a)(2), by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''.

(c) CLASSIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Section 410 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000c–9) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin''.

SEC. 6. FEDERAL FUNDING.

Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) is amended by inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin,''.

SEC. 7. EMPLOYMENT.

(a) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is amended by inserting after section 701 (42 U.S.C. 2000e) the following:

''SEC. 701A. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

''Section 1106 shall apply to this title except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section to an 'unlawful practice' shall be considered to be a reference to an 'unlawful employment practice'.''.

(b) UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—Section 703 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–2) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking ''SEX,'' and inserting ''SEX (INCLUDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY),'';

(2) except in subsection (e), by striking ''sex,'' each place it appears and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'';

(3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''enterprise,'' and inserting ''enterprise, if, in a situation in which sex is a bona fide occupational qualification, individuals are recognized as qualified in accordance with their gender identity,''; and

(4) in subsection (h), by striking ''sex'' the second place it appears and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''.

(c) OTHER UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—Section 704(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–3(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''sex,'' the first place it appears and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''; and

(2) by striking ''employment.'' and inserting ''employment, if, in a situation in which sex is a bona fide occupational qualification, individuals are recognized as qualified in accordance with their gender identity.''.

(d) CLAIMS.—Section 706(g)(2)(A) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (2000e–5(g)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''sex,'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''.

(e) EMPLOYMENT BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''sex,'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''sex'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''.

(f) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE RIGHTS ACT OF 1991.—The Government Employee Rights Act of 1991 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16a et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301(b), by striking ''sex,'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'';

(2) in section 302(a)(1), by striking ''sex,'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 305. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND CLAIMS.

''Sections 1101(b), 1106, and 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this title except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section 1106 to 'race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin' shall be considered to be a reference to 'race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or disability'.''.

(g) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 201(a)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1)) by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin,''; and

(2) by adding at the end of title II (42 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) the following:

''SEC. 209. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND CLAIMS.

''Sections 1101(b), 1106, and 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to section 201 (and remedial provisions of this Act related to section 201) except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section 1106 to 'race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin' shall be considered to be a reference to 'race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, age, or disability'.''.

(h) CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 1978.—Chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2301(b)(2), by striking ''sex,'' and inserting ''sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity),'';

(2) in section 2302—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin,''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin;''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2307. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND CLAIMS.

''Sections 1101(b), 1106, and 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this chapter (and remedial provisions of this title related to this chapter) except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section 1106 to 'race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin' shall be considered to be a reference to 'race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, age, a handicapping condition, marital status, or political affiliation'.''.

SEC. 8. INTERVENTION.

Section 902 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000h–2) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' before ''or national origin,''.

SEC. 9. MISCELLANEOUS.

Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 1101 through 1104 (42 U.S.C. 2000h et seq.) and sections 1105 and 1106 (42 U.S.C. 2000h–5, 2000h–6) as sections 1102 through 1105 and sections 1108 and 1109, respectively;

(2) by inserting after the title heading the following:

''SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS AND RULES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In titles II, III, IV, VI, VII, and IX (referred to individually in sections 1106 and 1107 as a 'covered title'):

''(1) RACE; COLOR; RELIGION; SEX; SEXUAL ORIENTATION; GENDER IDENTITY; NATIONAL ORIGIN.—The term 'race', 'color', 'religion', 'sex' (including 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'), or 'national origin', used with respect to an individual, includes—

''(A) the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin, respectively, of another person with whom the individual is associated or has been associated; and

''(B) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin, respectively, of the individual.

''(2) GENDER IDENTITY.—The term 'gender identity' means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual's designated sex at birth.

''(3) INCLUDING.—The term 'including' means including, but not limited to, consistent with the term's standard meaning in Federal law.

''(4) SEX.—The term 'sex' includes—

''(A) a sex stereotype;

''(B) pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition;

''(C) sexual orientation or gender identity; and

''(D) sex characteristics, including intersex traits.

''(5) SEXUAL ORIENTATION.—The term 'sexual orientation' means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

''(b) RULES.—In a covered title referred to in subsection (a)—

''(1) (with respect to sex) pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition shall not receive less favorable treatment than other physical conditions; and

''(2) (with respect to gender identity) an individual shall not be denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.''; and

(3) by inserting after section 1105 the following:

''SEC. 1106. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

''(a) SEX.—Nothing in section 1101 or the provisions of a covered title incorporating a term defined or a rule specified in that section shall be construed—

''(1) to limit the protection against an unlawful practice on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition provided by section 701(k); or

''(2) to limit the protection against an unlawful practice on the basis of sex available under any provision of Federal law other than that covered title, prohibiting a practice on the basis of sex.

''(b) CLAIMS AND REMEDIES NOT PRECLUDED.—Nothing in section 1101 or a covered title shall be construed to limit the claims or remedies available to any individual for an unlawful practice on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin including claims brought pursuant to section 1979 or 1980 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1983, 1985) or any other law, including a Federal law amended by the Equality Act, regulation, or policy.

''(c) NO NEGATIVE INFERENCE.—Nothing in section 1101 or a covered title shall be construed to support any inference that any Federal law prohibiting a practice on the basis of sex does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or a sex stereotype.

''SEC. 1107. CLAIMS.

''The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.''.

SEC. 10. HOUSING.

(a) FAIR HOUSING ACT.—The Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 802 (42 U.S.C. 3602), by adding at the end the following:

''(p) 'Gender identity', 'sex', and 'sexual orientation' have the meanings given those terms in section 1101(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

''(q) 'Race', 'color', 'religion', 'sex' (including 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'), 'handicap', 'familial status', or 'national origin', used with respect to an individual, includes—

''(1) the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), handicap, familial status, or national origin, respectively, of another person with whom the individual is associated or has been associated; and

''(2) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), handicap, familial status, or national origin, respectively, of the individual.'';

(2) in section 804, by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,'' each place that term appears;

(3) in section 805, by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,'' each place that term appears;

(4) in section 806, by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,'';

(5) in section 808(e)(6), by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 821. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

''Sections 1101(b) and 1106 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this title and section 901, except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section 1101(b) or 1106 to a 'covered title' shall be considered a reference to 'this title and section 901'.

''SEC. 822. CLAIMS.

''Section 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this title and section 901, except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section 1107 to a 'covered title' shall be considered a reference to 'this title and section 901'.''.

(b) PREVENTION OF INTIMIDATION IN FAIR HOUSING CASES.—Section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation (as such term is defined in section 802 of this Act) and gender identity (as such term is defined in section 802 of this Act)),'' after ''sex,'' each place that term appears.

SEC. 11. EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY.

(a) PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION.—Section 701(a)(1) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 702 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively;

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

''(f) The terms 'gender identity', 'sex', and 'sexual orientation' have the meanings given those terms in section 1101(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

''(g) The term 'race', 'color', 'religion', 'national origin', 'sex' (including 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'), 'marital status', or 'age', used with respect to an individual, includes—

''(1) the race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), marital status, or age, respectively, of another person with whom the individual is associated or has been associated; and

''(2) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), marital status, or age, respectively, of the individual.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) Sections 1101(b) and 1106 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this title, except that for purposes of that application—

''(1) a reference in those sections to a 'covered title' shall be considered a reference to 'this title'; and

''(2) paragraph (1) of such section 1101(b) shall apply with respect to all aspects of a credit transaction.''.

(c) RELATION TO STATE LAWS.—Section 705(a) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691d(a)) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex''.

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Section 706 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l) Section 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this title, except that for purposes of that application, a reference in that section to a 'covered title' shall be considered a reference to 'this title'.''.

SEC. 12. JURIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 121 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1862, by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,'';

(2) in section 1867(e), in the second sentence, by inserting ''(including sexual orientation and gender identity),'' after ''sex,'';

(3) in section 1869—

(A) in subsection (j), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subsection (k), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(l) 'gender identity', 'sex', and 'sexual orientation' have the meanings given such terms under section 1101(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

''(m) 'race', 'color', 'religion', 'sex' (including 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'), 'economic status', or 'national origin', used with respect to an individual, includes—

''(1) the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), economic status, or national origin, respectively, of another person with whom the individual is associated or has been associated; and

''(2) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), economic status, or national origin, respectively, of the individual.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1879. Rules of construction and claims

''Sections 1101(b), 1106, and 1107 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall apply to this chapter, except that for purposes of that application, a reference in those sections to a 'covered title' shall be considered a reference to 'this chapter'.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 121 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1879. Rules of construction and claims.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Commitment on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other core civil rights statutes to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill would also strengthen nondiscrimination protections for women and others.

In short, this long overdue legislation will provide millions of LGBTQ Americans explicit protections from being denied medical care, fired from their jobs, or thrown out of their homes simply because of who they are.

Much of the history of the United States is about expanding the definition of who is understood to be included when the Declaration of Independence says ''all men are created equal.'' When these words were first written, that phrase did not include Black and Latino men; it did not include Native Americans; it did not include women; and it did not include LGBTQ individuals.

Once again, we have an opportunity to continue our march toward justice and to enshrine in our Nation's laws protections for marginalized communities to ensure that everyone can fully participate in key areas of life and to provide them resources in the face of discrimination.

Today, I expect we will hear arguments asking us to pick and choose which of our Nation's children deserve our support, to pick which of our children are valuable enough to have a right to live their lives to the fullest. But that is a false choice and one designed to pit rights for some against rights for all. There is no question that all our children, including those who are transgender, deserve the freedom to choose their own path.

Many of the protections codified by this bill already exist throughout the country, whether through court decisions or in State laws. In those places, women still have rights, religious freedom is still protected, parents are still involved in their children's healthcare, and doctors are still free to exercise their professional medical judgment. And trans athletes from high schools to the Olympic trials sometimes win and sometimes lose, just like everyone else.

But the ability to have a job, to receive medical care, or to rent a home should not depend on who someone is, where they happen to live, or who represents them. LGBTQ people should not have to worry that a future Supreme Court could rip away their existing protections. They deserve the same protections as other communities that have historically faced discrimination, and that requires action from Congress.

For decades, the LGBTQ community has been telling us their stories of outrageous discrimination. Madam Speaker, to my colleagues, I say that it is far past time we stop asking them to come to the Capitol just to defend their existence.

To the LGBTQ community and, in particular, the trans youth and athletes who I expect will hear themselves demonized on the floor today: We see you, we appreciate you, we value you, and we will continue to fight for you.

I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), for his tireless leadership in introducing this bill and helping to shepherd it through the legislative process.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this landmark legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5, the ''Equality Act,'' which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other core civil rights statutes, to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill would also strengthen non-discrimination protections for women and others.

In short, this long overdue legislation will provide millions of LGBTQ Americans explicit protections from being denied medical care, fired from their jobs, or thrown out of their homes simply because of who they are.

Much of the history of the United States has been about expanding the definition of who is understood to be included when the Declaration of Independence says, ''all men are created equal.'' When these words were first written, that phrase did not include black and Latino men; it did not include Native Americans; it did not include women; and it did not include LGBTQ individuals.

Once again, we have an opportunity before us to continue our march toward justice—to enshrine in our nation's laws protections for marginalized communities to ensure that everyone can fully participate in key areas of life, and to provide them recourse in the face of discrimination.

Today, I expect we will hear arguments that will ask us to pick and choose which of our nation's children deserve our support—to pick which of our children are valuable enough to have a right to live their lives to the fullest.

Despite what we will hear, that is a false choice—one designed to pit rights for some against rights for all. There is no question that all our children—including those that are transgender—deserve to have the freedom to choose their own path.

The Equality Act seeks to make our civil rights laws inclusive of all people who have historically faced discrimination. Not only does it provide explicit protections for the LGBTQ community, it also expands protections for women and people of color.

Under the Equality Act, women will finally be protected from discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs. By expanding the existing definition of public accommodations under the Civil Rights Act, the Equality Act also increases protections for people on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin.

People of color should not need to fear being targeted and discriminated against while shopping, just because of the color of their skin. Muslim people should not need to fear being targeted while flying, just because of their religion. And LGBTQ people and women should not need to fear being denied services in public spaces and services simply because of who they are. At long last, this legislation provides them with legal recourse if they face such discrimination.

Many of the protections being codified by this bill already exist across all 50 states following the Supreme Court's ruling in Bostock v. Clayton County in 2020, and we know that more than 20 states have had some version of the protections before us today even before the Supreme Court's ruling. In those places women still have rights, religious freedom is still protected, parents are still involved in their children's healthcare, and doctors are still free to exercise their professional medical judgment. And trans athletes, from high schools to the Olympic trials, sometimes win and sometimes lose, just like everyone else.

Opponents of the Equality Act argue that it undermines women's rights. That assertion is false. The Equality Act simply ensures that all women, including trans women, are included in female institutions and programs.

When it comes to athletics, the Equality Act ensures that LGBTQ students—including women and girls who are lesbian, bisexual, or transgender—will have the same opportunity to participate in sports as their peers. Trans women and girls have been participating in sports consistent with their gender at all levels for years, and we have not seen any dominance by trans athletes.

Young people who are trans are competing in sports for the same reasons as their peers who are not transgender—including to be part of a team and to challenge themselves—and they deserve the same opportunities as their cisgender peers.

That is why the Women's Sports Foundation, National Women's Law Center, and hundreds of athletes in women's sports and other women's rights groups have consistently voiced their strong support for inclusion of transgender women and girls in women's sports and have opposed efforts to exclude them. Women's sports can play a critical role in women's development and equality and including all women and girls in women's sports strengthens women's sports.

Similarly, single-sex institutions like women's and men's colleges have played an important and historic role in making our nation's higher education system the strongest and most diverse in the world. To be clear, nothing in the Equality Act should be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit or affect the ability of single-sex colleges to maintain their single-sex status. Moreover, it is not Congress's intention to alter in any way Title IX or the scope or availability of its exemptions as they currently stand.

In addition, the Equality Act will not undermine services like single-sex homeless shelters or single sex-facilities. It will simply ensure that these facilities do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Arguments that providing transgender people access to facilities consistent with their gender identity will undermine women's safety have no basis in reality. Laws protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination do not authorize anyone to engage in abusive or harassing behavior.

That is why over 300 domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, including the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the National Center for Victims of Crime, have signed onto a National Consensus Statement of Anti-Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Organizations in Support of Full and Equal Access for the Transgender Community.

Transgender people experience shockingly high rates of sexual and physical violence, and the real risk of violence occurs when transgender people are barred from using the appropriate facilities.

The idea that transgender people need explicit protections from discrimination is not new. Dozens of states provide nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations on the basis of gender identity, and in those states we have not seen the parade of horribles that Equality Act opponents raise.

The request to pit people's rights against each other is not based on the real-world outcomes—for which ample evidence exists to the contrary—but a continued resistance to advancing rights for those different from so many of us here in Congress. The ability to have a job, to receive medical care, or to rent a home should not depend on who someone is, where they happen to live, or who represents then politically. LGBTQ people should not have to worry that a future Supreme Court could rip away their existing protections, and they deserve the same protections as other communities that have historically faced discrimination. And that requires action from Congress.

For decades, the LGBTQ community has been coming here over and over to tell us their stories of outrageous discrimination. To my colleagues, I say, it is far past time we stop asking them to come to the Capitol just to defend their existence.

To the LGBTQ community—and in particular the trans youth and athletes who I expect will hear themselves demonized on the floor today—we see you, we appreciate you, we value you, and we will continue to fight for you.

I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island, Representative DAVID CICILLINE, for his tireless leadership in introducing this bill and helping to shepherd it through the legislative process. I urge my colleagues to support this landmark legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I have a unanimous consent request at the desk.

My request is to allow a 30-second moment of silence for the passing of Rush Limbaugh, one of the greatest radio hosts ever, and I make that as a formal request.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I object.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, may I request a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAALAND). The gentleman has been recognized for debate.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), who is a distinguished sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, discrimination is wrong. We all know that. As children, we learn the golden rule: Treat others the way you yourself want to be treated.

But, right now, discrimination is a fact of life for millions of LGBTQ Americans.

The fact is that, in most States, an LGBTQ person is at risk of being denied housing, education, or the right to serve on a jury because of who they are. That is why we are here today to consider H.R. 5, the Equality Act.

The Equality Act does no more and no less than say LGBTQ people deserve the same rights and responsibilities as all other Americans, most fundamentally the right to live lives free of discrimination. It builds on the Civil Rights Act and other existing laws to extend anti-discrimination protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans.

President Biden has said that getting this bill signed into law is one of his top priorities for his first 100 days in office.

I want to thank him and a few other people for making this bill a priority: Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, and the co-chairs of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus: MARK TAKANO, MARK POCAN, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, ANGIE CRAIG, SHARICE DAVIDS, CHRIS PAPPAS, MONDAIRE JONES, and RITCHIE TORRES.

I thank them all for being true champions for our community.

Madam Speaker, every American deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. That is what the Equality Act will achieve for the LGBTQ community by providing protection against discrimination in employment, education, housing, credit, jury service, public accommodations, and Federal funding.

I am proud to say this bill has broad support from across the political spectrum, including groups from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the ACLU and everyone in between.

Madam Speaker, 83 percent of Americans support this bill, including 68 percent—more than two out of three—Republican voters.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle: As you consider this bill, I hope you will bear in mind how your vote will be remembered years from now.

Will you be remembered in the same breath as all those who fought for equal rights in the past: Freedom Riders, suffragettes, the anti-apartheid activists? Or will you be remembered along with those who stood in the way of progress?

This bill is personal for me and personal for millions of LGBTQ people and our loved ones. Madam Speaker, you all have family members, friends, and coworkers who identify as LGBTQ.

I want you to ask yourself: What does this vote mean for them and how you will look them in the eye if you vote to uphold the current system that allows them to be discriminated against?

The LGBTQ community has waited long enough. The time has come to extend the blessings of liberty and equality to all Americans, regardless of who they are or whom they love.

Vote ''yes'' and pass the Equality Act today.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Equality Act.

Unfortunately, this is another bill which did not go through the committee process or real debate.

The Judiciary Committee should have had an opportunity to consider H.R. 5 in a legislative hearing. Sadly, this is the first time we are debating, just hours before it is set to receive a vote, with no ability to propose any amendments. I am not sure why we even bother to have committees if we

are passing significant legislation without them.

I would just like to highlight three major concerns.

Concern number one: Broad scope. And I agree with the gentleman from New York, there are some protections that already exist. Last year, the issue of possible employment discrimination of gay and transgender individuals was addressed by the Supreme Court in an opinion written by Justice Gorsuch. But this bill has very sweeping changes with potential major adverse implications for religious freedoms and women's rights and safety.

Concern number two: Broad and ambiguous definition of gender identity. This language can have unintended consequences and be taken advantage of by criminals or sexual predators. Also, the safety of women in prisons, juvenile detention facilities, and domestic violence shelters could be put at risk, which would force them to share traditionally women-only spaces with biological men, even if a biological male fraudulently gains access.

Concern number three: Opportunities and safety for female athletes. The science is clear, men are biologically stronger than women.

According to a 2019 Duke University study that involved dozens of specialists in sports science and medicine: ''Biological males and biological females are materially different with respect to main physical attributes that contribute to elite athletic performance.''

The Women's Sports Policy Working Group—a group of champion female athletes and academics—has stated that even when height, size, and weight are equal, males are incrementally stronger and generate more explosive force so that if males and females are forced to compete against each other, the physical safety of females is differently at risk.

The reality has already shown itself to be harmful to the opportunities and safety of female athletes. For example, a female track athlete in Connecticut lost potential scholarships after being pushed out of qualifying for regional track meet spots by two transgender athletes. A transgender MMA fighter caused significant damage to a female athlete's skull.

These examples demonstrate the far-reaching consequences this bill can have on women and girls, should it become law.

American women have worked very hard to secure our rights for many years, and just last year we celebrated 100 years of women's suffrage. But this is a giant step back. Perhaps if this body had actually deliberated over this bill and engaged the proper legislative process, these concerns could have been addressed.

A vote for the Equality Act in its current form is a vote against religious freedom, against women, against female athletes, against incarcerated women, and against science and safety. A vote ''yes'' on this bill is a vote against our daughters.

□ 1345

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, does anybody know what it means to be called names; to be thrown out of your apartment; to be thrown off of a job; and most sadly, to not be allowed to love the person that you love?

In the Hodges case, that was settled when they determined that no union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. And then they ruled. They asked for equal dignity in the eyes of law; the Constitution grants them that right.

I rise in support of the Equality Act because I know what it means to be thrown out, to be looked at, and to be undermined. Our friends in the LGBTQ community every single day experience that. Trans women who are African American have been murdered.

This gives us equal dignity under the law. We could keep a job. If you are in that community, you can be married already, obviously, but you can keep a job. You can get healthcare; you can ensure that you can keep an apartment. You can walk in dignity.

We need the Equality Act as we have needed civil rights laws throughout this Nation.

If we are the place of ''We the People,'' if this Nation is based upon, we the people, then we will pass the Equality Act today. We will pass it now.

I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for his leadership and the gentleman from New York.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary and an original cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the ''Equality Act of 2021.''

Let me thank my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, Congressman DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island, for introducing this landmark legislation and his tireless efforts in making this day a reality.

Madam Speaker, our nation's long but inexorable march towards equality reaches another milestone today.

For as long as our national charters have been in existence, we have endeavored to ask ourselves: what do we mean when we say ''We the People?''

How expansive do we hold our pledge that all are entitled to the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

To be certain our nation has come a long way, but as we debate this critical bill, I am reminded of the Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644, 135 S.Ct. 2584 (2015), and its powerful conclusion explaining the profound power of love and marriage, and the desire to be seen as equal in the eyes of the law:

No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.

Despite significant legal advances over the past several years, including marriage equality, LGBTQ Americans remain vulnerable to discrimination daily and too often have little recourse.

In the 116th Congress, the Equality Act had the bipartisan support of Members of Congress, with nearly 240 co-sponsors, as well as the strong support of the business community, and most important, the overwhelming support of the American people.

In the 117th Congress, the Equality Act was reintroduced with 223 original cosponsors.

More than 70 percent of American support the Equality Act.

This has been a long journey; the first Equality Act was introduced nearly 46 years ago.

It is long past time to secure the civil rights of LGBTQ people across the country and accord them full membership in the American family.

With the Trump Administration rolling back protections at the federal level and anti-equality opponents continuing to push discriminatory bills at the state level, LGBTQ people cannot wait another year for affirmation that they are worthy of the dignity of their peers and deserving of equal protection of the laws.

Today, too many LGBTQ Americans in too many places remain too vulnerable to discrimination daily with too little legal recourse.

Fifty percent of the national LGBTQ community live in states where, though they may have the right to marry, they have no explicit non-discrimination protections in other areas of daily life.

The Equality Act extends the full anti-discrimination protections of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other key pillars of fairness and justice in our country to LGBTQ Americans.

Sexual orientation and gender identity deserve full civil rights protections, not just in the workplace, but in every place: in education, housing, credit, jury service, public facilities, and public accommodations.

Today, there are only 21 states have explicit laws barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and only 20 states have such protections for gender identity.

In most states, a same-sex couple can get married on Saturday, then be legally denied service at a restaurant on Sunday, and be fired from their jobs on Monday, and evicted from their apartment on Tuesday.

Madam Speaker, let me take a moment to discuss in more detail several of the important elements of the Equality Act.

The Equality Act amends existing federal civil rights laws to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, Federal jury service, public accommodations, and the use of Federal funds.

It does so by adding sex in some places where it had not previously been protected,

and clarifying that sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Specifically, H.R. 5, the ''Equality Act of 2021'' amends:

Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide basic protections against discrimination in public accommodations by adding sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity;

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide basic protections against discrimination by recipients of federal financial assistance by adding sex, including sexual orientation, and gender identity;

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991, and the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to make explicit protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 to make protections against 1 housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity explicit;

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act to make protections against 7 credit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity explicit; and

The Jury Selections and Services Act to make protections against discrimination in federal jury service based on sexual orientation or gender identity explicit.

The march towards equality has been long and has awoken passions passion from many quarters for various reasons.

Well-intentioned people from all walks of life have had difficulty as progress washes over the debate surrounding protections for same sex individuals.

At times, the debate has seen input from members of the faith community, who strive to reconcile their love for all of God's sons and daughters, with the script of their sacred text.

I understand this tension, but I have carefully studied the text and am confident that passage of the Equality Act will not adversely affect any person's freedom of worship of the free exercise of their faith.

The Equality Act adds sexual orientation and gender identity to federal civil rights law and sex where it is missing.

But the same statutory exemptions that are already in place in the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act will remain in place after enactment and the guarantees of the United States Constitution remain untouched.

The U.S. Constitution provides ample protections for religious freedom and nothing in this bill would, or could, infringe upon the protections afforded by the Constitution, as the principal sponsor of the bill, Congressman Cicilline, confirmed during a colloquy we held when the bill was marked up in the Judiciary Committee in the 116th Congress.

Specifically, the provisions relating to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (federal funding) include the original exemptions for discrimination based on religion.

Religious organizations (not just houses of worship) are free to limit participation in wide array of activities and services to only members of their faith.

This same exemption applies to public accommodations.

Houses of worship could be considered a place of public accommodation only if they offer their space or services for commercial public use.

This does not include religious services.

Nothing in this bill alters the ability of houses of worship or religious leaders to practice or carry out their faith.

No member of the clergy will ever be compelled to perform a religious ceremony that conflicts with their beliefs, including marrying same-sex couples.

The DOJ Title VI Manual and relevant and relevant case law clearly provide that a religious organization that is not ''principally engaged'' in providing social services is only bound by nondiscrimination requirements related to the program for which they receive funding if that funding is targeted in order to provide a specific program or service, i.e. disaster relief, rather than to the entity ''as a whole.''

Nothing in the Equality Act changes that rule.

There is a longstanding ministerial exemption in federal civil rights law that exempts religious organizations from complying with employment nondiscrimination provisions for ministers, rabbis and any other person who is ''carrying out the faith''.

The Equality Act does not alter that exemption in any way.

The Equality Act does not repeal the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

The Equality Act clarifies that RFRA cannot be used to defend discrimination in public settings or with federal funds.

The Equality Act does not alter or amend the RFRA standard for any other kinds of claims.

Federal civil rights laws and the United States Constitution provide many exemptions for religious organizations.

It bears stating again that the statutory exemptions that are , already in place in the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act will remain in place and the United States Constitution remains untouched.

Courts have long-rejected religious claims as a reason to deny civil rights protections, including those based on race and sex, and the same analysis applies to all other protected characteristics.

Specifically, religious belief did not exempt restaurants or hotels from complying with the civil rights laws passed in the 1960s and cannot do so today.

RFRA explicitly contemplates that Congress would exempt certain laws from its application.

The clarifying language in the Equality Act is necessary to ensure that courts do not misinterpret the intended interaction between RFRA and our civil rights laws.

RFRA will still be available to address burdens on religious beliefs and practices in other contexts.

And any individual or organization that is concerned that their religious beliefs or practices are being unjustly burdened retains the ability to bring a claim under the First Amendment.

The time has come to extend the full blessings of equality and the majesty of the law's protection to all our brothers and sisters, including those in the LGBTQ community.

Madam Speaker, it been said that ''the moral arc of the universe is long but bends toward justice.''

Today, with passage by this House of H.R. 5, the Equality Act of 2021, we bend that arc even more in the direction of justice.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this life-changing and life-affirming legislation and urge all members to stand on the right of history and vote for its passage.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), the ranking member on the Subcommittee of the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, which many have already labeled the inequality act because of the deep flaws contained in this bill.

H.R. 5 will undermine women's rights. It will strip parental rights. It will gut religious freedom, and it will open a Pandora's box of a universal right to abortion. And that is just to name a few of the legislation's outrageous provisions.

In addition to the well-founded, substantive concerns that you will hear a lot about in the next 45 minutes, the majority has decided to throw process out the window. They brought this bill directly to the floor.

We sit on the Judiciary Committee. We should have had a robust discussion on the impacts of the legislation. We didn't. There has been no committee action. There has been no hearing, no deliberation at all by the committee of appropriate jurisdiction. And I think, many of us think, that the reason for that is because the proponents didn't want the bill to be exposed.

Listen, let's make one thing clear. There are people on both sides of the aisle—all of us, everybody in this Chamber believes that all people are entitled to dignity and respect.

We believe that every single person is made in the image of God and, because of that, every single person has inestimable dignity and value. We believe, as our founding document said, that God is the one that endows us with the inalienable rights that we have. They ought to be protected and respected.

But unfortunately, the Democrats' misguided effort here tramples all over many of those fundamental rights that God gives us, the right to life, the right to religious freedom.

While it is true that H.R. 5 does not include the word ''abortion''—our colleagues keep reminding us of that—it does reference pregnancy and ''related medical conditions'' as areas of protection against discrimination. Everybody knows that this historically has led to the inclusion of abortion. We are opening a door here for the rampant taxpayer funding of abortions on demand; in addition to the myriad number of conscience protections that exist for businesses and medical professionals. You will hear a lot about that today as well.

It is telling that the text of the bill also directly undermines the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Let's remember, RFRA was widely supported on both sides of the aisle and signed into law by President Clinton in 1993. RFRA's lead Democrat sponsor was our colleague, Representative NADLER. It passed the House by unanimous consent and the Senate by a vote of 97–3.

But now, the Equality Act, or the inequality act, explicitly undercuts RFRA by negating its application to the underlying legislation. In other words, those protections won't apply anymore.

This is unprecedented. It is dangerous. It is an attack on our first freedom, the first freedom listed in the Bill of Rights, religious liberty. This is something that our faith communities are deeply concerned about and all of us are as individuals.

Look, I have to save time for my colleagues, and I will just conclude by saying this bill is a severe blow to women's rights, to people of faith, to every parent, every student, every medical professional and so many more. Because we believe in the dignity and value of every person, we have to oppose this dangerous, un-American legislation. I pray that we will.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of this legislation. I have stood in support of this right for over 25 years.

When I was a Tennessee State Senator, I was the only member of the State Senate to vote against a constitutional ban on gay marriage. It was a legal pejorative; all people should have a civil right to be treated equally and to be given due process of the law. And they should have that today, and that is what this bill stands for.

This is a continuing battle that my friend, Julian Bond said was a fight for fairness, justice, and equality against injustice and bigotry.

We need to pass this bill and continue our move to a more perfect union.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Equality Act.

This bill should be called the inequality act as there is nothing equalizing about it. In fact, this bill hijacks the Civil Rights Act, codifying inequality into Federal law. Simply put, this piece of legislation blatantly discriminates against women, girls, parents, people of faith, and many more.

To start, H.R. 5 dismantles Title IX, ending equal opportunity for females in education and sports. Similar policies are already wreaking havoc at the local level. In Connecticut, the State's Interscholastic Athletic Conference accepts boys who identify as females in their competitions. Two of these male athletes have gone on to claim 15 women's track championship titles since 2017.

As someone who enjoyed playing sports and coaching high school track for many years, imagining the damage these policies will cause to women and girls is heartbreaking.

The inequality act further discriminates against a woman's right to privacy and protection, especially while seeking refuge in a domestic violence shelter. We have already seen similar policies in Alaska and California put vulnerable women in danger.

H.R. 5 also discriminates against parents. Parents who dare to oppose doctors performing life-changing surgeries or using hormone-altering drugs on their children will be considered abusive and neglectful. This has already happened in Ohio as a couple lost custody of their daughter after advocating against male testosterone supplements.

This abhorrent destruction of parental rights is why I introduced an amendment that would ensure parents retain their right to make important choices for their children, especially concerning mental and medical care. Predictably, Democrats did not even consider my amendment, highlighting their desire to silence the voices of families across the country.

Faith-minded individuals and organizations would also face discrimination under the inequality act, including adoption agencies and charities. Again, similar policies already exist in New York, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, forcing faith-based adoption agencies to shut down rather than violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. These policies only harm would-be parents and children in need of a forever home.

Shockingly, it doesn't stop there. The inequality act clearly stipulates that religious beliefs and faith no longer matter in the Democrats' new world order. Living by your faith will be viewed as evil instead of good.

Sadly, this bill contains no language to protect businesses or healthcare providers from being forced to pay for abortions. It also may require healthcare providers to facilitate abortion services.

The biggest impact? Hundreds of thousands more innocent, unborn children will tragically perish from abortion, with Americans footing the bill.

This grossly misnamed bill punishes everyday citizens, silences free speech, and instills discrimination. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, this bill does not affect Title IX and, consequently, religious freedom at all.

I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, as a woman, as a feminist, as someone who lettered in basketball and truly believes in women's sports, this is the Equality Act. Any misrepresentation by some speakers today is just totally unfounded.

While we have made much progress in recent years, the reality is that many still face discrimination simply because of who they are and who they love. That means that LGBTQ Americans can be fired, refused housing, or denied services simply because of who they are.

I am a proud original cosponsor, and I am also a woman of faith. I know that this Equality Act would help greatly to extend civil rights and civil liberties for the LGBTQ community, to live out the true meaning of our Nation's creed, free from the fear of harassment or discrimination.

Updating Federal law will provide protections across key areas of life, including employment, housing, and access to public spaces and services. This bill has nothing to do with abortion, nothing to do with some of the things my colleagues across the aisle have said.

And in my home State of Texas, we will finally have protections for the LGBTQ Texans.

MR. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Democrats just said that this bill doesn't harm Title IX. They have said it will not hinder women's ability to participate in sports. That is just not true.

They say it is not going to make it harder for women to participate in sports. It may not make it harder, but it is sure going to make it more difficult to win. We know that. That is the problem. And if that doesn't undermine the spirit of Title IX, I don't know what does.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio is absolutely correct. The assertion that it doesn't impact Title IX is completely false. It directly amends Title IV in the Civil Rights Act. It will have a direct impact on educational institutions and would, therefore, absolutely impact women's athletics. We all know that. Everybody gets the joke.

But as one of my colleagues said, it is 100 percent clear that the majority doesn't want to have the American people see what is in this bill. They don't want to have it go through committee. They don't want to spend time on it. They want to jam it through under the name of equality.

See, you put fancy names on bills in this building and suddenly people think it is about something that it isn't. And we know exactly what this bill is about. It is about power. This bill is about power and control.

This is about this institution being run by Democrats who want to tell the American people how to live their lives.

They want to tell people who disagree on these issues that they need to go to the corner and they need to hide; that they need to give up their closely held beliefs and their values and they need to bow down to the altar of the people here and the cultural elites in Washington, D.C., and do what they tell us to do.

It is an absolute abomination and flies in the face of the very principles upon which this Nation was founded. We know that. We see that. We can go through the list. We are all going through it.

The definition of sex in H.R. 5 inserts the right to abortion into the Civil

Rights Act. The Equality Act can be used to force a universal right to abortion until birth. It forces medical professionals to conduct or assist in performing abortions; forces medical professionals to perform certain surgeries and administer hormone blockers, even if it is against their medical advice; forces employers to cover sex reassignment surgeries; forces schools, churches, hospitals, and businesses to recognize a chosen gender.

I could go down the list. But this is about power and control. It is the same thing about having a fence with razor wire around the people's Congress, around this Capitol building. It is an absolute affront to who we are.

In the Declaration of Independence, where we are talking about rights, government is instituted among men to secure those rights.

And the House of Representatives, supposedly the people's House, is using the power of this body to step on the rights of the American people. And it is our obligation to defend those rights. And I can tell you this: We are going to stand up in defense of the Constitution, our liberties and the Bill of Rights, and the consent of the governed matters.

You do not have the consent of the governed, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. You don't. And you are pretending that you have got power that you do not have, and it will not end well if you pull this republic apart, thread by thread, and you have to look in the mirror and tell your kids and grandkids that this republic died on your watch.

It is not going to because we are going to stand on the wall, the same wall that our Founders stood on, the same wall that those men at the Alamo stood on, and we are going to defend this Constitution in the name of the Declaration of Independence and the Lord that gives us the rights that we protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

□ 1400

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a number of documents.

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
Washington, DC, February 25, 2021.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (hereinafter ''Lawyers'' Committee''), a nonpartisan civil rights organization formed at the request of President John F. Kennedy to enlist the private bar in providing legal services to address racial discrimination, we urge you to vote for the Equality Act (H.R. 5). The Equality Act would clarify that LGBTQ+ people are protected against discrimination in access to credit. housing, education, and employment under federal law, as well as to strengthen public accommodation antidiscrimination for all people.

The Lawyers' Committee strongly believes that the Equality Act is an essential step in fulfilling our nation's commitment to civil rights for all people. Unfortunately, discrimination is a persistent problem for millions of people in the LGBTQ+ community, particularly for those who also identify as people of color. Everyone in America, regardless of who they are, is entitled to equal rights and should be free to pursue career and educational opportunities and live their daily lives free from discrimination.

Black Americans and other people of color continue to face persistent discrimination while engaging in commonplace transactions, errands, and tasks, such as shopping and accessing transportation like taxis and car services. The Equality Act would finally make this discrimination illegal, as it strengthens the public accommodations provision in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Congress must act now to pass the Equality Act to clarify and strengthen federal civil rights protections so everyone across the country can engage in public life without the fear of harassment or discrimination because of who they are.

As Congress considers this important bill, we are committed to ensuring the Equality Act does solely what it was intended to do: clarify and strengthen existing federal civil rights protections for everyone in America. We strongly oppose any effort to weaken any existing federal civil rights law the Equality Act would amend.

We urge you to vote for final passage of the Equality Act because no one in our country should be discriminated against for who they are. It is time for Congress to clarify and strengthen federal civil rights protections for all Americans.

Respectfully submitted,
DAMON T. HEWITT,
Acting President & Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.
Erinn D. Martin,
Policy Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
Chicago, IL, February 23, 2021.

RE: ABA Support for H.R. 5, The Equality Act of 2021.

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

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the American Bar Association and its over 400.000 members. I am writing to voice our support for H.R. 5. The Equality Act of 2021. which addresses the need to protect every American regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We offer the following comments in support of the legislation and request that this letter be made part of the hearing record.

The Equality Act will include LGBTQ+ people in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Over 50 years ago, when this landmark civil rights legislation was enacted, a minority group was omitted; this needs to be rectified. Currently, the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals depend on the state where they reside, and in close to 30 states, LGBTQ+ people are at risk of being denied housing, credit. services, public accommodations, education, employment, access to their children, access to federally funded programs, or jury service simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

There is bipartisan support for the Equality Act, and 70 percent of Americans support equal rights for LGBTQ+. When the Equality Act was introduced in the last Congress, it received unprecedented support from businesses and more than 500 national and statewide organizations.

In 2018, the ABA adopted a resolution specifically supporting enactment of the Equality Act. Let me elaborate on our reasons for supporting this important legislation:

1. The Equality Act will protect LGBTQ+ people from workplace discrimination because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The Government Employee Rights Act of 1991 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. They will both be amended to include, ''sex, (including sexual orientation, and gender identity).''

Every day LGBTQ+ employees, co-workers, and job applicants are subjected to discrimination in the workplace. Other social groups have been protected by legislation, yet the LGBTQ+ community has not been included even though their livelihood, careers, and quality of life are equally affected.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces federal laws that protect job applicants or employees from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. In EEOC v. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, the EEOC filed a lawsuit against Harris Family Funeral Homes on behalf of Aimee Stephens, a transgender woman who was fired shortly after telling her employer she was transgender. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that Title VII prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, thus applying to businesses claiming exemption based on anti-LGBTQ+ religious beliefs. In 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States heard Harris consolidated with Bostock v. Clayton County, and in a landmark ruling, upheld the Sixth Circuit decision affirming that LGBTQ+ employees are entitled to legal protections against discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Equality Act will codify this case law making discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in the workplace unlawful by explicitly stating that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected traits.

2. The Equality Act will prevent LGBTQ+ people from being denied services and public accommodations because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination in public accommodations based on race, color, religion, or national origin. However, it is currently legal in almost 30 states to deny LGBTQ+ people services without cause and bar them from public accommodations such as hotels, restaurants, and libraries.

In Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board, school board policy prohibited plaintiff from using the restrooms that aligned with his gender identity. In 2015, Grimm filed a lawsuit challenging the policy, on the grounds that it violates his rights under Title IX and the Fourteenth Amendment. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the school board's restroom policy constitutes sex-based discrimination, and that transgender individuals constitute a quasi-suspect class. Applying heightened scrutiny, the court held that the school board's policy is not substantially related to its important interest in protecting students' privacy and that, in regard to the Title IX claims, the restroom policy discriminated against plaintiff on the basis of sex, and that he suffered legally cognizable harm based on the unlawful discrimination. The Equality Act is necessary to codify this ruling for the entire

country. Denying public accommodations to LGBTQ+ individuals is harmful to their health and dignity, and precludes them from fully participating in public life.

In addition to places of public accommodation already included in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Equality Act will revise the law to ensure that other providers of products, services, and public accommodations, such as stores, accountant firms, transportation, and banks, may not discriminate against a protected social group.

3. The Equality Act will prevent LGBTQ+ people from being denied or evicted from housing based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing by landlords, real estate agents, municipalities, banks, other lending institutions, and homeowner's insurance companies based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, or disability.

LGBTQ+ individuals may be rejected when trying to purchase or rent a home. LGBTQ+ people can face eviction, which may have financial and legal consequences. A partner's request to be added to the insurance of a homeowner may be rejected which could affect the property title.

In Smith v. Avanti, a landlord in Colorado refused to rent to a same-sex couple, one of whom was also transgender. The United States District Court stated that the property owner violated the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. This was the first time a federal court, placing sexual orientation and gender identity under the umbrella of sex discrimination, has ruled that anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination violated the Fair Housing Act.

Since homelessness is more prevalent in the LGBTQ+ community than in the general population, enactment of the Equality Act can help lower rates of housing insecurity.

4. The Equality Act will ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals are not denied credit based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age with respect to credit transactions. The Equality Act will amend ECOA to include ''sexual orientation'' and ''gender identity'' as protected classes.

LGBTQ+ individuals are often denied credit and mortgages. The negative financial impact can mean that they are often unable to become homeowners, pursue higher education or vocational training, build assets, or purchase a car. By amending ECOA, the Equality Act will allow for equal access to credit, financial improvements, education, and affordable housing.

5. The Equality Act will protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in jury service.

The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the right of a criminal defendant to a jury selection process free from racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination. When LGBTQ+ people are unfairly dismissed from jury service, there is no recourse in the justice system.

The Equality Act will protect the integrity of the jury selection process for the defendant, as well as the rights of the LGBTQ+ jurors.

The American Bar Association believes that everyone deserves equal protection under the law. Nearly two-thirds of LGBTQ+ Americans reported that they have experienced discrimination in their everyday lives. We urge Congress to pass legislation explicitly affirming that discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex stereotyping, is sex discrimination prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, among other federal statutes, and to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression protections in those statutes.

Thank you for this opportunity to convey the ABA's position on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA LEE REFO.

THE BUSINESS COALITION FOR THE EQUALITY ACT

The Business Coalition for the Equality Act is a group of leading U.S. employers that support the Equality Act, which would finally guarantee explicit, permanent protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people under our existing civil rights laws.

Launched in March 2016, the 337 member companies of HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act have operations in all 50 states, headquarters spanning 33 states and a combined $5.9 trillion in revenue, and employ over 12.9 million people in the United States.

3M Company, Saint Paul, MN; A.T. Kearney Inc., Chicago, IL; ABB Inc., Carey, NC; Abercrombie & Fitch Co., New Albany, OH; Accenture, New York, NY; Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, CA; Advance Auto Parts (Advance Holding), Raleigh, NC; ADP, Roseland, NJ; Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Sunnyvale, CA; Airbnb Inc., San Francisco, CA; Airbus, Herndon, VA; Alaska Airlines, Seattle, WA; Albertsons Companies, Boise, ID; Alcoa Corp., Pittsburgh, PA; AlixPartners LLP, New York, NY; Alliance Data Systems Corporation, Columbus, OH; Ally Financial Inc., Detroit, MI; Altice USA Inc., Long Island City, NY; Altria Group Inc., Richmond, VA; Amalgamated Bank, New York, NY; Amazon.com Inc., Seattle, WA; American Airlines, Fort Worth, TX; American Eagle Outfitters Inc., Pittsburgh, PA; American Express Company, New York, NY; American Express Global Business Travel, Jersey City, NJ; American Honda Motor Co., Inc., Torrance, CA; Ameriprise Financial, Inc., Minneapolis, MN; AMN Healthcare, San Diego, CA; Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA; Applied Materials Inc., Santa Clara, CA; Arconic, New York, NY; Asana, San Francisco, CA; Ascena Retail Group Inc., Mahwah, NJ; Aspen Skiing Company LLC, Aspen, CO; Asurion LLC, Nashville, TN; AT&T Inc., Dallas, TX; Atlassian, San Francisco, CA; Avnet, Inc., Phoenix, AZ; AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, New York, NY.

Bain & Co. Inc./Bridgespan Group, Boston, MA; Bank of America Corp., Charlotte, NC; Bayer U.S. LLC, Whippany, NJ; BASF Corp., Florham Park, NJ; BD, Franklin Lakes, NJ; Best Buy Co. Inc., Richfield, MN; Biogen, Cambridge, MA; BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc., San Rafael, CA; Bird Rides Inc., Santa Monica, CA; BNP Paribas, New York, NY; Boehringer lngelheim USA Corp., Ridgefield, CT; Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., McLean, VA; Boston Scientific Corp., Marlborough, MA; Box Inc., Redwood City, CA; Bridgestone Americas Holding Inc., Nashville, TN; Bright Horizons, Watertown, MA; Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., New York, NY; Broadridge Financial Solutions Inc., Lake Success, NY; Brown-Forman Corp., Louisville, KY; Brown Rudnick LLP, Boston, MA; Buckley LLP, Washington, DC.

Caesars Entertainment Corp., Las Vegas, NV; California Water Service Group, San Jose, CA; Capital One Financial Corp., McLean, VA; Cardinal Health Inc., Dublin, OH; Cargill Inc., Wayzata, MN; Cengage Learning Inc., Boston, MA; Chevron Corp., San Ramon, CA; Chobani, Norwich, NY; Choice Hotels International Inc., Rockville, MD; Cisco Systems Inc., San Jose, CA; Citigroup Inc., New York, NY; Citrix Systems Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL; CME Group Inc., Chicago, IL; CNA Financial Corporation, Chicago, IL; Coca-Cola Co., The, Atlanta, GA; Compass, New York, NY; Compass Bancshares Inc. (BBVA Compass), Birmingham, AL; Converse Inc., Boston, MA; Corning, Corning, NY; Corteva Agriscience, Wilmington, DE; Coty Inc., New York, NY; Cox Enterprises Inc., Atlanta, GA; CSAA Insurance Group, Walnut Creek, CA; Cummins Inc., Columbus, IN; CVS Health Corp., Woonsocket, RI.

Daniel J. Edelman Holdings, Inc. New York, NY; Danone North America, White Plains, NY; Day Pitney LLP, Parsippany, NJ; Darden Restaurants Inc., Orlando, FL; Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, NY; Deloitte LLP, New York, NY; Dell Technologies Inc., Round Rock, TX; Delta Air Lines Inc., Atlanta, GA; Depository Trust & Clearing Corp., The, New York, NY; Deutsche Bank, New York, NY; Diageo North America, Norwalk, CT; Domino's Pizza, Ann Arbor, MI; Dow Chemical Co., The, Midland, MI; Dropbox Inc., San Francisco, CA.

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. (DuPont), Wilmington, DE; Eastern Bank Corp., Boston, MA; Eaton Corp., Cleveland, OH; eBay Inc., San Jose, CA; Ecolab Inc., St. Paul, MN; Edison International, Rosemead, CA; EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma, & EMD Performance Materials, Burlington, MA; Emerson Electric Co., St. Louis, MO; Empower Retirement, Greenwood Village, CO; Ericsson Inc, Plano, TX; Ernst & Young LLP, New York, NY; Estée Lauder Companies Inc., The, New York, NY; E*TRADE Financial Corp., New York, NY; Evolent Health Inc., Arlington, VA; Exelon Corp., Chicago, IL; Expedia Group, Bellevue, WA.

Facebook Inc., Menlo Park, CA; FactSet Research Systems Inc., Norwalk, CT; First Data Corp., Atlanta, GA; Food Lion, Salisbury, NC; Fossil Group Inc., Richardson, TX; Fiserv Inc., Brookfield, WI.

Gap Inc., San Francisco, CA; General Electric Co., Boston, MA; General Mills Inc., Minneapolis, MN; General Motors Co., Detroit, MI; GIANT Food Stores LLC, Carlisle, PA; Giant of Maryland LLC, Landover, MD; Gilead Sciences Inc., Foster City, CA; Glassdoor Inc., Mill Valley, CA; GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC; GoDaddy Inc., Scottsdale, AZ; Google Inc., Mountain View, CA; Great River Energy, Maple Grove, MN; Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America, The, New York, NY; Guidehouse Inc., Chicago, IL; Gusto, San Francisco, CA.

Halstead Real Estate, New York, NY; Hannaford Supermarkets, Scarborough, ME; HERE North America LLC, Chicago, IL; Hershey Co., The, Hershey, PA; Hess Corp., New York, NY; Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co., Palo Alto, CA; Hilton Inc., McLean, VA; Hiscox USA, New York, NY; Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, DC; Holland & Knight LLP, Miami, FL; Host Hotels & Resorts Inc., Bethesda, MD; HP Inc., Palo Alto, CA; HSF Affiliates LLC, Irvine, CA; HSN Inc., St. Petersburg, FL; Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, New York, NY; Hyatt Hotels Corp., Chicago, IL.

IBM Corp., Armonk, NY; IDEX Corp., Lake Forest, IL; IHS Markit Ltd., New York, NY; IKEA Holding US Inc., Conshohocken, PA; Information Resources Inc., Chicago, IL; Ingersoll-Rand Company, Davidson, NC; Ingram Micro, Irvine, CA; Insight Enterprises Inc., Tempe, AZ; Intel Corp., Santa Clara, CA; InterContinental Hotels Group Americas, Atlanta, GA; International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc., New York NY; Iron Mountain Inc., Boston, MA.

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., Dallas, TX; Jenner & Block LLP, Chicago, IL; John

Hancock Financial Services Inc., Boston, MA; Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ; JPMorgan Chase & Co., New York, NY; JSX, Dallas, TX; Juniper Networks Inc., Sunnyvale, CA.

Kabbage Inc., Atlanta, GA; Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, CA; Keep Truckin Inc., San Francisco, CA; Kellogg Co., Battle Creek, MI; Keller Williams Realty Inc., Austin, TX; Kenneth Cole Productions Inc., New York, NY; KeyCorp, Cleveland, OH; KIND LLC, New York, NY; Knot Worldwide, The, Chevy Chase, MD; KPMG LLP, New York, NY.

Lendlease Americas Inc., New York, NY; Levi Strauss & Co., San Francisco, CA; Linden Research Inc., Davis, CA; Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC, Jersey City, NJ; Lowenstein Sandler LLP, New York, NY; Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, Wilmington, NC; Lyft Inc., San Francisco, CA.

Macy's Inc., Cincinnati, OH; ManpowerGroup, Milwaukee, WI; Marriott International Inc., Bethesda, MD; Mars Inc., McLean, VA; Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc., New York, NY; Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., Springfield, MA; Mastercard, Purchase, NY; McAfee, Santa Clara, CA; McCormick & Company, Inc., Hunt Valley, MD; McKesson Corporation, Las Colinas, TX; McKinstry Co. LLC, Seattle, WA; Medtronic PLC, Minneapolis, MN; Merck, Kenilworth, NJ; Meredith Corp., Des Moines, IA; MGM Resorts International, Las Vegas, NV; Micron Technology Inc., Boise, ID; Microsoft Corp., Redmond, WA; Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, Taylorsville, NC; Mondelez International Inc., Deerfield, IL; Moody's Corp., New York, NY; Molson Coors LLC, Chicago, IL; Morgan Stanley, New York, NY; Morningstar Inc., Chicago, IL; Morris, Manning & Martin LLP, Atlanta, GA.

Nasdaq Inc., New York, NY; National Grid USA, Waltham, MA; Nationwide, Columbus, OH; Navient, Wilmington, DE; Nestlé, Arlington, VA; Netflix Inc., Los Gatos, CA; New Belgium Brewing Company, Fort Collins, CO; Nielsen, New York, NY; Nike Inc., Beaverton, OR; Nordstrom Inc., Seattle, WA; Norfolk Southern Corporation, Norfolk, VA; NortonLifeLock, Mountain View, CA; Northrop Grumman Corp., Falls Church, VA; Nuance Communications, Burlington, MA.

Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc., Lakeville-Middleboro, MA; Office Depot Inc., Boca Raton, FL; Oracle Corp., Redwood City, CA; Owens Corning, Toledo, OH.

Palo Alto Networks, Santa Clara, CA; Patreon Inc., San Francisco, CA; Pariveda Solutions Inc., Dallas, TX; Paul Hastings LLP, Los Angeles, CA; PayPal Holdings Inc., San Jose, CA; Peloton Interactive Inc, New York, NY; PepsiCo Inc., Purchase, NY; PetSmart Inc., Phoenix, AZ; Pfizer Inc., New York, NY; PG&E Corp., San Francisco, CA; Philip Morris International, New York, NY; Pinterest Inc., San Francisco, CA; Pioneer Natural Resources, Irving, TX; PNC Financial Services Group Inc., The, Pittsburgh, PA; Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, Columbus, OH; Power Home Remodeling Group LLC, Chester, PA; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, New York, NY; Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, IA; Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati, OH; Pure Storage Inc., Mountain View, CA; PVH Corp., New York, NY.

QUALCOMM Inc., San Diego, CA; QIAGEN, Germantown, MD.

Realogy Holdings Corp., Madison, NJ; Redfin Corp., Seattle, WA; Red Hat Inc., Raleigh, NC; RE/MAX LLC, Denver, CO; Replacements Ltd., McLeansville, NC; Rockwell Automation Inc., Milwaukee, WI; Royal Bank of Canada, New York, NY.

S&P Global Inc., New York, NY; Salesforce, San Francisco, CA; SAP America Inc., Newtown Square, PA; Seagate Technology plc, Cupertino, CA; Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, & Hampton LLP, Los Angeles, CA; Shire PLC, Lexington, MA; Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, Kansas City, MO; Shutterstock Inc., New York, NY; Siemens Corp., Washington, DC; Sodexo Inc., Gaithersburg, MD; Sony Electronics Inc., San Diego, CA; Southwest Airlines Co., Dallas, TX; Spotify USA Inc., New York, NY; Square Inc., San Francisco, CA; Stanley Black & Decker Inc., New Britain, CT; Starbucks Corp., Seattle, WA; Steelcase Inc., Grand Rapids, MI; SUEZ Water Technologies and Solutions, Trevose, PA; Sun Life U.S., Wellesley Hills, MA; Sunrun Inc., San Francisco, CA; SurveyMonkey Inc., San Mateo, CA; Synchrony, Stamford, CT; Sysco, Houston, TX.

Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Deerfield, IL; Target Corp., Minneapolis, MN; TD Ameritrade, Omaha, Omaha, NE; TD Bank, N.A., Cherry Hill, NJ; Tech Data Corp., Clearwater, FL; TEGNA Inc., McLean, VA; Tesla Inc., Palo Alto, CA; Teva Pharmaceuticals, North Wales, PA; Texas Instruments, Dallas, TX; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA; TIAA, New York, NY; T-Mobile USA Inc., Bellevue, WA; Toyota Motor North America Inc., Plano, TX; TPG Global LLC, Fort Worth, TX; TransUnion, Chicago, IL; TripAdvisor Inc., Needham, MA; Truist Financial Corporation, Charlotte, NC; Turner Construction Co., New York, NY; Twitter Inc., San Francisco, CA.

U.S. Bancorp, Minneapolis, MN; Uber Technologies Inc., San Francisco, CA; Ultimate Software, Weston, FL; Under Armour Inc., Baltimore, MD; Unilever, Englewood Cliffs, NJ; Union Pacific Railroad, Ohama, NE; United Airlines, Chicago, IL; United Parcel Service Inc., Atlanta, GA; Univar Solutions, Inc., Downers Grove, IL; Univision Communications Inc., New York, NY.

Vanguard Group Inc., Malvern, PA; Verizon Communications Inc., New York, NY; Viiv Healthcare, Research Triangle Park, NC; Visa, Foster City, CA.

Warby Parker, New York, NY; Warner Music Group, New York, NY; WE Communications, Bellevue, WA; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Des Moines, IA; Wells Fargo & Co., San Francisco, CA; Western Digital, San Jose, CA; Whirlpool Corp., Benton Harbor, MI; Williams-Sonoma Inc., San Francisco, CA; Workday Inc., Pleasanton, CA; Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Inc., Parsippany, NJ.

Xcel Energy Inc., Minneapolis, MN; Xerox Corp., Norwalk, CT; Xperi, San Jose, CA; Xylem Inc., Rye Brook, NY.

Yelp Inc., San Francisco, CA; Yext Inc., New York, NY.

Zillow Group, Seattle, WA; Zimmer Biomet Holdings Inc., Warsaw, IN.

EQUALITY ACT—ASSOCIATIONS ENDORSING THE EQUALITY ACT

NATIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Act—The App Association, AdvaMed, Aerospace Industries Association, American Benefits Council, American Chemistry Council, American Cleaning Institute, American Coatings Association, Inc., American Hotel & Lodging Association, American Pet Products Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, American Society of Association Executives, Asian American Hotel Owners Association, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, Auto Care Association.

Biotechnology Innovation Organization, BSA—The Software Alliance, Business Roundtable, College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, Compressed Gas Association, Consumer Healthcare Products Association, Consumer Technology Association, Council for Responsible Nutrition, Edison Electric Institute, Federation of American Hospitals, Financial Executives International, Food Marketing Institute, Fragrance Creators Association, Grocery Manufacturers Association, Household & Commercial Products Association, HR Policy Association.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), International Council of Shopping Centers, International Franchise Association, Internet Association, Jackson Area Manufacturers Association, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Missouri Association of Manufacturers, Nareit, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Realtors, National Investor Relations Institute, National Leased Housing Association, National Multifamily Housing Council, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, National Safety Council, National Venture Capital Association, National Waste & Recycling Association.

NC Chamber, New Jersey Business & Industry Association, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Personal Care Products Council, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Power Transmission Distributors Association, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Retail Industry Leaders Association, Rhode Island Manufacturers Association, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, Society for Human Resource Management, Solar Energy Industries Association, Sports & Fitness Industry Association, The Center for Baby and Adult Hygiene Products, The ERISA Industry Committee, The National Multifamily Housing Council, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, The Real Estate Roundtable, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

EQUALITY ACT—631 ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE EQUALITY ACT

National Organizations

9to5, National Association of Working Women, A Better Balance, A. Philip Randolph Institute, ACRIA, ADAP Advocacy Association, Advocates for Youth, AFGE, AFL–CIO, African American Ministers In Action, The AIDS Institute, AIDS United, Alan and Leslie Chambers Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity, American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Atheists, American Bar Association, American Civil Liberties Union, American Conference of Cantors, American Counseling Association, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Teachers, American Heart Association, American Humanist Association, American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research, Anti-Defamation League, Arab American Institute, Ariadne Getty Foundation, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian American Federation, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), Association of Flight Attendants—CWA, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, Athlete Ally, Auburn Seminary, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Avodah.

BALM Ministries, Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Black and Pink, BPFNA—Bautistas por la Paz, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests.

Caring Across Generations, Catholics for Choice, Center for American Progress, Center for Black Equity, Center for Disability

Rights, Center for Inclusivity, Center for Inquiry, Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies, Centerlink: The Community of LGBT Centers, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Chicago Theological Seminary, Child Welfare League of America, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Communications Workers of America, Community Access National Network (CANN), Consortium for Children, Council for Global Equality, Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

DignityUSA, Disciples Justice Action Network, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF).

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), End Rape on Campus, The Episcopal Church, Equal Rights Advocates, Equality Federation, Estuary Space, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Faith in Public Life, Family Equality, Feminist Majority, The Fenway Institute, FORGE, Inc., Forward Together, Freedom Center for Social Justice, Freedom for All Americans, Friends Council on Education.

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), Gay Parent Magazine, Gender Spectrum, Generation Progress, Georgetown University Law Center—Civil Rights Clinic, Girls Inc., GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches, GLSEN, Guttmacher Institute.

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., Harm Reduction Coalition, HealthHIV, Hindu American Foundation, Hispanic Federation, Hispanic Health Network, HIV Medicine Association, Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights Watch.

Impact Fund, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, The Inanna Project, Indivisible, Integrity USA: Episcopal Rainbow, Interfaith Alliance, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW).

Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Women International, Justice in Aging.

Keshet.

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), Lake Research Partners, Lambda Legal, Latino Commission on AIDS, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens, Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA), LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute.

Main Street Alliance, MANA, A National Latina Organization, Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice, Matthew Shepard Foundation, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Men of Reform Judaism, MECCA Institute, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Metropolitan Community Churches, Modern Military Association of America, MomsRising, More Light Presbyterians, Movement Advancement Project, Muslim Advocates, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Muslims for Progressive Values.

NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice America, NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors), National AIDS Housing Coalition, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE), National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), National Association of Counsel for Children, National Association for Female Executives, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of School Superintendents, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Justice Coalition, National Coalition for the Homeless, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Center for Youth Law, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), National Coalition for LGBT Health, National Coalition for the Homeless, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH), National Council of Jewish Women, National Crittenton, National Education Association, National Employment Law Project, National Employment Lawyers Association, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Health Law Program, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Latinx Psychological Association, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, The National LGBTQ Workers Center, National Organization for Women, National Partnership for Women & Families, National PTA, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), National Taskforce on Tradeswomen Issues, National Trans Bar Association, National Urban League, National Women's Health Network, National Women's Law Center, NEAT—National Equality Action Team, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New Ways Ministry, NMAC, North American Council on Adoptable Children.

OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, Office & Professional Employees International Union, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, OutServe—SLDN, Oxfam America.

Parity, People For the American Way, PFLAG National, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Population Connection Action Fund, Positive Women's Network—USA, Pride at Work, Pride Fund 1, Promundo—US, Public Justice.

Rabbinical Assembly, Reconciling Ministries Network, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, Reconstructing Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Religious Institute, RootsAction, Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition.

SafeBAE, SAGE, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Secular Coalition for America, Secular Policy Institute, SER Jobs for Progress National Inc., Service Employees International Union, Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), Slowinski Foundation—story.lgbt, Soulforce, Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI), The Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative, Stop Sexual Assault in Schools (SSAIS), SurvJustice.

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, TransFamily Support Services, Transgender Law Center, Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, The TransLatin@ Coalition, Transport Workers Union of America, Treatment Action Group, The Trevor Project, True Colors United, The Tyler Clementi Foundation, The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society.

UFCW OUTreach, Ultraviolet, UMForward, (un)common good collective, UnidosUS, Unión = Fuerza Latinx Institute, Union for Reform Judaism, Union of Affirming Christians, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, UNITE HERE International Union, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), United State of Women, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity.

Voice for Adoption, Voices for Progress, Vote Common Good, Greater Things, Voto Latino.

Whitman-Walker Health, The Williams Institute, Witness to Mass Incarceration, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).

Young Feminists & Allies: National Organization for Women's (NOW) Inaugural Virtual Chapter.

State and Local Organizations

ALASKA

Alaskans Together For Equality
Identity, Inc.

ALABAMA

AIDS Alabama
Bayard Rustin Community Center
Equality Alabama
Rainbow Mobile

ARKANSAS

Northwest Arkansas Equality, Inc.

ARIZONA

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence
Equality Arizona

CALIFORNIA

one-n-ten
9to5 California
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center
Bienestar Human Services
California Employment Lawyers Association
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
The Center for Sexuality & Gender Diversity
Common Space
The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz County
Diversity Collective Community Resource Center
Diversity Collective Ventura County
Equality California
Family Builders by Adoption
Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the Central Coast
Girls Inc. of Alameda County
Girls Inc. of the Central Coast
Hollywood NOW
Imperial Valley LGBT Resource Center
Latino Equality Alliance
Legal Aid At Work
LGBT Center OC
LGBT Community Center of the Desert
LGBTQ Campus Life (I), California Polytechnic State University
The LGBTQ Center Long Beach
LGBTQ+ Center of Riverside County
The LGBTQ Center of the Desert
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mi Centro LGBTQ Community Center/Latino Eq. Alliance
Missiongathering Christian Church
North County LGBTQ Resource Center
Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
Pacific Center for Human Growth
Pacific Pride Foundation
PFLAG Los Angeles

The GALA Pride and Diversity Center, San Luis Obispo
ISM-Q LGBT & Allies Resource Center
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Right—California
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
San Bernardino LGBTQ Center
San Diego LGBT Community Center
San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center
SF LGBT Center
Solano Pride Center
The Source LGBT+ Center
The Spahr Center
Stonewall Democratic Club
TransFamily Support Services
Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance (UG)

COLORADO

9to5 Colorado
The Center on Colfax
Inside/Out Youth Services
One Colorado
Out Boulder County
Queer Asterisk
Rocky Mountain CES

CONNECTICUT

New Haven Pride Center
Triangle Community Center Inc.
True Colors, Inc.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
The DC Center for the LGBT Community
GLAA
SMYAL
Trans-Latinx DMV (DC, Maryland and Virginia)

DELAWARE

CAMP Rehoboth
Equality Delaware
Girls Inc. of Delaware

FLORIDA

The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
ALSO Youth
The Center Kissimmee
Compass LGBTQ Community Center
Equality Florida
Girls Inc. of Bay County
Girls Inc. of Sarasota County
JASMYN
LGBT+ Center Orlando, Inc.
LGBT+ Family & Games
LGBTQ Center of Bay County
Metro Community Center
Naples Pride
The Pride Center at Equality Park
Pride Community Center of North Central Florida
Pridelines
PRISM, Inc.
QLatinx
Safe Schools South Florida
St Pete Pride
SunServe
Visuality, Inc.
Zebra Coalition

GEORGIA

9to5 Georgia
Atlanta Pride Committee
Georgia Equality
Girls Inc. of Columbus and Phenix-Russell
Lake Oconee Community Church
Young Democrats of Georgia
Young Democrats of Georgia LGBTQ Caucus

IOWA

Adair Co GLBT Resource Center
Girls Inc. of Sioux City
One Iowa

IDAHO

All Under One Roof

ILLINOIS

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Arab American Family Services
Association of Latinos/as/X Motivating Action
Bolingbrook Pride
CAAN Joliet
Center on Halsted
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, Life Span, & Resilience
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Clock, Inc
Elmhurst Pride Collective
Equality Illinois
Howard Brown Health
Illinois Accountability Initiative
The Liam Foundation
Lighthouse Foundation
Naper Pride Inc.
PFLAG Rockford
Phoenix Center
The Pinta Pride Project
Pride Action Tank
Quad Citians Affirming Diversity
Resilience, formerly Rape Victim Advocates
United Latinx Pride
Women Employed

INDIANA

Girls Inc. of Shelbyville & Shelby County
Girls Inc. of Wayne County
Indiana RCRC
Indiana Youth Group
Spencer Pride, Inc.
Spencer Pride CommUnity center

KENTUCKY

Fairness Campaign
Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Louisville Youth Group Inc.
Pride Community Services Organization

LOUISIANA

Forum for Equality
Louisiana Progress Action
Louisiana Trans Advocates

MASSACHUSETTS

BAGLY, Inc. (Boston Alliance of LGBTQ Youth)
Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
Girls Inc. of the Valley
Girls Inc. of Worcester
JALSA
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
MassEquality
NAGLY (North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth)
OUT MetroWest

MARYLAND

The Frederick Center
FreeState Justice
Gender Rights Maryland
Girls Inc. of Washington County
The Montgomery County LGBT Business Council
Pride Center of Maryland
Public Justice Center
Ricky's Pride

MAINE

EqualityMaine

MICHIGAN

Affirmations LGBTQ+ Community Center
Equality Michigan
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Great Lakes Bay Pride
Jackson Pride Center
LGBT Detroit
OutCenter of Southwest Michigan
OutFront Kalamazoo
Polestar LGBT Community Center of Traverse City
Ruth Ellis Center, Inc.
SAGE Metro Detroit
Stand with Trans
Transgender Michigan

MINNESOTA

Gender Justice
OutFront MN

MISSOURI

The GLO Center
Mid-Missouri Center Project, Inc.
PROMO
St. Louis Effort for AIDS

MONTANA

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Montana Gay Men's Task Force
Montana Two Spirit Society
Western Monta LGBTQ Community Center

NORTH CAROLINA

Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.
Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice
Equality North Carolina
Guilford Green Foundation & LGBTQ Center
Latinos in the Deep South
LGBT Center of Raleigh
National Organization for Women Charlotte chapter
Northstar LGBTQ Community Center
Onslow County LGBTQ+ Community Center
Time Out Youth
Youth OUTright WNC, Inc.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Human Rights Coalition

NEBRASKA

OutNebraska

NEVADA

Colors+

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Seacoast Outright (NH/ME)

NEW JERSEY

Garden State Equality
Hudson Pride Center
Ours Institute—Pride Institute of Southern New Jersey
Pride Center of New Jersey

NEW MEXICO

Equality New Mexico
Girls Inc. of Santa Fe
Human Rights Alliance
KWH Law Center for Social Justice & Change
Southwest Women's Law Center
Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico
Tewa Women United

NEW YORK

Asian American Federation
Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (AA) of UAW 2325,
LGBTQ+ Caucus
Brooklyn Community Pride Center
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
CANDLE
Destination Tomorrow: The Bronx LGBT Center
Empire State Pride Agenda
Equality New York
Fairness Alliance and Information Resources of New York Inc.
Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes, Inc.
Forefront Church NYC
Gay & Lesbian Independent Democrats (GLID)
Gender Equality Law Center
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center
In Our Own Voices
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Cty Center
LGBT Bar Association of New York
LGBT Network/Long Island LGBT Community Center
LGBT Network/Queens LGBT Community Center
The LGBTQ Center of the Finger Lakes

The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center
MinKwon Center for Community Action
Out Alliance
Pride Center of Staten Island
Pride Center of the Capital Region
Pride Center of Western New York
Rockland County Pride Center
Sakhi for South Asian Women
Theatre of the Oppressed NYC
VillageCare
The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

NEVADA

Colors+
Equality Nevada
The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of So. Nevada
Henderson Equality Center
The LGBTQ Community Center of Southern Nevada
OUR Center
Silver State Equality—Nevada

OHIO

Equality Ohio
Greater Dayton LGBT Center
Latitude, a community center by Harvey House
LGBT Center at Ohio University
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Stonewall Columbus
TransOhio
Dennis R. Neill Equality Center

OKLAHOMA

Freedom Oklahoma
Oklahomans for Equality

OREGON

Basic Rights Oregon
Cascade AIDS Project
Christ Church: Portland
Equality Community Center
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Lower Columbia Q Center
Oregon Abuse Advocat Survivors in Service

PENNSYLVANIA

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
Eastern PA Trans Equity Project
Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Inc
Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation
LGBT Center of Central PA
LGBT Center of Greater Reading
LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County
Mazzoni Center
The Montgomery County LGBT Business Council
Ni-ta-nee NOW (Centre County, PA)
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice
Persad Center
PFLAG York
PGH Equality Center
Philadelphia Family Pride
Proud Haven
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice
Rainbow Rose Center, York County LGBTQ+ Resource Center
SAGA Community Center
TriVersity—The UDGLBT Center
Washington County Gay Straight Alliance, Inc.
William Way LGBT Community Center
Women's Law Project
New Voices for Reproductive Justice

PUERTO RICO

Waves Ahead & SAGE Puerto Rico
Waves Ahead Corp Puerto Rico

RHODE ISLAND

Adoption Rhode Island

SOUTH CAROLINA

Pride Link
Uplift Outreach Center
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Equality South Dakota

TENNESSEE

Girls Inc. of TN Valley
OUTMemphis
Tennessee Equality Project

TEXAS

ADL Southwest Region
The Afiya Center
American Association of University Women Texas (AAUW Texas)
Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
Equality Texas
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
the Montrose Center
Open Arms Rape Crisis Center & LGBT+ Services
Pride Center San Antonio
Pride Center West Texas
Pride Community Center
QWELL Community Foundation
Resource Center
Texas Freedom Network
Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)

UTAH

Equality Utah
Utah Pride Center

VIRGINIA

Diversity Richmond
Equality Virginia
LGBT Life Center
Lynchburg Diversity Center
NAKASEC Virginia
Side by Side
Shenandoah LGBTQ Center

VERMONT

Pride Center Vermont
Outright Vermont

WASHINGTON

Entre Hermanos
Equal Rights Washington
Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
Gender Justice League
Legal Voice
Oasis Youth Center
Rainbow Center

WISCONSIN

9to5 Wisconsin
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection
Fair Wisconsin
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
OutReach LGBT Community Center
The MKE LGBT Community Center
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

WEST VIRGINIA

Ohio Valley Pride Community Center

FAITH FOR EQUALITY

100+ FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE EQUALITY ACT

1. African American Ministers in Action
2. Alliance of Baptists
3. American Conference of Cantors
4. Anti-Defamation League
5. Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
6. Auburn Seminary
7. Avodah
8. BALM Ministries
9. Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative
10. Bend the Arc Jewish Action
11. Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests
12. Carolina Jews for Justice
13. Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
14. Catholics for Choice
15. Central Conference of American Rabbis
16. Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice
17. Chicago Theological Seminary
18. Christ Church: Portland
19. Covenant Network of Presbyterians
20. Crosswalk Community Church
21. DignityUSA
22. Disciples Justice Action Network
23. Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance
24. Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation
25. Estuary Space
26. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
27. Faith in Public Life
28. Faithful America
29. First Baptist Church of Madison, WI
30. Forefront Church NYC
31. Freedom Center for Social Justice
32. Friends Council on Education
33. Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches
34. Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
35. Hindu American Foundation
36. IGNITE MVMT
37. Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
38. Integrity USA: Episcopal Rainbow
39. Interfaith Alliance
40. Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
41. Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness and Advocacy Network
42. Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
43. Jewish Women International
44. JUUstice Washington
45. Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
46. Keshet
47. Lake Oconee Community Church
48. Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church of Oakland, CA
49. Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice
50. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
51. Meadville Lombard Theological School
52. MECCA Institute
53. Missiongathering Christian Church
54. Men of Reform Judaism
55. Methodist Federation for Social Action
56. Metropolitan Community Churches
57. Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)
58. More Light Presbyterians
59. Muslim Advocates
60. Muslim Public Affairs Council
61. Muslims for Progressive Values
62. National Council of Jewish Women
63. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
64. New Hope Unitarian Universalist Congregation
65. New Ways Ministry
66. Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
67. Parity
68. Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice
69. Rabbinical Assembly
70. Reconciling Ministries Network
71. ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation
72. Reconstructing Judaism
73. Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
74. Red Letter Christians
75. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
76. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights of California
77. Religious Institute
78. Soulforce
79. Starr King School for the Ministry
80. T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
81. The Episcopal Church
82. The Freedom Center for Social Justice

83. The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
84. UMForward
85. Union for Reform Judaism
86. Union of Affirming Christians
87. Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
88. Unitarian Universalist Action New Hampshire
89. Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois
90. Unitarian Universalist Association
91. Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona
92. Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio
93. Unitarian Universalist Massachusetts State Action Network
94. Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina
95. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
96. Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
97. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
98. United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
99. UU FaithAction NJ
100. Women of Reform Judaism
101. Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)

NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF JEWISH WOMEN,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2021.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing on behalf of the 180,000 volunteers and advocates of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) to urge you to vote for HR 5, the Equality Act. NCJW believes in kavod habriyot, individual dignity. To that end, we are committed to the enactment, enforcement, and preservation of laws and regulations that protect civil rights and individual liberties for all.

The Equality Act, which passed the House of Representatives in the last Congress, would add explicit protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to our civil rights laws. The bill would also add and expand legal protections for women, people of color, and many other communities. Congress must pass the Equality Act to protect all individuals from discrimination regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

A majority of LGBTQ people have experienced harassment or discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. A 2020 study by the University of Chicago found that one in three LGBTQ Americans faced identity-based discrimination of some kind in the past year, with that number increasing to three in five for transgender people. Discrimination happens in the spheres of employment, education, housing, public accommodations, and health care—every part of a person's life. LGBTQ people of color, immigrants, legal minors, and those with disabilities face even more barriers and biases.

NCJW supports the Equality Act not in spite of our religious beliefs, but because of them. We believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people, including religiously and non-religiously affiliated people. Civil rights protections go hand in hand with religious freedom, and the bill does not require any person to change their religious beliefs nor does it compel religious institutions to participate in activities that violate the tenets of their faith.

All people deserve to live free from discrimination and fear regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. I urge you to vote for final passage of the Equality Act.

Sincerely,

JODY RABHAN,
Chief Policy Officer,
National Council of Jewish Women.

FEBRUARY 24, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: The undersigned trade and professional associations write in support of H.R. 5, the Equality Act. Equality of opportunity is a key pillar of our great democracy—one that allows all people to pursue their American Dream—and part of what makes our nation exceptional. Our industries, representing and employing tens of millions of Americans, understand this basic fact and have been at the forefront of efforts to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace.

H.R. 5 would amend several provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide affirmative, statutory non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ Americans both in the workplace and in the community. These protections remain vitally important even after the Supreme Court's decision in Bostock v. Clayton County. Only legislative action can forestall endless litigation, alleviate the untenable patchwork of state laws governing this form of discrimination, and make clear that discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity is unwelcome and unlawful in our society.

In 2019, the Equality Act was introduced on a bipartisan basis in both the House and Senate, and it passed the House with a bipartisan majority. We urge you again to support the passage of H.R. 5.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council, AAHOAAsian American Hotel Owners Association, ACTThe App Association, AdvaMed, Aerospace Industries Association, Alliance for Automotive Innovation, American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), American Benefits Council, American Chemistry Council, American Cleaning Institute.

American Herbal Products Association, American Hotel & Lodging Association, American Medical Association, American Retirement Association, American Society of Association Executives, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, Biotechnology Innovation Organization, BSAThe Software Alliance, College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

Consumer Brands Association, Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), Consumer Technology Association, Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), Edison Electric Institute, Financial Executives International, FMIThe Food Industry Association, Fragrance Creators, Household & Commercial Products Association, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI).

International Franchise Association, Internet Association, Nareit, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, National Association of Manufacturers, National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI), National Leased Housing Association (NLHA), National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC), National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation.

National Safety Council, National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors, Personal Care Products Council, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Retail Industry Leaders Association, The Center for Baby and Adult Hygiene Products, The Latino Coalition, The Real Estate Roundtable, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equality Act.

In the fight for LGBTQ-plus equality, we have made significant progress. From Stonewall to the Supreme Court, there is no doubt we have come a long way, but the unfortunate truth is that in far too many places discrimination is still permitted under the law. In public facilities, in education institutions, when applying for jobs, when trying to rent or buy a home, discrimination is still permitted under the law.

Many States right now are actively trying to turn back progress or write discriminatory practices into their own laws, especially against our transgender citizens. We can and must do better.

In Arizona, in any place in America, everyone deserves equal treatment under the law, no matter who they are, who they love, or how they express themselves.

I fervently support the Equality Act because we are a Nation that believes all are created equal and that this truth is self-evident. Everyone deserves to be seen, to feel heard, to be welcomed and protected.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY).

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was thinking about my kids as I walked onto the floor today, and I have just one question to those who today, with their votes, would seek to perpetuate legal discrimination against millions of American families, including mine.

Why are they afraid to just say what they really believe? Why hide behind the ridiculous, embarrassing, easily debunked arguments, falsehoods, fearmongering about locker rooms and women's sports and religious practices that will never be harmed? Why not just say what they really mean?

I tell you what, Madam Speaker, I will say it for them. Their real argument, the only honest argument, is that they believe LGBT people are morally inferior and that firing us should be permitted. They argue the longstanding protections we already provide in the civil rights laws for religious practice for some reason aren't good enough. Here they demand more capacity to hate on gay people than they would ever claim as a religious right to discriminate on the basis of race.

Would any opponent of this bill argue that their religion gives them the right to deny an African-American couple service at a restaurant? That is exactly the argument made on this floor 60 years ago when others, making so-called faith-based arguments, sought to defeat the civil rights laws in the first place.

The true argument is that their beliefs demand existing discrimination against LGBT people be allowed. That is their true argument. That is pro-discrimination.

Our argument is that discrimination is wrong and that it should not be permitted, and that the exercise of religion here can be protected just as we do in every other civil rights context—no more, no less.

It is no wonder, but it is sad, that they deny the truth of their position here. These same Members spread the incendiary lie that the election was stolen and play footsie with dangerous conspiracy groups who attacked this building. They tell us mask-wearing infringes on their rights despite a public health emergency.

They deny school shootings are real or that a plane hit the Pentagon. Let history record the vote today. One side votes for love.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I will read from the bill, page 25 of their legislation.

The previous speaker, Madam Speaker, is just flat-out wrong. Here is what it says: The Religious Freedom Restoration Act shall not—shall not—provide a claim or a defense to a claim under the legislation or provide a basis for challenging the application of this bill.

They put it in the bill. You can't use the standards set forth in RFRA that was passed. You can't even use that as a defense. It is spelled out in the legislation.

As my colleague from Louisiana said, the very first right mentioned in the very first amendment to the Constitution, in the very first amendment of the Bill of Rights, is your right to practice your faith the way you see fit. And they put in their legislation: No, you can't. No, you can't.

That is what is in the bill. That is why they didn't want a hearing, as previous speakers said, because they didn't want us to be able to talk about this in a hearing where you have testimony, witnesses. They didn't want that.

They come to the floor, and as my colleague from Texas said, give this a fancy name while they are taking away American citizens' most fundamental liberty, the liberty the Founders chose to mention the very first right in the Bill of Rights.

That is why we oppose this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

Despite its name, this bill is not about equality. It does attack religious freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and all the important rights recognized in the First Amendment. This bill is about forcing the ideas and beliefs of the far left on all Americans. It is about government control over every aspect of your life. It is a remnant from the scrap heap of failed legislation from yesteryear.

I believe that all Americans should be treated equally and respected, but this bill does not do that.

There are lots of concerns to have with this bill, but today, I am going to just highlight two.

First, this bill will have a serious and deadly consequence for unborn children. It expands abortion and undoes current Federal law that prohibits the use of Federal funds for abortion. It does so by adding to include ''pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition,'' which has been recognized by courts and the EEOC to mean abortion, to the definition of sex.

I am reminded of when I used to work at the United Nations and would attend conferences throughout the world. The code language in the United Nations documents, in international law, was enforced pregnancy. That meant abortion. That meant you could not proscribe abortion. This bill takes that same tack.

This bill also states that pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition shall not receive less favorable treatment than other physical conditions. That is that same tack that is in international documents. This means that abortion cannot be treated differently than other medical conditions, and therefore abortion will be protected by our civil rights laws. That is not about equality; that is about expanding abortion.

Secondly, this bill will negatively impact all Americans whose religious beliefs influence their actions. This bill makes crystal clear that an individual's religious beliefs do not matter, as my colleague from Ohio just referred to. This bill specifically prevents Americans from relying on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which was a bipartisan bill in 1993 signed by President Clinton.

This bill says specifically the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 shall not provide a claim concerning or defense to a claim under a covered title or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.

How can you say with a straight face that this bill does not impede or stomp on someone's right of conscience or right of religious worship? It is set forth. It is specific. Who can deny that?

This bill, if enacted, will mean that Americans will not be able to act in accordance with their religious beliefs. They will be forced to set their religious beliefs aside or face consequences. This is unacceptable. This is un-American.

For these and many other reasons, I oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have spent this debate lecturing us about foundational principles in this country. The foundational document of this great Republic is the Declaration of Independence, with the words: ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.''

Those words were eloquent in their articulation and complete in their application. It did not apply to African Americans; it did not apply to women; it did not apply to Native Americans; and it certainly did not apply to members of the LGBTQ community.

Now, we have come a long way in America, but we still have a long way to go. The progress has been made, as the great Barbara Jordan once indicated, through a process of amendment and ratification and court decision and legislation. That is what we are doing today.

If you believe in liberty and justice for all, support the Equality Act. If you believe in equal protection under the law, support the Equality Act. If you believe truly, as my religion teaches me, that we are all God's children, support the Equality Act.

Love does not discriminate; neither should the law.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Equality Act.

I am the proud mom of a trans kid. I will fight every single day for every trans person, every LGBTQ person, including my kid, to explore and express the fullness of their gender without fear or risk of being fired, denied housing, or refused service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Speaker, in 2020, over one in three LGBTQ Americans faced discrimination, including over three in five transgender Americans. In the midst of a pandemic, nearly 3 in 10 LGBTQ Americans faced difficulties accessing medical care, including over half of transgender Americans.

The Equality Act guarantees protection under the law, no matter who you love or your gender identity. It was President Abraham Lincoln who said those who deny freedom for others deserve it not for themselves.

So today, as we pass the Equality Act, we vote ''aye'' for Janak, for Evie, for so many thousands more of our kids.

Ms. JAYAPAL. We say to every LGBTQ person: We see you. We hear you.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman, and I thank Representative

DAVID CICILLINE for his tireless leadership in leading us to this day. All Americans deserve to be treated equally regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

I do have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, what are those on the other side who are arguing against this wise legislation afraid of? Equal treatment for their LGBTQ family and friends? Why would they make such arguments?

We must continue to strive for the equality of the LGBTQ community. Voting ''yes'' on the Equality Act furthers this fight and helps us live up to the promise of this Nation. As Bayard Rustin, an openly gay Black civil rights leader, said: ''Let us be enraged about injustice, but let us not be destroyed by it.''

The Equality Act is a necessary step in addressing injustice by advancing the rights of Americans nationwide because we are all God's children. The passage of this legislation is an important step in forming a more perfect Union.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that balance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, for years we have been hearing what we are hearing today: Look, we just want the same rights everybody else has. But we also heard for years: We just want to live and let live.

I have got news for all of my friends across the aisle that don't know. There is a right to the marriage you are claiming you need this bill for that the Supreme Court has already said you have. It is there.

So what this bill, the so-called Equality Act, is really about, it is not about giving rights. This is about taking away rights. You have the rights. But this is saying that part of the First Amendment, ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,'' that has to go.

□ 1415

And just like my friend read from page 25, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, that has got to go. You can no longer—after this bill, you can no longer use that as a defense when we sue your church, we sue your preacher. Male or female, it doesn't matter. We are coming after you. If we sue a Rabbi, you can't hide behind the First Amendment or this Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

It won't help you because we are saying you don't have those rights the Constitution gave you. That is all RFRA was to begin with. It was just codifying what was in the Constitution.

I thought so much about my dear friend, the late Bishop Harry Jackson. He and I had stood inside this Capitol together for years trying to protect Christian rights. I miss Harry and I think about him a lot.

And let me say, not as articulately, but for heaven's sake, you have got these rights. Allow people who believe what Moses said when he said: A man shall leave his father and mother, a woman leave her home, the two will become one flesh.

Let them be able to practice the teaching of Moses. When Jesus was asked about marriage, he said—he quoted Moses verbatim. Please allow Christians who believe what Jesus said to practice that.

Allow preachers who took oaths to practice it. Allow them to do that. Don't take away the rights the Constitution gave, and don't take away decades of rights that women have worked for and earned and just give it away to men.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great day for America when we are advancing the civil rights of all Americans, and that is what the Equality Act does.

All of the free exercise constitutional arguments being advanced today— The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. Will the gentleman please put his mask on.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, all of the constitutional arguments being advanced today by our colleagues have been decisively repudiated and rejected by their hero, Justice Antonin Scalia, in the 1990 decision Employment Division v. Smith, where Justice Scalia, for the Court, emphasized that there is no religious free exercise exemption from secular laws of universal application, including civil rights laws, including child labor laws, including child abuse laws. And every scoundrel in American history has tried to dress up his or her opposition to other people's civil rights in religious garb.

We saw that in 1964, in the Heart of Atlanta Motel case and in the Ollie's Barbecue case, where motel owners, hotel owners, lunch counter owners came in and said: We have a religious free exercise right not to serve interracial groups or interracial couples. We don't want to allow an interracial couple—you get where I am going.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Equality Act.

The issues discussed as part of the Equality Act are important. Amending the Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation would be a historic step. Unfortunately, without explicit religious exemptions, there are many questions that will arise.

Title II of the Civil Rights Act currently prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

The Equality Act would dramatically expand the definition of public accommodation to include any place of public gathering or any establishment that provides a service, such as food banks or homeless shelters.

Every religion and faith in America has had its own set of beliefs. Some of these, including Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religions, are thousands of years old and answer to a much higher power.

My personal faith, as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, teaches me that every individual is a child of God and deserves to be treated with love and respect.

My religion also teaches that marriage is sacred and eternal in nature. The marriage ceremonies conducted in the sacred places of my faith are conducted in temples that must not be deemed places of public accommodation.

If houses of worship are defined as places of public accommodation, a number of problems arise, many having nothing to do with LGBT rights.

For example, could an orthodox Jewish synagogue decline to permit an interfaith couple from having their wedding ceremony in the synagogue?

Could a traditional mosque conduct gender-segregated classes for youth programs?

Could a Catholic church's homeless shelter have separate housing for men and women?

Could BYU or other church-owned universities continue hiring those individuals who follow its standards?

Democrats claim the purpose of introducing the Equality Act is not to impede religious freedom. In fact, Democrats claim that the existing laws are enough to protect religious freedom.

But why, then, leave these crucial matters unclear and threaten people of faith?

Why not accept an amendment to the Equality Act that clearly exempts religious organizations?

Why remove the protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act?

The First Amendment right to practice our faith is at the core of our Nation's culture. Our moral compass of service, tolerance, kindness, and charity stems from our Judeo-Christian foundation. No law should take us down the slippery slope of forgetting this legacy, regardless of its title.

When Congress wants to protect religious expressions, it knows how to do so. The last major civil rights law enacted by Congress was the Americans with Disabilities Act. It contains a clear and explicit religious exemption.

Why not make the law clear to promote civil rights and religious liberty?

That would be the historic and unifying thing to do.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that this Chamber does remarkable things. Today, we pass the Equality Act, which includes my bill, the Juror Non-Discrimination Act.

This has been a long time coming and it represents progress that, for me, was unbelievable when I was growing up. You see, to grow up poor, Black, and gay is to not see yourself anywhere. It is also to feel completely unseen, as so many people around you invalidate your very existence. Growing up, I watched helplessly as opportunistic, straight politicians—mostly White, mostly male—used my basic human rights as a political football to further their careers.

Had this legislation been enacted when I was growing up, it would have been direct evidence of the fact that things really do get better, that I didn't have to hide or cry so much.

Thankfully, since childhood, things have gotten better, but that hasn't been because of the mere passage of time. It has been because LGBTQ advocates made life better.

Today, we send a powerful message to millions of LGBTQ people around the country and, indeed, around the world that they are seen, that they are valued, that their lives are worthy of being protected.

How remarkable that is, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just point out that a few speakers ago, the gentleman from Maryland used the term ''religious garb.''

A physician's conscience, a physician's faith, which compels him or her not to take the life of an unborn child is not religious garb. That is a deeply held position of conscience and position of faith.

Mr. Speaker, to have a Member from the other side raise that argument when we have specifically pointed to the First Amendment, pointed to page 25 of the bill, which says ''the Religious Freedom Restoration Act will not apply,'' is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for yielding, and I completely agree with him on his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, yet another harmful bill that has been rushed to the House floor without thorough bipartisan consideration. It claims to strive for equality, but, in practice, this bill undermines the constitutional religious freedoms guaranteed to all Americans.

Once again, abandoning long-established House procedures, Democrats are pushing a conveniently titled bill without convening one hearing or markup during the 117th Congress to consider its vast implications for educational institutions and employers.

This legislation would require our Nation's K–12 schools to treat gender as being fluid, subjective, and not tied to biological reality.

H.R. 5 also threatens religious freedom protections for all Americans and Federal funding for religiously affiliated colleges and universities.

Under this bill, student codes of conduct, hiring practices, and housing rules that reflect sincerely held beliefs about marriage and sexuality would be deemed discriminatory, eroding First Amendment rights.

In addition, the definitions in this bill are vague and would subject employers and other covered organizations to increase litigation risks.

The bill also fails to advocate for the unborn, which is why I urge support for my amendment that will protect anyone, including religiously affiliated groups and individuals, from being forced to perform abortions.

Masquerading as a proposal to guarantee fundamental civil rights to all Americans, H.R. 5 is nothing more than a partisan ploy to destroy religious liberty and educational opportunities for girls. Shameful doesn't even begin to describe this bill.

This is no way to legislate, but for House Democrats, silencing the voices of the minority and millions of hard-working Americans is business as usual.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH).

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in support of the Equality Act because all people deserve to live safely and freely.

When we say that Black lives matter, we mean that every Black life matters; that Black trans lives matter; that Nina Pop's life mattered.

When we protect the lives of our trans family, our unhoused neighbors, our sex workers, our youth, we build a country where everyone can thrive, not just survive.

For so many in St. Louis, this bill will be the difference between life and death. Missouri has not only stalled justice, but actively denied justice for our LGBTQIA-plus community. This legislation will mean the difference between having a safe place to call home and being unhoused because, to date, in the year 2021, that kind of discrimination still exists.

We rise to tell our LGBTQIA community: Not only do you matter, but you are loved and you are cared for, and we got your back.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER and Representative CICILLINE for their work on this.

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support to the Equality Act, a groundbreaking piece of legislation that will grant equal protection under the law to our LGBTQ friends, family, neighbors, as well as to me and my family.

As the first openly lesbian wife and mother in Congress and the first LGBTQ Member of Congress from the great State of Minnesota, I know this legislation is the culmination of a lifetime of work for so many.

My wife, Cheryl, and I have built a beautiful life together raising four sons who we dearly love. We are fortunate to live in Minnesota, in a State where many of the Equality Act's protections have already been enshrined into law.

Right now, there are States across this country where it would be entirely legal for Cheryl and I to be discriminated against—based on our love and commitment to one another—in housing, employment, access to credit, or any other number of areas essential to just living our lives.

□ 1430

Now, some of my colleagues seem to believe this legislation somehow could harm our non-LGBTQ women and girls, but that couldn't be further from the truth.

The Equality Act does not undermine the achievements or aspirations of non-LGBTQ. In fact, by amending the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in a broad area of life, we are fighting to ensure that all women are treated equally in all aspects of their lives.

The Equality Act is critical because when LGBTQ people have equality under the law, we all benefit and all of our communities are stronger.

Mr. Speaker, as a teenage girl growing up in rural America, I never could have imagined I would finally see this legislation come to the House floor, much less as a Member of this body to see it passed. This legislation is necessary, it is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Equality Act. This landmark legislation will bring our Nation closer to the promise of its founding and will change the lives of generations of LGBTQ Americans for the better. This should be one of the easiest and most-affirming votes we ever take. Equality is, after all, a self-evident truth. It is part of the bedrock of this Nation.

Throughout our history, the march toward full equality has brought more Americans of diverse backgrounds into the heart and soul of this country. Today's vote is another important milestone along that path.

Americans in 29 States can be denied housing, education, credit, or other services, simply because of who they are. That this can happen in our country in 2021 is a grave injustice that

must be corrected with this vote. And by passing this bill, we can also send an unequivocal message to every LGBTQ American and their families: ''You matter. You have dignity. Your country sees you and has your back.''

Growing up in New Hampshire, I never thought I could live as my authentic self. Thankfully, I have a loving family and a welcoming community who embraced me as a young person, and I am fortunate to live in a State that has already added sexual orientation and gender identity to its civil rights statutes.

But too many other LGBTQ Americans live in fear of sharing their truth, and millions live in fear that the law won't protect them from discrimination when they need it.

Look, we are not asking for anything any other American doesn't already enjoy. We just want to be treated the same. We just want politicians in Washington to catch up with the times and the Constitution. No one deserves to be treated as a second-class citizen in this country just for being themselves.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass the Equality Act. Let's achieve full equality under the law, and let's pass this bill with a strong, affirming vote today.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this law could not be plainer. It says gender is not a question of genetics, but of personal choice. And leftist dogma now calls for this doctrine to be imposed under force of law, and the effect is frightening.

States that have adopted similar laws have threatened safe spaces for women and intimidated the free exercise of conscience. But let me focus on just two aspects: How this destroys women's sports and renders parents powerless to protect their own children.

Selina Soule, a teenager, worked her heart out and qualified for the Connecticut State championship track meet a few years ago. This is her experience:

She said, ''Eight of us lined up at the starting line . . . but when six of us were only about three-quarters into the race, two girls were already across the finish line. . . .

''What just happened? Two boys identifying as girls happened.

''Fair is no longer the norm. The chance to advance, the chance to win has been all over for us. . . .

''This policy will take away our medals, records, scholarships and dreams.''

An anguished mother named Elaine, told her story: She said, ''Let me explain to you how this works. . . . Questioning a child's professed gender identity is now illegal.

''So, if a little boy is 5 years old and believes he is the opposite sex, affirmative care means going along with his beliefs. Parents are encouraged to refer to him as their 'daughter' and let him choose a feminine name. . . .

''Is it really harmless to tell a child who still believes in the tooth fairy that he is of the opposite sex?

''If a 10-year-old girl is uncomfortable with her developing body and suddenly insists she is a boy, affirmative care means blocking this girl's puberty with powerful drugs.''

America, wake up. This is the brave, new world that House Democrats propose under the name ''equality.'' The parents of every daughter, who has ever poured their hearts into a sport should be outraged that their daughter's dreams and hopes no longer matter to their own Representative.

Every parent who would give their life to protect their child should be livid that this bill is about to replace them with bureaucrats who can administer puberty-blocking drugs on their child's say-so.

And every American should be scared as hell to realize the ideological extremism that is now running rampant behind the razor-wired militarized U.S. Capitol. It is hard to believe that we once called it ''the people's House.''

Let this be a wake-up call to every voter. If you elect enough radicals to the Congress, you will get a radical Congress.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, now I had a different speech I was going to give today about the Equality Act. As an openly gay Member of Congress, married to my husband, Phil, for 14 years, I was going to talk about the need for equal treatment under the law for everyone, regardless of who they love. Human kindness, respect for others—pretty basic stuff. But the new QAnon vibe in this body has gone too far.

For many in this Chamber, this isn't a debate about whether or not you should be legally discriminated against for who you love. You won't hear that debate because they can't win on hate alone. The public doesn't agree with them.

So instead, some are debating that this bill discriminates based on religion, which it doesn't, because it treats everyone the same under the law.

And some are debating an even sillier notion: That somehow a man will pretend to be a woman to win in women's sports—a crazy, made-up fantasy notion.

This new QAnon spirit across the aisle is also occurring in a nasty and hateful way. A lead GOP opponent of this bill actually posted an anti-trans poster on the wall outside her office directly and intentionally across from a Democratic Member of Congress with a trans daughter. Wow. That is classy.

Mr. Speaker, really, is that where we are here today? Who can out-crazy, out-tastelessly act to prove to the base that they will say or do anything to score points and show how inconsiderate they can be to a colleague to just get social media clickbait?

Here are the facts: One in four transgender people have lost a job due to discrimination, and dozens of transgender and gender-nonconforming people were violently killed last year. And LGBTQ youth are almost 5 times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth due to discrimination. It is past time we put an end to this. A vote against the Equality Act is a vote for discrimination, plain and simple.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't Iran or Somalia or Russia. This is America. Show human dignity for others by offering equal treatment under the law. That is the Equality Act.

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join our entire caucus in saluting Congressman DAVID CICILLINE, our longtime champion of the Equality Act, who has been courageous, relentless, and persistent in his leadership for this legislation.

We are proud to bring this important legislation to the House floor under the leadership of the most diverse House Democratic majority—nearly 70 percent women, people of color, and LGBTQ, with 224 cosponsors on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as many of us were gathered together nearly 5 years ago to first introduce the Equality Act, that day in the LBJ room, on the Senate side, named after the President who fought for and signed the Civil Rights Act, we stood with an icon of the civil rights struggle, our colleague John Lewis, the conscience of Congress.

The Civil Rights Act is a sacred pillar of freedom in our country. It is not amended lightly. So how proud were we to be with our beloved JOHN LEWIS and the Congressional Black Caucus—many of whom are here now, MAXINE WATERS, Mr. GREEN, and others, thank you—as they gave their imprimatur to the opening of the Civil Rights Act to end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans.

And we remember John Lewis' life, we remember his words spoken at the Pride parade in Atlanta. Shortly before being diagnosed with cancer, he said, ''We are one people and one family. We all live in the same House . . . ''

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to pass this landmark legislation, we must salute the countless advocates, activists, outside organizers and mobilizers, who have for decades demanded full rights for all Americans. Personally, my thoughts are with my friends, the late Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who shared their lives together for decades. I have spoken of them with their photo here on the floor year in and year out.

They were members, as so many of us in San Francisco, who for decades were engaged in civic engagement on many issues, including those issues related to LGBTQ rights. They were an inspiration, teaching us to take ''pride.'' And I say that with pride.

When people say to me, ''It is easy for you to support LGBTQ equality because you are from San Francisco where people are so tolerant.'' Tolerant? To me, that is a condescending word. This is not about tolerance.

This is about respect. This is about taking pride for Phyllis and Del and the older LGBTQ couples, for them, for LGBTQ workers striving to provide for their families, and for LGBTQ youth struggling to find their place, this is an historic, transformative moment of pride.

Here in the House, this pride goes back for many years. When we first got the majority in 2006 and 2007, House Democrats had four goals relating to equality. Passing a comprehensive hate crimes bill—and when I say comprehensive, I mean, LGBTQ—''TQ''. ''T''. People said to us at the time, Take out the ''T'' and you can pass this bill in a minute.

I said, If we take out the ''T,'' we are not going to pass this bill in 100 years because we are not bringing it up without the word ''transgender'' in the bill.

We passed the bill with the help of Barney Frank, our former colleague, and the family of Matthew Shepard who came here, touched our hearts, and got the votes to help us pass the legislation.

Then we had ''Don't ask, don't tell.'' And under the leadership of President Obama and the courage of so many Members—Patrick Murphy, our former colleague and an Iraq combat vet leading the way here—we repealed ''Don't ask, don't tell.''

Thank you, President Obama.

Mr. Speaker, securing marriage equality was done for us by the courts. I took great pride in attending the oral arguments when that was argued in the courts, and what a victory it was for liberty and justice in our country when that decision came down.

Our next item on the agenda was something called ENDA, ending discrimination in the workplace. Well, it is really called Employment Nondiscrimination Act, hence the ENDA.

But then with the successes that we had, it was, Why are we just talking about the workplace? Why aren't we talking about every place in our society? And, hence, came forth ENDA which became the Equality Act, finally, fully, ending anti-LGBTQ discrimination on employment, education, housing, credit, jury service, and public accommodation. It removes all doubt that sexual orientation and gender identity warrants civil rights protection in every arena of American life.

Codifying the recent decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Bostock case, it takes a momentous step towards full equality that brings our Nation closer to the founding promise of liberty and justice for all enshrined in the preamble of our Constitution by our Founders in their great wisdom—also, in our pledge to the flag. And it is sadly necessary, I wish that it weren't. Sometimes I just wonder why it is. But it is sadly necessary because many members of the national LGBTQ community live in States where, though they have the right to marry, they have no State-level nondiscrimination protections in other areas of life.

Mr. Speaker, in more than 20 States, LGBTQ Americans do not have specific protections against being denied housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and over 30 States lack protections regarding access to education. Nearly 40 States lack protections regarding jury service.

Mr. Speaker, passing the Equality Act in the last Congress was historic, a day of hope and happiness for millions. Now, with the Democratic Senate majority and President Biden in the White House and Vice President HARRIS there as well, we will pass it once more and we will never stop fighting until it becomes law. We will never stop fighting until the Equality Act becomes law.

□ 1445

Let me conclude by returning to John Lewis and recalling his words spoken on this House floor on the passage of the Equality Act the first time. John Lewis said: We have a decision to end discrimination and set all of our people free.

And set all of our people free. Today, with this legislation, we have an opportunity to set all of our people free and to advance the future of justice, equality, and dignity for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan vote for the Equality Act, salute Mr. CICILLINE and Senate MERKLEY on the Senate side for their leadership, and commend the distinguished chair of the Judiciary Committee for once again bringing this to the floor. Thank you, Congresswoman, for your leadership on this issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, control the balance of the time on our side.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire about the amount of time remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 16½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 19¾ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, a critical piece of civil rights legislation.

Half a century ago, the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act became law. But we know that housing and lending discrimination remains a widespread problem. Former President Trump and his administration were shameful and cruel adversaries to justice and civil rights and worked to gut protections against housing and lending discrimination.

According to the National Fair Housing Alliance, sex discrimination made up the fourth greatest basis for complaints in 2019. As housing discrimination continues to harm an estimated 6 to 8 million people in the U.S., LGBTQ-plus youth, in particular, remain at greater risk of homelessness compared to non-LGBTQ-plus youth, and same-sex couples are more likely to be denied a mortgage loan compared to hetero-sex couples.

This legislation takes key steps to codify existing protections for our LGBTQ-plus neighbors under civil rights statutes, including the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and is similar to provisions included in H.R. 166, a fair lending proposal by Representative AL GREEN. My committee has convened several hearings on this topic, including one this week, about ongoing lending discrimination.

I thank Representative CICILLINE for authoring this bill and Chair NADLER for his leadership. I urge my colleagues to please support this important bill that will ensure equal access to housing and wealth-building opportunities for generations to come by expressly prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement from the Log Cabin Republicans opposing the legislation on the floor today.

LCR's official statement:

As part of the Democrats' hard shift to the left, they continue to trample on the rights and freedoms of all Americans in the name of equality and 'equity.'

Today, House Democrats are ramming through their latest version of the so-called ''Equality Act.'' We opposed this legislation in the past, and we oppose it as it stands today. This is a partisan piece of legislation—it has no Republican cosponsors in the House. And the insidious nature of the extreme changes it will make would irreparably harm America and all of the accomplishments we've worked so hard for over the last few decades.

Below, please find a complete review of this legislation from our editorial and research teams at OUTSpoken.

Let me be clear—Log Cabin Republicans is not now, nor will it ever retreat on our commitment for equality for the LGBT community—the transgender community included. We stand for protections in employment, access to quality healthcare, and equal protection under the law for our trans brothers and sisters.

But the so-called Equality Act goes to an extreme level to eliminate the concept of gender, which is absurd, dangerous, and way out of the mainstream.

We're going to work through this together as a community and a nation, but the Equality Act is not the solution.

Thank you for your consideration we will keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I noted that, at the outset, the bill sponsor, the gentleman from Rhode Island, said that every community deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Every community deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

The problem with this misnamed bill is that it does not treat every community with dignity and respect. You have heard from previous speakers that this bill takes pains to say your earnestly held religious beliefs are no defense.

What else does it do? Well, the basic way the legislation operates is to insert or substitute for the word ''sex'' as a protected classification the phrase ''sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity.'' If it did nothing more, it would be an echo of the Bostock decision in June. But it does do more.

It defines the term ''included,'' so ''sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity.'' If you go to the definition section, ''including'' is defined to mean ''including, but not limited to.'' ''Including but not limited to,'' why is that? What else does the bill intend to do that the bill declines to state?

Most significantly, Mr. Speaker, is that the bill removes the play in the joints. Let me explain what I mean. Concerning the public accommodations title, Title II of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which, by the way, didn't cover sex, it defined what a public accommodation was for the purpose of ceasing the discrimination against Black Americans in public accommodations. What it said was, and it had a lot of synonyms, but hotels, restaurants, theaters, those were public accommodations.

That language is gone in this bill, Mr. Speaker. Instead, what it says is a public accommodation is ''any establishment that provides a good, service, or program, including,'' there is that word ''including,'' and there is a big, long list.

So any establishment that provides any good, any service, or any program in our society is covered, but we are still not done because of the rule's construction. ''A reference in this title to an establishment shall be construed to include an individual whose operations affect commerce and who is a provider of a good, service, or program,'' any individual, the cake baker, the photographer.

This bill flips the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on its head.

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

Mr. JORDAN. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was designed to say: No longer will Black Americans be cut out of economic life in this country. And it was necessary, and it was a moral evil. This bill flips that bill on its head, and it says to every individual: A condition of your participating in the economic life of the country is that you buy all in, you buy into this lock, stock, and barrel. If you do not, you will be cut out of the economic life of this country.

There is no dignity and respect in that.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER for yielding.

''We the people'' is a bold opening statement enshrined in our Constitution. But for far too long, LGBTQ Americans have not been included in that statement.

A gay couple can get married in all 50 States. A trans worker has legal protections from discrimination in the workplace. But despite this progress, a lesbian mom can be denied housing in most States because of her sexual orientation. A queer person can be turned away from serving on a jury.

In 27 States, there are no laws protecting people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in education, housing, and public accommodation, and this is wrong. No person, no matter where they live in America, should face discrimination. Equality should not depend on the ZIP Code where you live. Now is the time for ''we the people'' to include LGBTQ Americans.

My Republican colleagues are desperately trying to derail this legislation by cloaking their bigotry with high-minded arguments about religious freedom and appealing to people's worst instincts with transphobic attacks and grossly exaggerated examples. Their main argument seems to be that America doesn't want a law that will protect the dignity of trans people who get murdered and beat up for being who they are.

In reality, trans people are among those in our community who need this protection the most. Republicans want to vilify people who are the most severe victims of injustice.

What this law does is simple and just. It guarantees that LGBTQ people in every State cannot be discriminated against because of their identity. We have a moral imperative to get the Equality Act signed into law.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. As a child of the Bronx who grew up in the projects, I was often too scared to come out of the closet, too blinded by fear to see clearly my own value, my own equality. My younger self could have never imagined standing on the floor of the House as a Member of Congress, voting for legislation that, if enacted, would make me equal in the eyes of the law.

As the first LGBTQ Afro-Latino Member of Congress, I feel palpably the weight of history on my shoulders. On behalf of my community, I am here to claim what discrimination denies: equal protection under the law.

Indeed, we are here to uphold the abiding truth of the American experiment, that we are all created equal and that none of us should be evicted, fired, or denied accommodations and services simply because of who we are and because of whom we love.

We are equal by nature, and we ought to be equal by law. The logic of equality is as simple as that.

Yesterday, a Member of Congress said that the Equality Act was ''disgusting, evil, immoral.'' I wish to set the record straight.

What is truly immoral and disgusting and evil is discrimination. It always has been, and it always will be. Discrimination denies us our deepest humanity. The profound degradation it causes has no place in a society that pledges liberty and justice for all.

So I hope that my colleagues, all of them, will find the moral courage to uphold what the Declaration of Independence promises and what the Equality Act delivers: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all of us, without exception, without discrimination.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE).

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, unlike most speeches you will hear on this floor today, I am going to start with the truth.

Deuteronomy 22:5 states: A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.

Now, this verse isn't concerned about clothing styles but with people determining their own sexual identities. It is not clothing or personal style that offends God but, rather, the use of one's appearance to act out or take on a sexual identity different from the one biologically assigned by God at birth. In his wisdom, God intentionally made each individual uniquely either male or female.

□ 1500

When men or women claim to be able to choose their own sexual identity, they are making a statement that God did not know what he was doing when he created them. I am going to quote directly from Dr. Tony Evans' commentary Bible on this passage of Scripture: ''Men and women equally share in bearing the image of God, but he has designed them to be distinct from and complementary toward one another. The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design. Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against

him and will inevitably bear the consequences.''

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read that line again. ''Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences.'' I think we are seeing the consequences of rejecting God here in our country today, and this bill speaks directly against what is laid out in Scripture.

Our government, through this bill, is going to redefine what a woman is and what a man is. It can be anyone who identifies in that gender at any time. You are going to singlehandedly end women's sports and all the gains for women's rights contained in Title IX that was passed in this body since 1972. Singlehandedly destroying women's sports in the name of equality, how ironic.

If biological men compete in women's sports, then it is no longer women's sports at all. We might as well just have one sports team per event, and women, transgender women, men, transgender men can all compete against each other. How is that for equality?

If biological differences didn't matter, we would never have created and funded separate teams for men and women. We know that science supports the idea that there are performance differences between biological men and women in competitive sports, and it is just common sense to the vast majority of Americans, just not common sense to this Democratic majority.

In Connecticut, three high school female track runners have had to file a lawsuit because their Title IX protections were violated by biological male athletes competing against them. They had no choice but to file suit after they were forced to compete against biological male athletes, and after those biological male athletes brought home 15 women's State championship titles. I could stand up here and give you example after example of this happening throughout our country in all sports categories, but I don't have near the time.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to protect women's sports, then vote against this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. STEUBE, what any religious tradition ascribes as God's will is no concern of this Congress.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, at a townhall in my district, a young student asked me: What is Congress going to do to protect trans people like me? He bravely stood before an auditorium of neighbors and told me he was terrified by the bigotry and discrimination against him and his LGBTQ-plus community members.

I have heard these fears expressed by my own nonbinary child. Their fears are not misplaced. Our LGBTQ neighbors face discrimination in healthcare, housing, education, and employment. Even here, in the people's House, Members of Congress are describing transgender people as something less than, as undeserving, and illegitimate.

Today, our vote for the Equality Act says to every person that you matter, that you deserve to live your truth with respect and dignity, that there will be no true freedom for anyone until there is equality for everyone.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker.

You used God to enslave my foreparents. You used God to segregate me in schools. You used God to put me in the back of the bus.

Have you no shame? God created every person in this room. Are you saying that God made a mistake?

This is not about God; it is about men who choose to discriminate against other people because they have the power to do so.

My record will not show that I voted against Mr. CICILLINE having his rights. My record will show that when I had the opportunity to deliver liberty and justice for all, I voted for rights for all.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone uses God. We have just cited what is in the legislation, which specifically says the Religious Freedom Restoration Act shall not provide a defense against what this bill is doing. That is all we have done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Equality Act is not about tolerance. It seeks to impose the will of this body on the American people in violation of the Constitution.

It establishes a woke heresy code, seeking to eliminate distinctions between male and female at every level. It cancels women's and girls' sports, requiring that biological males compete for their records, championships, and scholarships.

It nullifies the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Rather than preserve the constitutionally protected freedom to disagree, disguised as equality, it compels participation on your terms for abortions, weddings, and all of religious, vocational, and civic life. It pursues what Hillary Clinton said in 2016: You will just have to change your doctrine.

Let me assure you, that will not happen. Colleagues, we must defend freedom and defeat this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day. Today, we send a clear message to every LGBTQ person that you belong here, that you are loved for who you are, and that we won't stop fighting until you experience true equity and equality.

We are experiencing a crisis of violence against our LGBTQ neighbors, especially people of color, and our transgender communities. Today's passage is for Treasure Hilliard, for Paris Cameron, and for every LGBTQ person taken too soon by hate.

When one in five transgender people has experienced homelessness, when transgender people have half the homeownership rate of cisgender people, we have a structural problem. By outlawing discrimination in housing, employment, education, and public accommodations, we send a powerful message to the bigots, including those here in Congress, that their time is over.

Listen very closely, and remember these words: We are winning. We will continue winning. Our will is unbreakable. Our love is so much stronger than your sad, pathetic hate.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire about the amount of time left for each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 8¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 11 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly half of all LGBTQ people in America lack protections from discrimination in employment, education, housing, public accommodations, and credit. This is an abject failure to recognize the humanity and dignity in all of us. And, as I have spoken on before as the chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, discrimination is bad for business. That is why we need the Equality Act.

We also need to recognize the mental health impacts of failing to treat all people equally under the law. Discrimination is linked to increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. Until all are equal in the eyes of the law, we are allowing bigotry to silence and shame.

So, today, I am voting ''yes'' for all those who have been made less by their government's failure to protect them. I am voting ''yes'' for the nearly 2 million LGBTQ youth who are counting on us. I see you, and I welcome you in my heart.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Equality Act, important legislation that will secure the civil rights of our LGBTQ community.

Our LGBTQ friends, neighbors, colleagues, and community members

should not miss an educational opportunity, or be denied housing or credit, because of who they are or who they love.

I was proud to help pass the Oregon Equality Act when I was in the State legislature. The same arguments were being made back then, in 2007, that some of our colleagues are making today. Do you know what came to pass? Those concerns did not come to pass. What happened? The law brought dignity, security, and peace of mind to the LGBTQ community.

It is long past time that LGBTQ Americans across the country have the same protections. As the chair of the Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee, I have heard from students and workers who were discriminated against, people who were deeply harmed by antigay and transphobic attacks.

Today, I am thinking about the trans people in Oregon and around the country who are bravely standing up for equality. We stand with you. We will keep working to create a world where you are safe, free, and supported.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CICILLINE for his leadership.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Equality Act, and I associate myself with the remarks of the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Because Mr. CICILLINE and my colleagues have already said all that there is to say about the clear merits of the bill, I would simply ask, through the Chair, that if our colleagues on the other side cannot find it within themselves to support this bill out of a sense of fairness and goodwill to those enduring discrimination, then please do so out of concern for their parents, people just like our colleagues on the other side, mothers and fathers who love their children every bit as much as our colleagues love theirs.

We want nothing more than to send our kids out into the world with confidence and a reasonable expectation of being treated fairly and equally. It is never too late to do the right thing.

Please join us in voting ''yes'' on the Equality Act.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here today, to be on the record in favor of this legislation.

No one should be fired from their job or evicted from their home because of who they are or who they love.

□ 1515

This legislation will guarantee that our LGBTQ friends, neighbors, and family will be full members of the American family with all of the protections that come with that.

Mr. Speaker, I will just say one thing before I sit down. For anyone who ever wondered what they would have done in those days in the early 1960s, when the civil rights legislation was being debated here, let me just say this: Whatever you are doing now is what you would have done then.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the last statement was ridiculous, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, as a founding vice chair of the LGBTQ-plus Equality Caucus, I am proud, once again, to cast my vote for the Equality Act. It is my sincere hope that this is finally the year that it will be signed into law.

In dozens of States, including my own, LGBTQ Americans are still denied housing, discriminated against in education, or denied service at businesses. The Trump administration ruthlessly attacked the LGBTQ community's rights from the transgender military ban to allowing doctors to deny medical care to LGBTQ individuals.

States have continued to put forward so-called bathroom bills. Legislators in my own State have introduced bills to deny medical care to trans children and prevent trans youth from playing sports. Even worse, 44 trans Americans were murdered in 2020, the deadliest year on record.

We can't tolerate any more discrimination. It costs lives. The Equality Act is vital so that Americans everywhere can love whom they love and be their authentic selves without fear of persecution, eviction, or discrimination.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL).

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I first want to agree with the bill's sponsor from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that discrimination is wrong.

He went on to say the bill, H.R. 5, does no more and does no less than to give LGBTQ people the respect and equality they deserve. But I disagree because the bill moves us far beyond nondiscrimination and toward a place of one side over another. It eliminates mutual respect.

Mr. Speaker, we can't be so anxious to protect one class of people that we harm another. For instance, the bill forces churches in the public square to do things that counter their deeply held beliefs. It moves our Nation away from our Judeo-Christian values. It places women in sports, in domestic shelters, and in the healthcare profession at risk. It allows government to take an even more drastic step of making decisions that should be reserved for our families.

The Equality Act is anything but. Let's not be fooled by the title.

It would, likewise, force both people and organizations in many everyday life and work settings to speak or act in support of gender transition, including healthcare workers and licensed counselors, even when it is against their professional judgment. The Equality Act would force healthcare providers to perform abortions and gender transition surgeries against their deeply held religious beliefs. That is not equality.

Any parent who does not want their child to go through gender reassignment surgery at a young and vulnerable age would be stigmatized, and there is a risk that their child could be taken away or the life-altering surgery would be done with the blessing of only one parent. This diminishes the ability of parents to raise their children and to pass on their values. It is Washington, D.C., that ultimately decides the morality of our children and our churches.

If this is truly about respect, then let's start with it here in this Chamber. I must correct the record, and I take exception to being labeled as someone who vilifies those across the aisle. That is simply not true. No one on this side of the aisle has said ''less than'' or ''illegitimate.'' These are the labels being used on your side, not by me and not by my colleagues.

If we want to do what is right by the American people, then let's start respecting one another in this Chamber. Let's start doing things that are for the benefit of the people. Let's start understanding that we are here to protect all lives. All lives matter.

But when we can't stop fighting and discouraging each other in this Chamber, shame on us, because we are going to do a lot better for the people who sent us here when we can start having civil conversation.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

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

One of the sad things that is happening in America, Mr. Speaker, is that the truth is so often being perceived as fake news or that fake news is so often being perceived as the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I am old enough to have worked for a United States Senator during the civil rights era. And I would get a publication—because I opened the mail; I had a hifalutin job—from what was called the Cross and the Sword, a publication that came somewhere from the South. I forget where its headquarters was.

I remember reading how the Bible told us that we should not integrate America and that if God had wanted us all to be together, then we would be the same color. I perceived that then and I perceive that now as absurd.

So I proudly rise in support of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, and congratulate Mr.

CICILLINE and all those who have worked on getting this bill to this point on this floor.

We passed it before, of course, and sent it to the United States Senate. They ignored it, to their discredit. The House passed this bill last Congress with bipartisan support. I hope we have bipartisan support this year because I remember, Mr. Speaker, back in the days of the early sixties and mid-sixties there were giants in the Republican Party who stood with Democrats on behalf of civil rights. I hope we can repeat that today because there is no room in America—it says here in 2021 that there should have been no room in America from 1776 on when we said: ''We hold these truths to be self-evident''—for legal discrimination.

There are moments in our history that are celebrated for generations as those in which Americans came together to perfect our Union and to protect and uphold the universal rights enshrined in our founding documents. That is what we as a nation did with the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. It is what we did with the 19th Amendment where we said: Oh, yes, I know you are a woman, but you are going to be equal, you are going to be allowed to vote.

What a radical idea that was and how long it took.

We did it as well with the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1960. We did it together with the bill that I was proud to sponsor on this floor, the Americans with Disabilities Act. We said that it is not your disability that counts; it is your ability; drop the ''dis.''

We can do it again today with Mr. CICILLINE's Equality Act, affirming that equality is for everyone all the time and everywhere.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, would ban discrimination against LGBTQ Americans in every area where it still exists and in every State that still permits it. One nation under God, indivisible. Not discrimination in the Northwest and discrimination in the Northeast or discrimination in the South or the Southwest. One nation—no discrimination—fairness and equality for all.

That includes housing, public education, personal finance and credit, employment, healthcare, jury service, and public accommodation. The practical effect of such legalized discrimination is the denial of opportunities and economic security to certain Americans because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

The practical effect of this bill, Mr. Speaker, will be to open the doors of opportunity and economic security to those for whom they were shut for far, far too long.

I want to thank Representative CICILLINE. I want to thank the gentleman in the Chair for his leadership and courage. Both of them have displayed such worth as human beings and as colleagues, not by some arbitrary definition that we give to them based upon their sexual orientation or whether any of us, because of our gender, male or female, or our color, Black or White or yellow or red, one nation under God, indivisible. This legislation tries to recognize that indivisibility of the right of all Americans.

I want to express my gratitude to the Congressional LGBTQ-Plus Equality Caucus, which has provided leadership both in shaping and improving this legislation championing its adoption.

The House will pass this legislation today, and then I hope it will not be lost in the politics of the Senate. That body has an extraordinary record over the centuries in terms of civil rights. It should uphold that record. I know that the Democratic Senate majority is eager to see it considered and passed.

As I said, when I grew up in the sixties in the civil rights movement, many Republican leaders were giants in this effort. I hope the Senate Republicans who have stood in the way of equality of opportunity for LGBTQ Americans for too long will finally come together with them in a bipartisan fashion and allow an up-or-down vote. That is all we ask, an up-or-down vote.

Frankly, that is not all we ask. We ask for 10 Republicans to join us with 50 Democrats to make this a reality. Most Americans have come to understand that ending discrimination for LGBTQ people is about the fundamental rights and dignity of their fellow Americans, and it is about who we are as a country, who we claim to be but for far too long were not.

We know we are not there yet, but this is a very significant and important step for us to take in a land of opportunity for all and a land of liberty and justice for all. So let us affirm that today in this House. And I hope the Senate, in days to come, will join in that affirmation of justice for all, and let us make this a day to remember in our history as one where we came together to perfect our Union, as JOHN LEWIS would say, one more time.

I urge a ''yes'' vote, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this so-called Equality Act is the culmination of a 50-year effort by the radical left to attack our values, our families, our children, and our religious freedoms.

I ran for office as a Biblical and constitutional Conservative because I believe in our Nation's founding Judeo-Christian principles and the importance of faith and family to this unique American form of government.

John Adams confirmed that this was the intent of the Founders when he stated: ''Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.''

I don't think he could have envisioned we would be here today defending the right to life for the unborn, what our children are taught in school regarding their own gender, the protection for people to practice their faith without fear of government, and the importance of the traditional family.

This bill is one of the most dangerous and consequential bills that we will ever consider. It will have a terribly negative impact on every area of our lives. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject it.

□ 1530

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS).

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Equality Act, landmark legislation that provides LGBTQ people with the full protections of Federal civil rights law.

Among many other critical protections that the Equality Act extends to LGBTQ people are housing protections for homeless youth who can be harassed, assaulted, or even kicked out of shelters based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. This is because 27 States across the Nation lack LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections.

At the same time, LGBTQ youth are 120 percent more likely to experience homelessness. Protecting young people, giving them the resources to succeed early in life and keeping them safe and secure are all values we share. The Equality Act takes a massive step forward to advance these values, reflecting the tremendous progress forged by our Nation and those who came before us.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Equality Act.

Rather than delivering equality, this bill undermines protections for women and for girls. And simply put, women's shelters should remain women's shelters and not allow biological men to intrude. And girls' sports should remain sports for girls.

This is not equal opportunity. This is catastrophic for girls' sports. This is what the Equality Act seeks to overturn, and that is fairness in girls' sports.

All of this is even before mentioning the provisions that would undermine religious freedom. Religious organizations shouldn't be forced to act contrary to their beliefs. This is why they call it religious freedom, after all.

This bill poses a dangerous threat to free speech, religious freedom, and pro-life, the sanctity of life. This, honestly, goes against everything that I believe as a Christian and I will be opposing this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS).

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I proudly rise in support of the Equality Act.

Today, I am the voice of so many people, like my constituent, Chanel; my friend, James; my sister, Danielle and her fiance, Marlena; my staffer, Kristina and her partner, Vivian; and all of my friends back home on the front lines with Georgia Equality.

For far too long, the inherent rights of LGBTQ people have hung in the balance. I am in Congress to ensure that everyone can share in the promise of America, no matter who they love or how they identify.

LGBTQ people have lived in fear of punishment and retaliation for far too long. The right to exist in this country is not a privilege, but an inalienable right.

I have the great honor of representing Atlanta, a city vibrant with a long history of LGBTQ-plus pride. To my LGBTQ-plus constituents, know that it is my honor to represent you. I hear you. I see you. I stand with you. The promise of America excludes no one.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, this bill smacks of President Barack Obama's transgender bathroom policy several years back. I remember that, how ridiculous that was.

It was reported in Texas a young girl went into a bathroom in a package store, was followed by a male who said he self-identified as a female that day. More about her in a minute.

This is not an Equality Act. This is going to erode religious freedom. This expressly exempts RFRA from being a defense if someone has a sincerely religiously held belief.

The comment was made earlier that we are using God as an excuse. I hardly think so. The Founders of the Constitution knew exactly what they were doing when they provided for those protections.

If the Equality Act is passed, individuals with religious views will be disfavored by this bill and it will not have RFRA as a tool to defend against a violation of their religious freedom.

H.R. 5 will politicize the medical profession to the detriment of the practitioners and the patients. It is unbelievable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CRAIG). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. JORDAN. I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. The girl that was followed into the bathroom by the gentleman who said he self-identified as a female that day, turns out that that man's teeth were knocked out by the girl's father who self-identified as the tooth fairy.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 3½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I get it now. This is all about protecting women. This intolerance is the Republicans' effort to show us how much they want to protect the rights of women. They want us to believe that protecting LGBTQ Americans somehow hurts women and girls. But they know better, and history will accurately reflect what it really is.

It is an ugly, twisted use of feminism. It is what it is. It is homophobia. It is transphobia. It is intolerance, and it is hatred.

There is no constitutional right to hate. There is no constitutional right to exclude, and there is no right of conscience to hate.

Trans rights are human rights. LGBTQ rights are human rights. We must pass the Equality Act now.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, we have talked all day in here about discrimination, and we need to put some facts on the table.

Madam Speaker, 0.6 percent of Americans identify as transgender. However, 80 percent of Americans identify with a religious affiliation. 50.5 percent of people in this country identify as female; yet we consistently want to infringe on the rights of all those other Americans for 0.6 percent of the population in this country.

Now, I have daughters, and I have encouraged them their whole life to do what you want to do in life; you can succeed. But we see, time and time again, that males are being put in competition in sports directly against our females.

My question is: Where are the feminists today? Why are they not here with the Members of this caucus fighting for the rights of females?

We are going to infringe consistently on that 50.5 percent of the American population by allowing males to compete in sports against them.

Madam Speaker, 86 percent of the people in this Nation identify as religious people. We are going to allow this law and the overreach of the left in this country to start infringing on those people's rights and, Madam Speaker, I have got to vote against it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to put on their masks.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise as the proud grandmother of a trans young man, and I just want to say that any family would be lucky to have the amazing and loving and smart and funny Isaac in their family.

And I rise today to say thank you to the generations of people who have been arrested and beaten and excluded and sometimes killed for this fight. Let today be the end.

I thank Congressman CICILLINE and all of those who have spoken today and are going to vote for freedom. This is a remarkable day, not just for my Isaac, but for all the young people who are frightened today. No more. We are with you.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have heard a lot today about discrimination against the LGBTQ community and them being kicked out of housing or whatever. No one wants that.

But my question, Madam Speaker, to my friends on the other side was: Would they also agree that no one who disagrees with their views should be kicked out of their homes or lose their job?

Should adoption agencies not be allowed to continue operating if they don't believe in that?

Should houses of worship close because they continue teaching the traditional biblical values and principles of male and female?

And I would suspect the answer would be no; that they should be fired, they should close, because the bill itself clearly states that religious rights and freedoms are not protected in this bill. And that is what is so dangerous.

This is a bill of tyranny, where government is telling people what they must believe and punishing them if they do not believe and do not conform. This is a dangerous bill. It codifies in itself discrimination.

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

Madam Speaker, I have listened to this debate in amazement. I have been involved in this struggle for equality for many, many years. I was the chief author in the House of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and to hear it suggested that I would turn my back on religious freedom is just ridiculous.

This bill enshrines equality. It enshrines equality for everyone. That is its purpose. It does not contradict the Religious Freedom Restoration Act which, as a number of people have mentioned, I was the chief author of. But it does enshrine equality, and that is what our friends on the other side of the aisle seem to be afraid of, equality.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 30 seconds remaining. The gentleman from New York has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I have the right to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, at the start of the debate, the sponsor of the bill said discrimination is wrong. It sure is. We shouldn't tolerate it.

But this bill makes how a person identifies more important than equality; makes it more important than

fairness; makes it more important than fundamental liberties like your right to practice your faith the way you think the good Lord wants you to.

And you would think a change of this magnitude would get a little more than 90 minutes debate on the House floor. That is why we should oppose this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

It is precisely because this bill enshrines equality; it is precisely because of the nonsensical nature of the arguments from the other side of the aisle that the Equality Act has been endorsed by more than 500 civil rights, women's rights, religious, medical, and other national and State organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Episcopal Church, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence—to end sexual violence—the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, the National Women's Law Center, the Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the Rabbinical Assembly, and the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, all of whom obviously would not endorse this bill if it had anything to do with destroying religious liberty.

It has also been endorsed by dozens of business associations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, and hundreds of other businesses.

I urge all Members to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the Equality Act, and as a co-founder and Vice-chair of the House Equality Caucus, I want to voice my full support of this bill. I want to thank the Speaker and Chairman NADLER for acting quickly on this legislation. I also want to thank my friend Rep. CICILLINE, as well as my fellow caucus co-chairs, for their efforts.

Our federal laws still do not protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people from discrimination. Almost two-thirds of LGBTQ Americans report having experienced discrimination—and LGBTQ people of color often face compounded injustices, including higher rates of unemployment and health challenges.

The Equality Act prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. The Equality Act will help ensure that LGBTQ Americans can play their vital role in our nation and our communities without fear of harassment and discrimination.

As a Black woman in America, I know what it is like to face injustice and inequality. I applaud House passage of the Equality Act as an historic milestone in our effort to build a more just society. I hope the Senate will pass it quickly and send it to the President for enactment.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5 because it puts the Hyde Amendment and other federal and state laws that bar taxpayer funding for abortion at serious risk and out of an abundance of concern for the women and children who flee to the protection of domestic abuse shelters,.

H.R. 5 weakens conscience protections for health care providers opposed to being coerced into participating in the killing of unborn babies.

H.R. 5 defines ''sex'' to include ''pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.'' The term ''related medical condition'' means ''abortion.'' In the case Doe v. C.A.R.S., the Third Circuit stated, ''We now hold that the term ''related medical conditions'' includes an abortion.'' Furthermore, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which enforces Title VII, interprets abortion to be covered as a ''related medical condition.''

To further clarify, H.R. 5 goes on to state:

(b): Rules.—In a covered title referred to in subsection (a)—''(1) (with respect to sex} pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition shall not receive less favorable treatment than other physical conditions; . . .

In other words, a provider may not withhold a ''treatment option,'' including dismembering, chemically poisoning or otherwise destroying an unborn baby girl or boy.

In a legal analysis released this month, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote:

Existing prohibitions on the use of government funds for abortion can be undercut in three ways.

First, federal and state governments are themselves providers of health care. Therefore, they would themselves be subject to the constraints that the Equality Act places on all health care providers and, as such, would likely be required to provide abortions. This conclusion is reinforced by the bill's expansive definition of ''establishment,'' which is not limited to physical facilities and places.

Second, it would seem anomalous to, on the one hand, mandate that recipients of federal funds provide abortions, as the Equality Act can be read to do, but, on the other hand, prohibit use of such funds for abortions. It can (and likely will) be argued that these newly enacted provisions, which would likely require recipients of federal funding to perform abortions, would thereby repeal by implication previously enacted legislation forbidding the use of those very same funds for abortion.

Third, even if the bill were not construed to require the federal government to fund abortions, it could still be construed to require states that receive federal funding to do so with their own funds, which would be a departure from the longstanding principle that the federal government not require government funding of abortion even on the part of state governments.

The possibility that the Equality Act may be used to undercut the Hyde principle against government funding of abortion has been noted even by those endorsing the bill including Katelyn Burns, New Congress Opens Door for Renewed Push for LGBTQ Equality Act (Dec. 5, 2018). But instead of denying that this problem exists, or (even better) urging an amendment to avoid it, one supporter of the bill has suggested that the issue simply ''has to be navigated super carefully.'' In other words, there is a problem and the suggested ''fix'' is simply to keep it from becoming politically visible.

In an incisive analysis of H.R. 5, Richard Doerflinger exposes the risk to unborn children, conscience rights and state all laws preventing taxpayer funding for abortion:

''Of especially grave concern is that the Equality Act introduces this same language on sex and ''pregnancy discrimination'' into Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, forbidding discrimination in ''federally assisted programs.'' This applies to a wide range of entities that may receive federal funds, including state and local government agencies, educational institutions, organizations providing health care, etc. (42 USC 2000d–4a). All of these would be required to show that they do not exclude the full range of treatments for the ''condition'' of pregnancy. Not only the federal government, but all states that receive federal funds for their health programs, could be required to fund elective abortions, reversing the longstanding policy of two-thirds of the states. The same changes to the definition of ''sex'' are made to Title II, on discrimination in places of ''public accommodation,'' and that title's definition of a ''public accommodation'' is expanded to include ''any establishment that provides a good, service, or program,'' including any provider of ''health care'' (H.R. 5, Sec. 3 (a)(d)).''

I also oppose H.R. 5 out of genuine concern for the women and children who seek refuge in a domestic abuse shelter.

By granting biological men—who self-identify as women-access to women's shelters, H.R. 5 removes the hard-fought gains to protect women and girls from abuse and to provide them with physical, emotional and psychological security.

In late 2018, nine female victims residing in a women's shelter in Fresno, California-Naomi's House, operated by Poverello House-filed a lawsuit against the shelter for admitting a biological man because he had self-identified as a woman. These victims stated that they had been sexually harassed by this biological man. They said that he had made ''sexual advances'' on them and would ''stare and leer'' and make ''sexually harassing comments about their bodies'' while they were forced to undress in the same room with him.

After repeatedly confronting the staff of Naomi's House—both verbally and in writing—with their extreme discomfort, these women were told that they would be expelled from the shelter if they refused to comply.

Madam Speaker, if we allow biological men who self-identify as women to receive access to these women-only shelters, abused women and children will lose the 'safe space' they so desperately need.

We must first and foremost protect victims of violence.

These brave women and children deserve a place where they can feel protected and secure, so they can begin the difficult process to heal as they deal with post-traumatic stress. Forcing them to share a shelter and its facilities—including showers and sleeping areas—with biological men who self-identify as women will likely cause these women and children to experience insecurity, discomfort, confusion, and fear of additional assault.

Women's shelters—there are about 1,500 nationwide—offer a safe space where a woman does not have to fear or worry about violence and intimidation and instead allows her to take steps toward rebuilding her life.

These victims deserve better. They deserve our protection and support. We must work to ensure the safety of women, girls, and children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 147, 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 206, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 39]

YEAS—224

Adams	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Aguilar	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Allred	Doggett	Lawrence
Auchincloss	Doyle, Michael F.	Lawson (FL)
Axne	Escobar	Lee (CA)
Barragán	Eshoo	Lee (NV)
Bass	Espaillat	Leger Fernandez
Beatty	Evans	Levin (CA)
Bera	Fitzpatrick	Levin (MI)
Beyer	Fletcher	Lieu
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Lofgren
Blumenauer	Frankel, Lois	Lowenthal
Blunt Rochester	Fudge	Luria
Bonamici	Gallego	Lynch
Bourdeaux	Garamendi	Malinowski
Bowman	García (IL)	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Boyle, Brendan F.	Garcia (TX)	Maloney, Sean
Brown	Golden	Manning
Brownley	Gomez	Matsui
Bush	Gonzalez, Vicente	McBath
Bustos	Gottheimer	McCollum
Butterfield	Green, Al (TX)	McEachin
Carbajal	Grijalva	McGovern
Cárdenas	Haaland	McNerney
Carson	Harder (CA)	Meeks
Cartwright	Hastings	Meng
Case	Hayes	Mfume
Casten	Higgins (NY)	Moore (WI)
Castor (FL)	Himes	Morelle
Castro (TX)	Horsford	Moulton
Chu	Houlahan	Mrvan
Cicilline	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
Clark (MA)	Huffman	Nadler
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Cleaver	Jacobs (CA)	Neal
Clyburn	Jayapal	Neguse
Cohen	Jeffries	Newman
Connolly	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
Cooper	Johnson (TX)	O'Halleran
Correa	Jones	Ocasio-Cortez
Costa	Kahele	Omar
Courtney	Kaptur	Pallone
Craig	Katko	Panetta
Crist	Keating	Pappas
Crow	Kelly (IL)	Pascrell
Cuellar	Khanna	Payne
Davids (KS)	Kildee	Pelosi
Davis, Danny K.	Kilmer	Perlmutter
Dean	Kim (NJ)	Peters
DeFazio	Kind	Phillips
DeGette	Kirkpatrick	Pingree
DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi	Pocan
DelBene	Kuster	Porter
Delgado	Lamb	Pressley
Demings	Langevin	Price (NC)
DeSaulnier	Raskin	Sherman
Reed	Sherrill	Torres (NY)
Rice (NY)	Sires	Trahan
Ross	Slotkin	Trone
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Underwood
Ruiz	Soto	Vargas
Ruppersberger	Spanberger	Veasey
Rush	Speier	Vela
Ryan	Stanton	Velázquez
Sánchez	Stevens	Wasserman Schultz
Sarbanes	Strickland	Waters
Scanlon	Suozzi	Watson Coleman
Schakowsky	Swalwell	Welch
Schiff	Takano	Wexton
Schneider	Thompson (CA)	Wild
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Williams (GA)
Schrier	Titus	Wilson (FL)
Scott (VA)	Tlaib	Yarmuth
Scott, David	Tonko	
Sewell	Torres (CA)	

NAYS—206

Aderholt	Gonzales, Tony	Moolenaar
Allen	Gonzalez (OH)	Mooney
Amodei	Good (VA)	Moore (AL)
Armstrong	Gooden (TX)	Moore (UT)
Arrington	Gosar	Mullin
Babin	Granger	Murphy (NC)
Bacon	Graves (LA)	Nehls
Baird	Graves (MO)	Newhouse
Balderson	Green (TN)	Norman
Banks	Greene (GA)	Nunes
Barr	Griffith	Obernolte
Bentz	Grothman	Owens
Bergman	Guest	Palazzo
Bice (OK)	Guthrie	Palmer
Biggs	Hagedorn	Pence
Bilirakis	Harris	Perry
Bishop (NC)	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Bost	Hartzler	Posey
Brady	Hern	Reschenthaler
Brooks	Herrell	Rice (SC)
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers (WA)
Buck	Hice (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (KY)
Budd	Hill	Rose
Burchett	Hinson	Rosendale
Burgess	Hollingsworth	Rouzer
Calvert	Hudson	Roy
Cammack	Huizenga	Rutherford
Carl	Issa	Salazar
Carter (GA)	Jackson	Scalise
Carter (TX)	Jacobs (NY)	Schweikert
Cawthorn	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Sessions
Cheney	Johnson (SD)	Simpson
Cline	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Cloud	Joyce (OH)	Smith (NE)
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Cole	Keller	Smucker
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Spartz
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Stauber
Crenshaw	Kim (CA)	Steel
Curtis	Kinzinger	Stefanik
Davidson	Kustoff	Steil
Davis, Rodney	LaHood	Steube
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Stewart
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Stivers
Donalds	Latta	Taylor
Duncan	LaTurner	Tenney
Dunn	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
Emmer	Long	Tiffany
Estes	Loudermilk	Timmons
Fallon	Lucas	Turner
Feenstra	Luetkemeyer	Upton
Ferguson	Mace	Valadao
Fischbach	Malliotakis	Van Drew
Fitzgerald	Mann	Van Duyne
Fleischmann	Massie	Wagner
Fortenberry	Mast	Walberg
Foxx	McCarthy	Walorski
Franklin, C. Scott	McCaul	Waltz
Fulcher	McClain	Weber (TX)
Gaetz	McClintock	Webster (FL)
Gallagher	McHenry	Wenstrup
Garbarino	McKinley	Westerman
Garcia (CA)	Meijer	Williams (TX)
Gibbs	Meuser	Wilson (SC)
Gimenez	Miller (IL)	Wittman
Gohmert	Miller (WV)	Womack
	Miller-Meeks	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—2

Boebert	Young

□ 1627

Messrs. MCKINLEY and MEUSER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CRAIG). Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Stated against:

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 39.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))	Gaetz (Franklin, C. Scott)	Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Amodei (Kelly (PA))	Gonzalez, Vincente (Gomez)	Moulton (Trahan)
Bowman (Clark (MA))	Gosar (Wagner)	Napolitano (Correa)
Buchanan (Donalds)	Grijalva (García (IL))	Nunes (Garcia (CA))
Budd (McHenry)	Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)	Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Calvert (Garcia (CA))	Himes (Courtney)	Pingree (Kuster)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Porter (Wexton)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)	Langevin (Lynch)	Roybal-Allard (Bass)
Cawthorn (McHenry)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)	Lieu (Beyer)	Rush (Underwood)
Deutch (Rice (NY))	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Fletcher (Kuster)	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Vargas (Correa)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))	Meng (Clark (MA))	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
		Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MOTION TO RECONSIDER ON H.R. 5, EQUALITY ACT

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Kildee moves to reconsider the vote on the question of passage of H.R. 5.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cicilline moves to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 195, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 40]

YEAS—211

Adams	Gottheimer	O'Halleran
Aguilar	Green, Al (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Allred	Grijalva	Omar
Auchincloss	Haaland	Pallone
Axne	Harder (CA)	Panetta
Barragán	Hastings	Pappas
Bass	Hayes	Pascrell
Beatty	Higgins (NY)	Payne
Bera	Himes	Perlmutter
Beyer	Horsford	Peters
Bishop (GA)	Houlahan	Phillips
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Pingree
Blunt Rochester	Huffman	Pocan
Bonamici	Jackson Lee	Porter
Bourdeaux	Jacobs (CA)	Pressley
Bowman	Jayapal	Price (NC)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Jeffries	Quigley
	Johnson (GA)	Raskin
Brown	Johnson (TX)	Rice (NY)
Brownley	Jones	Ross
Bush	Kahele	Roybal-Allard
Bustos	Kaptur	Ruiz
Butterfield	Keating	Ruppersberger
Carbajal	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Cárdenas	Khanna	Ryan
Carson	Kildee	Sánchez
Cartwright	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Case	Kim (NJ)	Scanlon
Casten	Kind	Schiff
Castor (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Castro (TX)	Kuster	Schrader
Chu	Lamb	Schrier
Cicilline	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Sewell
Clyburn	Lawrence	Sherman
Cohen	Lawson (FL)	Sherrill
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Slotkin
Correa	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
Costa	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Courtney	Levin (CA)	Spanberger
Craig	Levin (MI)	Speier
Crist	Lieu	Stanton
Crow	Lofgren	Stevens
Cuellar	Lowenthal	Strickland
Davids (KS)	Luria	Suozzi
Dean	Lynch	Swalwell
DeFazio	Malinowski	Takano
DeGette	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro		Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Maloney, Sean	Titus
Delgado	Manning	Tlaib
Demings	Matsui	Tonko
DeSaulnier	McBath	Torres (CA)
Deutch	McCollum	Torres (NY)
Dingell	McEachin	Trahan
Doyle, Michael F.	McGovern	Trone
	McNerney	Underwood
Escobar	Meeks	Vargas
Eshoo	Meng	Veasey
Espaillat	Mfume	Vela
Evans	Moore (WI)	Velázquez
Foster	Morelle	Wasserman Schultz
Frankel, Lois	Moulton	
Gallego	Mrvan	Waters
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
García (IL)	Nadler	Welch
Garcia (TX)	Napolitano	Wexton
Golden	Neal	Wild
Gomez	Neguse	Williams (GA)
Gonzalez, Vicente	Newman	Wilson (FL)
	Norcross	Yarmuth

NAYS—195

Aderholt	Buck	Donalds
Allen	Budd	Duncan
Amodei	Burchett	Dunn
Armstrong	Burgess	Emmer
Arrington	Calvert	Estes
Babin	Cammack	Fallon
Bacon	Carl	Feenstra
Baird	Carter (GA)	Ferguson
Balderson	Cawthorn	Fischbach
Banks	Chabot	Fitzgerald
Barr	Cline	Fitzpatrick
Bentz	Cloud	Fleischmann
Bergman	Clyde	Fortenberry
Bice (OK)	Cole	Foxx
Biggs	Comer	Franklin, C. Scott
Bilirakis	Crawford	
Bishop (NC)	Crenshaw	Fulcher
Boebert	Curtis	Gaetz
Bost	Davidson	Gallagher
Brady	Davis, Rodney	Garbarino
Brooks	DesJarlais	Garcia (CA)
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Gibbs
Gimenez	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
Gohmert	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Gonzales, Tony	Latta	Rose
Gonzalez (OH)	LaTurner	Rosendale
Good (VA)	Lesko	Rouzer
Gooden (TX)	Long	Roy
Gosar	Loudermilk	Rutherford
Graves (LA)	Lucas	Salazar
Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer	Scalise
Greene (GA)	Mace	Schweikert
Griffith	Malliotakis	Scott, Austin
Grothman	Mann	Sessions
Guest	Massie	Simpson
Guthrie	Mast	Smith (MO)
Hagedorn	McCarthy	Smith (NE)
Harris	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
Harshbarger	McClain	Spartz
Hartzler	McClintock	Stauber
Hern	McHenry	Steel
Herrell	McKinley	Steil
Herrera Beutler	Meijer	Steube
Hice (GA)	Miller (IL)	Stivers
Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)	Taylor
Hill	Miller-Meeks	Tenney
Hinson	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)
Hollingsworth	Mooney	Tiffany
Hudson	Moore (AL)	Timmons
Huizenga	Moore (UT)	Turner
Issa	Mullin	Upton
Jackson	Murphy (NC)	Valadao
Jacobs (NY)	Newhouse	Van Drew
Johnson (LA)	Norman	Van Duyne
Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Wagner
Johnson (SD)	Obernolte	Walberg
Jordan	Owens	Walorski
Joyce (OH)	Palmer	Waltz
Joyce (PA)	Pence	Weber (TX)
Katko	Perry	Wenstrup
Keller	Pfluger	Westerman
Kelly (MS)	Posey	Williams (TX)
Kelly (PA)	Reed	Wilson (SC)
Kim (CA)	Reschenthaler	Womack
Kustoff	Rice (SC)	
LaHood	Rodgers (WA)	

NOT VOTING—25

Bucshon	Granger	Smucker
Carter (TX)	Green (TN)	Stefanik
Cheney	Kinzinger	Stewart
Clarke (NY)	Krishnamoorthi	Webster (FL)
Connolly	Meuser	Wittman
Davis, Danny K.	Nehls	Young
Doggett	Palazzo	Zeldin
Fletcher	Schakowsky	
Fudge	Sires	

□ 1718

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. KUSTER, Messrs. LYNCH, GARAMENDI, and ESPAILLAT changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))	Vincente (Gomez)	Moulton (Trahan)
Amodei (Kelly (PA))	Gosar (Wagner)	Mullin (Lucas)
Bowman (Clark (MA))	Grijalva (García (IL))	Napolitano (Correa)
Buchanan (Donalds)	Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)	Nunes (Garcia (CA))
Budd (McHenry)	Himes (Courtney)	Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Calvert (Garcia (CA))	Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Pingree (Kuster)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Langevin (Lynch)	Porter (Wexton)
Cawthorn (McHenry)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Roybal-Allard (Bass)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)	Lieu (Beyer)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Deutch (Rice (NY))	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Rush (Underwood)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Gaetz (Franklin, C. Scott)	Meng (Clark (MA))	Vargas (Correa)
Gonzalez,	Moore (WI) (Beyer)	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
		Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2021

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 147, I call up the bill (H.R. 803) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, 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. Pursuant to House Resolution 147, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117–6, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 803

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COLORADO WILDERNESS

Sec. 101. Short title; definition.
Sec. 102. Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of Colorado.
Sec. 103. Administrative provisions.
Sec. 104. Water.
Sec. 105. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 106. Department of defense study on impacts that the expansion of wilderness designations in the western united states would have on the readiness of the armed forces of the united states with respect to aviation training.

TITLE II—NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS, RECREATION, AND WORKING FORESTS

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Restoration and Economic Development

Sec. 211. South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area.
Sec. 212. Redwood National and State Parks restoration.
Sec. 213. California Public Lands Remediation Partnership.
Sec. 214. Trinity Lake visitor center.
Sec. 215. Del Norte County visitor center.
Sec. 216. Management plans.
Sec. 217. Study; partnerships related to overnight accommodations.

Subtitle B—Recreation

Sec. 221. Horse Mountain Special Management Area.
Sec. 222. Bigfoot National Recreation Trail.
Sec. 223. Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail.
Sec. 224. Trinity Lake Trail.
Sec. 225. Trails study.
Sec. 226. Construction of mountain bicycling routes.
Sec. 227. Partnerships.

Subtitle C—Conservation

Sec. 231. Designation of wilderness.
Sec. 232. Administration of wilderness.
Sec. 233. Designation of potential wilderness.
Sec. 234. Designation of wild and scenic rivers.
Sec. 235. Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area.

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous
Sec. 241. Maps and legal descriptions.
Sec. 242. Updates to land and resource management plans.
Sec. 243. Pacific Gas and Electric Company Utility facilities and rights-of-way.
TITLE III—WILD OLYMPICS WILDERNESS AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Designation of olympic national forest wilderness areas.
Sec. 303. Wild and scenic river designations.
Sec. 304. Existing rights and withdrawal.
Sec. 305. Treaty rights.
TITLE IV—CENTRAL COAST HERITAGE PROTECTION
Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Definitions.
Sec. 403. Designation of wilderness.
Sec. 404. Designation of the Machesna Mountain Potential Wilderness.
Sec. 405. Administration of wilderness.
Sec. 406. Designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers.
Sec. 407. Designation of the Fox Mountain Potential Wilderness.
Sec. 408. Designation of scenic areas.
Sec. 409. Condor National Scenic Trail.
Sec. 410. Forest service study.
Sec. 411. Nonmotorized recreation opportunities.
Sec. 412. Use by members of Tribes.
TITLE V—SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS AND RIVERS PROTECTION
Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Definition of State.
Subtitle A—San Gabriel National Recreation Area
Sec. 511. Purposes.
Sec. 512. Definitions.
Sec. 513. San Gabriel National Recreation Area.
Sec. 514. Management.
Sec. 515. Acquisition of non-Federal land within Recreation Area.
Sec. 516. Water rights; water resource facilities; public roads; utility facilities.
Sec. 517. San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council.
Sec. 518. San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership.
Sec. 519. Visitor services and facilities.
Subtitle B—San Gabriel Mountains
Sec. 521. Definitions.
Sec. 522. National Monument Boundary Modification.
Sec. 523. Designation of Wilderness Areas and Additions.
Sec. 524. Administration of Wilderness Areas and Additions.
Sec. 525. Designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers.
Sec. 526. Water rights.
TITLE VI—RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR PRESERVATION
Sec. 601. Short title.
Sec. 602. Boundary adjustment; land acquisition; administration.
TITLE VII—COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ECONOMY
Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Definition of State.
Subtitle A—Continental Divide
Sec. 711. Definitions.
Sec. 712. Colorado Wilderness additions.
Sec. 713. Williams Fork Mountains Wilderness.
Sec. 714. Tenmile Recreation Management Area.
Sec. 715. Porcupine Gulch Wildlife Conservation Area.
Sec. 716. Williams Fork Mountains Wildlife Conservation Area.
Sec. 717. Camp Hale National Historic Landscape.
Sec. 718. White River National Forest boundary modification.
Sec. 719. Rocky Mountain National Park Potential Wilderness boundary adjustment.
Sec. 720. Administrative provisions.
Subtitle B—San Juan Mountains
Sec. 731. Definitions.
Sec. 732. Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System.
Sec. 733. Special management areas.
Sec. 734. Release of wilderness study areas.
Sec. 735. Administrative provisions.
Subtitle C—Thompson Divide
Sec. 741. Purposes.
Sec. 742. Definitions.
Sec. 743. Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area.
Sec. 744. Thompson Divide lease exchange.
Sec. 745. Greater Thompson Divide Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Use Pilot Program.
Sec. 746. Effect.
Subtitle D—Curecanti National Recreation Area
Sec. 751. Definitions.
Sec. 752. Curecanti National Recreation Area.
Sec. 753. Acquisition of land; boundary management.
Sec. 754. General management plan.
Sec. 755. Boundary survey.
TITLE VIII—GRAND CANYON PROTECTION
Sec. 801. Short title.
Sec. 802. Withdrawal of Certain Federal land in the State of Arizona.

TITLE I—COLORADO WILDERNESS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the ''Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021''.

(b) SECRETARY DEFINED.—As used in this title, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

SEC. 102. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

(a) ADDITIONS.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 756; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by adding at the end the following paragraphs:

''(23) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 316 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Maroon Bells Addition Proposed Wilderness', dated July 20, 2018, which is hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area designated by Public Law 88–577.

''(24) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 38,217 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Redcloud & Handies Peak Proposed Wilderness', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Redcloud Peak Wilderness.

''(25) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, which comprise approximately 26,734 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Redcloud & Handies Peak Proposed Wilderness', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Handies Peak Wilderness.

''(26) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 16,481 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Table Mountain & McIntyre Hills Proposed Wilderness', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the McIntyre Hills Wilderness.

''(27) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 10,282 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Grand Hogback Proposed Wilderness', dated October 16, 2019, which shall be known as the Grand Hogback Wilderness.

''(28) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 25,624 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Demaree Canyon Proposed Wilderness', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Demaree Canyon Wilderness.

''(29) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 28,279 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Little Books Cliff Proposed Wilderness', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Little Bookcliffs Wilderness.

''(30) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 14,886 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Bull Gulch & Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness', dated January 29, 2020, which shall be known as the Bull Gulch Wilderness.

''(31) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 12,016 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Bull Gulch & Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness Areas', dated January 29, 2020, which shall be known as the Castle Peak Wilderness.''.

(b) FURTHER ADDITIONS.—The following lands in the State of Colorado administered by the Bureau of Land Management or the United States Forest Service are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the White River National Forest, which comprise approximately 19,240 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Assignation Ridge Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 12, 2019, which shall be known as the Assignation Ridge Wilderness.

(2) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, which comprise approximately 23,116 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Badger Creek Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Badger Creek Wilderness.

(3) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, which comprise approximately 35,251 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Beaver Creek Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Beaver Creek Wilderness.

(4) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or the Bureau of Reclamation or located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, which comprise approximately 32,884 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Grape Creek Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Grape Creek Wilderness.

(5) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 13,351 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''North & South Bangs Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the North Bangs Canyon Wilderness.

(6) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 5,144 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''North & South Bangs Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the South Bangs Canyon Wilderness.

(7) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 26,624 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Unaweep & Palisade Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as The Palisade Wilderness.

(8) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, and Gunnison National Forests, which comprise approximately 19,776 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Unaweep & Palisade Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Unaweep Wilderness.

(9) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and Uncompaghre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and in the Manti-LaSal National Forest, which comprise approximately 37,637 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Sewemup Mesa Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Sewemup Mesa Wilderness.

(10) Certain lands managed by the Kremmling Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 31 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Platte River Addition Proposed Wilderness'', dated July 20, 2018, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be part of the Platte River Wilderness designated by Public Law 98–550.

(11) Certain lands managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 17,587 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Roubideau Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Roubideau Wilderness.

(12) Certain lands managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, and Gunnison National Forests, which comprise approximately 12,102 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Norwood Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Norwood Canyon Wilderness.

(13) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 24,475 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Papoose & Cross Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', and dated January 29, 2020, which shall be known as the Cross Canyon Wilderness.

(14) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 21,220 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''McKenna Peak Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 16, 2019, which shall be known as the McKenna Peak Wilderness.

(15) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 14,270 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Weber-Menefee Mountain Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Weber-Menefee Mountain Wilderness.

(16) Certain lands managed by the Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management or the Bureau of Reclamation, which comprise approximately 33,351 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Dolores River Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness.

(17) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, which comprise approximately 17,922 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Browns Canyon Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, which shall be known as the Browns Canyon Wilderness.

(18) Certain lands managed by the San Luis Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 10,527 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''San Luis Hills Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019 which shall be known as the San Luis Hills Wilderness.

(19) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 23,559 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Table Mountain & McIntyre Hills Proposed Wilderness'', dated November 7, 2019, which shall be known as the Table Mountain Wilderness.

(20) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the San Juan National Forest, which comprise approximately 10,844 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''North & South Ponderosa Gorge Proposed Wilderness'', and dated January 31, 2020, which shall be known as the North Ponderosa Gorge Wilderness.

(21) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the San Juan National Forest, which comprise approximately 12,393 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''North & South Ponderosa Gorge Proposed Wilderness'', and dated January 31, 2020 which shall be known as the South Ponderosa Gorge Wilderness.

(22) Certain lands managed by the Little Snake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 33,168 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Diamond Breaks Proposed Wilderness'', and dated February 4, 2020 which shall be known as the Diamond Breaks Wilderness.

(23) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprises approximately 4,782 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled ''Papoose & Cross Canyon Proposed Wilderness'''', and dated January 29, 2020 which shall be known as the Papoose Canyon Wilderness.

(c) WEST ELK ADDITION.—Certain lands in the State of Colorado administered by the Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, the United States National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, which comprise approximately 6,695 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''West Elk Addition Proposed Wilderness'', dated October 9, 2019, are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System and are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the West Elk Wilderness designated by Public Law 88–577. The boundary adjacent to Blue Mesa Reservoir shall be 50 feet landward from the water's edge, and shall change according to the water level.

(d) MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a boundary description of each area designated as wilderness by this section with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. Each map and boundary description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or boundary description. The maps and boundary descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, and in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, as appropriate.

(e) STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS.—Lands within the exterior boundaries of any wilderness area designated under this section that are owned by a private entity or by the State of Colorado, including lands administered by the Colorado State Land Board, shall be included within such wilderness area if such lands are acquired by the United States. Such lands may be acquired by the United States only as provided in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 103. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, lands designated as wilderness by this title shall be managed by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this title, except that, with respect to any wilderness areas designated by this title, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in wilderness areas designated by this title shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), as further interpreted by section 108 of Public Law 96–560, and the guidelines set forth in appendix A of House Report 101–405 of the 101st Congress.

(c) STATE JURISDICTION.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with respect to wildlife and fish in Colorado.

(d) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around any area designated as wilderness by this title.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the areas designated as wilderness by this title can be seen or heard within the wilderness shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness.

(e) MILITARY HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS AND OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title restricts or precludes—

(A) low-level overflights of military helicopters over the areas designated as wilderness by this title, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within any wilderness area;

(B) military flight testing and evaluation;

(C) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes over any wilderness area; or

(D) helicopter operations at designated landing zones within the potential wilderness areas established by subsection (i)(1).

(2) AERIAL NAVIGATION TRAINING EXERCISES.—The Colorado Army National Guard, through the High-Altitude Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, may conduct aerial navigation training maneuver exercises over, and associated operations within, the potential wilderness areas designated by this Act—

(A) in a manner and degree consistent with the memorandum of understanding dated August 4, 1987, entered into among the Colorado Army National Guard, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service; or

(B) in a manner consistent with any subsequent memorandum of understanding entered into among the Colorado Army National Guard, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service.

(f) RUNNING EVENTS.—The Secretary may continue to authorize competitive running events currently permitted in the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Area and Handies Peak Wilderness Area in a manner compatible with the preservation of such areas as wilderness.

(g) LAND TRADES.—If the Secretary trades privately owned land within the perimeter of the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Area or the Handies Peak Wilderness Area in exchange for Federal land, then such Federal land shall be located in Hinsdale County, Colorado.

(h) RECREATIONAL CLIMBING.—Nothing in this title prohibits recreational rock climbing activities in the wilderness areas, such as the placement, use, and maintenance of fixed anchors, including any fixed anchor established before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

(i) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following lands are designated as potential wilderness areas:

(A) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 7,376 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Pisgah East & West Proposed Wilderness'' and dated October 16, 2019, which, upon designation as wilderness under paragraph (2), shall be known as the Pisgah East Wilderness.

(B) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, which comprise approximately 6,828 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Pisgah East & West Proposed Wilderness'' and dated October 16, 2019, which, upon designation as wilderness under paragraph (2), shall be known as the Pisgah West Wilderness.

(C) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the White River National Forest, which comprise approximately 16,101 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ''Flat Tops Proposed Wilderness Addition'', dated October 9, 2019, and which, upon designation as wilderness under paragraph (2), shall be incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Flat Tops Wilderness designated by Public Law 94–146.

(2) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—Lands designated as a potential wilderness area by subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1) shall be designated as wilderness on the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a notice that all nonconforming uses of those lands authorized by subsection (e) in the potential wilderness area that would be in violation of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have ceased. Such publication in the Federal Register and designation as wilderness shall occur for the potential wilderness area as the nonconforming uses cease in that potential wilderness area and designation as wilderness is not dependent on cessation of nonconforming uses in the other potential wilderness area.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—Except for activities provided for under subsection (e), lands designated as a potential wilderness area by paragraph (1) shall be managed by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act as wilderness pending the designation of such lands as wilderness under this subsection.

SEC. 104. WATER.

(a) EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the use or allocation, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, of any water, water right, or interest in water;

(2) affects any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water right held by the United States;

(3) affects any interstate water compact in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) authorizes or imposes any new reserved Federal water rights; and

(5) shall be considered to be a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State of Colorado on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) MIDSTREAM AREAS.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to protect for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations—

(A) the unique and nationally important values of areas designated as wilderness by section 102(b) (including the geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, environmental, biological, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, and scenic resources of the public land); and

(B) the water resources of area streams, based on seasonally available flows, that are necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species and communities.

(2) WILDERNESS WATER RIGHTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that any water rights within the wilderness designated by section 102(b) required to fulfill the purposes of such wilderness are secured in accordance with subparagraphs (B) through (G).

(B) STATE LAW.—

(i) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—Any water rights for which the Secretary pursues adjudication shall be appropriated, adjudicated, changed, and administered in accordance with the procedural requirements and priority system of State law.

(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER RIGHTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the purposes and other substantive characteristics of the water rights pursued under this paragraph shall be established in accordance with State law.

(II) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subclause (I) and in accordance with this title, the Secretary may appropriate and seek adjudication of water rights to maintain surface water levels and stream flows on and across the wilderness designated by section 102(b) to fulfill the purposes of such wilderness.

(C) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall promptly appropriate the water rights required to fulfill the purposes of the wilderness designated by section 102(b).

(D) REQUIRED DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall not pursue adjudication for any instream flow water rights unless the Secretary makes a determination pursuant to subparagraph (E)(ii) or (F).

(E) COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not pursue adjudication of any Federal instream flow water rights established under this paragraph if—

(I) the Secretary determines, upon adjudication of the water rights by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, that the Board holds water rights sufficient in priority, amount, and timing to fulfill the purposes of this subsection; and

(II) the Secretary has entered into a perpetual agreement with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to ensure full exercise, protection, and enforcement of the State water rights within the wilderness to reliably fulfill the purposes of this subsection.

(ii) ADJUDICATION.—If the Secretary determines that the provisions of clause (i) have not been met, the Secretary shall adjudicate and exercise any Federal water rights required to fulfill the purposes of the wilderness in accordance with this paragraph.

(F) INSUFFICIENT WATER RIGHTS.—If the Colorado Water Conservation Board modifies the instream flow water rights obtained under subparagraph (E) to such a degree that the Secretary determines that water rights held by the State are insufficient to fulfill the purposes of this title, the Secretary shall adjudicate and exercise Federal water rights required to fulfill the purposes of this title in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(G) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The Secretary shall promptly act to exercise and enforce the water rights described in subparagraph (E) if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the State is not exercising its water rights consistent with subparagraph (E)(i)(I); or

(ii) the agreement described in subparagraph (E)(i)(II) is not fulfilled or complied with sufficiently to fulfill the purposes of this title.

(3) WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for development of any new irrigation and pumping facility, reservoir, water conservation work, aqueduct, canal, ditch, pipeline, well, hydropower project, transmission, other ancillary facility, or other water, diversion, storage, or carriage structure in the wilderness designated by section 102(b).

(c) ACCESS AND OPERATION.—

(1) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term ''water resource facility'' means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.

(2) ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall allow reasonable access to water resource facilities in existence on the date of enactment of this Act within the areas described in sections 102(b) and 102(c), including motorized access where necessary and customarily employed on routes existing as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) ACCESS ROUTES.—Existing access routes within such areas customarily employed as of the date of enactment of this Act may be used, maintained, repaired, and replaced to the extent necessary to maintain their present function, design, and serviceable operation, so long as such activities have no increased adverse impacts on the resources and values of the areas described in sections 102(b) and 102(c) than existed as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) USE OF WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection and subsection (a)(4), the Secretary shall allow water resource facilities existing on the date of enactment of this Act within areas described in sections 102(b) and 102(c) to be used, operated, maintained, repaired, and replaced to the extent necessary for the continued exercise, in accordance with Colorado State law, of vested water rights adjudicated for use in connection with such facilities by a court of competent jurisdiction prior to the date of enactment of this Act. The impact of an existing facility on the water resources and values of the area shall not be increased as a result of changes in the adjudicated type of use of such facility as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.—Water resource facilities, and access routes serving such facilities, existing within the areas described in sections 102(b) and 102(c) on the date of enactment of this Act shall be maintained and repaired when and to the extent necessary to prevent increased adverse impacts on the resources and values of the areas described in sections 102(b) and 102(c).

SEC. 105. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that military aviation training on Federal public lands in Colorado, including the training conducted at the High-Altitude Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, is critical to the national security of the United States and the readiness of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 106. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STUDY ON IMPACTS THAT THE EXPANSION OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE ON THE READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO AVIATION TRAINING.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the impacts that the expansion of wilderness designations in the Western United States would have on the readiness of the Armed Forces of the United States with respect to aviation training.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the study required under subsection (a).

TITLE II—NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS, RECREATION, AND WORKING FORESTS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(A) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

Subtitle A—Restoration and Economic Development

SEC. 211. SOUTH FORK TRINITY-MAD RIVER RESTORATION AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED.—The term ''collaboratively developed'' means projects that are developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(A) includes—

(i) appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(ii) multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and

(B) is transparent and nonexclusive.

(2) PLANTATION.—The term ''plantation'' means a forested area that has been artificially established by planting or seeding.

(3) RESTORATION.—The term ''restoration'' means the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed by establishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to facilitate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem sustainability, resilience, and health under current and future conditions.

(4) RESTORATION AREA.—The term ''restoration area'' means the South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area, established by subsection (b).

(5) SHADED FUEL BREAK.—The term ''shaded fuel break'' means a vegetation treatment that effectively addresses all project-generated slash and that retains: adequate canopy cover to suppress plant regrowth in the forest understory following treatment; the longest lived trees that provide the most shade over the longest period of time; the healthiest and most vigorous trees with the greatest potential for crown-growth in plantations and in natural stands adjacent to plantations; and all mature hardwoods, when practicable.

(6) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACT.—The term ''stewardship contract'' means an agreement or contract entered into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

(7) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term ''wildland-urban interface'' has the meaning given the term by section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area, comprising approximately 871,414 acres of Federal land administered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area'' and dated May 15, 2020, to be known as the South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the restoration area are to—

(1) establish, restore, and maintain fire-resilient forest structures containing late successional forest structure characterized by large trees and multistoried canopies, as ecologically appropriate;

(2) protect late successional reserves;

(3) enhance the restoration of Federal lands within the restoration area;

(4) reduce the threat posed by wildfires to communities within the restoration area;

(5) protect and restore aquatic habitat and anadromous fisheries;

(6) protect the quality of water within the restoration area; and

(7) allow visitors to enjoy the scenic, recreational, natural, cultural, and wildlife values of the restoration area.

(d) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the restoration area—

(A) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (c);

(B) in a manner that—

(i) in the case of the Forest Service, prioritizes restoration of the restoration area over other nonemergency vegetation management projects on the portions of the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests in Humboldt and Trinity Counties; and

(ii) in the case of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, establishes with the Forest Service an agreement for cooperation to ensure timely completion of consultation required by section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (15 U.S.C. 1536) on restoration projects within the restoration area and agreement to maintain and exchange information on planning schedules and priorities on a regular basis;

(C) in accordance with—

(i) the laws (including regulations) and rules applicable to the National Forest System for land managed by the Forest Service;

(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for land managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(iii) this title; and

(iv) any other applicable law (including regulations); and

(D) in a manner consistent with congressional intent that consultation for restoration projects within the restoration area is completed in a timely and efficient manner.

(2) CONFLICT OF LAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The establishment of the restoration area shall not change the management status of any land or water that is designated wilderness or as a wild and scenic river, including lands and waters designated by this title.

(B) RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between the laws applicable to the areas described in subparagraph (A) and this section, the more restrictive provision shall control.

(3) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only allow uses of the restoration area that the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (c).

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize restoration activities within the restoration area.

(C) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall limit the Secretary's ability to plan, approve, or prioritize activities outside of the restoration area.

(4) WILDLAND FIRE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section prohibits the Secretary, in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate, from conducting wildland fire operations in the restoration area, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may use prescribed burning and managed wildland fire to the fullest extent practicable to achieve the purposes of this section.

(5) ROAD DECOMMISSIONING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall decommission unneeded National Forest System roads identified for decommissioning and unauthorized roads identified for decommissioning within the restoration area—

(i) subject to appropriations;

(ii) consistent with the analysis required by subparts A and B of part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(iii) in accordance with existing law.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In making determinations regarding road decommissioning under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with—

(i) appropriate State, Tribal, and local governmental entities; and

(ii) members of the public.

(C) DEFINITION.—As used in subparagraph (A), the term ''decommission'' means—

(i) to reestablish vegetation on a road; and

(ii) to restore any natural drainage, watershed function, or other ecological processes that are disrupted or adversely impacted by the road by removing or hydrologically disconnecting the road prism.

(6) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the Secretary may conduct vegetation management projects in the restoration area only where necessary to—

(i) maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure;

(ii) reduce wildfire risk to communities by promoting forests that are fire resilient;

(iii) improve the habitat of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species;

(iv) protect or improve water quality; or

(v) enhance the restoration of lands within the restoration area.

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) SHADED FUEL BREAKS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall prioritize, as practicable, the establishment of a network of shaded fuel breaks within—

(I) the portions of the wildland-urban interface that are within 150 feet from private property contiguous to Federal land;

(II) 150 feet from any road that is open to motorized vehicles as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(aa) except that, where topography or other conditions require, the Secretary may establish shaded fuel breaks up to 275 feet from a road so long as the combined total width of the shaded fuel breaks for both sides of the road does not exceed 300 feet; and

(bb) provided that the Secretary shall include vegetation treatments within a minimum of 25 feet of the road where practicable, feasible, and appropriate as part of any shaded fuel break; or

(III) 150 feet of any plantation.

(ii) PLANTATIONS; RIPARIAN RESERVES.—The Secretary may undertake vegetation management projects—

(I) in areas within the restoration area in which fish and wildlife habitat is significantly compromised as a result of past management practices (including plantations); and

(II) within designated riparian reserves only where necessary to maintain the integrity of fuel breaks and to enhance fire resilience.

(C) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall carry out vegetation management projects within the restoration area—

(i) in accordance with—

(I) this section; and

(II) existing law (including regulations);

(ii) after providing an opportunity for public comment; and

(iii) subject to appropriations.

(D) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—The Secretary shall use the best available science in planning and implementing vegetation management projects within the restoration area.

(7) GRAZING.—

(A) EXISTING GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in the restoration area, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue—

(i) subject to—

(I) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary; and

(II) applicable law (including regulations); and

(ii) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (c).

(B) TARGETED NEW GRAZING.—The Secretary may issue annual targeted grazing permits for the grazing of livestock in the restoration area, where not established before the date of the enactment of this Act, to control noxious weeds,

aid in the control of wildfire within the wildland-urban interface, or to provide other ecological benefits subject to—

(i) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary; and

(ii) a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (c).

(C) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—The Secretary shall use the best available science when determining whether to issue targeted grazing permits within the restoration area.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the restoration area is withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(f) USE OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall—

(1) use stewardship contracts to implement this section; and

(2) use revenue derived from such stewardship contracts for restoration and other activities within the restoration area which shall include staff and administrative costs to support timely consultation activities for restoration projects.

(g) COLLABORATION.—In developing and implementing restoration projects in the restoration area, the Secretary shall consult with collaborative groups with an interest in the restoration area.

(h) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—A collaboratively developed restoration project within the restoration area may be carried out in accordance with the provisions for hazardous fuel reduction projects set forth in sections 104, 105, and 106 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6514–6516), as applicable.

(i) MULTIPARTY MONITORING.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) in collaboration with the Secretary of the Interior and interested persons, use a multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process to assess the positive or negative ecological, social, and economic effects of restoration projects within the restoration area; and

(2) incorporate the monitoring results into the management of the restoration area.

(j) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use all existing authorities to secure as much funding as necessary to fulfill the purposes of the restoration area.

(k) FOREST RESIDUES UTILIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with applicable law, including regulations, and this section, the Secretary may utilize forest residues from restoration projects, including shaded fuel breaks, in the restoration area for research and development of biobased products that result in net carbon sequestration.

(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into partnerships with universities, nongovernmental organizations, industry, Tribes, and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies.

SEC. 212. REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS RESTORATION.

(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to undertake initiatives to restore degraded redwood forest ecosystems in Redwood National and State Parks in partnership with the State of California, local agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—In carrying out any initiative authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall comply with all applicable law.

SEC. 213. CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LANDS REMEDIATION PARTNERSHIP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''partnership'' means the California Public Lands Remediation Partnership, established by subsection (b).

(2) PRIORITY LANDS.—The term ''priority lands'' means Federal land within the State that is determined by the partnership to be a high priority for remediation.

(3) REMEDIATION.—The term ''remediation'' means to facilitate the recovery of lands and waters that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed by illegal marijuana cultivation or another illegal activity. Remediation includes but is not limited to removal of trash, debris, and other material, and establishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to facilitate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem sustainability, resilience, and health under current and future conditions.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a California Public Lands Remediation Partnership.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the partnership are to—

(1) coordinate the activities of Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities, and the private sector, in the remediation of priority lands in the State affected by illegal marijuana cultivation or other illegal activities; and

(2) use the resources and expertise of each agency, authority, or entity in implementing remediation activities on priority lands in the State.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the partnership shall include the following:

(1) The Secretary of Agriculture, or a designee of the Secretary of Agriculture to represent the Forest Service.

(2) The Secretary of the Interior, or a designee of the Secretary of the Interior, to represent the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

(3) The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, or a designee of the Director.

(4) The Secretary of the State Natural Resources Agency, or a designee of the Secretary, to represent the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(5) A designee of the California State Water Resources Control Board.

(6) A designee of the California State Sheriffs' Association.

(7) One member to represent federally recognized Indian Tribes, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) One member to represent nongovernmental organizations with an interest in Federal land remediation, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(9) One member to represent local governmental interests, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(10) A law enforcement official from each of the following:

(A) The Department of the Interior.

(B) The Department of Agriculture.

(11) A scientist to provide expertise and advise on methods needed for remediation efforts, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(12) A designee of the National Guard Counter Drug Program.

(e) DUTIES.—To further the purposes of this section, the partnership shall—

(1) identify priority lands for remediation in the State;

(2) secure resources from Federal and non-Federal sources to apply to remediation of priority lands in the State;

(3) support efforts by Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, and nongovernmental organizations in carrying out remediation of priority lands in the State;

(4) support research and education on the impacts of, and solutions to, illegal marijuana cultivation and other illegal activities on priority lands in the State;

(5) involve other Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the public in remediation efforts, to the extent practicable; and

(6) take any other administrative or advisory actions as necessary to address remediation of priority lands in the State.

(f) AUTHORITIES.—To implement this section, the partnership may, subject to the prior approval of the Secretary of Agriculture—

(1) make grants to the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide grants or technical assistance to, the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff;

(4) obtain funds or services from any source, including Federal and non-Federal funds, and funds and services provided under any other Federal law or program;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of this section.

(g) PROCEDURES.—The partnership shall establish such rules and procedures as it deems necessary or desirable.

(h) LOCAL HIRING.—The partnership shall, to the maximum extent practicable and in accordance with existing law, give preference to local entities and persons when carrying out this section.

(i) SERVICE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.—Members of the partnership shall serve without pay.

(j) DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the partnership on a regular basis to carry out this section.

(2) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior may provide technical and financial assistance, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, as determined by the appropriate Secretary, to the partnership or any members of the partnership to carry out this title.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with the partnership, any members of the partnership, or other public or private entities to provide technical, financial, or other assistance to carry out this title.

SEC. 214. TRINITY LAKE VISITOR CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may establish, in cooperation with any other public or private entities that the Secretary may determine to be appropriate, a visitor center in Weaverville, California—

(1) to serve visitors; and

(2) to assist in fulfilling the purposes of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the visitor center authorized under subsection (a) is designed to interpret the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area and other nearby Federal lands.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may, in a manner consistent with this title, enter into cooperative agreements with the State and any other appropriate institutions and organizations to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 215. DEL NORTE COUNTY VISITOR CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly or separately, may establish, in cooperation with any other public or private entities that the Secretaries determine to be appropriate, a visitor center in Del Norte County, California—

(1) to serve visitors; and

(2) to assist in fulfilling the purposes of Redwood National and State Parks, the Smith River

National Recreation Area, and other nearby Federal lands.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that the visitor center authorized under subsection (a) is designed to interpret the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of Redwood National and State Parks, the Smith River National Recreation Area, and other nearby Federal lands.

SEC. 216. MANAGEMENT PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In revising the land and resource management plan for the Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, Klamath, and Mendocino National Forests, the Secretary shall—

(1) consider the purposes of the South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area established by section 211; and

(2) include or update the fire management plan for the wilderness areas and wilderness additions established by this title.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the revisions required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) develop spatial fire management plans in accordance with—

(A) the Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy dated February 13, 2009, including any amendments to that guidance; and

(B) other appropriate policies;

(2) ensure that a fire management plan—

(A) considers how prescribed or managed fire can be used to achieve ecological management objectives of wilderness and other natural or primitive areas; and

(B) in the case of a wilderness area expanded by section 231, provides consistent direction regarding fire management to the entire wilderness area, including the addition;

(3) consult with—

(A) appropriate State, Tribal, and local governmental entities; and

(B) members of the public; and

(4) comply with applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 217. STUDY; PARTNERSHIPS RELATED TO OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with interested Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities, and private and nonprofit organizations, shall conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility and suitability of establishing overnight accommodations near Redwood National and State Parks on—

(1) Federal land at the northern boundary or on land within 20 miles of the northern boundary; and

(2) Federal land at the southern boundary or on land within 20 miles of the southern boundary.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—If the study conducted under subsection (a) determines that establishing the described accommodations is suitable and feasible, the Secretary may enter into agreements with qualified private and nonprofit organizations for the development, operation, and maintenance of overnight accommodations.

(2) CONTENTS.—Any agreements entered into under paragraph (1) shall clearly define the role and responsibility of the Secretary and the private or nonprofit organization.

(3) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall enter agreements under paragraph (1) in accordance with existing law.

(4) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) reduces or diminishes the authority of the Secretary to manage land and resources under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; or

(B) amends or modifies the application of any existing law (including regulations) applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

Subtitle B—Recreation

SEC. 221. HORSE MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Horse Mountain Special Management Area (referred to in this section as the ''special management area'') comprising approximately 7,482 acres of Federal land administered by the Forest Service in Humboldt County, California, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Horse Mountain Special Management Area'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the special management area is to enhance the recreational and scenic values of the special management area while conserving the plants, wildlife, and other natural resource values of the area.

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of the special management area.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the management plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) appropriate State, Tribal, and local governmental entities; and

(B) members of the public.

(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—The management plan required under paragraph (1) shall ensure that recreational use within the special management area does not cause significant adverse impacts on the plants and wildlife of the special management area.

(d) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the special management area—

(A) in furtherance of the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System;

(ii) this section; and

(iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) RECREATION.—The Secretary shall continue to authorize, maintain, and enhance the recreational use of the special management area, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, hang gliding, sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, rafting, mountain biking, and motorized recreation on authorized routes, and other recreational activities, so long as such recreational use is consistent with the purposes of the special management area, this section, other applicable law (including regulations), and applicable management plans.

(3) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the use of motorized vehicles in the special management area shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for the use of motorized vehicles.

(B) USE OF SNOWMOBILES.—The winter use of snowmobiles shall be allowed in the special management area—

(i) during periods of adequate snow coverage during the winter season; and

(ii) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

(4) NEW TRAILS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may construct new trails for motorized or nonmotorized recreation within the special management area in accordance with—

(i) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System;

(ii) this section; and

(iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(B) PRIORITY.—In establishing new trails within the special management area, the Secretary shall—

(i) prioritize the establishment of loops that provide high-quality, diverse recreational experiences; and

(ii) consult with members of the public.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the special management area is withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

SEC. 222. BIGFOOT NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL.

(a) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a study that describes the feasibility of establishing a nonmotorized Bigfoot National Recreation Trail that follows the route described in paragraph (2).

(2) ROUTE.—The trail described in paragraph (1) shall extend from the Ides Cove Trailhead in the Mendocino National Forest to Crescent City, California, by roughly following the route as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Bigfoot National Recreation Trail—Proposed'' and dated July 25, 2018.

(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In completing the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with—

(A) appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local agencies;

(B) private landowners;

(C) nongovernmental organizations; and

(D) members of the public.

(b) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon a determination that the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail is feasible and meets the requirements for a National Recreation Trail in section 1243 of title 16, United States Code, the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail in accordance with—

(A) the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90–543);

(B) this title; and

(C) other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Upon designation by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail (referred to in this section as the ''trail'') shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with—

(A) other Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local agencies;

(B) private landowners; and

(C) other interested organizations.

(3) PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No portions of the trail may be located on non-Federal land without the written consent of the landowner.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not acquire for the trail any land or interest in land outside the exterior boundary of any federally managed area without the consent of the owner of the land or interest in the land.

(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(i) requires any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to private property; or

(ii) modifies any provision of Federal, State, or local law with respect to public access to or use of private land.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements with State, Tribal, and local government entities and private entities to complete needed trail construction, reconstruction, realignment, maintenance, or education projects related to the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail.

(d) MAP.—

(1) MAP REQUIRED.—Upon designation of the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a map of the trail.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

SEC. 223. ELK CAMP RIDGE RECREATION TRAIL.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture after an opportunity for public comment, shall designate a trail (which may include a system of trails)—

(A) for use by off-highway vehicles or mountain bicycles, or both; and

(B) to be known as the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In designating the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail (referred to in this section as the ''trail''), the Secretary shall only include trails that are—

(A) as of the date of enactment of this Act, authorized for use by off-highway vehicles or mountain bikes, or both; and

(B) located on land that is managed by the Forest Service in Del Norte County.

(3) MAP.—A map that depicts the trail shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the trail—

(A) in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations);

(B) to ensure the safety of citizens who use the trail; and

(C) in a manner by which to minimize any damage to sensitive habitat or cultural resources.

(2) MONITORING; EVALUATION.—To minimize the impacts of the use of the trail on environmental and cultural resources, the Secretary shall annually assess the effects of the use of off-highway vehicles and mountain bicycles on—

(A) the trail;

(B) land located in proximity to the trail; and

(C) plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

(3) CLOSURE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State and Del Norte County, and subject to paragraph (4), may temporarily close or permanently reroute a portion of the trail if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the trail is having an adverse impact on—

(i) wildlife habitats;

(ii) natural resources;

(iii) cultural resources; or

(iv) traditional uses;

(B) the trail threatens public safety; or

(C) closure of the trail is necessary—

(i) to repair damage to the trail; or

(ii) to repair resource damage.

(4) REROUTING.—Any portion of the trail that is temporarily closed by the Secretary under paragraph (3) may be permanently rerouted along any road or trail—

(A) that is—

(i) in existence as of the date of the closure of the portion of the trail;

(ii) located on public land; and

(iii) open to motorized or mechanized use; and

(B) if the Secretary determines that rerouting the portion of the trail would not significantly increase or decrease the length of the trail.

(5) NOTICE OF AVAILABLE ROUTES.—The Secretary shall ensure that visitors to the trail have access to adequate notice relating to the availability of trail routes through—

(A) the placement of appropriate signage along the trail; and

(B) the distribution of maps, safety education materials, and other information that the Secretary concerned determines to be appropriate.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the ownership, management, or other rights relating to any non-Federal land (including any interest in any non-Federal land).

SEC. 224. TRINITY LAKE TRAIL.

(a) TRAIL CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall study the feasibility and public interest of constructing a recreational trail for nonmotorized uses around Trinity Lake.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED.—Subject to appropriations, and in accordance with paragraph (3), if the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that the construction of the trail described in such paragraph is feasible and in the public interest, the Secretary may provide for the construction of the trail.

(B) USE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The trail may be constructed under this section through the acceptance of volunteer services and contributions from non-Federal sources to reduce or eliminate the need for Federal expenditures to construct the trail.

(3) COMPLIANCE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(A) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System; and

(B) this title.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the ownership, management, or other rights relating to any non-Federal land (including any interest in any non-Federal land).

SEC. 225. TRAILS STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with subsection (b) and in consultation with interested parties, shall conduct a study to improve motorized and nonmotorized recreation trail opportunities (including mountain bicycling) on land not designated as wilderness within the portions of the Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Mendocino National Forests located in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior regarding opportunities to improve, through increased coordination, recreation trail opportunities on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior that shares a boundary with the national forest land described in subsection (a).

SEC. 226. CONSTRUCTION OF MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ROUTES.

(a) TRAIL CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall study the feasibility and public interest of constructing recreational trails for mountain bicycling and other nonmotorized uses on the routes as generally depicted in the report entitled ''Trail Study for Smith River National Recreation Area Six Rivers National Forest'' and dated 2016.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED.—Subject to appropriations, and in accordance with paragraph (3), if the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that the construction of one or more routes described in such paragraph is feasible and in the public interest, the Secretary may provide for the construction of the routes.

(B) MODIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may modify the routes as necessary in the opinion of the Secretary.

(C) USE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.—Routes may be constructed under this section through the acceptance of volunteer services and contributions from non-Federal sources to reduce or eliminate the need for Federal expenditures to construct the route.

(3) COMPLIANCE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(A) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System; and

(B) this title.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the ownership, management, or other rights relating to any non-Federal land (including any interest in any non-Federal land).

SEC. 227. PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with qualified private and nonprofit organizations to undertake the following activities on Federal lands in Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte Counties—

(1) trail and campground maintenance;

(2) public education, visitor contacts, and outreach; and

(3) visitor center staffing.

(b) CONTENTS.—Any agreements entered into under subsection (a) shall clearly define the role and responsibility of the Secretary and the private or nonprofit organization.

(c) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall enter into agreements under subsection (a) in accordance with existing law.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) reduces or diminishes the authority of the Secretary to manage land and resources under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; or

(2) amends or modifies the application of any existing law (including regulations) applicable to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

Subtitle C—Conservation

SEC. 231. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) BLACK BUTTE RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 11,155 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Black Butte Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the Black Butte River Wilderness.

(2) CHANCHELULLA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 6,382 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Chanchelulla Wilderness Additions—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Chanchelulla Wilderness, as designated by section 101(a)(4) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1619).

(3) CHINQUAPIN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 27,164 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Chinquapin Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the Chinquapin Wilderness.

(4) ELKHORN RIDGE WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 37 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness Additions'' and dated October 24, 2019, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness, as designated by section 6(d) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2070).

(5) ENGLISH RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 6,204 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''English Ridge Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be known as the English Ridge Wilderness.

(6) HEADWATERS FOREST WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 4,360 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Headwaters Forest Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated October 15, 2019, which shall be known as the Headwaters Forest Wilderness.

(7) MAD RIVER BUTTES WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 6,097 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Mad River Buttes Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the Mad River Buttes Wilderness.

(8) MOUNT LASSIC WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately

1,288 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Mt. Lassic Wilderness Additions—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Mount Lassic Wilderness, as designated by section 3(6) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065).

(9) NORTH FORK EEL WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 16,342 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''North Fork Eel Wilderness Additions'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the North Fork Eel Wilderness, as designated by section 101(a)(19) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1621).

(10) PATTISON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 29,451 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Pattison Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the Pattison Wilderness.

(11) SANHEDRIN WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 112 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Sanhedrin Wilderness Addition—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Sanhedrin Wilderness, as designated by section 3(2) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065).

(12) SISKIYOU WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 23,913 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ''Siskiyou Wilderness Additions—Proposed (North)'' and ''Siskiyou Wilderness Additions—Proposed (South)'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Siskiyou Wilderness, as designated by section 101(a)(30) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1623) (as amended by section 3(5) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065)).

(13) SOUTH FORK EEL RIVER WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 603 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''South Fork Eel River Wilderness Additions—Proposed'' and dated October 24, 2019, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the South Fork Eel River Wilderness, as designated by section 3(10) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2066).

(14) SOUTH FORK TRINITY RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 26,115 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''South Fork Trinity River Wilderness Additions—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the South Fork Trinity River Wilderness.

(15) TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 61,187 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ''Trinity Alps Proposed Wilderness Additions EAST'' and ''Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions West—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Trinity Alps Wilderness, as designated by section 101(a)(34) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1623) (as amended by section 3(7) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065)).

(16) UNDERWOOD WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service in the State, comprising approximately 15,068 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Underwood Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which shall be known as the Underwood Wilderness.

(17) YOLLA BOLLY-MIDDLE EEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 11,243 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ''Yolla Bolly Wilderness Proposed—NORTH'', ''Yolla Bolly Wilderness Proposed—SOUTH'', and ''Yolla Bolly Wilderness Proposed—WEST'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, as designated by section 3 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132) (as amended by section 3(4) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065)).

(18) YUKI WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the State, comprising approximately 11,076 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Yuki Wilderness Additions—Proposed'' and dated May 15, 2020, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Yuki Wilderness, as designated by section 3(3) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065).

(b) REDESIGNATION OF NORTH FORK WILDERNESS AS NORTH FORK EEL RIVER WILDERNESS.—Section 101(a)(19) of Public Law 98–425 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1621) is amended by striking ''North Fork Wilderness'' and inserting ''North Fork Eel River Wilderness''. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the North Fork Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the North Fork Eel River Wilderness.

(c) ELKHORN RIDGE WILDERNESS ADJUSTMENTS.—The boundary of the Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness established by section 6(d) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is adjusted by deleting approximately 30 acres of Federal land as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness Additions'' and dated October 24, 2019.

SEC. 232. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas and wilderness additions established by section 231 shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with this title and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take such measures in a wilderness area or wilderness addition designated by section 231 as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and House Report 98–40 of the 98th Congress.

(2) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—Nothing in this title limits funding for fire and fuels management in the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by this title.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Consistent with paragraph (1) and other applicable Federal law, to ensure a timely and efficient response to fire emergencies in the wilderness additions designated by this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, establish agency approval procedures (including appropriate delegations of authority to the Forest Supervisor, District Manager, or other agency officials) for responding to fire emergencies; and

(B) enter into agreements with appropriate State or local firefighting agencies.

(c) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in the wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by this title, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2)(A) for lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96–617); or

(B) for lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405).

(d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State with respect to fish and wildlife on public land in the State.

(2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any management activities that are necessary to maintain or restore fish, wildlife, and plant populations and habitats in the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 231, if the management activities are—

(A) consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(B) conducted in accordance with—

(i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(ii) appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of House Report 101–405.

(e) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress does not intend for designation of wilderness or wilderness additions by this title to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area or wilderness addition.

(2) ACTIVITIES OR USES UP TO BOUNDARIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within a wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude the activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

(f) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this title precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 231;

(2) the designation of new units of special airspace over the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 231; or

(3) the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 231.

(g) HORSES.—Nothing in this title precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock into, an area designated as a wilderness area or wilderness addition by section 231—

(1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

(h) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by section 231 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral materials and geothermal leasing laws.

(i) USE BY MEMBERS OF INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) ACCESS.—In recognition of the past use of wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by this title by members of Indian Tribes for traditional cultural and religious purposes,

the Secretary shall ensure that Indian Tribes have access to the wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by section 231 for traditional cultural and religious purposes.

(2) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary, on request of an Indian Tribe, may temporarily close to the general public one or more specific portions of a wilderness area or wilderness addition to protect the privacy of the members of the Indian Tribe in the conduct of the traditional cultural and religious activities in the wilderness area or wilderness addition.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—Any closure under subparagraph (A) shall be made in such a manner as to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum period of time necessary for the activity to be carried out.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—Access to the wilderness areas and wilderness additions under this subsection shall be in accordance with—

(A) Public Law 95–341 (commonly known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act) (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.); and

(B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(j) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness area or wilderness addition designated by section 231 that is acquired by the United States shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located;

(2) be withdrawn in accordance with subsection (h); and

(3) be managed in accordance with this section, the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and any other applicable law.

(k) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by section 231 if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activities.

(l) AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—The Secretary may continue to authorize the competitive equestrian event permitted since 2012 in the Chinquapin Wilderness established by section 231 in a manner compatible with the preservation of the area as wilderness.

(m) RECREATIONAL CLIMBING.—Nothing in this title prohibits recreational rock climbing activities in the wilderness areas, such as the placement, use, and maintenance of fixed anchors, including any fixed anchor established before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

SEC. 233. DESIGNATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as potential wilderness areas:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 4,005 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Chinquapin Proposed Potential Wilderness'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(2) Certain Federal land administered by the National Park Service, compromising approximately 31,000 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Redwood National Park—Potential Wilderness'' and dated October 9, 2019.

(3) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 5,681 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Siskiyou Proposed Potential Wildernesses'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(4) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 446 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''South Fork Trinity River Proposed Potential Wilderness'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(5) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 1,256 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Trinity Alps Proposed Potential Wilderness'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(6) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 4,386 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Yolla Bolly Middle-Eel Proposed Potential Wilderness'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(7) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 2,918 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Yuki Proposed Potential Wilderness'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness areas designated by subsection (a) (referred to in this section as ''potential wilderness areas'') as wilderness until the potential wilderness areas are designated as wilderness under subsection (d).

(c) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of ecological restoration (including the elimination of nonnative species, removal of illegal, unused, or decommissioned roads, repair of skid tracks, and any other activities necessary to restore the natural ecosystems in a potential wilderness area and consistent with paragraph (2)), the Secretary may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in a potential wilderness area until the potential wilderness area is designated as wilderness under subsection (d).

(2) LIMITATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish ecological restoration with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

(d) EVENTUAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness areas shall be designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the conditions in a potential wilderness area that are incompatible with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have been removed; or

(2) the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act for potential wilderness areas located on lands managed by the Forest Service.

(e) ADMINISTRATION AS WILDERNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On its designation as wilderness under subsection (d), a potential wilderness area shall be administered in accordance with section 232 and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(2) DESIGNATION.—On its designation as wilderness under subsection (d)—

(A) the land described in subsection (a)(1) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Chinquapin Wilderness established by section 231(a)(3);

(B) the land described in subsection (a)(3) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Siskiyou Wilderness as designated by section 101(a)(30) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1623) (as amended by section 3(5) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065) and expanded by section 231(a)(12));

(C) the land described in subsection (a)(4) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the South Fork Trinity River Wilderness established by section 231(a)(14);

(D) the land described in subsection (a)(5) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Trinity Alps Wilderness as designated by section 101(a)(34) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1623) (as amended by section 3(7) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065) and expanded by section 231(a)(15));

(E) the land described in subsection (a)(6) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness as designated by section 3 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132) (as amended by section 3(4) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065) and expanded by section 231(a)(17)); and

(F) the land described in subsection (a)(7) shall be incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Yuki Wilderness as designated by section 3(3) of Public Law 109–362 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 120 Stat. 2065) and expanded by section 231(a)(18).

(f) REPORT.—Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter until the date upon which the potential wilderness is designated wilderness under subsection (d), the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the status of ecological restoration within the potential wilderness area and the progress toward the potential wilderness area's eventual wilderness designation under subsection (d).

SEC. 234. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Section 3(a) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(231) SOUTH FORK TRINITY RIVER.—The following segments from the source tributaries in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 18.3-mile segment from its multiple source springs in the Cedar Basin of the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness in section 15, T. 27 N., R. 10 W. to .25 miles upstream of the Wild Mad Road, as a wild river.

''(B) The .65-mile segment from .25 miles upstream of Wild Mad Road to the confluence with the unnamed tributary approximately .4 miles downstream of the Wild Mad Road in section 29, T. 28 N., R. 11 W., as a scenic river.

''(C) The 9.8-mile segment from .75 miles downstream of Wild Mad Road to Silver Creek, as a wild river.

''(D) The 5.4-mile segment from Silver Creek confluence to Farley Creek, as a scenic river.

''(E) The 3.6-mile segment from Farley Creek to Cave Creek, as a recreational river.

''(F) The 5.6-mile segment from Cave Creek to the confluence of the unnamed creek upstream of Hidden Valley Ranch in section 5, T. 15, R. 7 E., as a wild river.

''(G) The 2.5-mile segment from unnamed creek confluence upstream of Hidden Valley Ranch to the confluence with the unnamed creek flowing west from Bear Wallow Mountain in section 29, T. 1 N., R. 7 E., as a scenic river.

''(H) The 3.8-mile segment from the unnamed creek confluence in section 29, T. 1 N., R. 7 E. to Plummer Creek, as a wild river.

''(I) The 1.8-mile segment from Plummer Creek to the confluence with the unnamed tributary north of McClellan Place in section 6, T. 1 N., R. 7 E., as a scenic river.

''(J) The 5.4-mile segment from the unnamed tributary confluence in section 6, T. 1 N., R. 7 E. to Hitchcock Creek, as a wild river.

''(K) The 7-mile segment from Eltapom Creek to the Grouse Creek, as a scenic river.

''(L) The 5-mile segment from Grouse Creek to Coon Creek, as a wild river.

''(232) EAST FORK SOUTH FORK TRINITY RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 8.4-mile segment from its source in the Pettijohn Basin in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness in section 10, T. 3 S., R. 10 W. to .25 miles upstream of the Wild Mad Road, as a wild river.

''(B) The 3.4-mile segment from .25 miles upstream of the Wild Mad Road to the South Fork Trinity River, as a recreational river.

''(233) RATTLESNAKE CREEK.—The 5.9-mile segment from the confluence with the unnamed tributary in the southeast corner of section 5, T. 1 S., R. 12 W. to the South Fork Trinity River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a recreational river.

''(234) BUTTER CREEK.—The 7-mile segment from .25 miles downstream of the Road 3N08 crossing to the South Fork Trinity River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a scenic river.

''(235) HAYFORK CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 3.2-mile segment from Little Creek to Bear Creek, as a recreational river.

''(B) The 13.2-mile segment from Bear Creek to the northern boundary of section 19, T. 3 N., R. 7 E., as a scenic river.

''(236) OLSEN CREEK.—The 2.8-mile segment from the confluence of its source tributaries in section 5, T. 3 N., R. 7 E. to the northern boundary of section 24, T. 3 N., R. 6 E., to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a scenic river.

''(237) RUSCH CREEK.—The 3.2-mile segment from .25 miles downstream of the 32N11 Road crossing to Hayfork Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a recreational river.

''(238) ELTAPOM CREEK.—The 3.4-mile segment from Buckhorn Creek to the South Fork Trinity River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a wild river.

''(239) GROUSE CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 3.9-mile segment from Carson Creek to Cow Creek, as a scenic river.

''(B) The 7.4-mile segment from Cow Creek to the South Fork Trinity River, as a recreational river.

''(240) MADDEN CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 6.8-mile segment from the confluence of Madden Creek and its unnamed tributary in section 18, T. 5 N., R. 5 E. to Fourmile Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The 1.6-mile segment from Fourmile Creek to the South Fork Trinity River, as a recreational river.

''(241) CANYON CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 6.6-mile segment from the outlet of lower Canyon Creek Lake to Bear Creek upstream of Ripstein, as a wild river.

''(B) The 11.2-mile segment from Bear Creek upstream of Ripstein to the southern boundary of section 25, T. 34 N., R. 11 W., as a recreational river.

''(242) NORTH FORK TRINITY RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 12-mile segment from the confluence of source tributaries in section 24, T. 8 N., R. 12 W. to the Trinity Alps Wilderness boundary upstream of Hobo Gulch, as a wild river.

''(B) The .5-mile segment from where the river leaves the Trinity Alps Wilderness to where it fully reenters the Trinity Alps Wilderness downstream of Hobo Gulch, as a scenic river.

''(C) The 13.9-mile segment from where the river fully reenters the Trinity Alps Wilderness downstream of Hobo Gulch to the Trinity Alps Wilderness boundary upstream of the County Road 421 crossing, as a wild river.

''(D) The 1.3-mile segment from the Trinity Alps Wilderness boundary upstream of the County Road 421 crossing to the Trinity River, as a recreational river.

''(243) EAST FORK NORTH FORK TRINITY RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 9.5-mile segment from the river's source north of Mt. Hilton in section 19, T. 36 N., R. 10 W. to the end of Road 35N20 approximately .5 miles downstream of the confluence with the East Branch East Fork North Fork Trinity River, as a wild river.

''(B) The 3.25-mile segment from the end of Road 35N20 to .25 miles upstream of Coleridge, as a scenic river.

''(C) The 4.6-mile segment from .25 miles upstream of Coleridge to the confluence of Fox Gulch, as a recreational river.

''(244) NEW RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 12.7-mile segment of Virgin Creek from its source spring in section 22, T. 9 N., R. 7 E. to Slide Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The 2.3-mile segment of the New River where it begins at the confluence of Virgin and Slide Creeks to Barron Creek, as a wild river.

''(245) MIDDLE EEL RIVER.—The following segment, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 37.7-mile segment from its source in Frying Pan Meadow to Rose Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The 1.5-mile segment from Rose Creek to the Black Butte River, as a recreational river.

''(C) The 10.5-mile segment of Balm of Gilead Creek from its source in Hopkins Hollow to the Middle Eel River, as a wild river.

''(D) The 13-mile segment of the North Fork Middle Fork Eel River from the source on Dead Puppy Ridge in section 11, T. 26 N., R. 11 W. to the confluence of the Middle Eel River, as a wild river.

''(246) NORTH FORK EEL RIVER, CA.—The 14.3-mile segment from the confluence with Gilman Creek to the Six Rivers National Forest boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a wild river.

''(247) RED MOUNTAIN CREEK, CA.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 5.25-mile segment from its source west of Mike's Rock in section 23, T. 26 N., R. 12 E. to the confluence with Littlefield Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The 1.6-mile segment from the confluence with Littlefield Creek to the confluence with the unnamed tributary in section 32, T. 26 N., R. 8 E., as a scenic river.

''(C) The 1.25-mile segment from the confluence with the unnamed tributary in section 32, T. 4 S., R. 8 E. to the confluence with the North Fork Eel River, as a wild river.

''(248) REDWOOD CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 6.2-mile segment from the confluence with Lacks Creek to the confluence with Coyote Creek as a scenic river on publication by the Secretary of a notice in the Federal Register that sufficient inholdings within the boundaries of the segments have been acquired in fee title to establish a manageable addition to the system.

''(B) The 19.1-mile segment from the confluence with Coyote Creek in section 2, T. 8 N., R. 2 E. to the Redwood National Park boundary upstream of Orick in section 34, T. 11 N., R. 1 E. as a scenic river.

''(C) The 2.3-mile segment of Emerald Creek (also known as Harry Weir Creek) from its source in section 29, T. 10 N., R. 2 E. to the confluence with Redwood Creek as a scenic river.

''(249) LACKS CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 5.1-mile segment from the confluence with two unnamed tributaries in section 14, T. 7 N., R. 3 E. to Kings Crossing in section 27, T. 8 N., R. 3 E. as a wild river.

''(B) The 2.7-mile segment from Kings Crossing to the confluence with Redwood Creek as a scenic river upon publication by the Secretary of a notice in the Federal Register that sufficient inholdings within the segment have been acquired in fee title or as scenic easements to establish a manageable addition to the system.

''(250) LOST MAN CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 6.4-mile segment of Lost Man Creek from its source in section 5, T. 10 N., R. 2 E. to .25 miles upstream of the Prairie Creek confluence, as a recreational river.

''(B) The 2.3-mile segment of Larry Damm Creek from its source in section 8, T. 11 N., R. 2 E. to the confluence with Lost Man Creek, as a recreational river.

''(251) LITTLE LOST MAN CREEK.—The 3.6-mile segment of Little Lost Man Creek from its source in section 6, T. 10 N., R. 2 E. to .25 miles upstream of the Lost Man Creek road crossing, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(252) SOUTH FORK ELK RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through a cooperative management agreement with the State of California:

''(A) The 3.6-mile segment of the Little South Fork Elk River from the source in section 21, T. 3 N., R. 1 E. to the confluence with the South Fork Elk River, as a wild river.

''(B) The 2.2-mile segment of the unnamed tributary of the Little South Fork Elk River from its source in section 15, T. 3 N., R. 1 E. to the confluence with the Little South Fork Elk River, as a wild river.

''(C) The 3.6-mile segment of the South Fork Elk River from the confluence of the Little South Fork Elk River to the confluence with Tom Gulch, as a recreational river.

''(253) SALMON CREEK.—The 4.6-mile segment from its source in section 27, T. 3 N., R. 1 E. to the Headwaters Forest Reserve boundary in section 18, T. 3 N., R. 1 E. to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river through a cooperative management agreement with the State of California.

''(254) SOUTH FORK EEL RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 6.2-mile segment from the confluence with Jack of Hearts Creek to the southern boundary of the South Fork Eel Wilderness in section 8, T. 22 N., R. 16 W., as a recreational river to be administered by the Secretary through a cooperative management agreement with the State of California.

''(B) The 6.1-mile segment from the southern boundary of the South Fork Eel Wilderness to the northern boundary of the South Fork Eel Wilderness in section 29, T. 23 N., R. 16 W., as a wild river.

''(255) ELDER CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through a cooperative management agreement with the State of California:

''(A) The 3.6-mile segment from its source north of Signal Peak in section 6, T. 21 N., R. 15 W. to the confluence with the unnamed tributary near the center of section 28, T. 22 N., R. 16 W., as a wild river.

''(B) The 1.3-mile segment from the confluence with the unnamed tributary near the center of section 28, T. 22 N., R. 15 W. to the confluence with the South Fork Eel River, as a recreational river.

''(C) The 2.1-mile segment of Paralyze Canyon from its source south of Signal Peak in section 7, T. 21 N., R. 15 W. to the confluence with Elder Creek, as a wild river.

''(256) CEDAR CREEK.—The following segments to be administered as a wild river by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 7.7-mile segment from its source in section 22, T. 24 N., R. 16 W. to the southern boundary of the Red Mountain unit of the South Fork Eel Wilderness.

''(B) The 1.9-mile segment of North Fork Cedar Creek from its source in section 28, T. 24 N., R. 16 E. to the confluence with Cedar Creek.

''(257) EAST BRANCH SOUTH FORK EEL RIVER.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a scenic river on publication by the Secretary of a notice in the Federal Register that sufficient inholdings within the boundaries of the segments have been acquired in fee title or as scenic easements to establish a manageable addition to the system:

''(A) The 2.3-mile segment of Cruso Cabin Creek from the confluence of two unnamed tributaries in section 18, T. 24 N., R. 15 W. to the confluence with Elkhorn Creek.

''(B) The 1.8-mile segment of Elkhorn Creek from the confluence of two unnamed tributaries in section 22, T. 24 N., R. 16 W. to the confluence with Cruso Cabin Creek.

''(C) The 14.2-mile segment of the East Branch South Fork Eel River from the confluence of Cruso Cabin and Elkhorn Creeks to the confluence with Rays Creek.

''(D) The 1.7-mile segment of the unnamed tributary from its source on the north flank of Red Mountain's north ridge in section 2, T. 24 N., R. 17 W. to the confluence with the East Branch South Fork Eel River.

''(E) The 1.3-mile segment of the unnamed tributary from its source on the north flank of Red Mountain's north ridge in section 1, T. 24 N., R. 17 W. to the confluence with the East Branch South Fork Eel River.

''(F) The 1.8-mile segment of Tom Long Creek from the confluence with the unnamed tributary in section 12, T. 5 S., R. 4 E. to the confluence with the East Branch South Fork Eel River.

''(258) MATTOLE RIVER ESTUARY.—The 1.5-mile segment from the confluence of Stansberry Creek to the Pacific Ocean, to be administered as a recreational river by the Secretary of the Interior.

''(259) HONEYDEW CREEK.—The following segments to be administered as a wild river by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 5.1-mile segment of Honeydew Creek from its source in the southwest corner of section 25, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the eastern boundary of the King Range National Conservation Area in section 18, T. 3 S., R. 1 E.

''(B) The 2.8-mile segment of West Fork Honeydew Creek from its source west of North Slide Peak to the confluence with Honeydew Creek.

''(C) The 2.7-mile segment of Upper East Fork Honeydew Creek from its source in section 23, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the confluence with Honeydew Creek.

''(260) BEAR CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(A) The 1.9-mile segment of North Fork Bear Creek from the confluence with the unnamed tributary immediately downstream of the Horse Mountain Road crossing to the confluence with the South Fork, as a scenic river.

''(B) The 6.1-mile segment of South Fork Bear Creek from the confluence in section 2, T. 5 S., R. 1 W. with the unnamed tributary flowing from the southwest flank of Queen Peak to the confluence with the North Fork, as a scenic river.

''(C) The 3-mile segment of Bear Creek from the confluence of the North and South Forks to the southern boundary of section 11, T. 4 S., R. 1 E., as a wild river.

''(261) GITCHELL CREEK.—The 3-mile segment of Gitchell Creek from its source near Saddle Mountain to the Pacific Ocean to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(262) BIG FLAT CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river:

''(A) The 4-mile segment of Big Flat Creek from its source near King Peak in section 36, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the Pacific Ocean.

''(B) The .8-mile segment of the unnamed tributary from its source in section 35, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the confluence with Big Flat Creek.

''(C) The 2.7-mile segment of North Fork Big Flat Creek from the source in section 34, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the confluence with Big Flat Creek.

''(263) BIG CREEK.—The following segments to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as wild rivers:

''(A) The 2.7-mile segment of Big Creek from its source in section 26, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the Pacific Ocean.

''(B) The 1.9-mile unnamed southern tributary from its source in section 25, T. 3 S., R. 1 W. to the confluence with Big Creek.

''(264) ELK CREEK.—The 11.4-mile segment from its confluence with Lookout Creek to its confluence with Deep Hole Creek, to be jointly administered by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, as a wild river.

''(265) EDEN CREEK.—The 2.7-mile segment from the private property boundary in the northwest quarter of section 27, T. 21 N., R. 12 W. to the eastern boundary of section 23, T. 21 N., R. 12 W., to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(266) DEEP HOLE CREEK.—The 4.3-mile segment from the private property boundary in the southwest quarter of section 13, T. 20 N., R. 12 W. to the confluence with Elk Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(267) INDIAN CREEK.—The 3.3-mile segment from 300 feet downstream of the jeep trail in section 13, T. 20 N., R. 13 W. to the confluence with the Eel River, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(268) FISH CREEK.—The 4.2-mile segment from the source at Buckhorn Spring to the confluence with the Eel River, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.''.

SEC. 235. SANHEDRIN SPECIAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area (referred to in this section as the ''conservation management area''), comprising approximately 12,254 acres of Federal land administered by the Forest Service in Mendocino County, California, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Sanhedrin Conservation Management Area'' and dated May 15, 2020.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the conservation management area are to—

(1) conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, roadless, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the conservation management area;

(2) protect and restore late-successional forest structure, oak woodlands and grasslands, aquatic habitat, and anadromous fisheries within the conservation management area;

(3) protect and restore the wilderness character of the conservation management area; and

(4) allow visitors to enjoy the scenic, natural, cultural, and wildlife values of the conservation management area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the conservation management area—

(A) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System;

(ii) this section; and

(iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) USES.—The Secretary shall only allow uses of the conservation management area that the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (b).

(d) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the use of motorized vehicles in the conservation management area shall be permitted only on existing roads, trails, and areas designated for use by such vehicles as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no new or temporary roads shall be constructed within the conservation management area.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) or (2) prevents the Secretary from—

(A) rerouting or closing an existing road or trail to protect natural resources from degradation, or to protect public safety, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary;

(B) designating routes of travel on lands acquired by the Secretary and incorporated into the conservation management area if the designations are—

(i) consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(ii) completed, to the maximum extent practicable, within 3 years of the date of acquisition;

(C) constructing a temporary road on which motorized vehicles are permitted as part of a vegetation management project carried out in accordance with subsection (e);

(D) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles for administrative purposes; or

(E) responding to an emergency.

(4) DECOMMISSIONING OF TEMPORARY ROADS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under paragraph (3)(C) not later than 3 years after the date on which the applicable vegetation management project is completed.

(B) DEFINITION.—As used in subparagraph (A), the term ''decommission'' means—

(i) to reestablish vegetation on a road; and

(ii) to restore any natural drainage, watershed function, or other ecological processes that are disrupted or adversely impacted by the road by removing or hydrologically disconnecting the road prism.

(e) TIMBER HARVEST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no harvesting of timber shall be allowed within the conservation management area.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may authorize harvesting of timber in the conservation management area—

(A) if the Secretary determines that the harvesting is necessary to further the purposes of the conservation management area;

(B) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(C) subject to—

(i) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(ii) all applicable laws (including regulations).

(f) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in the conservation management area, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue—

(1) subject to—

(A) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary; and

(B) applicable law (including regulations); and

(2) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b).

(g) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with this section, the Secretary may take any measures within the conservation management area that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(h) ACQUISITION AND INCORPORATION OF LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—

(1) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—In accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land within or adjacent to the boundaries of the conservation management area by purchase from willing sellers, donation, or exchange.

(2) INCORPORATION.—Any land or interest in land acquired by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) incorporated into, and administered as part of, the conservation management area; and

(B) withdrawn in accordance with subsection (i).

(i) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land located in the conservation management area is withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patenting under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous

SEC. 241. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare maps and legal descriptions of the—

(1) wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by section 231;

(2) potential wilderness areas designated by section 233;

(3) South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area;

(4) Horse Mountain Special Management Area; and

(5) Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area.

(b) SUBMISSION OF MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—The Secretary shall file the maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) with—

(1) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(c) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

SEC. 242. UPDATES TO LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

As soon as practicable, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the Secretary shall incorporate the designations and studies required by this title into updated management plans for units covered by this title.

SEC. 243. PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY UTILITY FACILITIES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) EFFECT OF TITLE.—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects any validly issued right-of-way for the customary operation, maintenance, upgrade, repair, relocation within an existing right-of-way, replacement, or other authorized activity (including the use of any mechanized vehicle, helicopter, and other aerial device) in a right-of-way acquired by or issued, granted, or permitted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (including any predecessor or successor in interest or assign) that is located on land included in the South Fork Trinity—Mad River Restoration Area, Bigfoot National Recreation Trail, Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area, and Horse Mountain Special Management Area; or

(2) prohibits the upgrading or replacement of any—

(A) utility facilities of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, including those utility facilities known on the date of enactment of this Act within the—

(i) South Fork Trinity—Mad River Restoration Area known as—

(I) Gas Transmission Line 177A or rights-of-way;

(II) Gas Transmission Line DFM 1312–02 or rights-of-way;

(III) Electric Transmission Line Bridgeville—Cottonwood 115 kV or rights-of-way;

(IV) Electric Transmission Line Humboldt—Trinity 60 kV or rights-of-way;

(V) Electric Transmission Line Humboldt—Trinity 115 kV or rights-of-way;

(VI) Electric Transmission Line Maple Creek—Hoopa 60 kV or rights-of-way;

(VII) Electric Distribution Line—Willow Creek 1101 12 kV or rights-of-way;

(VIII) Electric Distribution Line—Willow Creek 1103 12 kV or rights-of-way;

(IX) Electric Distribution Line—Low Gap 1101 12 kV or rights-of-way;

(X) Electric Distribution Line—Fort Seward 1121 12 kV or rights-of-way;

(XI) Forest Glen Border District Regulator Station or rights-of-way;

(XII) Durret District Gas Regulator Station or rights-of-way;

(XIII) Gas Distribution Line 4269C or rights-of-way;

(XIV) Gas Distribution Line 43991 or rights-of-way;

(XV) Gas Distribution Line 4993D or rights-of-way;

(XVI) Sportsmans Club District Gas Regulator Station or rights-of-way;

(XVII) Highway 36 and Zenia District Gas Regulator Station or rights-of-way;

(XVIII) Dinsmore Lodge 2nd Stage Gas Regulator Station or rights-of-way;

(XIX) Electric Distribution Line—Wildwood 1101 12kV or rights-of-way;

(XX) Low Gap Substation;

(XXI) Hyampom Switching Station; or

(XXII) Wildwood Substation;

(ii) Bigfoot National Recreation Trail known as—

(I) Gas Transmission Line 177A or rights-of-way;

(II) Electric Transmission Line Humboldt—Trinity 115 kV or rights-of-way;

(III) Electric Transmission Line Bridgeville—Cottonwood 115 kV or rights-of-way; or

(IV) Electric Transmission Line Humboldt—Trinity 60 kV or rights-of-way;

(iii) Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area known as, Electric Distribution Line—Willits 1103 12 kV or rights-of-way; or

(iv) Horse Mountain Special Management Area known as, Electric Distribution Line Willow Creek 1101 12 kV or rights-of-way; or

(B) utility facilities of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in rights-of-way issued, granted, or permitted by the Secretary adjacent to a utility facility referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) PLANS FOR ACCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act or the issuance of a new utility facility right-of-way within the South Fork Trinity—Mad River Restoration Area, Bigfoot National Recreation Trail, Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area, and Horse Mountain Special Management Area, whichever is later, the Secretary, in consultation with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, shall publish plans for regular and emergency access by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to the rights-of-way of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

TITLE III—WILD OLYMPICS WILDERNESS AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act''.

SEC. 302. DESIGNATION OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington comprising approximately 126,554 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act'' and dated April 8, 2019 (referred to in this section as the ''map''), is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) LOST CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 7,159 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Lost Creek Wilderness''.

(2) RUGGED RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 5,956 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Rugged Ridge Wilderness''.

(3) ALCKEE CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 1,787 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Alckee Creek Wilderness''.

(4) GATES OF THE ELWHA WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 5,669 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Gates of the Elwha Wilderness''.

(5) BUCKHORN WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 21,965 acres, as generally depicted on the map, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ''Buckhorn Wilderness'', as designated by section 3 of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–339).

(6) GREEN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 4,790 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Green Mountain Wilderness''.

(7) THE BROTHERS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 8,625 acres, as generally depicted on the map, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ''The Brothers Wilderness'', as designated by section 3 of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–339).

(8) MOUNT SKOKOMISH WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 8,933 acres, as generally depicted on the map, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ''Mount Skokomish Wilderness'', as designated by section 3 of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–339).

(9) WONDER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 26,517 acres, as generally depicted on the map, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ''Wonder Mountain Wilderness'', as designated by section 3 of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–339).

(10) MOONLIGHT DOME WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 9,117 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Moonlight Dome Wilderness''.

(11) SOUTH QUINAULT RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,887 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''South Quinault Ridge Wilderness''.

(12) COLONEL BOB WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 353 acres, as generally depicted on the map, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ''Colonel Bob Wilderness'', as designated by section 3 of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–339).

(13) SAM'S RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 13,418 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Sam's River Wilderness''.

(14) CANOE CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 1,378 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be known as the ''Canoe Creek Wilderness''.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the land designated as wilderness by subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary

shall file a map and a legal description of the land designated as wilderness by subsection (a) with—

(i) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(B) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description filed under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map and legal description.

(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subparagraph (A) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.

(c) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 5,346 acres as identified as ''Potential Wilderness'' on the map, is designated as potential wilderness.

(2) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—On the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that any nonconforming uses in the potential wilderness designated by paragraph (1) have terminated, the potential wilderness shall be—

(A) designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(B) incorporated into the adjacent wilderness area.

(d) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) NO PROTECTIVE PERIMETERS OR BUFFER ZONES.—The designations in this section shall not create a protective perimeter or buffer zone around any wilderness area.

(2) NONCONFORMING USES PERMITTED OUTSIDE OF BOUNDARIES OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Any activity or use outside of the boundary of any wilderness area designated under this section shall be permitted even if the activity or use would be seen or heard within the boundary of the wilderness area.

(e) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—The Secretary may take such measures as are necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, in the wilderness areas designated by this section, in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 303. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(231) ELWHA RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 29.0-mile segment of the Elwha River and tributaries from the source to Cat Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

''(232) DUNGENESS RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Dungeness River from the headwaters to the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources land in T. 29 N., R. 4 W., sec. 12, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, including the following segments of the mainstem and major tributary the Gray Wolf River, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 5.8-mile segment of the Dungeness River from the headwaters to the 2870 Bridge, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 2.1-mile segment of the Dungeness River from the 2870 Bridge to Silver Creek, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 2.7-mile segment of the Dungeness River from Silver Creek to Sleepy Hollow Creek, as a wild river.

''(D) The approximately 6.3-mile segment of the Dungeness River from Sleepy Hollow Creek to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.

''(E) The approximately 1.9-mile segment of the Dungeness River from the National Forest boundary to the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources land in T. 29 N., R. 4 W., sec. 12, to be administered as a recreational river through a cooperative management agreement between the State of Washington and the Secretary of Agriculture as provided in section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)).

''(F) The approximately 16.1-mile segment of the Gray Wolf River from the headwaters to the 2870 Bridge, as a wild river.

''(G) The approximately 1.1-mile segment of the Gray Wolf River from the 2870 Bridge to the confluence with the Dungeness River, as a scenic river.

''(233) BIG QUILCENE RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Big Quilcene River from the headwaters to the City of Port Townsend water intake facility, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 4.4-mile segment from the headwaters to the Buckhorn Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 5.3-mile segment from the Buckhorn Wilderness boundary to the City of Port Townsend water intake facility, as a scenic river.

''(C) Section 7(a), with respect to the licensing of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, or other project works, shall apply to the approximately 5-mile segment from the City of Port Townsend water intake facility to the Olympic National Forest boundary.

''(234) DOSEWALLIPS RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Dosewallips River from the headwaters to the private land in T. 26 N., R. 3 W., sec. 15, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 12.9-mile segment from the headwaters to Station Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 6.8-mile segment from Station Creek to the private land in T. 26 N., R. 3 W., sec. 15, as a scenic river.

''(235) DUCKABUSH RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Duckabush River from the headwaters to the private land in T. 25 N., R. 3 W., sec. 1, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 19.0-mile segment from the headwaters to the Brothers Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 1.9-mile segment from the Brothers Wilderness boundary to the private land in T. 25 N., R. 3 W., sec. 1, as a scenic river.

''(236) HAMMA HAMMA RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Hamma Hamma River from the headwaters to the eastern edge of the NW1/4 sec. 21, T. 24 N., R. 3 W., to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 3.1-mile segment from the headwaters to the Mt. Skokomish Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 5.8-mile segment from the Mt. Skokomish Wilderness boundary to Lena Creek, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 6.8-mile segment from Lena Creek to the eastern edge of the NW1/4 sec. 21, T. 24 N., R. 3 W., to be administered as a recreational river through a cooperative management agreement between the State of Washington and the Secretary of Agriculture as provided in section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)).

''(237) SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the South Fork Skokomish River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 6.7-mile segment from the headwaters to Church Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 8.3-mile segment from Church Creek to LeBar Creek, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 4.0-mile segment from LeBar Creek to upper end of gorge in the NW1/4 sec. 22, T. 22 N., R. 5 W., as a recreational river.

''(D) The approximately 6.0-mile segment from the upper end of the gorge to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.

''(238) MIDDLE FORK SATSOP RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 7.9-mile segment of the Middle Fork Satsop River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as a scenic river.

''(239) WEST FORK SATSOP RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 8.2-mile segment of the West Fork Satsop River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as a scenic river.

''(240) WYNOOCHEE RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Wynoochee River from the headwaters to the head of Wynoochee Reservoir to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except that portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 2.5-mile segment from the headwaters to the boundary of the Wonder Mountain Wilderness, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 7.4-mile segment from the boundary of the Wonder Mountain Wilderness to the head of Wynoochee Reservoir, as a recreational river.

''(241) EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the East Fork Humptulips River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest boundary to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 7.4-mile segment from the headwaters to the Moonlight Dome Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 10.3-mile segment from the Moonlight Dome Wilderness boundary to the Olympic National Forest boundary, as a scenic river.

''(242) WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 21.4-mile segment of the West Fork Humptulips River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Forest Boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as a scenic river.

''(243) QUINAULT RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Quinault River from the headwaters to private land in T. 24 N., R. 8 W., sec. 33, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 16.5-mile segment from the headwaters to Graves Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 6.7-mile segment from Graves Creek to Cannings Creek, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 1.0-mile segment from Cannings Creek to private land in T. 24 N., R. 8 W., sec. 33, as a recreational river.

''(244) QUEETS RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Queets River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Park boundary to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, except that portions of the river outside the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 28.6-mile segment of the Queets River from the headwaters to the confluence with Sams River, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 16.0-mile segment of the Queets River from the confluence with Sams

River to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 15.7-mile segment of the Sams River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Queets River, as a scenic river.

''(D) The approximately 17.7-mile segment of Matheny Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with the Queets River, to be administered as a scenic river through a cooperative management agreement between the State of Washington and the Secretary of Agriculture as provided in section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)).

''(245) HOH RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Hoh River and the major tributary South Fork Hoh from the headwaters to Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 20.7-mile segment of the Hoh River from the headwaters to Jackson Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 6.0-mile segment of the Hoh River from Jackson Creek to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 13.8-mile segment of the South Fork Hoh River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a wild river.

''(D) The approximately 4.6-mile segment of the South Fork Hoh River from the Olympic National Park boundary to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources boundary in T. 27 N., R. 10 W., sec. 29, to be administered as a recreational river through a cooperative management agreement between the State of Washington and the Secretary of Agriculture as provided in section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)).

''(246) BOGACHIEL RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 25.6-mile segment of the Bogachiel River from the source to the Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

''(247) SOUTH FORK CALAWAH RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the South Fork Calawah River and the major tributary Sitkum River from the headwaters to Hyas Creek to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, except those portions of the river within the boundaries of Olympic National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, including the following segments in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 15.7-mile segment of the South Fork Calawah River from the headwaters to the Sitkum River, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 0.9-mile segment of the South Fork Calawah River from the Sitkum River to Hyas Creek, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 1.6-mile segment of the Sitkum River from the headwaters to the Rugged Ridge Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(D) The approximately 11.9-mile segment of the Sitkum River from the Rugged Ridge Wilderness boundary to the confluence with the South Fork Calawah, as a scenic river.

''(248) SOL DUC RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The segment of the Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the Olympic National Park boundary to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries in the following classes:

''(A) The approximately 7.0-mile segment of the Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the end of Sol Duc Hot Springs Road, as a wild river.

''(B) The approximately 10.8-mile segment of the Sol Duc River from the end of Sol Duc Hot Springs Road to the Olympic National Park boundary, as a scenic river.

''(C) The approximately 14.2-mile segment of the North Fork Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the Olympic Hot Springs Road bridge, as a wild river.

''(D) The approximately 0.2-mile segment of the North Fork Sol Duc River from the Olympic Hot Springs Road bridge to the confluence with the Sol Duc River, as a scenic river.

''(E) The approximately 8.0-mile segment of the South Fork Sol Duc River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Sol Duc River, as a scenic river.

''(249) LYRE RIVER, WASHINGTON.—The approximately 0.2-mile segment of the Lyre River from Lake Crescent to the Olympic National Park boundary, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a scenic river.''.

(b) EFFECT.—The amendment made by subsection (a) does not affect valid existing water rights.

(c) UPDATES TO LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, with respect to the designations made under subsection (a) on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, incorporate such designations into updated management plans for units of the National Forest System in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

(2) EXCEPTION.—The date specified in paragraph (1) shall be 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act if the Secretary of Agriculture—

(A) is unable to meet the requirement under such paragraph by the date specified in such paragraph; and

(B) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, includes in the Department of Agriculture annual budget submission to Congress a request for additional sums as may be necessary to meet the requirement of such paragraph.

(3) COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Updated management plans under paragraph (1) or (2) satisfy the requirements under section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

SEC. 304. EXISTING RIGHTS AND WITHDRAWAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 12(b) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1283(b)), nothing in this title or the amendment made by section 303(a) affects or abrogates existing rights, privileges, or contracts held by private parties, nor does this title in any way modify or direct the management, acquisition, or disposition of lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the State of Washington.

(b) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land within the boundaries of the river segments designated by this title and the amendment made by section 303(a) is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

SEC. 305. TREATY RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title alters, modifies, diminishes, or extinguishes the reserved treaty rights of any Indian tribe with hunting, fishing, gathering, and cultural or religious rights as protected by a treaty.

TITLE IV—CENTRAL COAST HERITAGE PROTECTION

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Central Coast Heritage Protection Act''.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) SCENIC AREAS.—The term ''scenic area'' means a scenic area designated by section 408(a).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(A) with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) with respect to land managed by the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

(4) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term ''wilderness area'' means a wilderness area or wilderness addition designated by section 403(a).

SEC. 403. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain land in the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 35,116 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Caliente Mountain Wilderness'' and dated November 13, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Caliente Mountain Wilderness''.

(2) Certain land in the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 13,332 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Soda Lake Wilderness'' and dated June 25, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Soda Lake Wilderness''.

(3) Certain land in the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 12,585 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Temblor Range Wilderness'' and dated June 25, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Temblor Range Wilderness''.

(4) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 23,670 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Chumash Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Chumash Wilderness as designated by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242).

(5) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 54,036 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ''Dick Smith Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed Map 1 of 2 (Bear Canyon and Cuyama Peak Units)'' and ''Dick Smith Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed Map 2 of 2 (Buckhorn and Mono Units)'' and dated November 14, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Dick Smith Wilderness as designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(6) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 7,289 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Garcia Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Garcia Wilderness as designated by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242).

(7) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 8,774 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Machesna Mountain Wilderness—Proposed Additions'' and dated October 30, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Machesna Mountain Wilderness as designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(8) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 30,184 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Matilija Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Matilija Wilderness as designated by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242).

(9) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 23,969 acres, as

generally depicted on the map entitled ''San Rafael Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated February 2, 2021, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the San Rafael Wilderness as designated by Public Law 90–271 (82 Stat. 51), the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), and the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242).

(10) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 2,921 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Santa Lucia Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Santa Lucia Wilderness as designated by the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–237; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(11) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 14,313 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Sespe Wilderness Area Additions—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be incorporated into and managed as part of the Sespe Wilderness as designated by the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242).

(12) Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 17,870 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Diablo Caliente Wilderness Area—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Diablo Caliente Wilderness''.

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and legal descriptions of the wilderness areas with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 404. DESIGNATION OF THE MACHESNA MOUNTAIN POTENTIAL WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 2,359 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Machesna Mountain Potential Wilderness'' and dated March 29, 2019, is designated as the Machesna Mountain Potential Wilderness Area.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Machesna Mountain Potential Wilderness Area (referred to in this section as the ''potential wilderness area'') with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness area in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(d) TRAIL USE, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND REALIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary may reconstruct, realign, or reroute the Pine Mountain Trail.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the reconstruction, realignment, or rerouting under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with all existing laws (including regulations); and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish the reconstruction, realignment, or rerouting with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

(3) MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND MACHINERY.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary may use motorized vehicles and machinery to carry out the trail reconstruction, realignment, or rerouting authorized by this subsection.

(4) MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary may permit the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles on the existing Pine Mountain Trail in accordance with existing law (including regulations) and this subsection until such date as the potential wilderness area is designated as wilderness in accordance with subsection (h).

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land in the potential wilderness area is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with State, Tribal, and local governmental entities and private entities to complete the trail reconstruction, realignment, or rerouting authorized by subsection (d).

(g) BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary shall modify the boundary of the potential wilderness area to exclude any area within 150 feet of the centerline of the new location of any trail that has been reconstructed, realigned, or rerouted under subsection (d).

(h) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The potential wilderness area, as modified under subsection (g), shall be designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System on the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the trail reconstruction, realignment, or rerouting authorized by subsection (d) has been completed; or

(B) the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.—On designation as wilderness under this section, the potential wilderness area shall be—

(A) incorporated into the Machesna Mountain Wilderness Area, as designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) and expanded by section 403; and

(B) administered in accordance with section 405 and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 405. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with this title and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary that has jurisdiction over the wilderness area.

(b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take any measures in a wilderness area as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and House Report 98–40 of the 98th Congress.

(2) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—Nothing in this title limits funding for fire and fuels management in the wilderness areas.

(3) REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall amend the local information in the Fire Management Reference System or individual operational plans that apply to the land designated as a wilderness area.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Consistent with paragraph (1) and other applicable Federal law, to ensure a timely and efficient response to fire emergencies in the wilderness areas, the Secretary shall enter into agreements with appropriate State or local firefighting agencies.

(c) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in the wilderness areas, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue, subject to any reasonable regulations as the Secretary considers necessary in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4));

(2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101–405, accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress for land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior;

(3) the guidelines set forth in House Report 96–617, accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress for land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(4) all other laws governing livestock grazing on Federal public land.

(d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State with respect to fish and wildlife on public land in the State.

(2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any management activities that are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and habitats in the wilderness areas, if the management activities are—

(A) consistent with relevant wilderness management plans;

(B) conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of House Report 101–405; and

(C) in accordance with memoranda of understanding between the Federal agencies and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(e) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress does not intend for the designation of wilderness areas by this title to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area.

(2) ACTIVITIES OR USES UP TO BOUNDARIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within a wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude the activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

(f) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this title precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the wilderness areas;

(2) the designation of new units of special airspace over the wilderness areas; or

(3) the use or establishment of military flight training routes over wilderness areas.

(g) HORSES.—Nothing in this title precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational saddle or pack stock into, a wilderness area—

(1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

(h) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(i) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and

(2) be managed in accordance with—

(A) this section;

(B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(C) any other applicable law.

(j) TREATMENT OF EXISTING WATER DIVERSIONS IN THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUED USE.—The Secretary of Agriculture may issue a special use authorization to the owners of the 2 existing water transport or diversion facilities, including administrative access roads (in this subsection referred to as a ''facility''), located on National Forest System land in the San Rafael Wilderness Additions in the Moon Canyon unit (T. 11 N., R. 30 W., secs. 13 and 14) and the Peak Mountain unit (T. 10 N., R. 28 W., secs. 23 and 26) for the continued operation, maintenance, and reconstruction of the facility if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the facility was in existence on the date on which the land on which the facility is located was designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (in this subsection referred to as ''the date of designation'');

(B) the facility has been in substantially continuous use to deliver water for the beneficial use on the non-Federal land of the owner since the date of designation;

(C) the owner of the facility holds a valid water right for use of the water on the non-Federal land of the owner under State law, with a priority date that predates the date of designation; and

(D) it is not practicable or feasible to relocate the facility to land outside of the wilderness and continue the beneficial use of water on the non-Federal land recognized under State law.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) REQUIRED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

(i) allow use of motorized equipment and mechanized transport for operation, maintenance, or reconstruction of a facility, if the Secretary determines that—

(I) the use is the minimum necessary to allow the facility to continue delivery of water to the non-Federal land for the beneficial uses recognized by the water right held under State law; and

(II) the use of nonmotorized equipment and nonmechanized transport is impracticable or infeasible; and

(ii) preclude use of the facility for the diversion or transport of water in excess of the water right recognized by the State on the date of designation.

(B) DISCRETIONARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary may require or allow modification or relocation of the facility in the wilderness, as the Secretary determines necessary, to reduce impacts to wilderness values set forth in section 2 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131) if the beneficial use of water on the non-Federal land is not diminished.

(k) TREATMENT OF EXISTING ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION LINE IN THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUED USE.—The Secretary of Agriculture may issue a special use authorization to the owners of the existing electrical distribution line to the Plowshare Peak communication site (in this subsection referred to as a ''facility'') located on National Forest System land in the San Rafael Wilderness Additions in the Moon Canyon unit (T. 11 N., R. 30 W., secs. 2, 3 and 4) for the continued operation, maintenance, and reconstruction of the facility if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the facility was in existence on the date on which the land on which the facility is located was designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (in this subsection referred to as ''the date of designation'');

(B) the facility has been in substantially continuous use to deliver electricity to the communication site; and

(C) it is not practicable or feasible to relocate the distribution line to land outside of the wilderness.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) REQUIRED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary may allow use of motorized equipment and mechanized transport for operation, maintenance, or reconstruction of the electrical distribution line, if the Secretary determines that the use of nonmotorized equipment and nonmechanized transport is impracticable or infeasible.

(B) DISCRETIONARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary may require or allow modification or relocation of the facility in the wilderness, as the Secretary determines necessary, to reduce impacts to wilderness values set forth in section 2 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131).

(l) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and subject to terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activities.

SEC. 406. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

(a) INDIAN CREEK, MONO CREEK, AND MATILIJA CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(231) INDIAN CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Indian Creek in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 9.5-mile segment of Indian Creek from its source in sec. 19, T. 7 N., R. 26 W., to the Dick Smith Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The 1-mile segment of Indian Creek from the Dick Smith Wilderness boundary to 0.25 miles downstream of Road 6N24, as a scenic river.

''(C) The 3.9-mile segment of Indian Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of Road 6N24 to the southern boundary of sec. 32, T. 6 N., R. 26 W., as a wild river.

''(232) MONO CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Mono Creek in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 4.2-mile segment of Mono Creek from its source in sec. 1, T. 7 N., R. 26 W., to 0.25 miles upstream of Don Victor Fire Road in sec. 28, T. 7 N., R. 25 W., as a wild river.

''(B) The 2.1-mile segment of Mono Creek from 0.25 miles upstream of the Don Victor Fire Road in sec. 28, T. 7 N., R. 25 W., to 0.25 miles downstream of Don Victor Fire Road in sec. 34, T. 7 N., R. 25 W., as a recreational river.

''(C) The 14.7-mile segment of Mono Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of Don Victor Fire Road in sec. 34, T. 7 N., R. 25 W., to the Ogilvy Ranch private property boundary in sec. 22, T. 6 N., R. 26 W., as a wild river.

''(D) The 3.5-mile segment of Mono Creek from the Ogilvy Ranch private property boundary to the southern boundary of sec. 33, T. 6 N., R. 26 W., as a recreational river.

''(233) MATILIJA CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Matilija Creek in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 7.2-mile segment of the Matilija Creek from its source in sec. 25, T. 6 N., R. 25 W., to the private property boundary in sec. 9, T. 5 N., R. 24 W., as a wild river.

''(B) The 7.25-mile segment of the Upper North Fork Matilija Creek from its source in sec. 36, T. 6 N., R. 24 W., to the Matilija Wilderness boundary, as a wild river.''.

(b) SESPE CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (142) and inserting the following:

''(142) SESPE CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Sespe Creek in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 2.7-mile segment of Sespe Creek from the private property boundary in sec. 10, T. 6 N., R. 24 W., to the Hartman Ranch private property boundary in sec. 14, T. 6 N., R. 24 W., as a wild river.

''(B) The 15-mile segment of Sespe Creek from the Hartman Ranch private property boundary in sec. 14, T. 6 N., R. 24 W., to the western boundary of sec. 6, T. 5 N., R. 22 W., as a recreational river.

''(C) The 6.1-mile segment of Sespe Creek from the western boundary of sec. 6, T. 5 N., R. 22 W., to the confluence with Trout Creek, as a scenic river.

''(D) The 28.6-mile segment of Sespe Creek from the confluence with Trout Creek to the southern boundary of sec. 35, T. 5 N., R. 20 W., as a wild river.''.

(c) SISQUOC RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (143) and inserting the following:

''(143) SISQUOC RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of the Sisquoc River and its tributaries in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 33-mile segment of the main stem of the Sisquoc River extending from its origin downstream to the Los Padres Forest boundary, as a wild river.

''(B) The 4.2-mile segment of the South Fork Sisquoc River from its source northeast of San Rafael Mountain in sec. 2, T. 7 N., R. 28 W., to its confluence with the Sisquoc River, as a wild river.

''(C) The 10.4-mile segment of Manzana Creek from its source west of San Rafael Peak in sec. 4, T. 7 N., R. 28 W., to the San Rafael Wilderness boundary upstream of Nira Campground, as a wild river.

''(D) The 0.6-mile segment of Manzana Creek from the San Rafael Wilderness boundary upstream of the Nira Campground to the San Rafael Wilderness boundary downstream of the confluence of Davy Brown Creek, as a recreational river.

''(E) The 5.8-mile segment of Manzana Creek from the San Rafael Wilderness boundary downstream of the confluence of Davy Brown Creek to the private property boundary in sec. 1, T. 8 N., R. 30 W., as a wild river.

''(F) The 3.8-mile segment of Manzana Creek from the private property boundary in sec. 1, T. 8 N., R. 30 W., to the confluence of the Sisquoc River, as a recreational river.

''(G) The 3.4-mile segment of Davy Brown Creek from its source west of Ranger Peak in sec. 32, T. 8 N., R. 29 W., to 300 feet upstream of its confluence with Munch Canyon, as a wild river.

''(H) The 1.4-mile segment of Davy Brown Creek from 300 feet upstream of its confluence with Munch Canyon to its confluence with Manzana Creek, as a recreational river.

''(I) The 2-mile segment of Munch Canyon from its source north of Ranger Peak in sec. 33, T. 8 N., R. 29 W., to 300 feet upstream of its confluence with Sunset Valley Creek, as a wild river.

''(J) The 0.5-mile segment of Munch Canyon from 300 feet upstream of its confluence with Sunset Valley Creek to its confluence with Davy Brown Creek, as a recreational river.

''(K) The 2.6-mile segment of Fish Creek from 500 feet downstream of Sunset Valley Road to its confluence with Manzana Creek, as a wild river.

''(L) The 1.5-mile segment of East Fork Fish Creek from its source in sec. 26, T. 8 N., R. 29 W., to its confluence with Fish Creek, as a wild river.''.

(d) PIRU CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (199) and inserting the following:

''(199) PIRU CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Piru Creek in the State of California, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(A) The 9.1-mile segment of Piru Creek from its source in sec. 3, T. 6 N., R. 22 W., to the private property boundary in sec. 4, T. 6 N., R. 21 W., as a wild river.

''(B) The 17.2-mile segment of Piru Creek from the private property boundary in sec. 4, T. 6 N., R. 21 W., to 0.25 miles downstream of the Gold Hill Road, as a scenic river.

''(C) The 4.1-mile segment of Piru Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of Gold Hill Road to the confluence with Trail Canyon, as a wild river.

''(D) The 7.25-mile segment of Piru Creek from the confluence with Trail Canyon to the confluence with Buck Creek, as a scenic river.

''(E) The 3-mile segment of Piru Creek from 0.5 miles downstream of Pyramid Dam at the first bridge crossing to the boundary of the Sespe Wilderness, as a recreational river.

''(F) The 13-mile segment of Piru Creek from the boundary of the Sespe Wilderness to the boundary of the Sespe Wilderness, as a wild river.

''(G) The 2.2-mile segment of Piru Creek from the boundary of the Sespe Wilderness to the upper limit of Piru Reservoir, as a recreational river.''.

(e) EFFECT.—The designation of additional miles of Piru Creek under subsection (d) shall not affect valid water rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) MOTORIZED USE OF TRAILS.—Nothing in this section (including the amendments made by this section) affects the motorized use of trails designated by the Forest Service for motorized use that are located adjacent to and crossing upper Piru Creek, if the use is consistent with the protection and enhancement of river values under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.).

SEC. 407. DESIGNATION OF THE FOX MOUNTAIN POTENTIAL WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 41,082 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Fox Mountain Potential Wilderness Area'' and dated November 14, 2019, is designated as the Fox Mountain Potential Wilderness Area.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the Fox Mountain Potential Wilderness Area (referred to in this section as the ''potential wilderness area'') with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness area in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(d) TRAIL USE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND REALIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture may—

(A) construct a new trail for use by hikers, equestrians, and mechanized vehicles that connects the Aliso Park Campground to the Bull Ridge Trail; and

(B) reconstruct or realign—

(i) the Bull Ridge Trail; and

(ii) the Rocky Ridge Trail.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the construction, reconstruction, or alignment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with all existing laws (including regulations); and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish the construction, reconstruction, or alignment with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

(3) MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND MACHINERY.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary may use motorized vehicles and machinery to carry out the trail construction, reconstruction, or realignment authorized by this subsection.

(4) MECHANIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary may permit the use of mechanized vehicles on the existing Bull Ridge Trail and Rocky Ridge Trail in accordance with existing law (including regulations) and this subsection until such date as the potential wilderness area is designated as wilderness in accordance with subsection (h).

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land in the potential wilderness area is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with State, Tribal, and local governmental entities and private entities to complete the trail construction, reconstruction, and realignment authorized by subsection (d).

(g) BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary shall modify the boundary of the potential wilderness area to exclude any area within 50 feet of the centerline of the new location of any trail that has been constructed, reconstructed, or realigned under subsection (d).

(h) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The potential wilderness area, as modified under subsection (g), shall be designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System on the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the trail construction, reconstruction, or alignment authorized by subsection (d) has been completed; or

(B) the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.—On designation as wilderness under this section, the potential wilderness area shall be—

(A) incorporated into the San Rafael Wilderness, as designated by Public Law 90–271 (82 Stat. 51), the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), and the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act (Public Law 102–301; 106 Stat. 242), and section 403; and

(B) administered in accordance with section 405 and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 408. DESIGNATION OF SCENIC AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, there are established the following scenic areas:

(1) CONDOR RIDGE SCENIC AREA.—Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest comprising approximately 18,666 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Condor Ridge Scenic Area—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Condor Ridge Scenic Area''.

(2) BLACK MOUNTAIN SCENIC AREA.—Certain land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 16,216 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Black Mountain Scenic Area—Proposed'' and dated March 29, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Black Mountain Scenic Area''.

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and legal description of the Condor Ridge Scenic Area and Black Mountain Scenic Area with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the scenic areas is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the scenic areas.

(d) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the scenic areas—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the scenic areas, and in particular the scenic character attributes of the scenic areas; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) this section;

(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior;

(iii) any laws (including regulations) relating to the National Forest System, for land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(iv) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) USES.—The Secretary shall only allow those uses of the scenic areas that the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (c).

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land in the scenic areas is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(f) PROHIBITED USES.—The following shall be prohibited on the Federal land within the scenic areas:

(1) Permanent roads.

(2) Permanent structures.

(3) Timber harvesting except when necessary for the purposes described in subsection (g).

(4) Transmission lines.

(5) Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the scenic areas and to protect public health and safety—

(A) the use of motorized vehicles; or

(B) the establishment of temporary roads.

(6) Commercial enterprises, except as necessary for realizing the purposes of the scenic areas.

(g) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with this section, the Secretary may take any measures in the scenic areas that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of those activities with the State or a local agency.

(h) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—The fact that an otherwise authorized activity or use can be seen or heard within a scenic area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the scenic area.

SEC. 409. CONDOR NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The contiguous trail established pursuant to this section shall be known as the ''Condor National Scenic Trail'' named after the California condor, a critically endangered bird species that lives along the extent of the trail corridor.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Condor National Scenic Trail are to—

(1) provide a continual extended hiking corridor that connects the southern and northern portions of the Los Padres National Forest, spanning the entire length of the forest along the coastal mountains of southern and central California; and

(2) provide for the public enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the Los Padres National Forest.

(c) AMENDMENT.—Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(31) CONDOR NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Condor National Scenic Trail, a trail extending approximately 400 miles from Lake Piru in the southern portion of the Los Padres National Forest to the Bottchers Gap Campground in northern portion of the Los Padres National Forest.

''(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with—

''(i) other Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local agencies;

''(ii) private landowners; and

''(iii) other interested organizations.

''(C) RECREATIONAL USES.—Notwithstanding section 7(c), the use of motorized vehicles on roads or trails included in the Condor National Scenic Trail on which motorized vehicles are permitted as of the date of enactment of this paragraph may be permitted.

''(D) PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.—

''(i) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not acquire for the trail any land or interest in land outside the exterior boundary of any federally managed area without the consent of the owner of land or interest in land.

''(ii) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph—

''(I) requires any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to private property; or

''(II) modifies any provision of Federal, State, or local law with respect to public access to or use of private land.

''(E) REALIGNMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture may realign segments of the Condor National Scenic Trail as necessary to fulfill the purposes of the trail.

''(F) MAP.—The map referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.''.

(d) STUDY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study that—

(A) addresses the feasibility of, and alternatives for, connecting the northern and southern portions of the Los Padres National Forest by establishing a trail across the applicable portions of the northern and southern Santa Lucia Mountains of the southern California Coastal Range; and

(B) considers realignment of the trail or construction of new trail segments to avoid existing trail segments that currently allow motorized vehicles.

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(A) conform to the requirements for national scenic trail studies described in section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b));

(B) provide for a continual hiking route through and connecting the southern and northern sections of the Los Padres National Forest;

(C) promote recreational, scenic, wilderness and cultural values;

(D) enhance connectivity with the overall National Forest trail system;

(E) consider new connectors and realignment of existing trails;

(F) emphasize safe and continuous public access, dispersal from high-use areas, and suitable water sources; and

(G) to the extent practicable, provide all-year use.

(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In completing the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with—

(A) appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local agencies;

(B) private landowners;

(C) nongovernmental organizations; and

(D) members of the public.

(4) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit the study required by paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(5) ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE CONDOR NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon completion of the study required by paragraph (1), if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that additional or alternative trail segments are feasible for inclusion in the Condor National Scenic Trail, the Secretary of Agriculture shall include those segments in the Condor National Scenic Trail.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Additions or alternations to the Condor National Scenic Trail shall be effective on the date the Secretary of Agriculture publishes in the Federal Register notice that the additional or alternative segments are included in the Condor National Scenic Trail.

(e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this section (including the amendments made by this section), the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements with State, Tribal, and local government entities and private entities to complete needed trail construction, reconstruction, and realignment projects authorized by this section (including the amendments made by this section).

SEC. 410. FOREST SERVICE STUDY.

Not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

SEC. 411. NONMOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with interested parties, shall conduct a study to improve nonmotorized recreation trail opportunities (including mountain bicycling) on land not designated as wilderness within the Santa Barbara, Ojai, and Mt. Pinos ranger districts.

SEC. 412. USE BY MEMBERS OF TRIBES.

(a) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that Tribes have access, in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), to the wilderness areas, scenic areas, and potential wilderness areas designated by this title for traditional cultural and religious purposes.

(b) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary, on request of a Tribe, may temporarily close to the general public one or more specific portions of a wilderness area, scenic area, or potential wilderness area designated by this title to protect the privacy of the members of the Tribe in the conduct of traditional cultural and religious activities.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any closure under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) made in such a manner as to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum period of time necessary for the activity to be carried out; and

(B) be consistent with the purpose and intent of Public Law 95–341 (commonly known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act) (42 U.S.C. 1996) and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

TITLE V—SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS AND RIVERS PROTECTION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act''.

SEC. 502. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this title, the term ''State'' means the State of California.

Subtitle A—San Gabriel National Recreation Area

SEC. 511. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the Recreation Area;

(2) to provide environmentally responsible, well-managed recreational opportunities within the Recreation Area;

(3) to improve access to and from the Recreation Area;

(4) to provide expanded educational and interpretive services to increase public understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural and cultural resources of the Recreation Area;

(5) to facilitate the cooperative management of the land and resources within the Recreation Area, in collaboration with the State and political subdivisions of the State, historical, business, cultural, civic, recreational, tourism and other nongovernmental organizations, and the public; and

(6) to allow the continued use of the Recreation Area by all individuals, entities, and local government agencies in activities relating to integrated water management, flood protection, water conservation, water quality, water rights,

water supply, groundwater recharge and monitoring, wastewater treatment, public roads and bridges, and utilities within or adjacent to the Recreation Area.

SEC. 512. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADJUDICATION.—The term ''adjudication'' means any final judgment, order, ruling, or decree entered in any judicial proceeding adjudicating or affecting water rights, surface water management, or groundwater management.

(2) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term ''Advisory Council'' means the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council established under section 517(a).

(3) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term ''Federal lands'' means—

(A) public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term ''management plan'' means the management plan for the Recreation Area required under section 514(d).

(5) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''Partnership'' means the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership established by section 518(a).

(6) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term ''public water system'' has the meaning given the term in 42 U.S.C. 300(f)(4) or in section 116275 of the California Health and Safety Code.

(6) RECREATION AREA.—The term ''Recreation Area'' means the San Gabriel National Recreation Area established by section 513(a).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) UTILITY FACILITY.—The term ''utility facility'' means—

(A) any electric substations, communication facilities, towers, poles, and lines, ground wires, communication circuits, and other structures, and related infrastructure; and

(B) any such facilities associated with a public water system.

(9) WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.—The term ''water resource facility'' means irrigation and pumping facilities, dams and reservoirs, flood control facilities, water conservation works, including debris protection facilities, sediment placement sites, rain gauges and stream gauges, water quality facilities, recycled water facilities, water pumping, conveyance and distribution systems, water storage tanks and reservoirs, and water treatment facilities, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, groundwater recharge facilities, water conservation, water filtration plants, and other water diversion, conservation, groundwater recharge, storage, and carriage structures.

SEC. 513. SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT; BOUNDARIES.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established as a unit of the National Park System in the State the San Gabriel National Recreation Area depicted as the ''Proposed San Gabriel National Recreation Area'' on the map entitled ''San Gabriel National Recreation Area Proposed Boundary,'' numbered 503/152,737, and dated July 2019.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of the Recreation Area with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical error in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) ADMINISTRATION AND JURISDICTION.—

(1) PUBLIC LANDS.—The public lands included in the Recreation Area shall be administered by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LAND.—Although certain Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense are included in the recreation area, nothing in this subtitle transfers administration jurisdiction of such Federal lands from the Secretary of Defense or otherwise affects Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense.

(3) STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION.—Nothing in this subtitle alters, modifies, or diminishes any right, responsibility, power, authority, jurisdiction, or entitlement of the State, a political subdivision of the State, including, but not limited to courts of competent jurisdiction, regulatory commissions, boards, and departments, or any State or local agency under any applicable Federal, State, or local law (including regulations).

SEC. 514. MANAGEMENT.

(a) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the public lands included in the Recreation Area in a manner that protects and enhances the natural resources and values of the public lands, in accordance with—

(1) this subtitle;

(2) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753 and 102101 of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the ''National Park Service Organic Act'');

(3) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System; and

(4) other applicable law, regulations, adjudications, and orders.

(b) COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of Defense to develop opportunities for the management of the Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense included in the Recreation Area in accordance with the purposes described in section 511, to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) TREATMENT OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle—

(A) authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land not owned by the United States within the Recreation Area;

(B) affects the use of, or access to, any non-Federal land within the Recreation Area;

(C) modifies any provision of Federal, State, or local law with respect to public access to, or use of, non-Federal land;

(D) requires any owner of non-Federal land to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to private property or any other non-Federal land;

(E) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or any other regulatory authority of any State or local agency or unit of Tribal government;

(F) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner or other owner of non-Federal land with respect to any person injured on the private property or other non-Federal land;

(G) conveys to the Partnership any land use or other regulatory authority;

(H) shall be construed to cause any Federal, State, or local regulation or permit requirement intended to apply to units of the National Park System to affect the federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense or non-Federal lands within the boundaries of the recreation area; or

(I) requires any local government to participate in any program administered by the Secretary.

(2) COOPERATION.—The Secretary is encouraged to work with owners of non-Federal land who have agreed to cooperate with the Secretary to advance the purposes of this subtitle.

(3) BUFFER ZONES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle establishes any protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Recreation Area.

(B) ACTIVITIES OR USES UP TO BOUNDARIES.—The fact that an activity or use of land can be seen or heard from within the Recreation Area shall not preclude the activity or land use up to the boundary of the Recreation Area.

(4) FACILITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the operation, maintenance, modification, construction, destruction, removal, relocation, improvement or expansion of any water resource facility or public water system, or any solid waste, sanitary sewer, water or waste-water treatment, groundwater recharge or conservation, hydroelectric, conveyance distribution system, recycled water facility, or utility facility located within or adjacent to the Recreation Area.

(5) EXEMPTION.—Section 100903 of title 54, United States Code, shall not apply to the Puente Hills landfill, materials recovery facility, or intermodal facility.

(d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Advisory Council shall establish a comprehensive management plan for the Recreation Area that supports the purposes described in section 511.

(2) USE OF EXISTING PLANS.—In developing the management plan, to the extent consistent with this section, the Secretary may incorporate any provision of a land use or other plan applicable to the public lands included in the Recreation Area.

(3) INCORPORATION OF VISITOR SERVICES PLAN.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall incorporate into the management plan the visitor services plan under section 519(a)(2).

(4) PARTNERSHIP.—In developing the management plan, the Secretary shall consider recommendations of the Partnership. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall incorporate recommendations of the Partnership into the management plan if the Secretary determines that the recommendations are feasible and consistent with the purposes in section 511, this subtitle, and applicable laws (including regulations).

(e) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish or wildlife located on public lands in the State.

SEC. 515. ACQUISITION OF NON-FEDERAL LAND WITHIN RECREATION AREA.

(a) LIMITED ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may acquire non-Federal land within the boundaries of the Recreation Area only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—As a further condition on the acquisition of land, the Secretary shall make a determination that the land contains important biological, cultural, historic, or recreational values.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.—Nothing in this subtitle authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or an interest in land.

(c) TREATMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—Any land or interest in land acquired by the United States within the boundaries of the Recreation Area shall be—

(1) included in the Recreation Area; and

(2) administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(A) this subtitle; and

(B) other applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 516. WATER RIGHTS; WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES; PUBLIC ROADS; UTILITY FACILITIES.

(a) NO EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522—

(1) shall affect the use or allocation, as in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, of any water, water right, or interest in water (including potable, recycled, reclaimed, waste, imported, exported, banked, or stored water, surface water, groundwater, and public trust interest);

(2) shall affect any public or private contract in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act for the sale, lease, loan, or transfer of any water (including potable, recycled, reclaimed, waste, imported, exported, banked, or stored water, surface water, and groundwater);

(3) shall be considered to be a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) authorizes or imposes any new reserved Federal water right or expands water usage pursuant to any existing Federal reserved, riparian or appropriative right;

(5) shall be considered a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights (including potable, recycled, reclaimed, waste, imported, exported, banked, or stored water, surface water, and groundwater) held, reserved, or appropriated by any public entity or other persons or entities, on or before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(6) shall be construed to, or shall interfere or conflict with the exercise of the powers or duties of any watermaster, public agency, public water system, court of competent jurisdiction, or other body or entity responsible for groundwater or surface water management or groundwater replenishment as designated or established pursuant to any adjudication or Federal or State law, including the management of the San Gabriel River watershed and basin, to provide water supply or other environmental benefits;

(7) shall be construed to impede or adversely impact any previously adopted Los Angeles County Drainage Area project, as described in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated June 30, 1992, including any supplement or addendum to that report, or any maintenance agreement to operate that project;

(8) shall interfere or conflict with any action by a watermaster, water agency, public water system, court of competent jurisdiction, or public agency pursuant to any Federal or State law, water right, or adjudication, including any action relating to water conservation, water quality, surface water diversion or impoundment, groundwater recharge, water treatment, conservation or storage of water, pollution, waste discharge, the pumping of groundwater; the spreading, injection, pumping, storage, or the use of water from local sources, storm water flows, and runoff, or from imported or recycled water, that is undertaken in connection with the management or regulation of the San Gabriel River;

(9) shall interfere with, obstruct, hinder, or delay the exercise of, or access to, any water right by the owner of a public water system or any other individual or entity, including the construction, operation, maintenance, replacement, removal, repair, location, or relocation of any well; pipeline; or water pumping, treatment, diversion, impoundment, or storage facility; or other facility or property necessary or useful to access any water right or operate an public water system;

(10) shall require the initiation or reinitiation of consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under, or the application of any provision of, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) relating to any action affecting any water, water right, or water management or water resource facility in the San Gabriel River watershed and basin; or

(11) authorizes any agency or employee of the United States, or any other person, to take any action inconsistent with any of paragraphs (1) through (10).

(b) WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—

(1) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522 shall affect—

(A) the use, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, destruction, removal, reconfiguration, expansion, improvement or replacement of a water resource facility or public water system within or adjacent to the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument; or

(B) access to a water resource facility within or adjacent to the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

(2) NO EFFECT ON NEW WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522 shall preclude the establishment of a new water resource facility (including instream sites, routes, and areas) within the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument if the water resource facility or public water system is necessary to preserve or enhance the health, safety, reliability, quality or accessibility of water supply, or utility services to residents of Los Angeles County.

(3) FLOOD CONTROL.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522 shall be construed to—

(A) impose any new restriction or requirement on flood protection, water conservation, water supply, groundwater recharge, water transfers, or water quality operations and maintenance; or

(B) increase the liability of an agency or public water system carrying out flood protection, water conservation, water supply, groundwater recharge, water transfers, or water quality operations.

(4) DIVERSION OR USE OF WATER.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522 shall authorize or require the use of water or water rights in, or the diversion of water to, the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

(c) UTILITY FACILITIES AND RIGHTS OF WAY.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522 shall—

(1) affect the use, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, destruction, reconfiguration, expansion, inspection, renewal, reconstruction, alteration, addition, relocation, improvement, removal, or replacement of a utility facility or appurtenant right-of-way within or adjacent to the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument;

(2) affect access to a utility facility or right-of-way within or adjacent to the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument; or

(3) preclude the establishment of a new utility facility or right-of-way (including instream sites, routes, and areas) within the Recreation Area or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument if such a facility or right-of-way is necessary for public health and safety, electricity supply, or other utility services.

(d) ROADS; PUBLIC TRANSIT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) PUBLIC ROAD.—The term ''public road'' means any paved road or bridge (including any appurtenant structure and right-of-way) that is—

(i) operated or maintained by a non-Federal entity; and

(ii)(I) open to vehicular use by the public; or

(II) used by a public agency or utility for the operation, maintenance, improvement, repair, removal, relocation, construction, destruction or rehabilitation of infrastructure, a utility facility, or a right-of-way.

(B) PUBLIC TRANSIT.—The term ''public transit'' means any transit service (including operations and rights-of-way) that is—

(i) operated or maintained by a non-Federal entity; and

(ii)(I) open to the public; or

(II) used by a public agency or contractor for the operation, maintenance, repair, construction, or rehabilitation of infrastructure, a utility facility, or a right-of-way.

(2) NO EFFECT ON PUBLIC ROADS OR PUBLIC TRANSIT.—Nothing in this subtitle or section 522—

(A) authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the operation, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of public roads or public transit (including activities necessary to comply with Federal or State safety or public transit standards); or

(B) creates any new liability, or increases any existing liability, of an owner or operator of a public road.

SEC. 517. SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the ''San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council''.

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary regarding the development and implementation of the management plan and the visitor services plan.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Advisory Council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Council shall consist of 22 members, to be appointed by the Secretary after taking into consideration recommendations of the Partnership, of whom—

(1) 2 shall represent local, regional, or national environmental organizations;

(2) 2 shall represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle recreation, within the Recreation Area;

(3) 2 shall represent the interests of community-based organizations, the missions of which include expanding access to the outdoors;

(4) 2 shall represent business interests;

(5) 1 shall represent Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the Recreation Area;

(6) 1 shall represent the interests of homeowners' associations within the Recreation Area;

(7) 3 shall represent the interests of holders of adjudicated water rights, public water systems, water agencies, wastewater and sewer agencies, recycled water facilities, and water management and replenishment entities;

(8) 1 shall represent energy and mineral development interests;

(9) 1 shall represent owners of Federal grazing permits or other land use permits within the Recreation Area;

(10) 1 shall represent archaeological and historical interests;

(11) 1 shall represent the interests of environmental educators;

(12) 1 shall represent cultural history interests;

(13) 1 shall represent environmental justice interests;

(14) 1 shall represent electrical utility interests; and

(15) 2 shall represent the affected public at large.

(e) TERMS.—

(1) STAGGERED TERMS.—A member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that, of the members first appointed, 7 of the members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year and 7 of the members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be reappointed to serve on the Advisory Council on the expiration of the term of service of the member.

(3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) QUORUM.—A quorum shall be ten members of the advisory council. The operations of the advisory council shall not be impaired by the fact that a member has not yet been appointed as long as a quorum has been attained.

(g) CHAIRPERSON; PROCEDURES.—The Advisory Council shall elect a chairperson and establish such rules and procedures as the advisory council considers necessary or desirable.

(h) SERVICE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory Council shall serve without pay.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall cease to exist—

(1) on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the management plan is adopted by the Secretary; or

(2) on such later date as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

SEC. 518. SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA PARTNERSHIP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Partnership, to be known as the ''San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership''.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Partnership are to—

(1) coordinate the activities of Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities and the private sector in advancing the purposes of this subtitle; and

(2) use the resources and expertise of each agency in improving management and recreational opportunities within the Recreation Area.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Partnership shall include the following:

(1) The Secretary (or a designee) to represent the National Park Service.

(2) The Secretary of Defense (or a designee) to represent the Corps of Engineers.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee) to represent the Forest Service.

(4) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency of the State (or a designee) to represent—

(A) the California Department of Parks and Recreation; and

(B) the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

(5) 1 designee of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

(6) 1 designee of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

(7) 4 designees of the San Gabriel Council of Governments, of whom 1 shall be selected from a local land conservancy.

(8) 1 designee of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

(9) 1 designee of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

(10) 1 designee of the San Gabriel Valley Water Association.

(11) 1 designee of the Central Basin Water Association.

(12) 1 designee of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster.

(13) 1 designee of a public utility company, to be appointed by the Secretary.

(14) 1 designee of the Watershed Conservation Authority.

(15) 1 designee of the Advisory Council for the period during which the Advisory Council remains in effect.

(16) 1 designee of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative.

(d) DUTIES.—To advance the purposes described in section 511, the Partnership shall—

(1) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the development and implementation of the management plan;

(2) review and comment on the visitor services plan under section 519(a)(2), and facilitate the implementation of that plan;

(3) assist units of local government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in advancing the purposes of the Recreation Area by—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect, and enhance important resource values within the Recreation Area;

(B) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs within the Recreation Area;

(C) developing recreational and educational opportunities in the Recreation Area in accordance with the purposes of this subtitle;

(D) increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of the Recreation Area;

(E) ensuring that signs identifying points of public access and sites of interest are posted throughout the Recreation Area;

(F) promoting a wide range of partnerships among governments, organizations, and individuals to advance the purposes of the Recreation Area; and

(G) ensuring that management of the Recreation Area takes into consideration—

(i) local ordinances and land-use plans; and

(ii) adjacent residents and property owners;

(4) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the appointment of members to the Advisory Council; and

(5) carry out any other actions necessary to achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

(e) AUTHORITIES.—Subject to approval by the Secretary, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan, the Partnership may use Federal funds made available under this section—

(1) to make grants to the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(2) to enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide grants or technical assistance to, the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) to hire and compensate staff;

(4) to obtain funds or services from any source, including funds and services provided under any other Federal law or program;

(5) to contract for goods or services; and

(6) to support activities of partners and any other activities that—

(A) advance the purposes of the Recreation Area; and

(B) are in accordance with the management plan.

(f) TERMS OF OFFICE; REAPPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(1) TERMS.—A member of the Partnership shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be reappointed to serve on the Partnership on the expiration of the term of service of the member.

(3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Partnership shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(g) QUORUM.—A quorum shall be eleven members of the Partnership. The operations of the Partnership shall not be impaired by the fact that a member has not yet been appointed as long as a quorum has been attained.

(h) CHAIRPERSON; PROCEDURES.—The Partnership shall elect a chairperson and establish such rules and procedures as it deems necessary or desirable.

(i) SERVICE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.—A member of the Partnership shall serve without compensation.

(j) DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene the Partnership on a regular basis to carry out this subtitle.

(2) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide to the Partnership or any member of the Partnership, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, such technical and financial assistance as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to carry out this subtitle.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Partnership, a member of the Partnership, or any other public or private entity to provide technical, financial, or other assistance to carry out this subtitle.

(4) CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES ON NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to facilitate the administration of the Recreation Area, the Secretary is authorized, subject to valid existing rights, to construct administrative or visitor use facilities on land owned by a non-profit organization, local agency, or other public entity in accordance with this title and applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—A facility under this paragraph may only be developed—

(i) with the consent of the owner of the non-Federal land; and

(ii) in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations) and plans.

(5) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to actions that—

(A) conserve the significant natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources of the Recreation Area; and

(B) provide educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with the purposes of the Recreation Area.

(k) COMMITTEES.—The Partnership shall establish—

(1) a Water Technical Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary regarding water-related issues relating to the Recreation Area; and

(2) a Public Safety Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary regarding public safety issues relating to the Recreation Area.

SEC. 519. VISITOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

(a) VISITOR SERVICES.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to facilitate the development of an integrated visitor services plan to improve visitor experiences in the Recreation Area through expanded recreational opportunities and increased interpretation, education, resource protection, and enforcement.

(2) VISITOR SERVICES PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and carry out an integrated visitor services plan for the Recreation Area in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) CONTENTS.—The visitor services plan shall—

(i) assess current and anticipated future visitation to the Recreation Area, including recreation destinations;

(ii) consider the demand for various types of recreation (including hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, and the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles), as permissible and appropriate;

(iii) evaluate the impacts of recreation on natural and cultural resources, water rights and water resource facilities, public roads, adjacent residents and property owners, and utilities within the Recreation Area, as well as the effectiveness of current enforcement and efforts;

(iv) assess the current level of interpretive and educational services and facilities;

(v) include recommendations to—

(I) expand opportunities for high-demand recreational activities, in accordance with the purposes described in section 511;

(II) better manage Recreation Area resources and improve the experience of Recreation Area visitors through expanded interpretive and educational services and facilities, and improved enforcement; and

(III) better manage Recreation Area resources to reduce negative impacts on the environment, ecology, and integrated water management activities in the Recreation Area;

(vi) in coordination and consultation with affected owners of non-Federal land, assess options to incorporate recreational opportunities on non-Federal land into the Recreation Area—

(I) in manner consistent with the purposes and uses of the non-Federal land; and

(II) with the consent of the non-Federal landowner;

(vii) assess opportunities to provide recreational opportunities that connect with adjacent National Forest System land; and

(viii) be developed and carried out in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances.

(C) CONSULTATION.—In developing the visitor services plan, the Secretary shall—

(i) consult with—

(I) the Partnership;

(II) the Advisory Council;

(III) appropriate State and local agencies; and

(IV) interested nongovernmental organizations; and

(ii) involve members of the public.

(b) VISITOR USE FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may construct visitor use facilities in the Recreation Area.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each facility under paragraph (1) shall be developed in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local—

(A) laws (including regulations); and

(B) plans.

(c) DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept and use donated funds, property, in-kind contributions, and services to carry out this subtitle.

(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not use the authority provided by paragraph (1) to accept non-Federal land that has been acquired after the date of the enactment of this Act through the use of eminent domain.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary may make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, units of State, Tribal, and local governments and private entities to conduct research, develop scientific analyses, and carry out any other initiative relating to the management of, and visitation to, the Recreation Area.

Subtitle B—San Gabriel Mountains

SEC. 521. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) WILDERNESS AREA OR ADDITION.—The term ''wilderness area or addition'' means any wilderness area or wilderness addition designated by section 523(a).

SEC. 522. NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation 9194 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note) (referred to in this section as the ''Monument'') is modified to include the approximately 109,167 acres of additional National Forest System land depicted as the ''Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion'' on the map entitled ''Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Expansion'' and dated June 26, 2019.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, including the lands added by subsection (a), in accordance with—

(1) Presidential Proclamation 9194, as issued on October 10, 2014 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note);

(2) the laws generally applicable to the Monument; and

(3) this subtitle.

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with State and local governments and the interested public to update the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan to provide management direction and protection for the lands added to the Monument by subsection (a).

SEC. 523. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS AND ADDITIONS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following parcels of National Forest System land in the State are designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) CONDOR PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land in the Angeles National Forest, comprising approximately 8,207 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Condor Peak Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Condor Peak Wilderness''.

(2) SAN GABRIEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Angeles National Forest, comprising approximately 2,032 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''San Gabriel Wilderness Additions'' and dated June 6, 2019, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the San Gabriel Wilderness designated by Public Law 90–318 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 82 Stat. 131).

(3) SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Angeles National Forest, comprising approximately 13,726 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Sheep Mountain Wilderness Additions'' and dated June 6, 2019, which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part of, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness designated by section 101(a)(29) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 1623; Public Law 98–425).

(4) YERBA BUENA WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land in the Angeles National Forest, comprising approximately 6,694 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Yerba Buena Wilderness—Proposed'' and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be known as the ''Yerba Buena Wilderness''.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of the wilderness areas and additions with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical error in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

SEC. 524. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS AND ADDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas and additions shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with this section and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take such measures in a wilderness area or addition designated in section 523 as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, or diseases in accordance with—

(A) section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)); and

(B) House Report 98–40 of the 98th Congress.

(2) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle limits funding for fire or fuels management in a wilderness area or addition.

(3) REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall amend, as applicable, any local fire management plan that applies to a wilderness area or addition designated in section 523.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—In accordance with paragraph (1) and any other applicable Federal law, to ensure a timely and efficient response to a fire emergency in a wilderness area or addition, the Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, establish agency approval procedures (including appropriate delegations of authority to the Forest Supervisor, District Manager, or other agency officials) for responding to fire emergencies; and

(B) enter into agreements with appropriate State or local firefighting agencies.

(c) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in a wilderness area or addition, if established before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the guidelines contained in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405).

(d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to fish or wildlife on public land in the State.

(2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any management activity that are necessary to maintain or restore fish or wildlife populations or habitats in the wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated in section 523, if the management activities are—

(i) consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(ii) conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—A management activity under subparagraph (A) may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values while causing the minimum impact necessary to accomplish those tasks.

(C) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and appropriate policies (such as the policies established in Appendix B of House Report 101–405, the State may use aircraft (including helicopters) in a wilderness area or addition to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, or provide water for a wildlife population, including bighorn sheep.

(e) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress does not intend for the designation of wilderness areas or wilderness additions by section 523 to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area or wilderness addition.

(2) ACTIVITIES OR USES UP TO BOUNDARIES.—The fact that a nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within a wilderness area or wilderness addition designated by section 523 shall not, of itself, preclude the activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area or addition.

(f) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this title precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 523;

(2) the designation of new units of special airspace over the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 523; or

(3) the use or establishment of military flight training routes over wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 523.

(g) HORSES.—Nothing in this subtitle precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock into, an area designated as a wilderness area or wilderness addition by section 523—

(1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

(2) subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(h) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Nothing in this subtitle precludes any law enforcement or drug interdiction effort within the wilderness areas or wilderness additions designated by section 523 in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(i) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas and additions designated by section 523 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral materials and geothermal leasing laws.

(j) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness area or addition that is acquired by the United States shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area or addition in which the land is located; and

(2) be managed in accordance with this section, the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and any other applicable laws (including regulations).

(k) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in a wilderness area or addition if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access to the facilities is essential to a flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activity.

(l) AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the Angeles Crest 100 competitive running event to continue in substantially the same manner and degree in which this event was operated and permitted in 2015 within additions to the Sheep Mountain Wilderness in section 523 of this title and the Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness Area designated by section 1802 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, provided that the event is authorized and conducted in a manner compatible with the preservation of the areas as wilderness.

SEC. 525. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(____) EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of the East Fork San Gabriel River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

''(A) The 10-mile segment from the confluence of the Prairie Fork and Vincent Gulch to 100 yards upstream of the Heaton Flats trailhead and day use area, as a wild river.

''(B) The 2.7-mile segment from 100 yards upstream of the Heaton Flats trailhead and day use area to 100 yards upstream of the confluence with Williams Canyon, as a recreational river.

''(____) NORTH FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—The 4.3-mile segment of the North Fork San Gabriel River from the confluence with Cloudburst Canyon to 0.25 miles upstream of the confluence with the West Fork San Gabriel River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a recreational river.

''(____) WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of the West Fork San Gabriel River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

''(A) The 6.7-mile segment from 0.25 miles downstream of its source near Red Box Gap in sec. 14, T. 2 N., R. 12 W., to the confluence with the unnamed tributary 0.25 miles downstream of the power lines in sec. 22, T. 2 N., R. 11 W., as a recreational river.

''(B) The 1.6-mile segment of the West Fork from 0.25 miles downstream of the powerlines in sec. 22, T. 2 N., R. 11 W., to the confluence with Bobcat Canyon, as a wild river.

''(____) LITTLE ROCK CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—The following segments of Little Rock Creek and tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

''(A) The 10.3-mile segment from its source on Mt. Williamson in sec. 6, T. 3 N., R. 9 W., to 100 yards upstream of the confluence with the South Fork Little Rock Creek, as a wild river.

''(B) The 6.6-mile segment from 100 yards upstream of the confluence with the South Fork Little Rock Creek to the confluence with Santiago Canyon, as a recreational river.

''(C) The 1-mile segment of Cooper Canyon Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of Highway 2 to 100 yards downstream of Cooper Canyon Campground, as a scenic river.

''(D) The 1.3-mile segment of Cooper Canyon Creek from 100 yards downstream of Cooper Canyon Campground to the confluence with Little Rock Creek, as a wild river.

''(E) The 1-mile segment of Buckhorn Creek from 100 yards downstream of the Buckhorn Campground to its confluence with Cooper Canyon Creek, as a wild river.''.

(b) WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES; AND WATER USE.—

(1) WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—

(A) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''water resource facility'' means irrigation and pumping facilities, dams and reservoirs, flood control facilities, water conservation works and facilities, including debris protection facilities, sediment placement sites, rain gauges and stream gauges, water quality facilities, recycled water facilities and water pumping, conveyance distribution systems, water storage tanks and reservoirs, and water treatment facilities, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, groundwater recharge facilities, water conservation, water filtration plants, and other water diversion, conservation, groundwater recharge, storage, and carriage structures.

(B) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Nothing in this section shall alter, modify, or affect—

(i) the use, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, destruction, reconfiguration, expansion, relocation or replacement of a water resource facility downstream of a wild and scenic river segment designated by this section, provided that the physical structures of such facilities or reservoirs shall not be located within the river areas designated in this section; or

(ii) access to a water resource facility downstream of a wild and scenic river segment designated by this section.

(C) NO EFFECT ON NEW WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—Nothing in this section shall preclude the establishment of a new water resource facilities (including instream sites, routes, and areas) downstream of a wild and scenic river segment.

(2) LIMITATION.—Any new reservation of water or new use of water pursuant to existing water rights held by the United States to advance the purposes of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) shall be for nonconsumptive instream use only within the segments designated by this section.

(3) EXISTING LAW.—Nothing in this section affects the implementation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 526. WATER RIGHTS.

(a) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title, and no action to implement this title—

(1) shall constitute an express or implied reservation of any water or water right, or authorizing an expansion of water use pursuant to existing water rights held by the United States, with respect to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, the land designated as a wilderness area or wilderness addition by section 523 or land adjacent to the wild and scenic river segments designated by the amendment made by section 525;

(2) shall affect, alter, modify, or condition any water rights in the State in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States;

(3) shall be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to any future wilderness or wild and scenic river designations;

(4) shall affect, alter, or modify the interpretation of, or any designation, decision, adjudication or action made pursuant to, any other Act; or

(5) shall be construed as limiting, altering, modifying, or amending any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportions water among or between the State and any other State.

(b) STATE WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall comply with applicable procedural and substantive requirements of the law of the State in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, wilderness areas and wilderness additions designated by section 523, and the wild and scenic rivers designated by amendment made by section 525.

TITLE VI—RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act''.

SEC. 602. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; LAND ACQUISITION; ADMINISTRATION.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Section 507(c)(1) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460kk(c)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking '', which shall'' and inserting '' and generally depicted as 'Rim of the Valley Unit Proposed Addition' on the map entitled 'Rim of the Valley Unit—Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area', numbered 638/147,723, and dated September 2018. Both maps shall''.

(b) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—Section 507 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460kk) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—(1) Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall update the general management plan for the recreation area to reflect the boundaries designated on the map referred to in subsection (c)(1) as the 'Rim of the Valley Unit' (hereafter in the subsection referred to as the 'Rim of the Valley Unit'). Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Rim of the Valley Unit, and any land or interest in land acquired by the United States and located within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Unit, as part of the recreation area in accordance with the provisions of this section and applicable laws and regulations.

''(2) The Secretary may acquire non-Federal land within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Unit only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or interests in land.

''(3) Nothing in this subsection or the application of the management plan for the Rim of the Valley Unit shall be construed to—

''(A) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with respect to public access to or use of non-Federal land;

''(B) create any liability, or affect any liability under any other law, of any private property owner or other owner of non-Federal land with respect to any person injured on private property or other non-Federal land;

''(C) affect the ownership, management, or other rights relating to any non-Federal land (including any interest in any non-Federal land);

''(D) require any local government to participate in any program administered by the Secretary;

''(E) alter, modify, or diminish any right, responsibility, power, authority, jurisdiction, or entitlement of the State, any political subdivision of the State, or any State or local agency under existing Federal, State, and local law (including regulations);

''(F) require the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones, and the fact that certain

activities or land can be seen or heard from within the Rim of the Valley Unit shall not, of itself, preclude the activities or land uses up to the boundary of the Rim of the Valley Unit;

''(G) require or promote use of, or encourage trespass on, lands, facilities, and rights-of-way owned by non-Federal entities, including water resource facilities and public utilities, without the written consent of the owner;

''(H) affect the operation, maintenance, modification, construction, or expansion of any water resource facility or utility facility located within or adjacent to the Rim of the Valley Unit;

''(I) terminate the fee title to lands or customary operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities on or under such lands granted to public agencies that are authorized pursuant to Federal or State statute;

''(J) interfere with, obstruct, hinder, or delay the exercise of any right to, or access to any water resource facility or other facility or property necessary or useful to access any water right to operate any public water or utility system;

''(K) require initiation or reinitiation of consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under, or the application of provisions of, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), or division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, concerning any action or activity affecting water, water rights or water management or water resource facilities within the Rim of the Valley Unit; or

''(L) limit the Secretary's ability to update applicable fire management plans, which may consider fuels management strategies including managed natural fire, prescribed fires, non-fire mechanical hazardous fuel reduction activities, or post-fire remediation of damage to natural and cultural resources.

''(4) The activities of a utility facility or water resource facility shall take into consideration ways to reasonably avoid or reduce the impact on the resources of the Rim of the Valley Unit.

''(5) For the purpose of paragraph (4)—

''(A) the term 'utility facility' means electric substations, communication facilities, towers, poles, and lines, ground wires, communications circuits, and other structures, and related infrastructure; and

''(B) the term 'water resource facility' means irrigation and pumping facilities; dams and reservoirs; flood control facilities; water conservation works, including debris protection facilities, sediment placement sites, rain gauges, and stream gauges; water quality, recycled water, and pumping facilities; conveyance distribution systems; water treatment facilities; aqueducts; canals; ditches; pipelines; wells; hydropower projects; transmission facilities; and other ancillary facilities, groundwater recharge facilities, water conservation, water filtration plants, and other water diversion, conservation, groundwater recharge, storage, and carriage structures.''.

TITLE VII—COLORADO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ECONOMY

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act''.

SEC. 702. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this title, the term ''State'' means the State of Colorado.

Subtitle A—Continental Divide

SEC. 711. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COVERED AREA.—The term ''covered area'' means any area designated as wilderness by the amendments to section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) made by section 712(a).

(2) HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.—The term ''Historic Landscape'' means the Camp Hale National Historic Landscape designated by section 717(a).

(3) RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term ''Recreation Management Area'' means the Tenmile Recreation Management Area designated by section 714(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—The term ''Wildlife Conservation Area'' means, as applicable—

(A) the Porcupine Gulch Wildlife Conservation Area designated by section 715(a); and

(B) the Williams Fork Mountains Wildlife Conservation Area designated by section 716(a).

SEC. 712. COLORADO WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (18), by striking ''1993,'' and inserting ''1993, and certain Federal land within the White River National Forest that comprises approximately 6,896 acres, as generally depicted as 'Proposed Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Additions' on the map entitled 'Proposed Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Additions' and dated June 24, 2019,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(23) HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land within the White River National Forest that comprises approximately 3,866 acres, as generally depicted as 'Proposed Megan Dickie Wilderness Addition' on the map entitled 'Holy Cross Wilderness Addition Proposal' and dated June 24, 2019, which shall be incorporated into, and managed as part of, the Holy Cross Wilderness designated by section 102(a)(5) of Public Law 96–560 (94 Stat. 3266).

''(24) HOOSIER RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the White River National Forest that comprises approximately 5,235 acres, as generally depicted as 'Proposed Hoosier Ridge Wilderness' on the map entitled 'Tenmile Proposal' and dated June 24, 2019, which shall be known as the 'Hoosier Ridge Wilderness'.

''(25) TENMILE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the White River National Forest that comprises approximately 7,624 acres, as generally depicted as 'Proposed Tenmile Wilderness' on the map entitled 'Tenmile Proposal' and dated June 24, 2019, which shall be known as the 'Tenmile Wilderness'.

''(26) EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land within the White River National Forest that comprises approximately 9,670 acres, as generally depicted as 'Proposed Freeman Creek Wilderness Addition' and 'Proposed Spraddle Creek Wilderness Addition' on the map entitled 'Eagles Nest Wilderness Additions Proposal' and dated June 24, 2019, which shall be incorporated into, and managed as part of, the Eagles Nest Wilderness designated by Public Law 94–352 (90 Stat. 870).''.

(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act for purposes of administering a covered area.

(c) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may carry out any activity in a covered area that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock on a covered area, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are considered to be necessary by the Secretary, in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405).

(e) COORDINATION.—For purposes of administering the Federal land designated as wilderness by paragraph (26) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by subsection (a)(2)), the Secretary shall, as determined to be appropriate for the protection of watersheds, coordinate the activities of the Secretary in response to fires and flooding events with interested State and local agencies, including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment.

SEC. 713. WILLIAMS FORK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal land in the White River National Forest in the State, comprising approximately 8,036 acres, as generally depicted as ''Proposed Williams Fork Mountains Wilderness'' on the map entitled ''Williams Fork Mountains Proposal'' and dated June 24, 2019, is designated as a potential wilderness area.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights and except as provided in subsection (d), the potential wilderness area designated by subsection (a) shall be managed in accordance with—

(1) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) this section.

(c) LIVESTOCK USE OF VACANT ALLOTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the Secretary shall publish a determination regarding whether to authorize livestock grazing or other use by livestock on the vacant allotments known as—

(A) the ''Big Hole Allotment''; and

(B) the ''Blue Ridge Allotment''.

(2) MODIFICATION OF ALLOTMENTS.—In publishing a determination pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary may modify or combine the vacant allotments referred to in that paragraph.

(3) PERMIT OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a determination of the Secretary to authorize livestock grazing or other use by livestock is published under paragraph (1), if applicable, the Secretary shall grant a permit or other authorization for that livestock grazing or other use in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

(d) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary permits livestock grazing or other use by livestock on the potential wilderness area under subsection (c), the Secretary, or a third party authorized by the Secretary, may use any motorized or mechanized transport or equipment for purposes of constructing or rehabilitating such range improvements as are necessary to obtain appropriate livestock management objectives (including habitat and watershed restoration).

(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this subsection terminates on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Secretary publishes a positive determination under subsection (c)(3).

(e) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area designated by subsection (a) shall be designated as wilderness, to be known as the ''Williams Fork Mountains Wilderness''—

(A) effective not earlier than the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment this Act; and

(B) on the earliest of—

(i) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a notice that the construction or rehabilitation of range improvements under subsection (d) is complete;

(ii) the date described in subsection (d)(2); and

(iii) the effective date of a determination of the Secretary not to authorize livestock grazing or other use by livestock under subsection (c)(1).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the Williams

Fork Mountains Wilderness in accordance with—

(A) the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77); and

(B) this subtitle.

SEC. 714. TENMILE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 17,122 acres of Federal land in the White River National Forest in the State, as generally depicted as ''Proposed Tenmile Recreation Management Area'' on the map entitled ''Tenmile Proposal'' and dated June 24, 2019, are designated as the ''Tenmile Recreation Management Area''.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Recreation Management Area are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the recreational, scenic, watershed, habitat, and ecological resources of the Recreation Management Area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Recreation Management Area—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances—

(i) the purposes of the Recreation Management Area described in subsection (b); and

(ii) recreation opportunities, including mountain biking, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, snowshoeing, climbing, skiing, camping, and hunting; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);

(ii) any other applicable laws (including regulations); and

(iii) this section.

(2) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Recreation Management Area as the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (b).

(B) VEHICLES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the use of motorized vehicles in the Recreation Management Area shall be limited to the roads, vehicle classes, and periods authorized for motorized vehicle use on the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—Except as provided in clause (iii), no new or temporary road shall be constructed in the Recreation Management Area.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in clause (i) or (ii) prevents the Secretary from—

(I) rerouting or closing an existing road or trail to protect natural resources from degradation, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

(II) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles for administrative purposes or roadside camping;

(III) constructing temporary roads or permitting the use of motorized vehicles to carry out pre- or post-fire watershed protection projects;

(IV) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles to carry out any activity described in subsection (d), (e)(1), or (f); or

(V) responding to an emergency.

(C) COMMERCIAL TIMBER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), no project shall be carried out in the Recreation Management Area for the purpose of harvesting commercial timber.

(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in clause (i) prevents the Secretary from harvesting or selling a merchantable product that is a byproduct of an activity authorized under this section.

(d) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—The Secretary may carry out any activity, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), that the Secretary determines to be necessary to prevent, control, or mitigate fire, insects, or disease in the Recreation Management Area, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) WATER.—

(1) EFFECT ON WATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE.—Nothing in this section affects the construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, operation, maintenance, or renovation within the Recreation Management Area of—

(A) water management infrastructure in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any future infrastructure necessary for the development or exercise of water rights decreed before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—Section 3(e) of the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act (Public Law 107–216; 116 Stat. 1058) shall apply to the Recreation Management Area.

(f) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—Nothing in this section precludes the Secretary from authorizing, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the use or leasing of Federal land within the Recreation Management Area for—

(1) a regional transportation project, including—

(A) highway widening or realignment; and

(B) construction of multimodal transportation systems; or

(2) any infrastructure, activity, or safety measure associated with the implementation or use of a facility constructed under paragraph (1).

(g) APPLICABLE LAW.—Nothing in this section affects the designation of the Federal land within the Recreation Management Area for purposes of—

(1) section 138 of title 23, United States Code; or

(2) section 303 of title 49, United States Code.

(h) PERMITS.—Nothing in this section alters or limits—

(1) any permit held by a ski area or other entity; or

(2) the acceptance, review, or implementation of associated activities or facilities proposed or authorized by law or permit outside the boundaries of the Recreation Management Area.

SEC. 715. PORCUPINE GULCH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 8,287 acres of Federal land located in the White River National Forest, as generally depicted as ''Proposed Porcupine Gulch Wildlife Conservation Area'' on the map entitled ''Porcupine Gulch Wildlife Conservation Area Proposal'' and dated June 24, 2019, are designated as the ''Porcupine Gulch Wildlife Conservation Area'' (referred to in this section as the ''Wildlife Conservation Area'').

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Wildlife Conservation Area are—

(1) to conserve and protect a wildlife migration corridor over Interstate 70; and

(2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the wildlife, scenic, roadless, watershed, and ecological resources of the Wildlife Conservation Area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Wildlife Conservation Area—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);

(ii) any other applicable laws (including regulations); and

(iii) this section.

(2) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Wildlife Conservation Area as the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (b).

(B) RECREATION.—The Secretary may permit such recreational activities in the Wildlife Conservation Area that the Secretary determines are consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b).

(C) MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND MECHANIZED TRANSPORT; NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—

(i) MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND MECHANIZED TRANSPORT.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the use of motorized vehicles and mechanized transport in the Wildlife Conservation Area shall be prohibited.

(ii) NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—Except as provided in clause (iii) and subsection (e), no new or temporary road shall be constructed within the Wildlife Conservation Area.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in clause (i) or (ii) prevents the Secretary from—

(I) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport for administrative purposes;

(II) constructing temporary roads or permitting the use of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport to carry out pre- or post-fire watershed protection projects;

(III) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport to carry out activities described in subsection (d) or (e); or

(IV) responding to an emergency.

(D) COMMERCIAL TIMBER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), no project shall be carried out in the Wildlife Conservation Area for the purpose of harvesting commercial timber.

(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in clause (i) prevents the Secretary from harvesting or selling a merchantable product that is a byproduct of an activity authorized under this section.

(d) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—The Secretary may carry out any activity, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), that the Secretary determines to be necessary to prevent, control, or mitigate fire, insects, or disease in the Wildlife Conservation Area, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—Nothing in this section or section 720(f) precludes the Secretary from authorizing, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the use or leasing of Federal land within the Wildlife Conservation Area for—

(1) a regional transportation project, including—

(A) highway widening or realignment; and

(B) construction of multimodal transportation systems; or

(2) any infrastructure, activity, or safety measure associated with the implementation or use of a facility constructed under paragraph (1).

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—Nothing in this section affects the designation of the Federal land within the Wildlife Conservation Area for purposes of—

(1) section 138 of title 23, United States Code; or

(2) section 303 of title 49, United States Code.

(g) WATER.—Section 3(e) of the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act (Public Law 107–216; 116 Stat. 1058) shall apply to the Wildlife Conservation Area.

SEC. 716. WILLIAMS FORK MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 3,528 acres of Federal land in the White River National Forest in the State, as generally depicted as ''Proposed Williams Fork Mountains Wildlife Conservation Area'' on the map entitled ''Williams Fork Mountains Proposal'' and dated June 24, 2019, are designated as the ''Williams Fork Mountains Wildlife Conservation Area'' (referred to in this section as the ''Wildlife Conservation Area'').

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Wildlife Conservation Area are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the wildlife, scenic, roadless, watershed, recreational, and ecological resources of the Wildlife Conservation Area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Wildlife Conservation Area—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);

(ii) any other applicable laws (including regulations); and

(iii) this section.

(2) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Wildlife Conservation Area as the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (b).

(B) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the use of motorized vehicles in the Wildlife Conservation Area shall be limited to designated roads and trails.

(ii) NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—Except as provided in clause (iii), no new or temporary road shall be constructed in the Wildlife Conservation Area.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in clause (i) or (ii) prevents the Secretary from—

(I) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles for administrative purposes;

(II) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles to carry out activities described in subsection (d); or

(III) responding to an emergency.

(C) BICYCLES.—The use of bicycles in the Wildlife Conservation Area shall be limited to designated roads and trails.

(D) COMMERCIAL TIMBER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), no project shall be carried out in the Wildlife Conservation Area for the purpose of harvesting commercial timber.

(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in clause (i) prevents the Secretary from harvesting or selling a merchantable product that is a byproduct of an activity authorized under this section.

(E) GRAZING.—The laws (including regulations) and policies followed by the Secretary in issuing and administering grazing permits or leases on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary shall continue to apply with regard to the land in the Wildlife Conservation Area, consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b).

(d) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—The Secretary may carry out any activity, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), that the Secretary determines to be necessary to prevent, control, or mitigate fire, insects, or disease in the Wildlife Conservation Area, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—Nothing in this section or section 720(f) precludes the Secretary from authorizing, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the use or leasing of Federal land within the Wildlife Conservation Area for—

(1) a regional transportation project, including—

(A) highway widening or realignment; and

(B) construction of multimodal transportation systems; or

(2) any infrastructure, activity, or safety measure associated with the implementation or use of a facility constructed under paragraph (1).

(f) WATER.—Section 3(e) of the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act (Public Law 107–216; 116 Stat. 1058) shall apply to the Wildlife Conservation Area.

SEC. 717. CAMP HALE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 28,676 acres of Federal land in the White River National Forest in the State, as generally depicted as ''Proposed Camp Hale National Historic Landscape'' on the map entitled ''Camp Hale National Historic Landscape Proposal'' and dated June 24, 2019, are designated the ''Camp Hale National Historic Landscape''.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Historic Landscape are—

(1) to provide for—

(A) the interpretation of historic events, activities, structures, and artifacts of the Historic Landscape, including with respect to the role of the Historic Landscape in local, national, and world history;

(B) the historic preservation of the Historic Landscape, consistent with—

(i) the designation of the Historic Landscape as a national historic site; and

(ii) the other purposes of the Historic Landscape;

(C) recreational opportunities, with an emphasis on the activities related to the historic use of the Historic Landscape, including skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, other road- and trail-based activities, and other outdoor activities; and

(D) the continued environmental remediation and removal of unexploded ordnance at the Camp Hale Formerly Used Defense Site and the Camp Hale historic cantonment area; and

(2) to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the scenic, watershed, and ecological resources of the Historic Landscape.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Historic Landscape in accordance with—

(A) the purposes of the Historic Landscape described in subsection (b); and

(B) any other applicable laws (including regulations).

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the Historic Landscape.

(B) CONTENTS.—The management plan prepared under subparagraph (A) shall include plans for—

(i) improving the interpretation of historic events, activities, structures, and artifacts of the Historic Landscape, including with respect to the role of the Historic Landscape in local, national, and world history;

(ii) conducting historic preservation and veteran outreach and engagement activities;

(iii) managing recreational opportunities, including the use and stewardship of—

(I) the road and trail systems; and

(II) dispersed recreation resources;

(iv) the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of the scenic, watershed, and ecological resources of the Historic Landscape, including—

(I) conducting the restoration and enhancement project under subsection (d);

(II) forest fuels, wildfire, and mitigation management; and

(III) watershed health and protection;

(v) environmental remediation and, consistent with subsection (e)(2), the removal of unexploded ordnance; and

(vi) managing the Historic Landscape in accordance with subsection (g).

(3) EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Secretary of the Army a notification of any unexploded ordnance (as defined in section 101(e) of title 10, United States Code) that is discovered in the Historic Landscape.

(d) CAMP HALE RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a restoration and enhancement project in the Historic Landscape—

(A) to improve aquatic, riparian, and wetland conditions in and along the Eagle River and tributaries of the Eagle River;

(B) to maintain or improve recreation and interpretive opportunities and facilities; and

(C) to conserve historic values in the Camp Hale area.

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the project described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with, and provide the opportunity to collaborate on the project to—

(A) the Corps of Engineers;

(B) the Camp Hale-Eagle River Headwaters Collaborative Group;

(C) the National Forest Foundation;

(D) the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment;

(E) the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office;

(F) the Colorado Department of Natural Resources;

(G) units of local government; and

(H) other interested organizations and members of the public.

(e) ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall continue to carry out the projects and activities of the Department of the Army in existence on the date of enactment of this Act relating to cleanup of—

(A) the Camp Hale Formerly Used Defense Site; or

(B) the Camp Hale historic cantonment area.

(2) REMOVAL OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army may remove unexploded ordnance (as defined in section 101(e) of title 10, United States Code) from the Historic Landscape, as the Secretary of the Army determines to be appropriate in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

(B) ACTION ON RECEIPT OF NOTICE.—On receipt from the Secretary of a notification of unexploded ordnance under subsection (c)(3), the Secretary of the Army may remove the unexploded ordnance in accordance with—

(i) the program for environmental restoration of formerly used defense sites under section 2701 of title 10, United States Code;

(ii) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.); and

(iii) any other applicable provision of law (including regulations).

(3) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this subsection modifies any obligation in existence on the date of enactment of this Act relating to environmental remediation or removal of any unexploded ordnance located in or around the Camp Hale historic cantonment area, the Camp Hale Formerly Used Defense Site, or the Historic Landscape, including such an obligation under—

(A) the program for environmental restoration of formerly used defense sites under section 2701 of title 10, United States Code;

(B) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.); or

(C) any other applicable provision of law (including regulations).

(f) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Army shall enter into an agreement—

(1) to specify—

(A) the activities of the Secretary relating to the management of the Historic Landscape; and

(B) the activities of the Secretary of the Army relating to environmental remediation and the removal of unexploded ordnance in accordance with subsection (e) and other applicable laws (including regulations); and

(2) to require the Secretary to provide to the Secretary of the Army, by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and periodically thereafter, as appropriate, a management plan for the Historic Landscape for purposes of the removal activities described in subsection (e).

(g) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects the jurisdiction of the State over any water law, water right, or adjudication or administration relating to any water resource;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, or the exercise of such a water right, including—

(A) a water right subject to an interstate water compact (including full development of any apportionment made in accordance with such a compact);

(B) a water right decreed within, above, below, or through the Historic Landscape;

(C) a change, exchange, plan for augmentation, or other water decree with respect to a water right, including a conditional water right, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) that is consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(ii) that does not result in diversion of a greater flow rate or volume of water for such a water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(D) a water right held by the United States;

(E) the management or operation of any reservoir, including the storage, management, release, or transportation of water; and

(F) the construction or operation of such infrastructure as is determined to be necessary by an individual or entity holding water rights to develop and place to beneficial use those rights, subject to applicable Federal, State, and local law (including regulations);

(3) constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of any reserved or appropriative water right;

(4) alters or limits—

(A) a permit held by a ski area;

(B) the implementation of activities governed by a ski area permit; or

(C) the authority of the Secretary to modify or expand an existing ski area permit;

(5) prevents the Secretary from closing portions of the Historic Landscape for public safety, environmental remediation, or other use in accordance with applicable laws; or

(6) affects—

(A) any special use permit in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) the renewal of a permit described in subparagraph (A).

(h) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a special account, to be known as the ''Camp Hale Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund''.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Camp Hale Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund $10,000,000, to be available to the Secretary until expended, for activities relating to historic interpretation, preservation, and restoration carried out in and around the Historic Landscape.

(i) DESIGNATION OF OVERLOOK.—The interpretive site located beside United States Route 24 in the State, at 39.431N 106.323W, is designated as the ''Sandy Treat Overlook''.

SEC. 718. WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the White River National Forest is modified to include the approximately 120 acres comprised of the SW¼, the SE¼, and the NE¼ of the SE¼ of sec. 1, T. 2 S., R. 80 W., 6th Principal Meridian, in Summit County in the State.

(b) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For purposes of section 200306 of title 54, United States Code, the boundaries of the White River National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the White River National Forest as in existence on January 1, 1965.

SEC. 719. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK POTENTIAL WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide for the ongoing maintenance and use of portions of the Trail River Ranch and the associated property located within Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand County in the State.

(b) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Section 1952(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1070) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Potential Wilderness is modified to exclude the area comprising approximately 15.5 acres of land identified as 'Potential Wilderness to Non-wilderness' on the map entitled 'Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Wilderness Area Amendment' and dated January 16, 2018.''.

SEC. 720. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to fish and wildlife in the State.

(b) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle establishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around—

(A) a covered area;

(B) a wilderness area or potential wilderness area designated by section 713;

(C) the Recreation Management Area;

(D) a Wildlife Conservation Area; or

(E) the Historic Landscape.

(2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that a nonwilderness activity or use on land outside of an area described in paragraph (1) can be seen or heard from within the applicable area described in paragraph (1) shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the applicable area described in paragraph (1).

(c) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND USES.—

(1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the treaty rights of an Indian Tribe.

(2) TRADITIONAL TRIBAL USES.—Subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary and in accordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall allow for the continued use of the areas described in subsection (b)(1) by members of Indian Tribes—

(A) for traditional ceremonies; and

(B) as a source of traditional plants and other materials.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and legal descriptions of each area described in subsection (b)(1) with—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct any typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(e) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land within the boundaries of an area described in subsection (b)(1) only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Any land or interest in land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be incorporated into, and administered as a part of, the wilderness area, Recreation Management Area, Wildlife Conservation Area, or Historic Landscape, as applicable, in which the land or interest in land is located.

(f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the areas described in subsection (b)(1) are withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(g) MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle restricts or precludes—

(1) any low-level overflight of military aircraft over any area subject to this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle, including military overflights that can be seen, heard, or detected within such an area;

(2) flight testing or evaluation over an area described in paragraph (1); or

(3) the use or establishment of—

(A) any new unit of special use airspace over an area described in paragraph (1); or

(B) any military flight training or transportation over such an area.

(h) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that military aviation training on Federal public land in the State, including the training conducted at the High-Altitude Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, is critical to the national security of the United States and the readiness of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle B—San Juan Mountains

SEC. 731. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means—

(A) land designated as wilderness under paragraphs (27) through (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732); and

(B) a Special Management Area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term ''Special Management Area'' means each of—

(A) the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area designated by section 723(a)(1); and

(B) the Liberty Bell East Special Management Area designated by section 723(a)(2).

SEC. 732. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as amended by section 722(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(27) LIZARD HEAD WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests comprising approximately 3,141 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Wilson, Sunshine, Black Face and San Bernardo Additions to the Lizard Head Wilderness' and dated September 6, 2018, which is incorporated in, and shall be administered as part of, the Lizard Head Wilderness.

''(28) MOUNT SNEFFELS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—

''(A) LIBERTY BELL AND LAST DOLLAR ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests comprising approximately 7,235 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Liberty Bell and Last Dollar Additions to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness, Liberty Bell East Special Management Area' and dated September 6, 2018, which is incorporated in, and shall be administered as part of, the Mount Sneffels Wilderness.

''(B) WHITEHOUSE ADDITIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests comprising approximately 12,465 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Whitehouse Additions to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness' and dated September 6, 2018, which is incorporated in, and shall be administered as part of, the Mount Sneffels Wilderness.

''(29) MCKENNA PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land in the State of Colorado comprising approximately 8,884 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed McKenna Peak Wilderness Area' and dated September 18, 2018, to be known as the 'McKenna Peak Wilderness'.''.

SEC. 733. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) SHEEP MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The Federal land in the Grand Mesa,

Uncompahgre, and Gunnison and San Juan National Forests in the State comprising approximately 21,663 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management Area'' and dated September 19, 2018, is designated as the ''Sheep Mountain Special Management Area''.

(2) LIBERTY BELL EAST SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in the State comprising approximately 792 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Liberty Bell and Last Dollar Additions to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness, Liberty Bell East Special Management Area'' and dated September 6, 2018, is designated as the ''Liberty Bell East Special Management Area''.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Management Areas is to conserve and protect for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, and scenic resources of the Special Management Areas.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Special Management Areas in a manner that—

(A) conserves, protects, and enhances the resources and values of the Special Management Areas described in subsection (b);

(B) subject to paragraph (3), maintains or improves the wilderness character of the Special Management Areas and the suitability of the Special Management Areas for potential inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(C) is in accordance with—

(i) the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);

(ii) this subtitle; and

(iii) any other applicable laws.

(2) PROHIBITIONS.—The following shall be prohibited in the Special Management Areas:

(A) Permanent roads.

(B) Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the Federal land, to provide access for abandoned mine cleanup, and to protect public health and safety—

(i) the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport (other than as provided in paragraph (3)); and

(ii) the establishment of temporary roads.

(3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may allow any activities (including helicopter access for recreation and maintenance and the competitive running event permitted since 1992) that have been authorized by permit or license as of the date of enactment of this Act to continue within the Special Management Areas, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require.

(B) PERMITTING.—The designation of the Special Management Areas by subsection (a) shall not affect the issuance of permits relating to the activities covered under subparagraph (A) after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) BICYCLES.—The Secretary may permit the use of bicycles in—

(i) the portion of the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area identified as ''Ophir Valley Area'' on the map entitled ''Proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management Area'' and dated September 19, 2018; and

(ii) the portion of the Liberty Bell East Special Management Area identified as ''Liberty Bell Corridor'' on the map entitled ''Proposed Liberty Bell and Last Dollar Additions to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness, Liberty Bell East Special Management Area'' and dated September 6, 2018.

(d) APPLICABLE LAW.—Water and water rights in the Special Management Areas shall be administered in accordance with section 8 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 762), except that, for purposes of this subtitle—

(1) any reference contained in that section to ''the lands designated as wilderness by this Act'', ''the Piedra, Roubideau, and Tabeguache areas identified in section 9 of this Act, or the Bowen Gulch Protection Area or the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area identified in sections 5 and 6 of this Act'', or ''the areas described in sections 2, 5, 6, and 9 of this Act'' shall be considered to be a reference to ''the Special Management Areas''; and

(2) any reference contained in that section to ''this Act'' shall be considered to be a reference to ''the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act''.

SEC. 734. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) DOMINGUEZ CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—Subtitle E of title II of Public Law 111–11 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 2408 (16 U.S.C. 460zzz–7) as section 2409; and

(2) by inserting after section 2407 (16 U.S.C. 460zzz–6) the following:

''SEC. 2408. RELEASE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the portions of the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Study Area not designated as wilderness by this subtitle have been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

''(b) RELEASE.—Any public land referred to in subsection (a) that is not designated as wilderness by this subtitle—

''(1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

''(2) shall be managed in accordance with this subtitle and any other applicable laws.''.

(b) MCKENNA PEAK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the portions of the McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area in San Miguel County in the State not designated as wilderness by paragraph (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732) have been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(2) RELEASE.—Any public land referred to in paragraph (1) that is not designated as wilderness by paragraph (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732)—

(A) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(B) shall be managed in accordance with applicable laws.

SEC. 735. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to fish and wildlife in the State.

(b) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle establishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around covered land.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—The fact that a nonwilderness activity or use on land outside of the covered land can be seen or heard from within covered land shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the covered land.

(c) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND USES.—

(1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe, including rights under the Agreement of September 13, 1873, ratified by the Act of April 29, 1874 (18 Stat. 36, chapter 136).

(2) TRADITIONAL TRIBAL USES.—Subject to any terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and in accordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall allow for the continued use of the covered land by members of Indian Tribes—

(A) for traditional ceremonies; and

(B) as a source of traditional plants and other materials.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by paragraphs (27) through (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732) and the Special Management Areas with—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, may correct any typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

(e) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, may acquire any land or interest in land within the boundaries of a Special Management Area or the wilderness designated under paragraphs (27) through (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732) only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Any land or interest in land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be incorporated into, and administered as a part of, the wilderness or Special Management Area in which the land or interest in land is located.

(f) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock on covered land, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are considered to be necessary by the Secretary with jurisdiction over the covered land, in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the applicable guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept. 101–405) or H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96–617).

(g) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary with jurisdiction over a wilderness area designated by paragraphs (27) through (29) of section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–77) (as added by section 732) may carry out any activity in the wilderness area that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(h) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the covered land and the approximately 6,590 acres generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Naturita Canyon Mineral Withdrawal Area'' and dated September 6, 2018, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

Subtitle C—Thompson Divide

SEC. 741. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) subject to valid existing rights, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Thompson Divide area from mineral and other disposal laws in order to protect the agricultural, ranching, wildlife, air quality, recreation, ecological, and scenic values of the area; and

(2) to promote the capture of fugitive methane emissions that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere—

(A) to reduce methane gas emissions; and

(B) to provide—

(i) new renewable electricity supplies and other beneficial uses of fugitive methane emissions; and

(ii) increased royalties for taxpayers.

SEC. 742. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSIONS.—The term ''fugitive methane emissions'' means methane gas from the Federal land in Garfield, Gunnison, Delta, or Pitkin County in the State, as generally depicted on the pilot program map as ''Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Use Pilot Program Area'', that would leak or be vented into the atmosphere from an active, inactive, or abandoned underground coal mine.

(2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the Greater Thompson Divide Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Use Pilot Program established by section 745(a)(1).

(3) PILOT PROGRAM MAP.—The term ''pilot program map'' means the map entitled ''Greater Thompson Divide Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Use Pilot Program Area'' and dated June 17, 2019.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Thompson Divide lease'' means any oil or gas lease in effect on the date of enactment of this Act within the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''Thompson Divide lease'' does not include any oil or gas lease that—

(i) is associated with a Wolf Creek Storage Field development right; or

(ii) before the date of enactment of this Act, has expired, been cancelled, or otherwise terminated.

(6) THOMPSON DIVIDE MAP.—The term ''Thompson Divide map'' means the map entitled ''Greater Thompson Divide Area Map'' and dated June 13, 2019.

(7) THOMPSON DIVIDE WITHDRAWAL AND PROTECTION AREA.—The term ''Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area'' means the Federal land and minerals generally depicted on the Thompson Divide map as the ''Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area''.

(8) WOLF CREEK STORAGE FIELD DEVELOPMENT RIGHT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Wolf Creek Storage Field development right'' means a development right for any of the Federal mineral leases numbered COC 007496, COC 007497, COC 007498, COC 007499, COC 007500, COC 007538, COC 008128, COC 015373, COC 0128018, COC 051645, and COC 051646, as generally depicted on the Thompson Divide map as ''Wolf Creek Storage Agreement''.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''Wolf Creek Storage Field development right'' does not include any storage right or related activity within the area described in subparagraph (A).

SEC. 743. THOMPSON DIVIDE WITHDRAWAL AND PROTECTION AREA.

(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(b) SURVEYS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area shall be determined by surveys approved by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) GRAZING.—Nothing in this title affects the administration of grazing in the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area.

SEC. 744. THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASE EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In exchange for the relinquishment by a leaseholder of all Thompson Divide leases of the leaseholder, the Secretary may issue to the leaseholder credits for any bid, royalty, or rental payment due under any Federal oil or gas lease on Federal land in the State, in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNT OF CREDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of the credits issued to a leaseholder of a Thompson Divide lease relinquished under subsection (a) shall—

(A) be equal to the sum of—

(i) the amount of the bonus bids paid for the applicable Thompson Divide leases;

(ii) the amount of any rental paid for the applicable Thompson Divide leases as of the date on which the leaseholder submits to the Secretary a notice of the decision to relinquish the applicable Thompson Divide leases; and

(iii) the amount of any expenses incurred by the leaseholder of the applicable Thompson Divide leases in the preparation of any drilling permit, sundry notice, or other related submission in support of the development of the applicable Thompson Divide leases as of January 28, 2019, including any expenses relating to the preparation of any analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) require the approval of the Secretary.

(2) EXCLUSION.—The amount of a credit issued under subsection (a) shall not include any expenses paid by the leaseholder of a Thompson Divide lease for legal fees or related expenses for legal work with respect to a Thompson Divide lease.

(c) CANCELLATION.—Effective on relinquishment under this section, and without any additional action by the Secretary, a Thompson Divide lease—

(1) shall be permanently cancelled; and

(2) shall not be reissued.

(d) CONDITIONS.—

(1) APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, each exchange under this section shall be conducted in accordance with—

(A) this title; and

(B) other applicable laws (including regulations).

(2) ACCEPTANCE OF CREDITS.—The Secretary shall accept credits issued under subsection (a) in the same manner as cash for the payments described in that subsection.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—The use of a credit issued under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the payments described in that subsection, to the extent that the laws are consistent with this section.

(4) TREATMENT OF CREDITS.—All amounts in the form of credits issued under subsection (a) accepted by the Secretary shall be considered to be amounts received for the purposes of—

(A) section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191); and

(B) section 20 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1019).

(e) WOLF CREEK STORAGE FIELD DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—

(1) CONVEYANCE TO SECRETARY.—As a condition precedent to the relinquishment of a Thompson Divide lease, any leaseholder with a Wolf Creek Storage Field development right shall permanently relinquish, transfer, and otherwise convey to the Secretary, in a form acceptable to the Secretary, all Wolf Creek Storage Field development rights of the leaseholder.

(2) LIMITATION OF TRANSFER.—An interest acquired by the Secretary under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be held in perpetuity; and

(B) shall not be—

(i) transferred;

(ii) reissued; or

(iii) otherwise used for mineral extraction.

SEC. 745. GREATER THOMPSON DIVIDE FUGITIVE COAL MINE METHANE USE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) FUGITIVE COAL MINE METHANE USE PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Bureau of Land Management a pilot program, to be known as the ''Greater Thompson Divide Fugitive Coal Mine Methane Use Pilot Program''.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot program is to promote the capture, beneficial use, mitigation, and sequestration of fugitive methane emissions—

(A) to reduce methane emissions;

(B) to promote economic development;

(C) to produce bid and royalty revenues;

(D) to improve air quality; and

(E) to improve public safety.

(3) PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan—

(i) to complete an inventory of fugitive methane emissions in accordance with subsection (b);

(ii) to provide for the leasing of fugitive methane emissions in accordance with subsection (c); and

(iii) to provide for the capping or destruction of fugitive methane emissions in accordance with subsection (d).

(B) COORDINATION.—In developing the plan under this paragraph, the Secretary shall coordinate with—

(i) the State;

(ii) Garfield, Gunnison, Delta, and Pitkin Counties in the State;

(iii) lessees of Federal coal within the counties referred to in clause (ii);

(iv) interested institutions of higher education in the State; and

(v) interested members of the public.

(b) FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSION INVENTORY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an inventory of fugitive methane emissions.

(2) CONDUCT.—The Secretary may conduct the inventory under paragraph (1) through, or in collaboration with—

(A) the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the United States Geological Survey;

(C) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(D) the United States Forest Service;

(E) State departments or agencies;

(F) Garfield, Gunnison, Delta, or Pitkin County in the State;

(G) the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District;

(H) institutions of higher education in the State;

(I) lessees of Federal coal within a county referred to in subparagraph (F);

(J) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(K) the National Center for Atmospheric Research; or

(L) other interested entities, including members of the public.

(3) CONTENTS.—The inventory under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the general location and geographic coordinates of each vent, seep, or other source producing significant fugitive methane emissions;

(B) an estimate of the volume and concentration of fugitive methane emissions from each

source of significant fugitive methane emissions, including details of measurements taken and the basis for that emissions estimate;

(C) an estimate of the total volume of fugitive methane emissions each year;

(D) relevant data and other information available from—

(i) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(ii) the Mine Safety and Health Administration;

(iii) the Colorado Department of Natural Resources;

(iv) the Colorado Public Utility Commission;

(v) the Colorado Department of Health and Environment; and

(vi) the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; and

(E) such other information as may be useful in advancing the purposes of the pilot program.

(4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION; DISCLOSURE.—

(A) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall provide opportunities for public participation in the inventory under this subsection.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make the inventory under this subsection publicly available.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Nothing in this subsection requires the Secretary to publicly release information that—

(i) poses a threat to public safety;

(ii) is confidential business information; or

(iii) is otherwise protected from public disclosure.

(5) USE.—The Secretary shall use the inventory in carrying out—

(A) the leasing program under subsection (c); and

(B) the capping or destruction of fugitive methane emissions under subsection (d).

(c) FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSION LEASING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and in accordance with this section, not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the inventory required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall carry out a program to encourage the use and destruction of fugitive methane emissions.

(2) FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM COAL MINES SUBJECT TO LEASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall authorize the holder of a valid existing Federal coal lease for a mine that is producing fugitive methane emissions to capture for use, or destroy by flaring, the fugitive methane emissions.

(B) CONDITIONS.—The authority under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to—

(i) valid existing rights; and

(ii) such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—The program carried out under paragraph (1) shall only include fugitive methane emissions that can be captured for use, or destroyed by flaring, in a manner that does not—

(i) endanger the safety of any coal mine worker; or

(ii) unreasonably interfere with any ongoing operation at a coal mine.

(D) COOPERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work cooperatively with the holders of valid existing Federal coal leases for mines that produce fugitive methane emissions to encourage—

(I) the capture of fugitive methane emissions for beneficial use, such as generating electrical power, producing usable heat, transporting the methane to market, or transforming the fugitive methane emissions into a different marketable material; or

(II) if the beneficial use of the fugitive methane emissions is not feasible, the destruction of the fugitive methane emissions by flaring.

(ii) GUIDANCE.—In furtherance of the purposes of this paragraph, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance for the implementation of Federal authorities and programs to encourage the capture for use, or destruction by flaring, of fugitive methane emissions, while minimizing impacts on natural resources or other public interest values.

(E) ROYALTIES.—The Secretary shall determine whether any fugitive methane emissions used or destroyed pursuant to this paragraph are subject to the payment of a royalty under applicable law.

(3) FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM ABANDONED COAL MINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, notwithstanding section 743, subject to valid existing rights, and in accordance with section 21 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 241) and any other applicable law, the Secretary shall—

(i) authorize the capture for use, or destruction by flaring, of fugitive methane emissions from abandoned coal mines on Federal land; and

(ii) make available for leasing such fugitive methane emissions from abandoned coal mines on Federal land as the Secretary considers to be in the public interest.

(B) SOURCE.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall offer for lease each significant vent, seep, or other source of fugitive methane emissions from abandoned coal mines.

(C) BID QUALIFICATIONS.—A bid to lease fugitive methane emissions under this paragraph shall specify whether the prospective lessee intends—

(i) to capture the fugitive methane emissions for beneficial use, such as generating electrical power, producing usable heat, transporting the methane to market, or transforming the fugitive methane emissions into a different marketable material;

(ii) to destroy the fugitive methane emissions by flaring; or

(iii) to employ a specific combination of—

(I) capturing the fugitive methane emissions for beneficial use; and

(II) destroying the fugitive methane emission by flaring.

(D) PRIORITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If there is more than 1 qualified bid for a lease under this paragraph, the Secretary shall select the bid that the Secretary determines is likely to most significantly advance the public interest.

(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the public interest under clause (i), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(I) the size of the overall decrease in the time-integrated radiative forcing of the fugitive methane emissions;

(II) the impacts to other natural resource values, including wildlife, water, and air; and

(III) other public interest values, including scenic, economic, recreation, and cultural values.

(E) LEASE FORM.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and provide to prospective bidders a lease form for leases issued under this paragraph.

(ii) DUE DILIGENCE.—The lease form developed under clause (i) shall include terms and conditions requiring the leased fugitive methane emissions to be put to beneficial use or flared by not later than 1 year after the date of issuance of the lease.

(F) ROYALTY RATE.—The Secretary shall develop a minimum bid and royalty rate for leases under this paragraph to advance the purposes of this section, to the maximum extent practicable.

(d) SEQUESTRATION.—If, by not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any significant fugitive methane emissions from abandoned coal mines on Federal land are not leased under subsection (c)(3), the Secretary shall, in accordance with applicable law, take all reasonable measures—

(1) to cap those fugitive methane emissions at the source in any case in which the cap will result in the long-term sequestration of all or a significant portion of the fugitive methane emissions; or

(2) if sequestration under paragraph (1) is not feasible, destroy the fugitive methane emissions by flaring.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report detailing—

(1) the economic and environmental impacts of the pilot program, including information on increased royalties and estimates of avoided greenhouse gas emissions; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary on whether the pilot program could be expanded geographically to include other significant sources of fugitive methane emissions from coal mines.

SEC. 746. EFFECT.

Except as expressly provided in this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle—

(1) expands, diminishes, or impairs any valid existing mineral leases, mineral interest, or other property rights wholly or partially within the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area, including access to the leases, interests, rights, or land in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations);

(2) prevents the capture of methane from any active, inactive, or abandoned coal mine covered by this subtitle, in accordance with applicable laws; or

(3) prevents access to, or the development of, any new or existing coal mine or lease in Delta or Gunnison County in the State.

Subtitle D—Curecanti National Recreation Area

SEC. 751. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Curecanti National Recreation Area, Proposed Boundary'', numbered 616/100,485C, and dated August 11, 2016.

(2) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—The term ''National Recreation Area'' means the Curecanti National Recreation Area established by section 752(a).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 752. CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Effective beginning on the earlier of the date on which the Secretary approves a request under subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) and the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established as a unit of the National Park System the Curecanti National Recreation Area, in accordance with this title, consisting of approximately 50,667 acres of land in the State, as generally depicted on the map as ''Curecanti National Recreation Area Proposed Boundary''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—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 the National Recreation Area in accordance with—

(A) this subtitle; and

(B) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) DAM, POWER PLANT, AND RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle affects or interferes with the authority of the Secretary—

(i) to operate the Uncompahgre Valley Reclamation Project under the reclamation laws;

(ii) to operate the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit of the Colorado River Storage Project under the

Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the ''Colorado River Storage Project Act'') (43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.); or

(iii) under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460l–12 et seq.).

(B) RECLAMATION LAND.—

(i) SUBMISSION OF REQUEST TO RETAIN ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—If, before the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Reclamation submits to the Secretary a request for the Commissioner of Reclamation to retain administrative jurisdiction over the minimum quantity of land within the land identified on the map as ''Lands withdrawn or acquired for Bureau of Reclamation projects'' that the Commissioner of Reclamation identifies as necessary for the effective operation of Bureau of Reclamation water facilities, the Secretary may—

(I) approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the request; and

(II) if the request is approved under subclause (I), make any modifications to the map that are necessary to reflect that the Commissioner of Reclamation retains management authority over the minimum quantity of land required to fulfill the reclamation mission.

(ii) TRANSFER OF LAND.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over the land identified on the map as ''Lands withdrawn or acquired for Bureau of Reclamation projects'', as modified pursuant to clause (i)(II), if applicable, shall be transferred from the Commissioner of Reclamation to the Director of the National Park Service by not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(II) ACCESS TO TRANSFERRED LAND.—

(aa) IN GENERAL.—Subject to item (bb), the Commissioner of Reclamation shall retain access to the land transferred to the Director of the National Park Service under subclause (I) for reclamation purposes, including for the operation, maintenance, and expansion or replacement of facilities.

(bb) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The terms of the access authorized under item (aa) shall be determined by a memorandum of understanding entered into between the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the National Park Service not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into management agreements, or modify management agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, relating to the authority of the Director of the National Park Service, the Commissioner of Reclamation, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, or the Chief of the Forest Service to manage Federal land within or adjacent to the boundary of the National Recreation Area.

(B) STATE LAND.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative management agreements for any land administered by the State that is within or adjacent to the National Recreation Area, in accordance with the cooperative management authority under section 101703 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allow boating, boating-related activities, hunting, and fishing in the National Recreation Area in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(B) CLOSURES; DESIGNATED ZONES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Superintendent of the National Recreation Area, may designate zones in which, and establish periods during which, no boating, hunting, or fishing shall be permitted in the National Recreation Area under subparagraph (A) for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws.

(ii) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—Except in the case of an emergency, any closure proposed by the Secretary under clause (i) shall not take effect until after the date on which the Superintendent of the National Recreation Area consults with—

(I) the appropriate State agency responsible for hunting and fishing activities; and

(II) the Board of County Commissioners in each county in which the zone is proposed to be designated.

(5) LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE.—On the written request of an individual that owns private land located not more than 3 miles from the boundary of the National Recreation Area, the Secretary may work in partnership with the individual to enhance the long-term conservation of natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources in and around the National Recreation Area—

(A) by acquiring all or a portion of the private land or interests in private land located not more than 3 miles from the boundary of the National Recreation Area by purchase, exchange, or donation, in accordance with section 753;

(B) by providing technical assistance to the individual, including cooperative assistance;

(C) through available grant programs; and

(D) by supporting conservation easement opportunities.

(6) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, all Federal land within the National Recreation Area is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(7) GRAZING.—

(A) STATE LAND SUBJECT TO A STATE GRAZING LEASE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If State land acquired under this subtitle is subject to a State grazing lease in effect on the date of acquisition, the Secretary shall allow the grazing to continue for the remainder of the term of the lease, subject to the related terms and conditions of user agreements, including permitted stocking rates, grazing fee levels, access rights, and ownership and use of range improvements.

(ii) ACCESS.—A lessee of State land may continue to use established routes within the National Recreation Area to access State land for purposes of administering the lease if the use was permitted before the date of enactment of this Act, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require.

(B) STATE AND PRIVATE LAND.—The Secretary may, in accordance with applicable laws, authorize grazing on land acquired from the State or private landowners under section 753, if grazing was established before the date of acquisition.

(C) PRIVATE LAND.—On private land acquired under section 753 for the National Recreation Area on which authorized grazing is occurring before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the lessee, may allow the continuation and renewal of grazing on the land based on the terms of acquisition or by agreement between the Secretary and the lessee, subject to applicable law (including regulations).

(D) FEDERAL LAND.—The Secretary shall—

(i) allow, consistent with the grazing leases, uses, and practices in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act, the continuation and renewal of grazing on Federal land located within the boundary of the National Recreation Area on which grazing is allowed before the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary determines that grazing on the Federal land would present unacceptable impacts (as defined in section 1.4.7.1 of the National Park Service document entitled ''Management Policies 2006: The Guide to Managing the National Park System'') to the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resource values and the character of the land within the National Recreation Area; and

(ii) retain all authorities to manage grazing in the National Recreation Area.

(E) TERMINATION OF LEASES.—Within the National Recreation Area, the Secretary may—

(i) accept the voluntary termination of a lease or permit for grazing; or

(ii) in the case of a lease or permit vacated for a period of 3 or more years, terminate the lease or permit.

(8) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle—

(A) affects any use or allocation in existence on the date of enactment of this Act of any water, water right, or interest in water;

(B) affects any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water right held by the United States;

(C) affects any interstate water compact in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(D) shall be considered to be a relinquishment or reduction of any water right reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(E) constitutes an express or implied Federal reservation of any water or water rights with respect to the National Recreation Area.

(9) FISHING EASEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle diminishes or alters the fish and wildlife program for the Aspinall Unit developed under section 8 of the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the ''Colorado River Storage Project Act'') (70 Stat. 110, chapter 203; 43 U.S.C. 620g), by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (including any successor in interest to that division) that provides for the acquisition of public access fishing easements as mitigation for the Aspinall Unit (referred to in this paragraph as the ''program'').

(B) ACQUISITION OF FISHING EASEMENTS.—The Secretary shall continue to fulfill the obligation of the Secretary under the program to acquire 26 miles of class 1 public fishing easements to provide to sportsmen access for fishing within the Upper Gunnison Basin upstream of the Aspinall Unit, subject to the condition that no existing fishing access downstream of the Aspinall Unit shall be counted toward the minimum mileage requirement under the program.

(C) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan for fulfilling the obligation of the Secretary described in subparagraph (B) by the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) REPORTS.—Not later than each of 2 years, 5 years, and 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the progress made in fulfilling the obligation of the Secretary described in subparagraph (B).

(d) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND USES.—

(1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe.

(2) TRADITIONAL TRIBAL USES.—Subject to any terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and in accordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall allow for the continued use of the National Recreation Area by members of Indian Tribes—

(A) for traditional ceremonies; and

(B) as a source of traditional plants and other materials.

SEC. 753. ACQUISITION OF LAND; BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT.

(a) ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land within the boundary of the National Recreation Area.

(2) MANNER OF ACQUISITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), land described in paragraph (1) may be acquired under this subsection by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds;

(iii) transfer from another Federal agency; or

(iv) exchange.

(B) STATE LAND.—Land or interests in land owned by the State or a political subdivision of the State may only be acquired by purchase, donation, or exchange.

(b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(1) FOREST SERVICE LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 2,560 acres of land identified on the map as ''U.S. Forest Service proposed transfer to the National Park Service'' is transferred to the Secretary, to be administered by the Director of the National Park Service as part of the National Recreation Area.

(B) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Gunnison National Forest shall be adjusted to exclude the land transferred to the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(2) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.—Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 5,040 acres of land identified on the map as ''Bureau of Land Management proposed transfer to National Park Service'' is transferred from the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to the Director of the National Park Service, to be administered as part of the National Recreation Area.

(3) WITHDRAWAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over the land identified on the map as ''Proposed for transfer to the Bureau of Land Management, subject to the revocation of Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal'' shall be transferred to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management on relinquishment of the land by the Bureau of Reclamation and revocation by the Bureau of Land Management of any withdrawal as may be necessary.

(c) POTENTIAL LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The withdrawal for reclamation purposes of the land identified on the map as ''Potential exchange lands'' shall be relinquished by the Commissioner of Reclamation and revoked by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the land shall be transferred to the National Park Service.

(2) EXCHANGE; INCLUSION IN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—On transfer of the land described in paragraph (1), the transferred land—

(A) may be exchanged by the Secretary for private land described in section 752(c)(5)—

(i) subject to a conservation easement remaining on the transferred land, to protect the scenic resources of the transferred land; and

(ii) in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies governing National Park Service land exchanges; and

(B) if not exchanged under subparagraph (A), shall be added to, and managed as a part of, the National Recreation Area.

(d) ADDITION TO NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—Any land within the boundary of the National Recreation Area that is acquired by the United States shall be added to, and managed as a part of, the National Recreation Area.

SEC. 754. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this subtitle, the Director of the National Park Service, in consultation with the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall prepare a general management plan for the National Recreation Area in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

SEC. 755. BOUNDARY SURVEY.

The Secretary (acting through the Director of the National Park Service) shall prepare a boundary survey and legal description of the National Recreation Area.

TITLE VIII—GRAND CANYON PROTECTION

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Grand Canyon Protection Act''.

SEC. 802. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this title, the term ''Map'' means the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Grand Canyon Protection Act'' and dated January 22, 2021.

(b) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 1,006,545 acres of Federal land in the State of Arizona, generally depicted on the Map as ''Federal Mineral Estate to be Withdrawn'', including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act, are hereby withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be kept on file and made available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 803.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

I first want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA for his incredible leadership of the House Natural Resources Committee, and for bringing his Grand Canyon Protection Act to the floor today as part of the bill that we will be considering.

I have been honored to work alongside Chair GRIJALVA on the Natural Resources Committee and I am looking forward to continuing that work as the chair of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee this Congress.

The bill that we are considering today unifies eight standalone proposals as H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. Representative DEGETTE, who is the primary sponsor, Representative HUFFMAN, Representative CHU, Representative CARBAJAL, Representative SCHIFF, and Representative KILMER, have all worked tirelessly to advocate for the places in this bill, and I am looking forward to hearing more from them during today's debate.

Now, before I get carried away with the beauty of Colorado, I would like to acknowledge the product of our combined efforts: 1.5 million acres of wilderness; 1,200 miles of protected wild and scenic rivers; permanent mineral withdrawals for the Grand Canyon and Colorado's Thompson Divide.

Each title of this bill considers how best to protect public lands and provide for local considerations. Together, they will improve access to clean water, clean air, outdoor recreation and, yes, they will even support jobs and our economy.

Protecting public lands is a key part of the climate solution, and I am proud to say that we continue those protections here today with the formal support of the Biden administration.

My contribution to this bill is the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act, or the CORE Act. Through collaboration, consultation, negotiation, local elected officials, community members, businesses, outdoor recreation and conservation groups, ranchers, sportsmen, they have all come together to protect the outdoor areas in Colorado that we love.

In many cases, Coloradans have been asking Congress to protect these areas for a decade or longer. In total, the CORE Act would conserve more than 400,000 acres of public land, and each the CORE Act's four sections were separately crafted by Coloradans.

Camp Hale is one of the special places protected by the CORE Act. High on Colorado's Continental Divide, surrounded by the White River National Forest, the CORE Act would designate the first-ever National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale to honor the storied legacy of the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

The soldiers that trained at Camp Hale led our Nation to victory in World War II, then went on to create the modern outdoor industry, which today contributes billions to Colorado's growing outdoor recreation economy.

To similar ends, the CORE Act formally establishes numerous boundaries, also a handful of National Park Service units without a formal designation by Congress, which would be in this bill. This long overdue designation will provide new fishing access, for example, for sportsmen in the Gunnison River basin.

And in yet another win for Colorado sportsmen, the CORE Act protects Colorado's only migration corridor over Interstate 70 for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife.

These areas are just a small sampling, Mr. Speaker, of the many nonwilderness and locally supported protections included in this bill today.

Additionally, the CORE Act makes a contribution of 73,000 acres to our National Wilderness Preservation System. The CORE Act wilderness protects some of Colorado's most iconic peaks, including two fourteeners: Wilson Peak and Mount Sneffels.

And of the 400,000 acres of public lands covered by the CORE Act, about half is for the withdrawal and protection of the Thompson Divide.

The Thompson Divide, through ranching and outdoor recreation, contributes $30 million a year to Colorado's statewide economy. It is one of

our most treasured landscapes and an area that is simply too valuable to drill for oil and gas.

The thoughtful input and collaboration put into the CORE Act is apparent in each title of the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

Now, my colleagues may have ideological differences when it comes to protecting our public lands, but what we can all agree on is that the United States is blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. And it is thanks to the careful consideration of the legislators that came before us and the legislators that are gathered here today on the floor that we are able to enjoy them today, and that our children will be able to enjoy them tomorrow.

So I urge my colleagues to consider the decades of work that have gone into the bill that is before us and to recognize the chance that we all have to vote to protect these places.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

Contrary to the name, this bill will damage our environment, while simultaneously killing jobs in rural America.

The proponents of this bill will say it is broadly supported. Listen to the Members who represent the districts most affected by this bill. They don't want it.

Listen to the groups opposed: American Farm Bureau, American Forest Resource Council, or the Grand Junction, Colorado, Chamber of Commerce. They don't want this bill.

This bill creates nearly 1.5 million of acres of new wilderness, withdraws 1.2 million acres from mineral production, and designates over 1,200 miles of wild scenic and recreational rivers. For perspective, the wilderness designated in this bill is the same size as President Biden's home State of Delaware.

This Chamber has bypassed the committee process and circumvented the will of Members who represent districts directly impacted by this legislation. It was scheduled for the floor before the Committee was ever organized.

□ 1730

The consequences of this bill on the four Western States it impacts will be far-reaching. For example, if you live in Colorado and you enjoy recreating on mountain biking and ATV trails like the people pictured here on the Tabeguache Trail, this bill will shut down your ability to recreate on those lands. The same goes for snowmobilers, OHV users, and parents with strollers.

It is very concerning that these wilderness areas will now be off-limits to active forest management. 2020 was sadly another record-breaking fire season. We have a problem on our national forests that is not going to be solved with handsaws and shovels. Now is not the time to rely on century-old management techniques stipulated by wilderness designations when over 80 million acres of U.S. Forest Service land is in desperate need of treatment.

If that wasn't enough, this bill also designates lands as wilderness in the wildland-urban interface. This is a matter of life and death.

Mr. Speaker, I want to clear up some misconceptions about the last title of this bill, the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Nobody is mining in the Grand Canyon; nobody wants to mine in the Grand Canyon; and nobody will mine in the Grand Canyon—ever. Proponents of the bill would have you believe that this is happening right near the Colorado River. In fact, there are already buffer zones in place. It is called the Grand Canyon National Park.

The only saving this bill will do is saving Chinese and Russian uranium mining jobs. In 2019, we only produced 0.5 percent of the domestic uranium needed for commercial reactors. This bill goes far beyond the park's boundaries and the boundaries of the sponsor's home district to simply kill jobs to the direct benefit of our adversaries. This bill will make us more dependent on hostile nations like Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, and Chinese-owned mines in Namibia.

In conclusion, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad bill.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, before I yield, I would be remiss if I didn't say with respect to Colorado in particular, and with much respect to the ranking member, the Outdoor Alliance sent a letter to Chairman GRIJALVA just a few days ago in support of this bill. It was signed by the CEO of the International Mountain Bicycling Association, so I think they would have much to disagree with, with respect to some of the statements that were made.

Finally, I will also say, every bill that is a component of this measure was marked up in the last Congress, heard in the last Congress, and passed the last Congress twice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to rise in support of H.R. 803, and I am so proud to be the primary sponsor of this beautiful legislation, Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

The bill seeks to protect some of our Nation's most treasured public lands. Not only will it help protect the air we breathe and the water we drink but also the wildlife that call these untouched areas home and the world-class recreation opportunities they provide.

In all, this legislation preserves almost 3 million acres of public land across Colorado, California, Arizona, and Washington State. It designates 1.49 million acres of public land as wilderness, giving these areas the permanent protection that they deserve. It also protects an additional 1.2 million vulnerable acres from the threat of future uranium mining claims in Arizona, and it adds a thousand miles of river to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Preserving our Nation's public lands is about more than just protecting our environment. It is about protecting our economy and our way of life as well. In my home State of Colorado alone, our public lands support a $12 billion—that is a b—a $12 billion outdoor recreation economy and hundreds of thousands of jobs across the whole State.

Perhaps most importantly, what this bill will do is to jump-start our commitment to protecting 30 percent of our Nation's lands by 2030 to help combat the climate crisis.

This package includes eight separate public lands bills, as you heard from Mr. NEGUSE. All of those bills were heard in committee, marked up, and passed by this Chamber two times last year.

I know that each of the individual bill sponsors plans to say a few words, so I would like to talk about title I of the legislation, which contains my bill, the Colorado Wilderness Act.

This is legislation I have been working on for more than two decades to permanently protect about 660,000 acres of wilderness in 36 unique areas in Colorado. Most of these areas are low-lying canyon country, BLM areas that have been managed as wilderness study areas for almost 40 years now.

As a fourth-generation Coloradan, I know how important these lands are to the people of my State, from the dramatic ridgeline of Grand Hogback to the sprawling plateaus of Little Book Cliffs, from the stunning red cliffs of the Dolores River Canyon to the winding riverways of Browns Canyon, the areas in this bill are some of the most beautiful and irreplaceable landscapes that our State has to offer. It is why the bill has received such unbelievable support from residents, businesses, and groups across the State.

You heard from Mr. NEGUSE about the support. More than 14,000 people have written letters of support, and over 350 businesses. Now, I personally have visited most of the areas in the bill. I have gone on foot, and I have gone on horseback. I even went on raft to see them for myself.

I met with landowners and ranchers and business owners to get their feedback. And when necessary, I adjusted the boundaries to address their concerns.

As I said, the Colorado Wilderness Act is just one of eight bills in this legislation included in the package, and I want to thank each of my colleagues who are here today—Representatives HUFFMAN, CARBAJAL, CHU, SCHIFF, KILMER, NEGUSE, and also, of course, Chairman GRIJALVA—for their unwavering support and for all the work that

they have done to get this package to the floor. I want to thank all the staff from the Natural Resources Committee and our personal staffs, too.

I just want to say that we have worked tirelessly on this legislation. It is so important not just for us but for the future generations who will come to these very special places, who will see the petroglyphs that I saw the last time I went out, who will see the Book Cliffs and the beautiful canyons.

I think that protecting our untouched wilderness is so important. It is my number one priority in this Congress, and I know all my cosponsors feel the same way. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''yes'' on this important legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following letters from multiple organizations in opposition to H.R. 803.

INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2021.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) is opposed to H.R. 803, the ''Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.'' This bill creates nearly 1.5 million acres of new wilderness and permanently withdraws 1.2 million acres from mineral production. It is in direct opposition to the multiple use mandate given to the Department of the Interior to manage the federal estate. Many of the local communities impacted by this measure, including Garfield County in Colorado which has existing mineral leases and planned for further development, have raised significant concerns due to the elimination of multiple use of the land and the overall threat to local economies and rural jobs.

Further, many of the lands under consideration in H.R. 803 do not meet the basic characteristics for consideration as wilderness. Instead, the legislation arbitrarily designates areas as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers despite official testimony provided by the relevant land management agencies to previous Congresses that many of these designations are inappropriate and not recommended. To declare areas that do not possess these characteristics undermines the integrity of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The process by which H.R 803 is coming to the House floor is also concerning. The bill did not go through regular order, receiving no hearings or mark-ups in the 117th Congress. In fact, the bill was scheduled for floor consideration before the Natural Resources Committee had even organized. Local input, especially with regards to managing active mineral leases which affect jobs, should have been solicited in an effort to allow the House to better understand the broad impacts of the bill.

For these reasons, IPAA is strongly opposed to H.R. 803.

Sincerely,

DAN NAATZ,
Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Political Affairs, Independent Producers Association of America.

FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA AND RANKING MEMBER WESTERMAN: The signatories to this letter urge you to vote in opposition to the ''Grand Canyon Protection Act'' (H.R. 1052), as stand-alone legislation or as part of the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act under consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives this week. H.R. 1052 perpetuates false claims of mining in one of our nation's most beautiful national parks. It also fails to acknowledge our nation's alarming reliance on foreign sources of minerals and would further weaken the already vulnerable supply chains for key U.S. industry sectors, including manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, and defense.

Federal lands—predominantly in the western U.S.—are the source of much of our nation's mineral endowment. Of these federal lands, half are either off limits or under restrictions to mineral development. While mining is certainly not appropriate on all federal lands, maintaining responsible access to the very resources that drive innovation, feed economic growth and improve our nation's quality of life is essential. Given the vast amount of federal lands already closed to mining operations, caution should be exercised when determining whether additional lands should be placed off limits.

H.R. 1052 targets more than a million acres of mineral rich lands, including world-class uranium ore deposits that are located well outside the boundaries of the Grand Canyon National Park. The park, as created, already includes a built-in buffer zone to protect park resources from activities taking place outside the park boundaries and an additional million-acre buffer zone is not justified. H.R. 1052 deliberately disregards our dangerous dependence on countries like Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to meet our nation's need for uranium to fuel our nuclear Navy and supply 20 percent of our nation's electricity.

Furthermore, H.R. 1052 ignores not only the comprehensive framework of federal, state, and local environmental regulations that govern every aspect of mining, but the findings of the Department of the Interior that the park was not at risk from mining given these existing protections. In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey recently concluded that the nine uranium mines that have operated in northern Arizona since the 1970s (since modern environmental laws took effect) have caused no adverse impact to environmental or health. This unwise and unwarranted mineral withdrawal is bad public policy that ignores the vast sectors of our economy that depend upon a reliable and secure supply chain of responsibly sourced minerals and metals. It also puts President Biden's renewable goals at a risk, forcing domestic manufacturers of clean energy technologies to rely on increased imports of these materials.

Access to our nation's vast and diverse resources and fair regulatory policies that promote certainty in the mine permitting process are the elements of sound public policy that should be considered when addressing resource development on federal lands. We urge you to vote against this misguided bill and support policies that promote responsible resource development.

Sincerely,

American Exploration & Mining Association, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Arizona Mining Association, National Mining Association, Women's Mining Coalition, Wyoming Mining Association.

NSSGA, NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION,
February 19, 2020.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA AND RANKING MEMBER WESTERMAN: On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I am writing to express our concern with certain provisions included in H.R. 803, the ''Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act''. Our members take extraordinary strides to responsibly produce construction materials and we oppose legislation that arbitrarily and permanently prohibit the development of aggregates operations on millions of acres of federal lands.

NSSGA represents aggregates producers and those who manufacture equipment and services that support the construction industry. Our members are essential to the work of this country, and we represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women and are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge and public works project.

NSSGA is most concerned with Section 802 that would permanently ban aggregate production on millions of acres of land in Arizona. Such a ban would severely diminish the ability for communities to access key resources that are necessary for building roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, homes and businesses. Allowing this ban to proceed would have a significant impact on the cost of public works projects due to the necessity for stone, sand and gravel required to develop and repair infrastructure and buildings to be imported into the area. These products are expensive to transport and would further strain the budgets of local communities and federal entities that are seeking to make infrastructure investments in Arizona including improvements to National Parks like the Grand Canyon.

Further, permanently banning aggregate operations on these federal lands would greatly impact the region and our nation's energy development. Industrial sand is a key component in energy production. Under the proposal access to these essential materials would be limited, driving up production costs that would likely be passed along to customers—families and businesses that are facing uncertainty during the pandemic.

While this legislation will clearly create a competitive disadvantage that has negative economic impacts for the families in the impacted communities, it will also have significant environmental impacts. Delaying and increasing the cost of improvements to congested roads or eliminating access to a material that is needed to develop a new clean water project and cleaner energy sources will have real environmental impacts on establishing cleaner air and water and access to public lands.

Instead of taking broad, unilateral actions to withdraw access to these lands, NSSGA urges Congress to consult with local stakeholders and communities to find more tailored approaches to preserve treasured lands.

NSSGA members strongly promote conservation in both their business practices and personal lives. Our member companies have advanced award-winning environmental stewardship projects to build critical habitats, promote biodiversity and drive greatest access to recreational activities. Further, as most NSSGA member quarries and plants have literally served as the bedrock of their communities of decades, they take great pride in engagement and are actively involved to giving back to their local communities.

Rather than rushing through the legislative process to advance H.R. 803 on the floor of the House of Representatives, NSSGA urges the Committee to move this large public lands package through regular order in order to allow more input, dialoged and discussion of these important issues from all involved stakeholders.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and please do not hesitate to reach out if NSSGA may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL W. JOHNSON,
President and CEO,
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association.

FEBRUARY 25, 2021.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the nearly six million Farm Bureau member families across the United States, we write in strong opposition to H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. Collectively this package of bills impacts lands in California, Colorado, Arizona and Washington by creating nearly 1.5 million acres of new wilderness, the most restrictive federal land use classification. Additionally, it would designate 1,200 miles of wild and scenic rivers and create 110,000 acres of National Monument expansion. Further, many of the wilderness and wild and scenic river designations contained in this bill are not suitable for these restrictive designations. To declare areas that do not possess these characteristics undermines the integrity of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as well as the lands that possess those features.

Farmers and ranchers rely on federal forests and rangelands for economic and recreational opportunities. Livestock grazing on federal lands forms an integral part of ranching operations across the United States, especially in the West. But farmers also use national forests and rangelands throughout the United States in a variety of other ways. Federal lands throughout the country are important components of our nation's watersheds that provide water to a large number of Americans. Active land management practices such as timber production and livestock grazing are critical to protect against wildland fires which devastate range resources, damage watersheds, threaten wildlife and put rural communities at great risk.

American farmers and ranchers have a genuine interest in healthy and productive federal forest and rangelands. At the same time, we have a genuine interest in seeing lands managed in an environmentally sound manner. Farmers and ranchers understand and appreciate that active management of our federal lands is critical to the long-term viability of the ecosystem, the resource, and the communities they support. Designations included in H.R. 803 threaten multiple use areas by prohibiting the employment of motorized tools and mechanized vehicles in watershed management, trail maintenance, soil treatment, noxious weed control, waste management and fire protection.

Our nation's federal forests are facing serious threats from fires, insects and disease due to a lack of active forest management. The poor health of our federal forests also threatens wildlife populations and neighboring non-federal lands, as well as the vitality of rural, forested communities across the country. A vibrant livestock and forest products industry helps diversify rural economies in ways that compliment ranching and agricultural operations. Wilderness and National Monument designations eliminate federal land management agencies ability to effectively protect against the threat of catastrophic wildland fire.

Farmers, landowners, and grazing permitees should be fully involved as affected partners in any process to execute federal land use designations which restrict public use and access. Federal land use designations that lack local stakeholder input from agricultural and resource management professionals often generates significant controversy and economic hardship at the local level. The detrimental effects of a federal land use designation frequently causes residents, elected state and county officials, and local stakeholders significant reductions in economic activity and the loss of jobs in rural communities. Past designations have also affected water rights, public lands grazing and access to State and private lands.

Farm Bureau supports the multiple-use concept of federal lands, recognizing that definable land areas have dominant-use capability, which should be recognized with the concept of multiple uses without the total exclusion of other uses. The Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act stands in clear violation of AFBF policy. Additionally, the California, Colorado, Arizona and Washington Farm Bureau's oppose passage of this legislation.

Farm Bureau urges you to oppose passage of H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation, Arizona Farm Bureau, California Farm Bureau, Colorado Farm Bureau, Washington Farm Bureau.

RAÚL GRIJALVA,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.
BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA AND RANKING MEMBER WESTERMAN:

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Sheep Industry Association and the Public Lands Council are deeply concerned about the potential immediate and long-term impacts of H.R. 803, the Colorado Wilderness Act. NCBA is the nation's largest and oldest trade association representing America's cattle producers, with other 250,000 producers represented directly and through its 46 state affiliate associations. Since 1865, ASI has been the national trade organization representing the interests of more than 100,000 sheep producers located throughout the country who produce America's lamb and wool. The Public Lands is the only national organization dedicated solely to representing the roughly 22,000 ranchers who hold federal grazing permits and operate on federal lands. H.R. 803 's passage would be detrimental to public lands ranchers who utilize federal grazing permits.

While this bill obviously seeks to appeal to the desire to protect a landscape's natural state, the impact of designating lands as wilderness, especially such vast swaths, significantly compromises long-term ecological health. Currently, federal lands managed for multiple use provide valuable opportunity for livestock grazing, which is a tool to manage fuels that contribute to the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Further, grazing helps to cultivate landscapes that are more suitable and healthier wildlife habitat. The objectives the sponsors profess that they seek to achieve are immediately undermined by designating these millions of acres of wilderness. Designations limit management options, making it more difficult for land managers and stewards to protect these landscapes and their valuable attributes.

Like ''wilderness,'' ''preservation'' is often a term used to convey the prioritization of maintaining an area's natural state, regardless of impact. While preservation may seem optimal, federal lands provide significantly greater benefit to all who utilize it when the conservation of resources is prioritized. While preservation seeks protection of nature from any use or change, conservation seeks the proper use of nature, providing opportunity for ecological enhancement. Grazing, for example, is a vital conservation tool to curb invasive species growth, promote improved soil and forage health, and reduce wildfire fuel load.

Beyond general concerns about promoting wilderness designations as a land management tool, H.R. 803 fails to follow established criteria for ''wilderness,'' instead arbitrarily designating areas as ''wilderness'' and ''wild and scenic rivers'' despite official testimony from relevant land management agencies. At a minimum, wilderness determinations must be grounded in science and fact.

As Congress continues to develop natural resources and federal lands policy, it must prioritize legislation that recognizes that conservation, not preservation, is the key to effective land management and continued enjoyment for future generations. We urge you to oppose H.R. 803, the Colorado Wilderness Act, and seek more engaged, thoughtful management of our precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

American Sheep Industry Association,
National Cattlemen's Beef Association,
Public Lands Council.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this package is a massive land-removal bill. It basically takes 2.7 million acres away from meaningful production.

The one good thing I can say is, it is consistent with this majority and this administration's actions that make us more reliant on China and will enrich China. That is the one good thing; it is at least consistent.

Now, the majority feels that people in this town know better than the people who are losing this land for the different uses for which they could have it. I know we are hearing today on the floor: Oh, we have all these people who want this bill passed.

It should have gone through committee so we could do the motions, we could have witnesses, and we could find out for ourselves. After 3 years of the Russia hoax, we really need to hear from the sources.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the distinguished chairman of the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to be one of the sponsors of this great legislation, and I am grateful that it includes, as title II, my bill, the

Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act.

This bill addresses some lands in my district that are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems and exciting outdoor recreation opportunities you will find anywhere in California. These areas are home to old-growth trees critical for carbon sequestration, rivers that provide fish habitat and unparalleled recreation, and mountain trails that offer hiking, biking, and other unique experiences.

Being active in the outdoors and experiencing wild places is a way of life in my district. Over the past year, with lockdowns and isolation, we have seen how important getting outside has been for our well-being. We all depend on the ecological, economic, and mental health benefits that our public lands provide, and that is why my legislation takes a multifaceted approach to public land management.

First, it includes an ambitious restoration plan to improve forest health, promote fire resilience, and protect communities.

Second, it recognizes the importance of the outdoor recreation economy by increasing recreational opportunities and tourism. Investing in our public lands means we are also investing in communities near our public lands, and that is why there is so much broad support in my district for this bill.

Then, finally, this legislation protects important wild places. These areas include critical habitat and ecosystems as well as some of the best fishing, hiking, and white water runs in the State. It takes conservation seriously because it is urgently needed for the future of our planet.

I would also like to explain the process. I believe good process leads to good policy, and we have worked very hard on this bill, starting when I first got to Congress. We have asked stakeholders about policy issues that should be addressed in public lands legislation. The legislation was further refined over more than 5 years of work. I have repeatedly sat down with constituents at public meetings and otherwise. We have discussed all the concerns that were addressed by local officials.

I believe that this comprehensive, carefully developed bill reflects that good process in the fact that we have such broad support, including conservation organizations, outdoor recreation groups, dozens of businesses, community leaders, adjacent landowners, and former and current elected officials from all the affected counties. It also drew bipartisan support in the Natural Resources Committee, which is a rare thing for a wilderness-related bill.

This bill is focused on a future for northwest California, where public lands are resilient and our outdoor recreation economy grows while we preserve environmental values for future generations.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this highly partisan and divisive legislation.

In Colorado alone, this bill puts 700,000 acres into the most restrictive land use category of all—wilderness. I know the intent of the sponsors is to protect the land, but in practice, the use of land under wilderness designation is so restrictive, hardly anyone can use it.

Do you dream of taking your kids or grandkids for a bike ride on wilderness land someday? Forget about it. Bicycles are prohibited by BLM in wilderness land as well as motorized vehicles, roads, wheelbarrows, and carts. The land is locked away from future generations.

I prefer public lands with many uses, and that is where this bill fails our children. You can't even take a baby onto wilderness land in a stroller.

Do you care about the health of our forests? Then don't vote for this bill. The most basic types of preventive maintenance are illegal under wilderness designation. You can't take a chain saw and cut away fire traps, and you can't trim branches or overgrown timber stands and underbrush.

Colorado has had too many forest fires, and with beetle kill, parts of Colorado are a tinderbox. Should this become law, with its restrictions on fire prevention, we are going to see bigger and hotter fires in Colorado than ever before. I don't want to see Colorado burn up. That is why I am voting ''no'' on this bill.

Many county commissioners, individual citizens, and even the U.S. Representative for western Colorado oppose this bill. Like me, they don't want to see the public lose access to wilderness areas, and they don't want to see our forests go up in flames. Vote ''no'' on this bill.

□ 1745

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

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

Mr. Speaker, I was born and raised on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, and I know firsthand how special our region is and how our public lands contribute to the fabric of who we are.

In our region, we understand that protecting our public lands isn't just about saving these unforgettable places for future generations. It also means protecting high-quality jobs for the next generation as well.

That is important to me, as someone who grew up on the peninsula and as someone who worked in economic development professionally for over a decade.

I have seen how our natural resources contribute to our economic vitality. Each year, millions of people and families travel to our State and contribute roughly $22 billion in economic impact and support 200,000 jobs in Washington's outdoor economy.

Our national treasures have helped create opportunities for local entrepreneurs who started restaurants, guided tour companies, hotels, and B&Bs, and other small businesses. That is why it makes sense to protect these special places, and that is why I am proud that the House is considering this comprehensive package, including a bill I introduced called the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

That bill protects some of our most environmentally sensitive areas by establishing a new wilderness area to protect the last remaining old-growth stands on the peninsula and designating 19 rivers and tributaries as wild and scenic rivers to protect critical salmon spawning habitats.

This proposal has evolved through extensive public engagement with Tribes, conservation groups, timber communities, business leaders, shellfish growers, and everybody in-between, to create a bill that works for our local communities.

It is because of that outreach that this bill is now formally supported by more than 800 community leaders, Republicans and Democrats, businessowners, sportsmen, mayors, county commissioners, and Tribal leaders, all of whom agree this proposal moves our region in the right direction.

In addition to protecting recreational access and supporting our outdoor economy, the bill bolsters our region's efforts to protect sources of clean drinking water, supporting critical salmon and steelhead habitats, and protecting key waterways that are vital to our shellfish industry.

But just as important are all the things this bill will not do. This proposal will not close, decommission, or otherwise restrict access to any Forest Service roads or trailheads. It will not impact any harvestable timber base in the Olympic National Forest. I am doing a whole bunch of other work to increase the harvest through other avenues.

This bill will not affect any private property rights. It will not impact how the Washington Department of Natural Resources manages State-owned lands, which is why it has gained support of the Washington commissioner of public lands.

We know that our region's future depends on building a strong and diversified economy, and after years of collaboration, I think this bill we are considering today represents a clear win-win for the communities I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the senior Senator from Washington, Senator MURRAY, for her partnership in this effort. I want to thank the lead sponsor and the Natural Resources Committee. I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, everything we touch in our daily lives,

everything that makes our existence possible, everything that makes us more comfortable and more prosperous, everything we see in this Chamber comes to us in only two ways. It is either grown or it is mined. That is a universal truth.

Everything we enjoy on this planet is either grown or mined. Fortunately, nature has given us a super abundance of resources and left it to us to responsibly reap and to manage this bounty.

But it is precisely these resources that the left has waged war against for an entire generation. The very things that make us prosperous and comfortable are the things the left attempts to place off limits.

Is it any wonder that the more they extend their domain, the worse the human conditions that they produce?

This bill declares another 1.5 million acres of public lands, mostly forests, an area about the size of Delaware, a wilderness area, off limits to forest management, timber harvesting, and even many forms of public recreation. An untended forest is like an untended garden. It will grow until it chokes itself to death and succumbs to disease, pestilence, and, ultimately, catastrophic wildfire.

These restrictions have abandoned our forests to neglect and produced the paradox of a severe national lumber shortage while the government sits on vast timber reserves.

This bill places 1,200 more miles of rivers under similar restrictions that create water shortages in some of the most water-abundant regions of our country.

It prevents mineral extraction and energy production from another 1.2 million acres, killing jobs, crushing the economy, and empowering our international adversaries. At a time when the Federal Government's bad management practices have created a $12 billion maintenance backlog, this bill takes another half million acres of land into Federal mismanagement.

Understand what that means to local communities. This is land that is producing no taxes and little commerce. Much is being seized over local objections in States where the Federal Government already controls more than half of their entire land area.

Mr. Speaker, this is a direct attack on working Americans who depend on the resources of our Nation to put food on their tables and a roof over their heads. It is an attack on the prosperity and security of our people, and it is what we have come to expect from the greens gone wild on the other side of the aisle.

The result will be more dead forests, more water shortages, increasing costs for energy and consumer goods, lower wages, and fewer jobs.

These policies always produce want from plenty, and I am afraid they will continue until the American people finally demand that we restore the nation of abundance that we once took for granted.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to represent the central coast of California, one of the most beautiful districts in the Nation, if not the most beautiful. Places like Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument contain some of the most stunning and diverse ecosystems found anywhere in North America.

Today, I am pleased to support H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. This bill would preserve the natural beauty and recreational activities available to communities in my district and beyond.

This measure includes my legislation, H.R. 973, the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act. I am proud to have worked with Chairman GRIJALVA, Representative BROWNLEY, Representative PANETTA, and local stakeholders to ensure that California's central coast was included in this bill.

In particular, I want to thank the Carrizo Plain Conservancy, Los Padres Forest Watch, Condor Trail Association, CalWild, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Sierra Club for their support and advocacy on behalf of our public lands.

Title IV of this environmental package would designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land within the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness areas, the highest form of Federal protection available. It also creates a 400-mile Condor National Scenic Trail stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County.

This bill is the culmination of years of collaboration with local stakeholders and community members. It has garnered support from nearly 500 central coast landowners, businesses, farmers, and local officials; a testament that protecting our environment and growing our economy are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they go hand in hand.

In California alone, the outdoor recreation economy is worth $92 billion and employs over 650,000 people. Jobs in manufacturing, retail, and tourism rely on access to the great outdoors. Climate change poses a serious threat to this sector of our economy and communities like mine will bear the brunt of this crisis.

Nearly 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from oil drilling. That is one reason I am glad the Biden administration has set an ambitious goal to protect 30 percent of our public lands by 2030. This bill will help us get there.

Our public lands are an essential asset to our environment and tourism economy. Passing this bill means we can protect both for generations to come.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have listened to our friends on the other side of the aisle talk about their desire for protecting wilderness areas and our natural resources, and I want to commend them for that. I agree with them, we need to do a better job doing that.

As we have had an opportunity to talk in the past, Mr. Speaker, in a previous life I taught mountaineering courses, I led climbing trips, I led mountain biking trips, kayaking, and was a river guide. I spent more time out in these very areas that they are talking about than every single one of them sitting there combined. It is what I did. It is how I lived for years.

And, Mr. Speaker, listening to this talk, I see an extraordinary disconnect, and let me be very clear. I have heard people saying that this is going to promote economic development and promote recreational opportunity. Mr. Speaker, that is not true. It is not fact.

As a matter of fact, what happens under this legislation in these designations is that those very recreational opportunities that create economic activity are actually eliminated. They are prohibited under this act.

You cannot do things like mountain biking. I will say, they finally came back and made some adjustments on wilderness areas where you can leave descending devices—thank you—but you can't do these things.

So how in the world are you going to make more money and have more economic activity?

Are they going to offer unicorn rides?

You can't do that. This doesn't work. It doesn't make sense. We are not following the regular process you do to evaluate wilderness areas.

What happened last Congress—we have a new Member of Congress who represents three-quarters of this area and she wasn't given an opportunity to be consulted. Amendments to allow local governments and maybe the citizens were rejected. Let them make a decision here.

Mr. Speaker, why were those ideas rejected?

I had an amendment that simply said that we should allow best practices in wildfire management. That was prohibited. We have had seven million acres of this very area burned and we are prohibiting the best practices in wildfire management.

Mr. Speaker, I want to know what they are going to tell their constituents and other people's constituents when these areas burn because of their irresponsible activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of this legislation.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, with much respect to my colleague from

Louisiana—and I enjoy working with him—I just want to assure him, because he spent a great deal of time in Colorado, that he is still going to be able to enjoy the wonderful outdoor recreation that our State has under this bill.

If anything, his ability to do so will only increase. And that is why the American Whitewater Association, the American Canoe Association, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, The American Alpine Club, and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers all support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

This legislation includes the text of my bill, H.R. 693, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act, which is the result of decades of grassroots advocacy and community engagement to improve protections and access for these treasured lands of southern California.

The San Gabriel Mountains provide 30 percent of the Los Angeles area water, comprise 70 percent of the county's open space, and are home to historic habitats of species like the California condor and Nelson's bighorn sheep.

This immense natural beauty exists right in the backyard of one of the densest urban areas of our country, offering recreation opportunities like hiking, fishing, and camping to the more than 15 million Americans that live nearby. That is so important because the Los Angeles region is among the most park-poor areas in the country, which means that too many communities are deprived of the well-documented public and mental health benefits that result from access to outdoor recreation opportunities in their own neighborhood.

After President Obama granted my request to designate the San Gabriel Mountains a national monument in 2014, we immediately began to see cleaner rivers; improved facilities, like picnic areas; safer hiking trails; and more rangers to interact with visitors.

Most importantly, it brought the entire community together to develop a management plan for the monument with over 40 Members representing a variety of stakeholders, such as water agencies, local governments, the business community, and environmental advocates.

□ 1800

That is why this same level of protection is needed throughout the mountains and in the communities that serve as their gateway.

This legislation would make that a reality by expanding the Monument's boundaries to include the western Angeles National Forest, establishing new and expanded wilderness areas, and protecting more than 45 miles of wild and scenic rivers. It would also establish the new San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation area to bolster the connection between urban and wild spaces.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly two decades, so many stakeholders have worked together with a common vision of a community seamlessly connected to the beautiful wild lands in its backyard. Today, we have an opportunity to realize that vision.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), the chair of the Western Caucus.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. Speaker, this morning, I joined my Congressional Western Caucus colleagues, Representatives CHRIS STEWART and YVETTE HERRELL, to hear from community leaders in their States about the severe funding shortfalls they are now facing due to President Biden's moratorium on oil and gas leases on Federal lands.

We heard from county commissioners and education officials, including one who shared—in tears—the heartbreaking stories of students experiencing mental health challenges, who have attempted suicide due to the challenges facing our Nation's students. The last thing these communities need is to face budgetary deficiencies that threaten the support systems within our public schools. Yet, this legislation before us will contribute to those very budget shortfalls.

By further preventing responsible energy and resource production on Federal lands, we are harming our Nation's energy industry, but we are also harming our workers by destroying their jobs. We are harming our students by cutting their public school funding. We are harming our communities by slashing their State and local budget.

Mr. Speaker, you see, we are siloing off the effects of the pandemic from the actions and consequences of the Federal government regulatory mandates. The combinations of COVID–19, the Biden ban on Federal leasing, and now this massive land-grab legislation is simply going to devastate rural communities in the West.

Mr. Speaker, these consequences don't take place in a silo. They take a toll.

I can list many other concerning consequences—from harming our energy independence, restricting public access to our public lands, to increasing the poor health of our Nation's forest. But more than anything, I hope my colleagues will pause to think of the human impacts these actions will have on our neighbors, our fellow Americans, and the toll it will take after one of the most challenging years in our lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this legislation.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the chairman.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act.

Those unfamiliar with Los Angeles may think it is a series of communities interconnected only by freeways. But in fact, the opposite is true. It is connected by the wildlife and open spaces that bridge our communities and bring us together.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly 20 years, I have worked with my constituents to expand, preserve, and protect the space that surrounds the L.A. Basin, known as the Rim of the Valley. My legislation, which is included in H.R. 803, is the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, and it would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area to include these pristine lands. The legislation will protect almost 200,000 acres of open space for generations to come.

Los Angeles is one of the most park-poor regions in the country. And during the pandemic, while many of us are stuck in our homes, it has caused us to reevaluate our priorities and consider what matters most.

For me and many Angelenos, it has been spending time with family and getting outdoors—hikes through Griffith Park, runs through the Verdugos, or walks in the Arroyo. Trails are full on weekends, and that won't change after the pandemic ends.

By expanding the national recreation area, the National Park Service will have the authority to make capital improvements, like repairing hiking trails and maintaining facilities for public enjoyment, studying wildlife and its habitats, and participating in cooperative conservation with local landowners. It will help ensure that wildlife corridors that allow Los Angelenos to witness mountain lions, like P–22 and P–96, black bears we have come to know, like Meatball, and other precious wildlife are still present in our own backyards.

This package of bills will also support the Biden administration's commitment to conserving public lands and waters, as well as protecting communities from the effects of climate change.

Like the last Congress, it is my hope that the House can pass this bill with bipartisan support, and we will finally see this legislation through to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have a willing partner with President Biden, who strongly supports H.R. 803.

I thank Chairman GRIJALVA, Representative DEGETTE, and my other colleagues who have bills in this package, for all the work they did on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 803.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from

Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 803, a package of Democrat land-grab bills that were not marked up in the Committee on Natural Resources and are opposed by several members and the constituents they serve.

H.R. 803 is a 330-page partisan package containing 8 different bills. Not one bill or one page was marked up or heard in committee this Congress. Unfortunately, Democrats on the Committee on Natural Resources have waived responsibility. There have been zero markups or committee hearings this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have 8 new Republican members on our committee, and 3 on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources alone, a committee which I lead. Our membership deserves to debate these bills and mark them up. Let's have our new members hear from the stakeholders and make decisions based on the evidence presented. We need to end this practice of just giving away committee jurisdiction and jamming through legislation.

H.R. 803 dovetails with the Biden/Harris agenda and puts America last by outsourcing our supply of critical minerals and endangering our national security. Our submarines and aircraft carriers are powered with clean nuclear energy.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, nuclear power is a huge contributor to our electric grid. By withdrawing areas from uranium and other mineral development, it furthers our reliance on Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia—who I assure you, do not have the labor or environmental standards that we demand in our country and who do not have our best interests at heart.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this legislation.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time each side has remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arkansas has 15 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arkansas. I appreciate the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 803.

In my Northern California district, we are devastated year after year after year, as we are all over the West by wildfire and unmanaged forests. Adding 1.5 million more acres of untouchable lands because of wilderness designation does not help. It will merely make the problem worse.

What is the purpose of a new wilderness designation? What does it achieve?

It isn't needed to prevent a new highway or a new mine, oil and gas operations, or a new dam. Those are already difficult things to get permitted, taking years and years.

So why do we have to have this designation? We are already so far behind on forest management that I don't know when we will ever get out of it, because every year—every year—we have devastating fires affecting our public lands, the access to those lands, the private lands that are near them, and the towns of the people that live nearby them as well.

The economy has already been devastated in those areas because of regulatory ideas that come out of Washington, D.C., and California to stop the type of work that needs to be done for those logging communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is wrongheaded legislation and is unnecessary.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 803, an important package of public interest land protections.

Within this comprehensive legislation is the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Tomorrow, the Grand Canyon celebrates 102 years as a National Park, making a century of welcoming visitors from all over the country and the world, to this First District and to America. It is recognized as one of the world's greatest natural wonders.

There is no doubt that this is a special, sacred place that must be protected. That is why my colleagues and I introduced the Grand Canyon Protection Act, commonsense legislation, that would permanently ban uranium mining around the Grand Canyon.

It was stated no one is mining near the Grand Canyon. There is a mine six miles right outside the South Gate.

Somebody stated that there is nothing nearby that would impact the Grand Canyon. There are 500-plus abandoned uranium mines just outside the Navajo Nation, and just outside the East Gate of the Grand Canyon, and numerous streams and creeks and washes run from the east land into the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is the base of a $1 billion-a-year tourism industry for the Northern Arizona region.

Rural and Tribal communities throughout Northern Arizona are still grappling with the toxic waste that has been there for over almost—I should say, 80 years—80 years it has been there and caused health problems. Too many Tribal families in our district continue to fight the cancers and the disease caused by radiation exposures over those decades.

Expanding uranium mining in the area would not only aggravate these serious health conditions and risks, but also make the Colorado rivers susceptible to uranium mining pollution. Currently, the river and nearby aquifers are the main water source for over 12 million people in the Colorado River Basin.

Above all else, the Grand Canyon is a place of deep spiritual significance to many Native communities in the southwest, a home to the Havasupai Tribe. We must protect these lands for those who know them as sacred.

Also, in today's package, are measures I have championed, including the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification and the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument Boundary Adjustment.

In a typical year, the Casa Grande Ruins attracts tens of thousands of visitors; but more importantly, it also is a sacred place and the past home of the Hohokam irrigation projects throughout the southern part of Arizona.

This boundary modification will also ensure that the San Carlos Irrigation Project has access to critical irrigation infrastructure.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, ''There is nothing so American as our national parks. The fundamental idea behind the parks is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in the process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us.''

I don't understand how we could stand here and say that we should not protect one of the greatest national wonders of the world.

Over the course of this pandemic, we have seen just how vital our treasured public lands and outdoor spaces have become for families across this country. An opportunity to get outside and celebrate what it is to be an American.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with this lands package.

I was elected just this past November, with many of my freshmen colleagues, and I am sincere in my commitment to work with my Democratic colleagues on the Committee on Natural Resources. However, the majority is pushing legislation with significant environmental and economic costs for the American people without a markup or hearing.

The work that was done in the 116th Congress or before is great. We are in the 117th Congress now, and I sincerely would like to have had that opportunity. I was excited to be able to put forth some amendments to this.

This package disregards input from local and State officials, puts our lands at greater risk for wildfires, and threatens livelihoods for those who work in extractive industries at a time when our country is financially hurting from the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, this style of policymaking is unsustainable, and it has major ramifications for Utahns. The policies that result from H.R. 803 will impact jobs and recreation and restrict local input over our lands.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I oppose H.R. 803. But I stand here hopeful that we can come together and find common ground.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL).

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this partisan wilderness package before us today.

This bill is yet another example of the majority taking steps to prevent the creation of high-wage jobs and access to our public lands all while ceding our energy independence to foreign adversaries.

This bill also contains provisions affecting Members' districts without the support of those Members. These include the permanent ban on mineral development on over 1 million acres of public lands in Mr. GOSAR's district in Northern Arizona, something he strongly opposes.

Also included, are countless new land designations in Mrs. BOEBERT's and Mr. LAMBORN's districts in Colorado—again, without their support.

The delays in permitting, coupled with the mismanagement of our Natural Resources, our forests, and handing this all over to the Federal Government for management, is a mistake.

We need more cooperation with the management of public lands with the States and those that live on, in, or around or make their living from these lands, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1815

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER), the ranking member on the Public Lands Subcommittee.

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WESTERMAN for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, as has been mentioned, this bill would add 1.5 million new acres of wilderness area, monument expansion, and scenic rivers. That sounds pretty good. Now, here is the rest of the story, and it is coming from someone whose home State is two-thirds federally owned.

This bill also comes with a critical mineral ban on things like uranium. China and Russia will thank us for that.

This bill also comes with a ban on any active land management, which is a welcome mat for wildfires. It is simple. If we don't manage, a lightning strike will. Now, that is too bad for wildlife, the environment, and productive use, but at least we get the privilege of spending taxpayer dollars for fire suppression.

Mr. Speaker, we can't rationalize the contents in this bill to the objective American taxpayer, but that is what happens when legislation gets rammed through without one markup or adequate bipartisan review.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 803, the western wildfire bill.

Make no mistake, while some seek preservation, what we need is management. It always seems like those who seek to preserve, they go to the places that are most well managed. These places now will suffer as a result of that.

But I want to emphasize three things that all Americans are going to lose with this bill.

Job security: We have already seen 11,000 jobs jeopardized by the abrogation of a contract by President Biden in regard to the Keystone XL pipeline.

Economic security: Lumber prices continue to rise. Taking timber off the marketplace is not going to make the cost of building a home any cheaper. You want to get kids out of their parents' basement? You are not going to do it this way, by raising the price of being able to build a home.

National security: We have become an energy-independent country here over the last 10 years, and it has gotten us out of the forever wars in the Middle East. This jeopardizes those achievements.

Job security, economic security, national security are all at stake here with this bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT), whose district is more affected by this bill than anyone else.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding. I rise today to oppose the latest Democrat land grab, in the form of H.R. 803.

This bill, which is actually eight bills piled into one, adds nearly 1.5 million acres of new wilderness and permanently withdraws 1.2 million acres from mineral production. Seriously? This is the approach we are taking?

Democrats want to stop mineral production, lock up our lands, and depend on our enemies in Russia, Saudi Arabia, and China for our energy, all while pretending to be green.

It is unacceptable to outsource our energy development to countries that often use child and slave labor. We literally have children mining in Congo with their bare hands to appease these not-in-my-backyard extremists.

Speaking of backyards, Mr. Speaker, the sponsor of title I in this bill doesn't have a single acre designated as new wilderness in her district, yet title I alone locks up 510,000 acres in my district. The Grand Junction Chamber sent me a letter opposing this, stating: These are lands that are literally in our backyard in Mesa County, yet Congresswoman DEGETTE continues to ignore us, does not meet with us, and does not even consider the consequences of her bill on the hardworking families of our district.

Could anyone here imagine me legislating away any part of Denver or Boulder? The Member who authored title I's attack on my district simply responds to doubts and concerns by inviting D.C. swampers to my district on horseback to look at the pretty views, and then they call it a day.

Dolores County is mentioned several times in this massive land grab. The locals, elected officials, and experts have expressed their disdain for this bill repeatedly over the years, with no regard from the bill's sponsors.

After the past year of statewide lockdowns, the last thing communities in my district need is further restrictions imposed by the Federal Government on what they can do on public lands. Mr. Speaker, the majority is silencing the people of my district in order to ram through a 3 million-acre land grab.

Have supporters of this legislation considered the disastrous wildfires that will result from the new wilderness designation and other land grabs in this bill? Wilderness is the most restrictive land use designation possible. It prevents active management of our forests, which is critical for mitigation against catastrophic wildfires. If we don't manage our forests, Mother Nature will continue to manage them for us.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, there is quite a lot to respond to. I will just respond to a couple of quick points.

Virtually all the BLM wilderness land that was referenced with respect to title I has been managed as wilderness essentially for the better part of the last 40 years.

With respect to wildfires, I would encourage my colleague to read the Wilderness Act because section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act says: ''Such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases.'' That is the law.

Finally, I have to say, with respect to the reference to constituent support, with respect to the CORE Act, the bill that we introduced as part of this component bill, Gunnison County, Pitkin County, San Juan County, Ouray County, San Miguel County, Eagle County, they all support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues again to follow the lead of the folks and the voices at the local level who are imploring us to pass this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

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

I rise in opposition to this bill and the precedent it will set for public lands, especially in the great State of Montana, where we do treasure them. In our State, we take a balanced use approach, where conservation and public access go hand in hand. It is a good approach, and it is used in other States as well.

This bill would replace that conversation with a mandate coming out of Washington that will unilaterally lock up an area nearly the size of Cascade County, Montana. This bill would completely eliminate recreation, resource development, and responsible forest management on 1.5 million acres for an indefinite period of time. A bottom-up, balanced approach almost always works better than a top-down, command-and-control method that the majority is trying to impose on us here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. NEGUSE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 803.

This bill, while well intentioned, will unfortunately result in over a million acres being subjected to less efficient forestry management services and less fuel reduction. I represent the State of California, which, last year, experienced the worst fire season in recorded State history. Over 4 million acres of State land was burned last year.

The year before that, we had the destructive and catastrophic Camp Fire that totally destroyed the town of Paradise, almost 100 lives lost, almost 20,000 structures destroyed. I had the unfortunate experience of walking through that town and witnessing that devastation, and it was catastrophic.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I have read the ''Wilderness Management Manual,'' and I direct their attention to the BLM manual for the management of wilderness areas that says that ''fuels reduction is only allowed in very rare circumstances.''

This will result in more fire damage throughout the Western United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on Natural Resources to consider our cancel the Biden ban amendment to H.R. 803.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. The amendment is simple. It will nullify Executive Order No. 14008 and Secretarial Order No. 3395 issued during the President's first weeks in office.

The Biden administration wasted no time in imposing their extremist environmental agenda. On day one, political appointees created a nightmare for our energy operators and a never-ending bottleneck for approvals necessary to keep our energy economy running.

Just a few days later, President Biden halted all new energy production on our Federal lands and waters, jeopardizing the livelihoods of thousands of Americans in the middle of a pandemic and economic crisis.

The administration has tried to downplay the impact of these actions, but we are already feeling the consequences of what I like to call the Biden ban. The economic impact of the decisions will be far-reaching, impacting thousands of companies, many of which are small businesses. Recent studies have concluded that a long-term ban on onshore leasing would cost 72,000 jobs annually, and a long-term ban on offshore drilling would cost 145,000 jobs.

Federal energy development represents a sizable portion of State budgets. Can we afford to cut off this crucial source of revenue as our communities are struggling to recover from the pandemic? Our schools need funding to buy PPE that they need to reopen. Yet, the Biden ban would disrupt a critical source of revenue that our K–12 schools rely on.

In addition, these actions will bankrupt programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The ramifications of these actions by the Biden administration will be devastating to our rural communities. Americans who work hard every day to keep the lights on and our gas prices low deserve better than a pink slip from out-of-touch political appointees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, recommit H.R. 803 to the Natural Resources Committee, and put Americans back to work.

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

□ 1830

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

Mr. Speaker, today we heard concerns from our Members, including Members most affected by this legislation.

Tomorrow, we will debate amendments that include 15 new unrelated matters to make the total amount of bills in this one bill 23. This will make this bill three times worse after we consider amendments.

I believe we have the responsibility to leave our environment better than we found it. We talk about the economy so often that many people think that we forget about the environment. That couldn't be further from the truth, we all breathe the air and drink the water.

H.R. 803 would attempt to preserve our resources, locking them up and throwing away the key. Congress' focus should be on conservation and conserving these resources instead, using them in sustainable, responsible ways that every American can enjoy.

Since we weren't given any opportunity to debate this bill in committee, I would like to remind my colleagues that this bill will harm the environment; it will kill jobs; it will limit access to outdoor recreation; it will hurt State water rights; it will imperil our national security and American energy independence; it will impede necessary forest management; and make us more reliant on hostile foreign nations.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you again to Chairman GRIJALVA, and to each of my colleagues, Representative DEGETTE, Representative SCHIFF, Representative HUFFMAN, and all of my fellow Members who we heard from today who worked so hard on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have to repeat this because it is important. Every title of this bill was heard in the 116th Congress, I was at those hearings. Every title was marked up. I attended those mark-ups with the ranking member. Every single title of this bill passed in committee, passed on the floor twice, many of them in bipartisan fashion.

I agree with the ranking member. At the end of the day we have an obligation to leave our environment better than when we found it. That is what this bill is all about. Protecting the most iconic and beautiful places in the United States of America so that my children, your children, Mr. Speaker, and the ranking member's children can continue to enjoy these incredible places in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will vote ''yes'' on this important legislation and join us in this effort.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 803 is postponed.

SLOWDOWNS IN THE U.S. MAIL

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, for months I had calls coming into my office about delays in the U.S. mail. Some of these delays had to do with cold weather, some are because of COVID, but most are the direct result

of the failures and slowdowns deliberately imposed by Postmaster DeJoy. His efforts to eliminate overtime, close mail processing facilities, and remove mail sorting machines have taken all of the cushion out of the system.

Our postal workers are demoralized, they are seeing mail pile up as they are blamed for the delays. Seniors have gone for days waiting for medications. Constituents and local mayors are sounding the alarm.

The truth is that our Postal Service has survived this assault from its own leadership, only because those letter carriers and mail handlers have doubled down in spite of the challenges through rain, through sleet, and snow. And, yet, DeJoy has failed them. He has failed the American people.

He has not failed by accident. He has a mission to weaken and ultimately privatize the post office to make people who depend on the Postal Service angry enough to finish the destruction that he has started. He hasn't succeeded yet. But every day he stays in office is another day closer to him realizing that goal. The Postal Service needs a leader who is committed to public service. DeJoy must go.

CELEBRATING VERLINN SANDRA AVERY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a pillar of the Victoria, Texas, community, Mrs. Verlinn Sandra Avery, who passed away on January 30, 2021.

Resilient and devoted to caring for others, Mrs. Avery demonstrated her passion for serving her community through her work as a child nutrition specialist for Victoria ISD, and her leadership of Victoria's Old Landmark Committee, which she founded.

She organized Juneteenth celebrations, multicultural ''Taste of Soul'' events, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day festivities, and much more.

The impact she had on her community is evident in the Victoria newspapers, which were often filled with coverage of her events and letters to the editor thanking her for her service to the community, and now includes tributes to her memory.

Mrs. Avery is sorely missed and will be rightfully remembered as a community leader for generations to come.

HELPING LAS VEGAS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my hometown, Las Vegas.

What comes to mind when I say Las Vegas? Bright lights, slot machines, big shows, massive conventions, showgirls with the big iconic feather headpieces. It is a magical place.

But the glitz and glamour doesn't happen on its own. Even though it feels that way, it is not magic.

It is the result of the work of thousands of Nevadans working in the entertainment, tourism, and hospitality industry. I am talking about the Vegas performers, ticket takers, stage managers, convention workers, and bartenders. To them, Vegas isn't a weekend getaway or a drunken cliche, it is their livelihood, which sadly has been gutted by the COVID pandemic.

Many of them don't have jobs to go back to because the industry can't thrive when people aren't traveling. They are stuck until the pandemic is over. And because of that we need to help get them through this moment.

The American Rescue Plan includes hundreds of billions of dollars for small businesses, laid off workers, and direct aid to families and communities like those in Las Vegas, including the $23 billion to support the travel and tourism industry, and the $1.25 billion in targeted relief for live venues.

We need to support the venues and the workers that make our magical town the number one destination in the country, and we can do that by passing the American Rescue Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to observe the decorum of the House.

PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on H.R. 803, specifically, the debate I just heard.

This bill does not protect public lands, it turns them into economic deserts off limits to public use and sensible management practices. At some point we must recognize the damage that is done by these left-wing land grabs, to our economy, our communities, and even to our national security when we make critical resources off limits.

My Democratic colleagues are advocating land use and management policies that are entirely misguided. As I listen to my Democratic colleagues' speeches, I heard an almost religious devotion to the sites covered by this legislation.

When I heard one Member talk about protecting the Grand Canyon from mining, even though mining is already prohibited there, I couldn't help wondering what my colleagues would think if it turned out the Grand Canyon was the result of an ancient mining company. It would probably be fine if it fit their agenda.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who, like me, served as a staffer for a Texas Senator in his career, the great John Tower.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF DAISY BATES

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in celebration of Black History Month. I rise in honor of the memory of Daisy Bates, a native Arkansan and civil rights hero.

Daisy Bates was born in south Arkansas in 1914 and moved to Little Rock in 1942. Active in the NAACP, Daisy and her husband, L.C., started the Arkansas State Press, a weekly newspaper, which they used to call attention to racial injustices.

In the face of violent threats, Mrs. Bates courageously led the movement to desegregate Little Rock Central High School, recruiting and mentoring the Little Rock Nine.

Daisy Gatson Bates became an icon in the fight to end segregation in the Jim Crow South. She was the only woman to speak at the 1963 March on Washington, led by Dr. Martin Luther King.

Daisy Bates is a hero to Arkansans and Americans, and I am proud to honor her legacy today, and I look forward to her statue joining the pantheon of American leaders highlighted in the U.S. Capitol.

NATO STATES ARE NOT PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on a cold Tuesday in January, an irritated President met with his National Security Council. During the meeting, the President was outspoken, and complained, We cannot continue to pay for the military protection of Europe while the NATO states are not paying their fair share and living off the fat of the land. We have been very generous to Europe, and now it is time for us to look out for ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, that quote urging Europeans to pay their fair share in their own defense by way of their responsibility to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was not made by President Trump, it was not made by President Obama, or even George W. Bush. Mr. Speaker, that irritated President was John F. Kennedy.

We are now nearly 60 years after that meeting, and 30 years following the reunification of Germany and the collapse of the USSR. Yet, the debate continues.

Recently, NATO held a 2-day video conference with the theme of increasing NATO's funding for our core deterrence and defense activities. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told the assembled allies that spending more together would demonstrate the strength of our commitment to Article 5, our promise to each other. And it would contribute to fairer burden sharing. Sound familiar?

When then-candidate Donald Trump became President, only three of the then 28 countries were spending the agreed upon guideline figure of 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense.

□ 1845

With President Trump's urging, today, 7 countries out of the now 30 NATO allies are meeting this important benchmark. The United States is joined by its longtime allies, Great Britain and Greece. Yet the only other countries meeting the benchmark are countries that know well the risk of Soviet—and now Russian—threats or threats from external forces of terror. These are the formerly enslaved countries from behind the Iron Curtain: Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania. As Americans, we salute their partnership, and we share in their renewed sense of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as we in the legislative branch of this government meet and confer with our parliamentary counterparts, as well as foreign ministers and finance ministers from our NATO allies, let us urge cooperation with our promise to defend each other, but, more importantly, urge the rapid adoption to achieve that fairer burden sharing, a goal so long ago argued for by President Kennedy.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for his commitment in being down here on the floor. We have this Special Order reserved tonight to talk about an issue that I think is fundamentally important to what we are seeing now today. And that is what I describe as the ideological cleansing of America, the silencing of dissent—cancel culture in common parlance today. It is a sickness that lies among us. It threatens to tear apart our Republic at the seams. It undermines our economic strength, our families, our schools, our churches, our culture at all levels, and even our military strength. That sickness is indeed the ideological cleansing of America.

We have witnessed in America in just a matter of months the shaming of Americans questioning COVID. They are not questioning its existence. They are questioning our response. They are questioning the fact that we have got people who are committing suicide, who are stuck, unable to see loved ones, or can't get cancer screenings. They are questioning why hydroxychloroquine is one day okay and one day not okay, and then suddenly okay again. They are inquiring about the efficacy of masks.

Do they work or not work?

How well do they work?

Where should we wear them?

They question the removal of Americans from social media, the coordinated effort of technology companies to block companies or threaten to pull down news media outlets.

We see examples of cancel culture in society are all around us.

Ryan Anderson is a good friend of mine. His book is behind me, titled ''When Harry Became Sally,'' responding to the transgender moment. It is an important work on civil rights and transgender policy. Well, it was deplatformed by Amazon and Apple without explanation this week. It has been on for 3 years. It is a good book, whether you agree with it or don't agree with it.

Are we really into book burning?

Is that where we are?

Is that what we have become as a country that supposedly values freedom and the free exchange of ideas?

A book written by a good man, a PhD, on a topic that matters, ''When Harry Became Sally.''

Am I going to get canceled?

Is C–SPAN going to cancel this?

Is Speaker PELOSI going to cancel this because this is somehow offensive?

It is a book with ideas researched and offered. That is where we are as a country.

Gina Carano was recently canceled by Disney for tweeting a comparison of Nazi Germany rounding up Jews for the current hate doxing and targeting of fellow Americans for political views.

Now, should she make that comparison?

I don't know. But we are a free country where people are supposed to have the free exchange of ideas. And if there is anything that should bind us together, it should be a unanimous belief that standing up against tyranny and standing up against this kind of cleansing is something that this body—all 435 of us—should agree to. We see it from college campuses to religious schools, to small businesses, to corporate boardrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to have more to say on this. I have some of my colleagues here who want to join. So I am going to yield first to my good friend from Texas, MICHAEL CLOUD.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for taking this moment to speak on this. I cannot imagine a more important topic for us right now in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we are unique in history in that our Nation rests on the understanding that our inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not a grant from the government; they are a gift from Almighty God. And among these enshrined in our First Amendment is the freedom of speech, which is the most essential freedom, along with the freedom of religion.

The peace and tranquility of our entire Republic is based on the understanding that we have a right to have our voice heard and that we have a right to have peaceful public discourse and dissent. That is how we come up with good legislation. That is how to have good policy. That is how we avoid conflict and wars on our soil.

But we have entered a most troubling time in our Nation. This cancel culture has persisted, and it needs to stop. The unilateral march of legislation meant not to protect our liberties, but, rather, force the American people to conform to woke ideology in this House needs to stop.

Then there is big tech that canceled conservatives while allowing for liberal Members of this body to repeatedly call for unrest in our streets and raise money to bail out violent rioters, not to mention providing a platform for Communist China terrorist groups and the like. This hypocrisy is not overlooked.

Recently traveling throughout my district the last couple weeks, I came across a few immigrants in my community. I know them. They came up to me concerned about what we are in at this point in our Nation. Some of us who are so privileged to be born in this country where we have inherited these wonderful liberties might not see the signs so readily as people who have come from Ecuador, Cuba, and Iran. But these individuals came up to me because they are very concerned. They are concerned that they left this and now they are seeing it be rooted and established here in our Nation.

Ironically, the one from Iran was concerned because she was talking to me and she had liked a post about our taking out of Soleimani and she got banned from Instagram following that. She knows firsthand what is going on in Iran. She is a first-generation immigrant. I was troubled, especially when she looked at me and said: We have more freedom of speech in Iran at this moment—this is her opinion—than we do right here right now. No one is trying to cancel people, you can speak freely against the government there.

Now, I am not saying Iran is a wonderful place to live. I am thankful to be here in the United States of America, but we are heading down a troubling path.

I remember being at an event just a couple days ago. It was before the election. Some lady was there, and she was talking to me about her motivation for being involved in the public discourse. She came up to me and said: I am from Ecuador. I remember escaping.

Her parents did not make it out, but she made it out. She didn't call it ''to the United States of America.'' She called it ''to freedom country.''

She said: We cannot lose freedom country. I am here to support this, I am here to work, and I am here to do whatever I can because we cannot lose freedom country.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to stand up along with our colleagues because we cannot lose freedom country. It is extremely and essentially important that

we in this House and people across the United States of America stand up in this hour at this time.

Ronald Reagan once said—and I have said this before to many people, encouraging them how important it is to get involved in the process and also to thank our veterans—''Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.''

I thought about that quote. There is another part of it that has resonated with me even more and more in this time, and it is: ''Or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.''

God forbid that we continue down this path and reach that point where we have to tell our kids and grandkids about what it was once like to live in the beloved United States where men were free.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for setting aside this Special Order. I cannot imagine a more important topic.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to my friend from Texas that I know he has a heart for immigrants who come to the United States of America. We both live in Texas. We both deal with an open border and we deal with the issue of immigration on a regular basis.

Too often when you talk about cancel culture, if I dare to say that we should have a secure border in the United States of America and that I believe that is pro-immigrant, that that undermines the power of cartels, that makes it less likely that immigrants are abused, also protects us, protects us from the dangers of fentanyl. That is the kind of canceling that we see every single day.

Oh, you want a secure border?

You hate Brown people.

It is as if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have some sort of monopoly on being able to say things about Brown people, and here I am trying to protect our border for the betterment of the United States and the immigrants who seek to come here, and somehow I am a bigot. The very structures put in place by the Obama-Biden administration are called cages for kids.

And now what has happened?

The Biden administration is having an uh-oh moment because their absurd policies of open borders are attracting people to come across our border. Now they are saying: Oh, no, what do we do with unaccompanied children?

Well, who the heck could have seen this coming?

Yet somehow we are canceled for believing in a secure border.

The gentleman from south Texas, who I know has a heart for immigrants—

Mr. CLOUD. I certainly do.

Mr. ROY. And has a family who does as well, does the gentleman have thoughts on that?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Sure. You know my family, you know my wife. I have had those comments put on me that I somehow don't like Brown people and that I am somehow racist. They fail sometimes to look at my family photo. My wife is an immigrant. I didn't marry her because she was an immigrant. I married because I loved her. I met her when she was 15. I was 17 at the time. We had a long-distance relationship. I met her back before Al Gore invented the internet.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you what an honor it was for her to stand there in the U.S. courthouse, raise her hand and take the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time and become a citizen of this great country.

So we understand that there is a proper way to do immigration. We want a big, beautiful gate to this country. But to say that we need to secure our communities and keep out the cartel activity, I serve on the Interparliamentary Group between the U.S. and Mexico, so I have had the opportunity to talk with our colleagues in Mexico. I talk to them about how arrogant of a notion it is for us to assume that the way we heal the world's ills is to bring everybody to the United States. That notion is uniquely American arrogant.

We want people to prosper everywhere. And what we know from our unique history is that if you embrace the principles this Nation was founded upon, you can have the same sort of prosperity. You can have your people prosper everywhere.

When I said that thought, we got resounding applause from them because they understand that our wanting to secure their borders, we want their communities to thrive, we want our communities along the border to be protected, and we want migrants not to be persecuted and abused along the way.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman. If you take that view, you are labeled a bigot. If you take the view that we want a secure border, you are labeled as someone who wants to keep people out of this country.

If you dare to say what you just said, which is that maybe we should think through how to make sure that Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are strong so that—by the way, the first lady of Guatemala was visiting and said something along the lines of: All of these caravans and all of the cartels are driving a lot of our people out of our country, and it is hurting our country.

I am told from the other side of the aisle that it is compassionate to have open borders, and then we are labeled as bigots.

I know the gentleman has somewhere to go. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and passion for this issue. May God bless the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman CHIP ROY, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before and I will say it again: cancel culture has become a pillar of the left.

Today, cancel culture took on toy potatoes, but not a sitting Governor accused of sexual assault. That is where we have come to.

From Kevin Hart to Gina Carano, the woke mob will go after decades-old comments, and in Gina's case, for simply being a Conservative. The woke mob now includes big tech, major corporations, and the Hollywood elites at Disney who fired Ms. Carano for the crime of—wait for it—posting conservative content on social media.

They tried to come after me, too. Twitter tried to cancel me. It didn't work. The fake news at CNN and other outlets also tried to cancel me for simply walking around the Capitol with my family. That didn't work either. Mr. Speaker, it will never work because I refuse to bow to the cancel mob.

We are a nation that has always had the audacity to dream, the strength to lead, and the boldness to speak our minds. We must stand tall and kneel before God. Scripture says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord.

Now, that is an audacious statement in America right now: Jesus is Lord.

Why is that such a controversy?

Because there is power in the name of Jesus.

□ 1900

This isn't the first time Christians have been attacked for professing the Lordship of Jesus.

If you go to the Book of Acts, Peter and John were arrested. It says: Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and they put them in custody until the next day for it was already evening. However, many of those who heard the word believed and the number of men came to be about 5,000.

There were 5,000 salvations because someone had the boldness to speak in the name of Jesus. It goes on.

Now, when they saw the boldness—their boldness was tangible. It was evident to the people around them. It wasn't in a prayer closet. It wasn't hidden. It was out in front. They saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men.

That means that they didn't know the languages that they were speaking in. They were speaking in unknown languages.

They marveled and they analyzed that they had been with Jesus. Their

boldness was so tangible, so intense the people around them knew that they had been in the presence of Jesus. Wow.

It goes on to say: What shall we do to these men? For, indeed that a notable miracle has been done through them. It is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem and we cannot deny it, but so that it spreads further among the people, let us severely threaten them—Whew, sounds like America. That sounds really familiar right now—that we would severely threaten them, that from now on, they speak to no man in this name. They wouldn't even say the name, in this name.

So they called them, and they commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach. They were not allowed to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God, you judge.

It goes on to say exactly what God will do if you remain bold and strong in your convictions and if you refuse to bow down to the cancel mob, to the woke culture.

Peter and John spoke out. Now, Lord, look on their threats and grant to Your servants boldness as we may speak Your word by stretching out Your hands, hands to heal, that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy servant, Jesus.

This is the boldness that God is looking for right now. He said, if we cry out to Him, He will hear us, and He will heal our land.

This cancel culture isn't just to keep us quiet; it is to stop the very plan and movement of God Almighty. But I have read the end of the book and we win. Glory to God. God bless America.

Do not give up the faith and hope in God. He will turn all shame into glory.

Mr. ROY. Well, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Colorado. I will tell you, you know, as I was thinking through the times we are in right now, the Book of Acts is my favorite book in the Bible.

And when you—you know, I look at the arrows that some are taking today for standing up for their beliefs and some of the things that are happening today; and then you remember that we are not in the middle of a circle yet, getting stoned.

You remember what those men did and what they faced in the early church, and it inspires us to know, to have the strength that we need to have. And this is true of all faiths. This is true of all Americans. It is instructive to stand up in faith when you believe something in your soul and in your heart.

And we, as Americans, when Patrick Henry gave his famous speech at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, in that famous speech, ''Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death,'' that is the founding building block of this Nation.

And it is that liberty, that liberty expressed in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which is under assault today on a bill voted on the floor of this body today in the so-called Equality Act, with a direct assault on the First Amendment of the United States, a direct assault on religious liberty, a direct assault, basically. It is the tyranny over the mind of man.

I am inspired by the Book of Acts, and I assume that the gentlewoman from Colorado agrees.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Absolutely. Absolutely. It is an ongoing testimony of even the lives that we are living today. Our stories, I believe, will be recorded as there are a cloud of witnesses that are watching eagerly what we are going to do. They have been waiting for this time and this season and they are watching the sons of men. They are watching us like never before.

Jesus came here and He showed us how to live, not as God, but as men, anointed by the spirit of God, to walk in grace, not just a wishy-washy, cover up your mistakes kind of grace, it is this boldness. It is empowerment. It is God's ability working in and through you. And I am very much inspired by the Book of Acts and many others.

Mr. ROY. I appreciate the gentlewoman from Colorado, and I appreciate our joint commitment to the Lord Almighty and liberty in this country.

And I would just say before I yield, I think, to the gentleman from Georgia next, a couple of thoughts.

You know, we are talking today about cancel culture. We are talking about the silencing of dissent, the cleansing of ideology in the public square in America. It is truly an ideological cleansing, but it is always not direct.

I alluded to it when I was talking to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) about immigration; that if we dare stand up for secure borders, we are a bigot. It happens all the time. You hate Brown people. You are a bigot.

Today, I stood up against the Equality Act. The first thing out of the indivisible crowd in Austin and San Antonio, you're a bigot. You're transphobic.

Dare stand up for what you believe. Oh, my gosh. The gentleman from Texas says that there is a man and woman. Bigot. All right?

I mean, this is where we are today. And you know, look, if you want your child to actually be educated in a school, then despite the science, you don't care about public health and you want teachers to die. Right?

All last year, running against an opponent in Austin, it was, oh, you want people to die. You don't care about the science.

If you want to keep your business open to keep your livelihood going, you just want to survive. You are a barber in Dallas, Texas, and you just want to stay working to pay for your kids and your family, put bread on the table.

Well, you are just greedy, and you hate science.

If you think Dr. Fauci is inconsistent—I mean, I am just going to be nice and say inconsistent—if you think Dr. Fauci is inconsistent, sometimes making stuff up, maybe to be on the front cover of a magazine, and maybe we ought to hear from 20 scientists instead of one, well, suddenly, you hate science.

If you say that COVID has been politicized, as I did last year, or question any aspect of it, not that it exists, not that people are getting sick—I have had it—not that you want to protect your family—I canceled Thanksgiving because my dad is 78 and had polio—but if you question any of it, you are calling it a hoax.

If you want to go to church, you are reckless.

If you believe men are men and women are women, you are a bigot.

If you think it is wrong to let biological boys compete against your daughter in a sports competition, or you don't want your daughter to have to share a locker room with a male, you are a bigot.

I mean, when are we going to sit down, roll our sleeves up and actually do the work of the American people, instead of sitting here firing shots across everybody and saying, well, you are a bigot.

I yield to my good friend from Georgia, Mr. HICE.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this and he's a very dear friend from Texas. And I am grateful.

Listen, I don't know that there are many issues that are much more significant, if any more significant, than what we are watching unfold in our society these days, with the cancel culture movement. And the gentleman brought up so many great examples. Everyone certainly, I believe, probably everyone on this side of the aisle has experienced this cancel culture in one degree or another, and it is, frankly, not a new thing. It started quite some time back.

But certainly, it has built to the point of enormous momentum now to the point of literally destroying lives, destroying businesses, destroying careers, and that is what is disturbing to me.

And I would just go on to say that this cancel culture—two main points that I just want to bring up, and I would love to have a bit of dialogue with the gentleman on this.

But number one is: What is underneath it? What is causing it? What is the purpose? What is the motive behind cancel culture?

I don't think we need to just deal with the results of it, but what is behind it. And I would suggest that it is a lust for power. And, as a result, there is an attempt to intimidate, an attempt to cancel, an attempt to threaten, and it is also that I am king of the hill and you are not.

There is this desire for power behind the cancel culture movement, and I believe that is a significant issue, and I would like to hear the gentleman's thoughts on that, and then I will come

back to another thought that I have and bounce that off you as well

Mr. ROY. Yeah. There is no question. In my view, what we are seeing today is the assertion of power over the mind of America, right? And it is just happening as we see it.

We have got a fence with razor wire around the Capitol. We were all horrified, sitting right here, all of us here in the body who were here on January 6. We all want to protect each other.

But we also have a duty to lead. We also have a duty to have a Capitol that is open; to figure out a way to secure the body without sending signals to the world that somehow this is a military state.

You walk around the Capitol and there are people in camouflage. There is a fence. I can't even walk around D.C. We are harming business. We are telling the American people that, nope, sorry, you can't come here, all in the name of a virus or then what happened on January 6.

That is all about power. That is all about message. Okay?

I do not believe for a minute, with all due respect, that that is about actual security of this building and this complex. That is about projecting a message to the American people. That is what the magnetometers are for. That is not to keep us safe. It is not.

It is not the highest and best use of the Capitol Police to be having 20 people around this floor every day; literally having Members of Congress duly elected by the people to have to go through magnetometers. You have got to go through security to get in the building. It is all a show. And that is all a projection of power. And that is what the Equality Act was today.

And the last thing I will say is my point about immigration earlier. That whole point is: It makes no sense to be yelling about kids in cages, when any rational human being knows you are trying to figure out what to do with this child, a child that could be being abused by this guy who claims to be his or her uncle, and you are trying to keep him or her safe. You can't just let him go. You have got to do something with them.

I mean, I am sorry we don't have four-star resorts up and down the Rio Grande to put these children into, but go down and work at Border Patrol—who, by the way, are majority Hispanic—dealing with immigrants coming here through policies that attract them.

That is all about power. Kids in cages. Republicans are evil. Republicans are bigots. They hate Brown people. It is all about power.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Absolutely. That is extremely well said and very potent in the way you presented that. And it has come to the point, even in just the last couple of days, I had a woman face to face I was speaking with about this, and she was hesitant to get involved in a relatively small way in trying to make a stand in her local community.

And her words to me, I am afraid that if I do this, the FBI is going to come knocking at my door. And she had received those kinds of threats, those kind of whatever. She didn't go into details with me, the specifics of what had brought her to that point.

But the realization to me is this cancel culture is like a cancer that is now infiltrating our society and its tentacles are reaching, they are far-reaching. And what contributes to part of this, I am afraid, we are participating in right here in this Chamber.

And a quick example, we just passed the Equality Act. And I could not help but think, while this is being passed, and even some questions I had with it, sure, we don't want discrimination for anyone. This is the land of the free. Everyone has rights.

□ 1915

But the bill itself specifically says there are no religious exemptions to this, that RFRA does not apply, which means people who have deeply held religious beliefs are going to be canceled from participating in their routine life if they disagree with the premise of this bill, and if they personally have convictions otherwise, that is being forced upon them.

It is very concerning to me that we in this Chamber are actually participating in throwing gas on the fire of this whole cancel culture, even with legislation that is coming out of this body. I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would ask how much time we have left in our Special Order. Sorry for surprising the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Georgia that I could not agree more, and I have spoken a little bit about the Equality Act. The only thing I would add to it—and I said this earlier on the floor about the Equality Act—my wife and I, products of public school, K through law school, undergrad, law school, we currently send our kids to a private Christian school, not an easy thing for us to afford. We are fine, we are blessed, but it is a lot of work to make that happen. Why do we do that? It is because, unfortunately, increasingly those with beliefs and values that they want to be able to have their children experience, we are being forced into the corner.

We are being forced to kind of be shoved back away from mainstream society. I mean, forget just saying Merry Christmas. I mean, it is just hostile to our values, hostile to our beliefs, teaching our children something different than that there is one man and one woman. These are the things that are happening every day across America.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I would say whatever frustrations you have about the previous President, just understand this: President Trump represents a large number of men and women across this country who are feeling exactly what we are saying right here. They are frustrated and angry about what is happening to their country. They are scared. They believe the power of government will be used against them, and in many cases, we have seen evidence of it.

The point of this is not to just rant about it. It is that we should be having a debate and a dialogue, and we need to come together as a Congress and do our job to do what is right for the people of this country. I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Georgia (Mrs. GREENE), your colleague.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this conversation tonight about cancel culture. I think it is one of the most relevant topics that we should be discussing more, and I am really glad to talk about this.

I think this past year we have seen more things canceled in our American history than we have at any other time. In the past year, starting with the virus, that has been politicized. I say that, I believe that, along with millions and millions of Americans that believe it.

We saw, starting with schools got canceled, business got canceled, jobs got canceled, people had to stay home. Then things got further. Sports were canceled, prom was canceled, graduation was canceled, social life was canceled, vacations, movies, entertainment, restaurants, and the list goes on and on. Basically, the ability to pursue happiness in the United States of America got canceled due to COVID–19 and the politicization of it because it was an election year.

I can't think of anything worse. I have been privileged to be a business owner for almost two decades, and it has been a joy in my life to be able to function as a business owner, to employ people, to do business in the marketplace and have the freedom to do that. But over the past year, many small businesses have been shut down, along with many big businesses.

Dreams for people starting a business have been canceled. But even more than that, the belief that conservative opinions and thoughts and statements and just beliefs are being canceled and considered dangerous.

The fact that millions and millions of Americans support President Trump, still support President Trump, and are angered that he has been canceled is unbelievable to me.

You see, America is the greatest country in the world, and I say it over and over. We are all blessed to be Americans. We are blessed that we are equal, and we should have equal voices. We are given that with our First Amendment, with freedom of speech.

But today, it is not looked at that way. People that support President Trump are considered to be possibly domestic terrorists. How can that be?

You see, we don't look at America that way. We don't look at people that we disagree with politically that way, not at all.

President Trump was canceled on Twitter. I understand what that is like. I have been suspended multiple times on Twitter. I have been in Facebook jail multiple times for stating my opinions, things I think and feel. It shouldn't be that way, where people are canceled by companies.

We are moving in an era of corporate communism to where corporations and businesses can force their views and political opinions, and force it on their customers. That is absolutely wrong. It should not be happening. But that is where we are today.

Where do we go from here? Today, we saw my Democrat colleagues here in Congress cancel gender. This is not up for debate, and it should not be shocking for us to say there is only male and female. That is not a shocking statement. It is science. There are only two sets of chromosomes. They also canceled women's rights, religious freedom, and the ability for little girls to have privacy in the bathroom.

This cancel culture has gone too far, and we have to change that. The media is addicting America to hate, and the media is addicting people to the idea that they can cancel out someone's opinion that they don't agree with.

Mr. ROY, would you like to elaborate on that?

Mr. ROY. Yes. One of the things that you made me think of is how much cancel culture is now getting rooted in government and, in fact, the institution in which we are currently standing. The gentlewoman is well aware that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stripped you of your ability to serve and sit on committees, in an unprecedented action, for things that you said before the election, that you have addressed on the floor of this House. That is canceling.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Yes.

Mr. ROY. We are in a situation right now where this body is now refusing to work. Democrats are refusing to work with Republicans. They are threatening to hold up and block their legislation because they dared to object to the electors, a proposition, by the way, that I disagreed with, on my side of the aisle. I spoke right there. I stated my disagreement with my Republican colleagues.

But it is perfectly normal speech and debate under the Constitution and the laws, under an act passed in 1887, one that my Democrat colleagues have engaged in themselves: Ms. WATERS from California, for sure, Mr. RASKIN from Maryland, others who have objected.

Now, Democrats in this body want to cancel my Republican colleagues. That is how bad it has gotten. Cancel culture is now in this body.

I have a couple more colleagues here, Mrs. GREENE, but do you have a closing thought?

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. ROY. I really appreciate that. Yes, being canceled in Congress after 35 days, being stripped of my committee membership, is not something that I ever expected, and I think it is completely wrong.

Statements and things that I had said that I addressed here and with my colleagues that happened before I even campaigned for Congress, certainly not anything I did as a Member of Congress, but that cancelation is taken to an extreme, and it should not happen.

Then the fact that we did object to electoral college votes, that is something we are able to do. You disagreed with us, and here we are, having a perfectly great conversation. I wish we could have the same type of conversation with our Democrat colleagues because they have, indeed, objected to electoral college votes in the past, I think, every Presidential election for the past 20 years or so. Thank you for reminding me that, and thank you for setting this up tonight.

Mr. ROY. I am going to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I would ask the Speaker how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. I thank the Speaker. Right before I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, I want to appreciate his service, his service to the country, both in the military and now in Congress. I know he has a passion for this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. ROY, my great friend from Texas. I appreciate the sacrifices that he has made on behalf of this great Nation.

If you know me, you know I am a fan of books because I think, in this transient, throwaway society, they are a record of things that happened in the past. So, like I said, if you know me, you know I love books. They never asked me, because I am not running for President, what books do you recommend? But if I were running for President and they ever deigned to ask me, this would be one. This is by a guy named Alexsandr Solzhenitsyn. It is called ''Warning to the West.'' It is hard to come by. It is a little expensive, but it is well worth the effort. I just want to read an excerpt to you where he is thinking about the West as he sits in a Russian gulag.

''We contemplate the West from what will be your future, or we look back 70 years to see our past suddenly repeating itself today. And what we see is always the same as it was then: adults deferring to the opinion of their children; the younger generation carried away by shallow, worthless ideas; professors scared of being unfashionable; journalists refusing to take responsibility for the words they squander so easily; universal sympathy for revolutionary extremists; people with serious objections unable or unwilling to voice them; the majority passively obsessed by a feeling of doom; feeble governments; societies whose defensive reactions have become paralyzed; spiritual confusion leading to political upheaval. What will happen as a result of all this lies ahead of us. But the time is near, and from bitter memory, we can easily predict what these events will be.''

Mr. ROY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERRY. I certainly will.

Mr. ROY. I also have a quote here I was going to close with from Alexsandr Solzhenitsyn because it is so on point. I am going to go ahead and do it now rather than closing with it because you just went there.

He said this in another part of that book:

> What was drummed in our ears as political courses, we have now internalized. Live comfortably and all will be well ever after. We lie to ourselves to preserve our peace of mind. It is not they who should be blamed, but ourselves. One can object but cannot imagine what to do. Gags have been stuffed into our mouths. Nobody wants to listen to us, and nobody asks our opinion. How can we force them to listen to us? It is impossible to change their minds. Some will lose their jobs, but there are no loopholes for anybody who wants to be honest.

Now, that may sound like a diatribe from a conservative talk radio host today, but it wasn't. It was him.

Mr. PERRY. It was a guy who lived it, who saw it happen, who lived under the oppression of a Russian gulag, imprisoned for decades, and watched the West, watched 66 million souls exterminated on the border of Russia and Europe, and Europe did nothing about it.

We are in this Capitol today, as Chip has already said, surrounded by razor wire and fences. Free speech, they are saying: Well, you have free speech. The government is not censoring you. The government is not canceling you.

Well, in this age where Google, Facebook, these platforms have 95, 99 percent market share, whatever the heck it is, when you are taken off that, your free speech is taken away, effectively.

We are not here to talk to just each other. Free speech means you can talk to each other, everybody else. So it is not about being able to just have a conversation with yourself in a cell. Free speech is about discussing ideas, and some of them are going to be unpalatable.

There were book burnings back at this time because they wanted to destroy ideas. We are not afraid of ideas. We are afraid of the advent of communism and socialism in our country, but we are not afraid to discuss it because we know that our ideas will win.

What we are afraid of is not being able to discuss it, and that is what is happening. That is happening all across America, whether you are Project Veritas, whether you are President Trump, whether you are MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and you say the wrong thing. You say the wrong thing, and it is not about disagreement for the other side; it is about obliteration of your thought.

This is a very, very dangerous precipice that we stand on, and we know the outcome. Solzhenitsyn, even though he was discredited—imagine, discredited by the Soviet Union and the Russians. But he came to America, and he tried to tell us over and over and over again.

Many people know, but my good friend from Texas talked about the concern the American people have. They are scared.

□ 1930

They are not scared of their neighbor. They are not scared of a Democrat. They are not scared of a Republican. They are scared of their government. This is a government of and for the people, by the people. This is our government. The government doesn't own us; we own it. The government is supposed to fear us.

You know, I tell people, it didn't end or it didn't begin with gulags and slave labor work camps where people died of exposure, starvation, exhaustion. It didn't start with that. It started with what we are talking about right now, with razor wire and fences around your Capitol and the inability to say what you want to say. That is where it starts.

We don't have to ask: Well, where does it end?

We know where it ends.

I thank the good gentleman from Texas for this opportunity. You know that we will stand right with you in this crusade to keep America free and to keep speech free.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I know that is true and I know your heart for service, and I know wearing the uniform of the military of the United States meant a lot to you and that your service here means a lot.

Mr. Speaker, as I get ready to yield to my friend from West Virginia, I would add that my colleagues across the other side of the aisle are effectively canceling Congress. I mean, it is pretty extraordinary when the members of a body essentially act to cancel its own institution.

Proxy voting. Half of my Democratic colleagues are never here. About half of the time I look over there and you look at the number of people there, and they are voting from home. By the way, the rules suggest that is supposed to be directly tied to the pandemic. But do you know how many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and maybe increasingly a few on my side of the aisle—have been here voting and then submit the proxy form and then fly home?

It happens.

We are turning this institution on its head. We have remote hearings that are halfway functional, where you sit there for an hour trying to hear each other. We have no regular schedule. It is come and go. It takes hours to vote. We have no regular order. We have massive bills. We have things being done in smoke-filled rooms. We never get to amend. We never get to debate. We never get to actually have an actual discussion on the floor of the House. And we have fence and razor wire around the Capitol.

Tell me how Democrats are not canceling Congress. You might as well just say Speaker PELOSI can just pass a bill by herself.

I know my friend from West Virginia is going to talk a little bit about spending, and the only thing that I will add to my point here about order is that we are going to be passing a $2 trillion monstrosity of a bill in the next week with no actual debate or amendment on the floor of this body; no real review by the members of this body. That is an absolute travesty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE UNBORN

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I will talk a little bit about some concerns and, generally, about the sanctity of human life and the unborn.

I rise today in memory of the over 60 million babies who have been killed through abortion since the Supreme Court's disastrous decision Roe v. Wade. As a nation, we have taken extraordinary steps to protect public health and save lives amid the coronavirus outbreak, but there is a huge contradiction when it comes to protecting human life in the womb.

Protecting all human life should be a bipartisan issue. Yet, today, President Biden is driving policies like taxpayer funding of abortion and naming pro-abortion extremist Xavier Becerra as the Health and Human Services Secretary.

As recently as 2012, President Biden restated his long-held view that human life begins at conception. He said: ''With regard to abortion, I accept my church's position that life begins at conception.''

Well, it is not only a religious belief, but it is also a scientific fact that human life begins at conception. Thanks to modern scientific advancements, we now can visually see and know the personhood of preborn children.

Doctors can operate on babies in the womb to save their lives. We know a preborn baby's heart starts to beat at about 6 weeks. Nails begin to form at 10 weeks, and babies have fingerprints by 13 weeks.

It is time to give a voice to the voiceless. It is time for the law to acknowledge the dignity of the preborn babies who are the most helpless among us.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in defense of all human life, standing up for all human life. I urge President Biden to actually enact his personally held views that he acknowledges that it begins at conception. I think we actually all know that. It is a scientific fact.

The reconciliation bill that is coming up, there are pro-life concerns in this bill. For starters, it fails to include the traditional what we call the high protections. That is a longstanding policy in Congress that your taxpayer dollars do not go for abortions. This bill waives that. It enables taxpayer funding of abortion.

There are more than $414 billion taxpayer dollars, supposedly intended for COVID–19 relief, that have no Hyde protections.

So we are talking a lot about the cancel culture. You have, on the one hand, a division in this country. Many of us believe it is the taking of a human life, it is killing, it is murder; and we object to that. But instead of respecting our views, you actually want to take money from us through taxes and use our actual dollars to kill children. If you are going to talk about cancel culture, at least respect the differences of opinion.

But this bill doesn't do that. This bill we are going to vote on this week doesn't do that. It gets rid of the high protections. It is taxpayer-funded abortions. It also requires taxpayers to subsidize health plans that potentially cover elective abortions.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, now I am going to change topics to something that is not talked about enough in this Congress, and that is spending. We talk a lot about these bills and how much we are going to spend on this group and spend on that group, and we are going to give money to this and give money to that.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY. Federal debt has increased sharply. I have this beautiful chart here starting in 1790, the first budget in our country right after the Revolutionary War, and you can see the national debt. This is done in a fair way. It is debt to the gross domestic product. So it is a percentage of the domestic product in debt.

And you can see, in 1790, the mark where it was. We just finished the Civil War. So we owed some money to the soldiers. We paid that off in the next 40 years up until the Civil War. And in the Civil War there was a little bit of debt, and it goes back down again. And you can see it is kind of steadily up and down a bit. World War II, okay. World War II, again, debt-to-gross-domestic-product. We were just trying to survive there, and the debt is back down again.

But when you get to where we are today, things have gone completely out of control. The Congressional Budget Office estimates an additional $104 trillion will be added by 2050. The Congressional Budget Office forecasted debt would rise 200 percent. Today, as I stand here right now, we have $27.9 trillion in national debt.

$27.9 trillion, what is that to you? That is $84,000.

That is actually a little more than $84,000 of debt to every American citizen right here today.

Now, on this day 1 year ago, in 2020, the U.S. national debt was $23.4 trillion, that was $72,309 in debt per person. We have actually borrowed $10,000 per person in 1 year. I mean, that is out of control.

And when you hear about these bills—I plan to vote against this one tomorrow; I think many of us do—they say, oh, we are going to give this and give that.

No. They are taking it from you. This is debt that your children will have to pay.

This $2 trillion—nearly $2 trillion spending package is full of liberal priorities. We are going to grow our debt to $29 trillion. That is even more debt owed per citizen.

There is a lot of misinformation about where the debt is going. The top two countries we owe the debt to are China and Japan, not actually our friends. We are at global competition with China all the time. They are holding a lot of the debt. We owe China over $1 trillion and we owe Japan over $1 trillion.

The people who are loaning us the money we have to pay back are not necessarily people who have our best interest at heart. Brazil, we owe $258 billion. India, we owe $216 billion. And the list goes on the debt that is owed to foreign countries.

The national debt was $5.6 trillion in 2000. It increased. Under Obama, it actually doubled. Since the 8 years Obama was President, we doubled our national debt. And we are adding another—projected here—a completely out of control debt-to-GDP ratio.

So I urge my colleagues to consider the future. Don't buy into the—the government has no money it doesn't take from you that you are going to have to pay back. We need to be judicious with these dollars, and most of this is not going to coronavirus relief anyway.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from West Virginia for his remarks. And I would echo that—and I think the gentleman would agree—that I believe that, of the $2 trillion, only 9 percent is directed to COVID relief.

And I really just can't believe that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can really market this as a COVID relief bill when, by the way, we have $1 trillion remaining from the $4 trillion last year and only 9 percent of it is directed to COVID.

Does the gentleman agree?

Mr. MOONEY. I would agree. And I would add that 27 percent of this bill, over $510 billion goes to State and local governments. So the taxpayers of my State of West Virginia and your State of Texas and other States are literally bailing out States that have failed to manage their own budgets.

West Virginia taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for New York and Illinois and California that are completely out of control in their spending. $510 billion is going to bail out these State and local governments. It is not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the gentleman from West Virginia, and I appreciate his comments.

I have 1 minute left and I will simply just say this: This chart showing debt is not just about the big number. It is not just about the $30 trillion of debt. This is about tyranny.

That money, that debt that we owe to our kids and grandkids is being used to fund an education system that teaches our kids that America is evil.

It is being used to fund an education system that won't even put teachers back to work.

It is being used to fund a DHS that won't secure the border and is turning it into a catch-and-release agency.

It is being used to fund the very institutions that are coming after our precious Bill of Rights.

And I would just say to the Speaker and my friends on the other side of the aisle: It is time that we come together and protect the rights given to us by our Creator, that are reflected and defended in the Constitution of the United States.

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

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, for years, the Congressional Progressive Caucus has fought to give working families the dignity they deserve for the work they perform for our communities and our economy. The increase of the minimum wage to $15 an hour is an important step to accomplish this goal.

Our caucus is pleased that 14 years after Congress last increased the minimum wage, we are finally close to seeing an increase become law. The American Rescue Plan is intended to help those most impacted by the pandemic's financial hardships. The increase in the minimum wage will help those most vulnerable essential workers. It will put money into the economy and into our local businesses. It will help jumpstart our recovery.

This is also about the dignity of work. This is a bill that will grant people the dignity of work with a living wage. When we don't provide a living minimum wage to American workers, they have to work several jobs or rely on food stamps or other government subsidies to put a roof over their head or food on the table.

Rather than subsidizing corporations who pay their workers poverty wage, let's invest in families. Our workers put value and love into the work they do day in and day out. But Congress hasn't raised the minimum wage in over a decade. It is set so low, it is unsustainable for anyone. It was unsustainable before the pandemic, and now it is impossible for anyone to survive off the minimum wage alone.

If we don't raise the wage, we will be turning our backs on the essential workers, on the same workers who have been keeping our country running for the last year. We will be turning our backs on working families.

Everybody—we hear it all the time—is thanking our essential workers. Thank you, essential workers. We recognize now that those who work in our grocery stores, who care for our elderly, who pick our foods, who keep our schools and hospitals clean are maintaining our country through this pandemic.

So while we are thanking them, we are thanking them for putting their lives at stake every time they go to work. You know what? That thank you is hollow if we don't back it up with action. That thank you is meaningless unless we say we are willing to not only thank you, but to actually pay you a wage that will allow you to live and pay your rent and buy your food and take care of your children.

Finally, we are going to put that thank you into action. We are going to do that tomorrow because tomorrow we are going to fulfill our commitment to workers and we are going to include the minimum wage in the American Rescue Plan.

So let's not lose sight either of the fact that this minimum wage is about our values, but it is also about family values because this is a bill, the American Rescue Act, that includes the minimum wage, that values families.

□ 1945

And why? Because we have all heard the stories of those families, those parents—whether they are a single parent or two parents, or two parents and their kids—are working. We have all heard those stories, that the minimum wage we have now set at $7 in many places, that that is not enough to pay the rent.

And so what do people need to do? They need to take a second job. They need to work longer hours. They need to do overtime.

And what happens when you are working two jobs or overtime? Do you then have time to coach Little League, to coach your daughter's soccer team, to spend that extra time reading to your kids? The reality is you don't.

So if we value families, we will pay the parents enough so that they have enough time to spend with their families.

Mr. Speaker, this is about taking families out of poverty. This is about taking children out of poverty. And this is about allowing them to come out of poverty through their employment.

Now, there are criticisms out there that raising the wage will close businesses and that people will lose their jobs. I am here to tell you from experience that that won't happen. We have had many economists who have talked about the fact that that won't happen.

But let me tell you, I have got experience. Because in 2002, Santa Fe increased the minimum wage. We called it back then—and that is why I will sometimes fall into saying, ''a living wage.'' We increased the minimum wage, and we did it because we wanted to help people. We wanted to take the first step to bring people out of poverty.

So the living-wage effort that we did in Santa Fe was a broad coalition that included businesses, it included grassroots activists, it included governments, it also included the faith community and the Catholic Church.

This faith community and the Catholic Church, they saw it as a Christian value, that people deserve to earn a living wage for their hard work. And the first 5 years after passage, not only were businesses not harmed, but the number of establishments, the number of small businesses in Santa Fe grew.

From 2012 to 2017, both the number of small businesses and the number of people employed by small businesses in Santa Fe increased, all while seeing higher wages every single year. Because what we did in Santa Fe was, we said we need to make this decision now, and then do what we are doing in our bill, which is index it so that we don't have to have this fight all the time, and so that we don't set a minimum wage, which is then a poverty wage, if we don't act.

So in Santa Fe, we did that. And it didn't kill job growth. It didn't harm businesses, but it did help families. It helped stimulate our economy. It made our communities stronger. It was so successful that the county then adopted a similar living wage. And it was so successful in the city and the county that the State of New Mexico raised the minimum wage as well.

Here in the House, we will do what we did in Santa Fe and New Mexico. We will do our job to provide workers across the Nation with a wage that reflects the hard work that they do for us. We will thank them with our legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to also urge the Senate to lead with the kind of empathy and compassion that our citizens and our constituents and our communities expect of us. And if you lead with empathy and compassion, you will also pass an American Rescue Plan that includes the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be on the floor today with my Progressive Caucus colleagues this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEGER FERNANDEZ.

Let me start by saying what an honor it is to serve with you, and I think this is our first action on the floor. I am really glad you are here, and I appreciate your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because too many workers across the country have not received a raise in far too long. They include the frontline and essential workers who have kept our economy going during the worst public health crisis in nearly a century. These workers deserve better pay. That is why we must raise the minimum wage, step-by-step to $15 an hour by 2025, and we have to start doing it right now.

The Federal minimum wage has been stuck at $7.25 an hour for over a decade. This is the longest stretch of time that we have not raised the minimum wage since it was first introduced in 1938.

Mr. Speaker, $7.25 is far too low. That is not an adequate wage for anyone, regardless of age or occupation. It is a poverty wage which prevents workers from realizing the American Dream. By gradually raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour, 27 million low-wage workers will get a raise—27 million people. We will lift nearly a million people out of poverty, including a lot of kids. And we will put an extra $333 billion in the pockets of poor and working-class Americans and their families over the next decade.

This money will be a lifeline for the working men and women of this country. It will go towards food. It will go towards rent. It will go towards shoes, other basic necessities, and that will stimulate local economies from coast to coast.

Some detractors say this policy will hurt the economy, and that it is too much too fast. But that is just plain wrong. This proposal raises the minimum wage responsibly over a period of 5 years. Its effective date is 3 months after the bill's enactment, giving employers adequate time to adjust even before the initial increase.

Mr. Speaker, 20 States just raised their minimum wage, going into this year, 2021. And a total of 30 States—red and blue—now have minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage. That includes my home State of Michigan, which raised its minimum wage in 2018 and currently has a minimum wage of $9.65. So the first increase under this bill won't even raise wages in Michigan. It is very gradual.

We have not seen the catastrophic predictions of job losses and higher prices on goods come to pass in States that have raised their minimum wage. Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ just talked about Santa Fe and her county and her State, but we have a lot of studies showing this to be true from coast to coast.

Indeed, workers have got more pay to buy groceries, to pay for prescription drugs, to shop on their local Main Streets. It is time to make this happen for families in every part of the country.

Raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour is a commonsense policy that every Member should support. It is the right thing to do morally and practically for the economy, and I am glad that President Biden included it as part of his American Rescue Plan.

Now, let me talk about how the American people feel about this. If Congressional Republicans want to oppose this, they are really out of sync with many of their own voters.

According to a recent poll from Data for Progress, 66 percent of voters support increasing the Federal minimum wage to $15 an hour. In addition, 57 percent of voters support using nonstandard Senate procedures, like the budget reconciliation, to pass this minimum wage increase.

Mr. Speaker, 20 States just raised their minimum wage, as I said, in the last year, but let's focus on Florida.

In November of 2020, Florida voted for Donald Trump—I am not positive of my data here. I think it was by 50.5 percent to 48 percent, I think President Trump won Florida. Well, guess what? A $15-an-hour minimum wage clocked Donald Trump. The same Republican voters and Democratic voters and Independent voters all across Florida who voted for Donald Trump by a slight margin, voted for a $15-an-hour Statewide minimum wage by 61 to 39 percent. It was overwhelming.

In the midst of a pandemic that has killed 500,000 Americans and an economic crisis that has the worst food lines in unemployment since the Great Depression, corporations have been raking in billions while workers are earning poverty wages and they are forced to live off food stamps. That is why so many Americans support this.

Now, what about the argument that $15 an hour is too high?

By 2025, $15 an hour will be the equivalent of $13.62 in 2020 dollars. So it won't even be as high as it appears now, but it will be the minimum amount that a single adult working full time will need to earn a living and to cover core basic living expenses.

Now, check this out: Even in the area with the lowest cost of living in these United States, Beckley, West Virginia, in 2025, a two-parent, two-child household, in which both parents earn $15 an hour and pay taxes, will be $360 short each month to cover basic living expenses. The lowest-cost place in the country, $15 an hour in 2025 won't fully cover basic living expenses.

Furthermore, if the minimum wage had kept pace with productivity, with the increased productivity we create by working, since 1968—so productivity gains from 1968 to today—if the minimum wage had increased at the same

rate, it would be over $20 an hour today. And we are proposing just $15 an hour.

So, Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ, I am so grateful for you bringing me into this conversation. I feel like this is a question of basic decency, of basic dignity, of the value of work in this country. Every person who gets up and goes to work should be able to provide for their family. And every person, just as you said, should have one job, and that should be enough. One job should be enough. And by the way, that includes everybody.

One of the great things about what we are doing is, we are getting rid of subminimum wages across the board. No subminimums for tip workers, who are overwhelmingly women and workers of color, no subminimum wages for workers with a disability.

We have an opportunity here to bring so many people out of poverty, to give a raise to 27 million people. It is time to do this. We have got to pass it. The Senate has got to pass it. We have a President named Joseph R. Biden, who is ready to sign it. Let's go.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Congressman LEVIN, I think you raised exactly the points that we have been talking about.

This minimum wage, it should be a floor. And it is something that everybody supports. Everybody supports it, whether you are a Republican, whether you are a Democrat, and it is time to get it done.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let me just mention, the gentlewoman is so right that it is a floor. One of these arguments that we hear is, ''We don't want one-size-fits-all,'' right?

Well, first of all, as a labor lawyer, the minimum wage has been one national wage the whole time since 1938. It is simply a floor of decency.

And guess what? You already explained how in 2025, it is not very likely that the minimum wage in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will be $15 an hour. Because in Santa Fe and San Francisco and Los Angeles and New York and Denver—and whatever—places all around this country—the odds are overwhelming that they will have to raise their minimum wage beyond that.

It is a floor of decency. Let's go. Don't you think? Let's go.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Congressman LEVIN, I love the way you describe this as a ''floor of decency.'' And it is our moral compass that tells us that we must vote for this and we must vote for families now. And so we have heard what is happening in your State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), so she can explain why this is supported in her district and her State.

□ 2000

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to give voice to the millions of Americans who are calling on us to raise the wage.

Our minimum wage workers, many of whom we have come to call essential workers, have a base pay of $15,080 a year. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to know that you can't survive on $7.25. Yet, we expect millions of our neighbors to do it, even during a pandemic and an economic crisis.

From the North Carolina General Assembly to the U.S. House of Representatives, raising the wage has been part of my life's work. I know how a couple of dollars an hour can be the difference between prosperity and poverty. I know it because I have lived it. You see, my mom was a domestic worker. She cleaned other people's houses so I wouldn't have to, so I could focus on going to school and getting a good education. Day in and day out, I saw that no matter how hard she worked, her earnings were barely enough to get us by.

Colleagues, this is not because she didn't work hard enough. It is because she didn't make enough.

Now, decades later, that reality has only gotten starker and the need to address it more pressing. The minimum wage has been at $7.25 for over a decade, the longest stretch in U.S. history.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply impossible to pay the rent and feed your family when you are only making $1,250 a month. That is not far off from the average monthly rent of an apartment in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Make no mistake about it, $7.25 is a poverty wage. That is why it is time to raise the wage to $15 an hour.

A $15 minimum wage would give 27 million low-wage workers a raise and lift nearly 1 million people out of poverty. In my district, in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, it would mean giving a raise to 80,000 working women. 146,000 workers in the 12th District would see an average pay increase of over $4,000 a year.

In this moment of crisis, as we grapple with the COVID–19 pandemic, a $15 minimum wage is more important than ever.

It is also important to note that essential and frontline workers make up a majority of those who would benefit from this wage increase. I believe in essential wages for essential workers. That is why we can't pay an essential worker or any worker a poverty wage.

We must take action to deliver on our Nation's promise of equal opportunity for all. In the strongest possible terms, I urge support for increasing the Federal minimum wage to $15. If it can't happen in tomorrow's package, I urge our committee and this body to take it up next week because America cannot wait.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Congresswoman ADAMS, that was such a forceful description of why it is so necessary for us to act, to act on this moral imperative, which we are facing in this moment.

We have to remember this is a historic moment, so this is our time to take historic action. When we say thank you to those essential workers, we must express our gratitude in things like the minimum wage because without that, then they are just words.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is exactly right. We have to do it, and we have to do it now.

Essential workers need essential opportunities to get a decent wage so that they can take care of their families. Working hard is not enough if you don't make enough. Right now, folks who are making this $7.25 do not make enough to make ends meet.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Working hard enough is not enough if you can't make ends meet. Those are wonderful words.

Ms. ADAMS. That is right.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from New Mexico. It is truly an honor to be able to serve with her.

Yesterday, she shared with me a young student in her district sent her a beautiful letter. It was her first letter from a young child in her district, and I lovingly called the child Teresa's truth-teller. I hope it starts a trend in her community.

Mr. Speaker, to many of my colleagues here, I ask them all to please come and tour my district. I lovingly call them 13th District Strong because they never stop fighting for justice even when many here across the country are always being asked to wait: wait for this, wait for change, wait for us to be able to tackle poverty wages. Those that can afford it, they wait, but our folks can't afford it anymore.

Raising the Federal minimum wage to $15 per hour has never been more urgent for my residents, and it is long overdue. You see, I represent the third poorest congressional district in the country. I want you to think about that for one moment.

I have an elderly couple who has to melt snow in a bucket so that they have the ability to flush their toilet because they can't afford water. Water has been increased by 400 percent in rates. I have a mother in my district who is pleading for me to find a place where her daughter can eat twice a day. More than half of my residents pay a third or more of their income for housing.

Our economy is structured in a way to benefit the few over the many. It is no surprise that the many it is not working for are the working people in our communities.

If we want to truly look and peek at the economy, measure the amount of debt our families have compared to their incomes. Look at the productivity numbers that are up compared to the wages that remain stagnant.

At the same time that our people are suffering, large corporations are seeing record-breaking profits, and CEOs are being paid record-high salaries. It is simply unfair and immoral.

Raising the minimum wage is also a matter of racial justice. Workers of color are far more likely to be paid poverty wages than their White counterparts, and Black and Brown workers are far more likely to be victims of wage theft. I know because I used to represent them and fight for their fair access to their wages that they have earned.

A $15 Federal minimum wage would increase the earnings of 38 percent of Black workers across our Nation, a raise that will be life-changing.

It is time for all of us right here in Congress to earn our own pay and deliver this overdue minimum wage increase without delay. I hope folks understand, $15 is already the compromise. It is. If the minimum wage had kept up with worker productivity, it would already be at $24 per hour.

Workers aren't asking for anything they aren't already earning for their bosses. Without workers, there is no profit. It is high time for us to end the pattern of exploiting workers, our neighbors, family members.

Raise the wage. It is the right thing to do for our Nation. It is so incredibly supported outside these Halls of Congress. Listen to the people who sent us here. They are urging us to please stop waiting.

We have been given the power to change their lives for the better. Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my colleague from New Mexico.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman TLAIB talked about the fact that now is the time. There is a call and an urgency for us to do this because it is the time of the pandemic. It is the time of such great suffering.

My father had a saying that when it was time to get important stuff done, he would say, ''Ahora es cuando,'' it is time now. His saying is ringing through your words, and it is calling upon us to say what we need to say so that we do what we need to do and raise the wage. So, ahora es cuando. It is, indeed, time now.

Thank you for explaining the urgency of what it is like to have to boil your water because you can't afford the utility bill. That should break all of our hearts, and it should urge us each to act and to act now with the power that we have been given by our constituents.

I would now like to turn to one of my colleagues, one of our freshman class from New York City, Congressman TORRES.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Teresa for those kind words.

I have the honor of representing New York 15, the South Bronx, which is often said to be the poorest congressional district in America. The unemployment rate in the South Bronx can be as high as 25 percent compared to 5 percent in the Upper East Side, so we are living through a tale of two cities.

But COVID–19 has shown the South Bronx to be the essential congressional district. It is the home of essential workers who put their lives at risk during the peak of the pandemic so that the rest of us could safely shelter in place. We owe it to those workers to give them a fighting chance at a decent and dignified life.

Our society will be judged by how we treat the most essential among us. There is a gap between the value of what our essential workers do and how poorly we treat them and how poorly we pay them. Bridging that essential gap is one of the great moral imperatives of our time.

Raising the minimum wage is long overdue. The minimum wage in America has been lagging behind inflation. It has been lagging behind the productivity of the American workforce. It has been lagging behind the historic average.

We have gone more than a decade, the longest we have ever gone, without raising the minimum wage by even a cent. By every metric, whether it is inflation or productivity or the historic average or the length of time that we have gone without raising the minimum wage, it is time to finally lift the minimum wage for the most essential workers among us.

The statistics are clear that raising the minimum wage would lift 900,000 Americans out of poverty. It would raise incomes for 17,000 Americans.

For me, the minimum wage is exactly that. It is the minimum of what we should do for our most essential workers. If we fail to raise the minimum wage, then shame on us. Shame on us for failing to do right by the essential workers who did right by all of us in our moment of greatest need.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman TORRES.

What he has told us today is about the fact that there are districts in the country, including mine, including so many that we have heard about, where the minimum wage is too low. What we can't do is we can't have a United States of America where what you earn depends on where you live. That is what we are trying to do today, is say that where you live does not impact what you earn or where you work.

Today, at a Senate hearing, Costco announced that it would begin paying their workers a $16-an-hour minimum wage. They have already recognized that that $15 level is too low, and they want to keep their workers.

The reality is, we know that when people are paid well, then the turnover is less. The commitment is better, and paying a minimum wage, paying something where somebody can go home to their children, can put that food on the table without relying on SNAP benefits, that they can then say: I have done it. I can go work. I can come home.

And it doesn't matter whether I live in your district, whether I live in Seattle, or whether I live in Coronado. It doesn't matter because there is a floor that is the same across the country, and it is not a poverty wage.

□ 2015

What we have now is a poverty wage. That is very clear. If you cannot use the minimum wage that we have now to pay your rent, to buy your food, and to pay your utilities, then that is the equivalent of a poverty wage. We know that. We know that because of the wages we have across our country.

We have all worked. Congressman TORRES, you have worked and looked to see: When does the Community Development Block Grant come in? Does it look like we are a distressed community or not? They look at what that median income is, and if you are earning the median wage, you are in poverty, right?

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, she is exactly right. The promise of America is that if you work hard and play by the rules, then you should have access to a decent, dignified life. Too many of our essential workers are paid starvation wages.

You have people who are doing everything right. They are working their heart out for the country and for their families, and they are struggling to survive because the cost of living in America, especially in cities like New York, is spiraling out of control.

So the promise of America is broken as long as we continue to pay our most essential workers poverty wages. It is no longer defensible.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier we spoke about the fact that to say thank you to these essential workers regularly and over and over again but to refuse to pay a living wage, a minimum wage of at least what we are asking for in this bill, is really not saying thank you at all, is it? It rings hollow.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply honor our essential workers with hollow words. We, as a country, have to put our money where our mouth is and do right by them.

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of raising the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour. I want to thank my friend and colleague Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez from New Mexico's 3rd district for convening this special order hour. Raising the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour is one critical step towards ensuring an equitable recovery from the COVID–19 pandemic. The federal minimum wage has been at $7.25 for more than a decade. This is the longest period of time without an increase in the minimum wage in US history. Inflation has eroded this amount to a fraction of its previous value. We must increase the wage and we must do it now.

Someone working a full time job at the current federal minimum wage only earns $15,000 a year. That is a disgrace. A full time worker in this country should be able to put

food on their table and a roof over their head and be able to pay their other expenses with their earnings. Many of these minimum wage workers are essential workers, helping our communities endure this pandemic.

Raising the minimum wage to fifteen dollars an hour isn't a cure-all. In high cost urban areas, such as the one I represent in the Bay Area, fifteen dollars an hour still is not enough to get ahead. But raising the federal minimum wage has been shown to help lift wages across the board for people at the lower end of the income scale.

A fifteen dollar minimum wage would give 27 million low-wage workers a raise and lift nearly one MILLION people out of poverty. But this isn't just an economic need—it's a racial justice imperative. Many people of color have been paid poverty wages for too long—deepening the long standing racial and economic divisions in this country. African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans are all much more likely to make only the minimum wage.

Recent polling shows that 72 percent of Americans, a vast majority, support raising the minimum wage, including Republicans and Independents. We need to ensure workers get paid living wages, especially in times of crisis. Raising the minimum wage is a necessary first step to growing our economy and recovering from this pandemic. Additionally, it will also lessen the need for full time workers to be receiving public assistance. When you raise the wages of the lowest-paid workers, it is good for our communities and our country. Those workers can then spend money in their communities, boosting local small businesses and our entire economy.

HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor hometown heroes in my district and across the Nation, these proud Americans embodying the persistent, giving, and fighting spirit of our national creed.

The COVID pandemic has put our country and our communities to the test, pushing us to seek positivity and hope in each day as we have weathered the storms that have come our way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the great work and service of my constituents who have shown bravery and empathy in these trying times.

Last week, I invited the constituents of Florida's Third Congressional District, the Gator Nation, to submit their nominations for individuals they would like to honor for their dedication to our communities over the last year. I received several nominations with the names of constituents who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, who put service above self, so many nominations, in fact, that we have pledged to continue this series throughout the year to highlight their great work.

Included in this group are first responders, law enforcement officers, teachers, nurses, and Good Samaritans. They are the backbone of our communities. I am honored to be able to represent them in Congress and share their stories with you today.

The first is my friend, and the only woman sheriff in the great State of Florida, Sheriff Michelle Cook. Sheriff Cook, in her long tenure in law enforcement, has walked the beat and fought against the scourge of the opioid epidemic and human trafficking in Clay County.

She is also the proud mother to four foster children, who she lovingly brought into her own home to prevent their separation. She works every day to protect our community and our great county of Clay County. I am so grateful for her service.

Thank you, Sheriff Cook.

Now, much like Sheriff Cook, Sergeant Kim Miller put service above self as a member of the Green Cove Springs Police Department. While Sergeant Miller celebrated her retirement earlier this year, she has spent the last 15 years of her life dedicated to the children of Clay County and their safety and development.

She is proud to have been the first Black female sergeant for the Green Cove Springs Police Department and continues to make the citizens of Clay County proud.

It was always a pleasure seeing Sergeant Miller's smiling face when I visited the department, and I congratulate her on her retirement this year. Although she is not on the force any longer, her service to the Green Cove Springs community is remarkable. I am honored to celebrate her here today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, what an honor to get to speak before you. This is a thrill.

I rise today to honor several hometown heroes from my district who have made an impact on the community over the course of the year.

First, I would like to thank my colleague from Florida, Congresswoman KAT CAMMACK, for organizing this Special Order hour.

I also reached out to my community, and I asked for the leaders in our community to give us some of what they think to be hometown heroes. Let me just run through a few real quick.

Last year has been tough on millions of Americans across the country as we battle the COVID pandemic and endure countless hardships, but I am proud of so many folks in south Alabama who have made our community a better place. Many of them are unsung heroes. I would like to take a moment today to honor a few of them.

Brian Copes, manufacturing instructor for the city of Chickasaw School System, is a leader in the effort of developing inexpensive prosthetic limbs that will change many lives of amputees throughout Latin America.

Students from all disciplines have been working together to create a real nonprofit business. Eventually, these students will travel to Latin America, not only to fit the amputees but also to aid the amputees in rehabilitation as they learn to walk and use their new limbs.

Another one is Natalie Fox, assistant administrator and chief nursing officer for USA Physicians Group. That ''USA'' stands for University of South Alabama, which we are very proud of. And USA Healthcare has been a leading coordinator in the University of South Alabama Healthcare System community testing and vaccination sites for the Mobile region.

To date, she has overseen the successful implementation of over 26,000 COVID–19 vaccines administered since December 15, and over 50,000 coronavirus tests performed since the pandemic began. Natalie has worked tirelessly to meet the high demands on the healthcare system for the past year, and I am incredibly thankful for her hard work and her dedication to the people of south Alabama.

Jennifer Myrick of Fairhope, Alabama, has been a critical figure in the recovery efforts after Hurricanes Sally and Zeta, which hit the area. Jennifer worked through the Fairhope United Methodist Church to set up an independent point of distribution to hand out critical supplies to the public.

She has also headed up a feeding program for those supplies and is an active member of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster through Baldwin County Emergency Management, where she helped fulfill many needs throughout the county.

Jennifer also worked with the Fairhope Police Department to keep police officers, dispatchers, and correction officers fed through this long stretch between both of these hurricanes.

Kathy Couey, a recreation supervisor for the city of Chickasaw, Alabama, goes above and beyond her duties every day in her day-to-day responsibilities to make sure the city is a better and healthier place for families to live. Her creativity is limitless, with a true servant's heart.

With so many people working and learning from home over the past year, staying active and getting outdoors has been critical to people's physical and mental health. Kathy's hard work has made Chickasaw a better place to live and raise a family.

Virtually no person across the country has not been impacted in some way by the pandemic, natural disasters, and the countless other challenges that we have faced. We have come a long way. Although we are living in difficult times, I could not be prouder than I am to be an American today.

And I couldn't be more thankful for so many incredible people all over my district and all over the Nation who have worked hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their friends and neighbors. This is what makes America strong.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to take a moment today to recognize just a few of those unsung heroes who have made an impact in our community over the past year.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama. Even though, the SEC Nation, we may be rivals on game day, when it comes to honoring our hometown heroes, we are united, and I appreciate you taking the time to share these stories.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield to another one of my great colleagues, I want to highlight a great man, Mr. Mike Leader, from Fleming Island, Florida, who is an active duty physician proudly serving in the United States Navy.

Mike was deployed in April 2020 to fight the COVID–19 pandemic, and he has been working tirelessly to save lives over the last year. His wife, Adriane, and his three children have remained strong and positive during his time away from home, recognizing his sacrifice for our fellow Americans.

Mike is set to be deployed again next month to once again take up the fight against this pandemic, and he and his family will be in my thoughts and prayers as he continues the fight to end COVID–19.

I would also like to honor Orange Park native Peggie French. Ms. French is what her nominators call an angel to seniors. Ms. French spends hours every single week scheduling vaccines for seniors in Clay County. She has become somewhat of an expert in the process and even helps to monitor the vaccine sites for cancelations to help seniors trying to get appointments.

To date, she has helped over 60 senior citizens to get appointments for the COVID–19 vaccine in her spare time. I visited the COVID vaccination sites in my district a few weeks ago, where these very seniors that she helped were being vaccinated. I want to thank Peggie and those just like her for helping folks in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank Representative CAMMACK for bringing this idea of honoring our hometown heroes to the floor. It is long overdue.

There are so many who have made an impact in our communities over the last year. When I think of the countless hours our healthcare workers have dedicated, their time spent away from family to take care of others, the doctors, nurses, and first responders, we can never fully thank them for their dedication to our country during this difficult time.

But as my team and I discussed who from Oklahoma's Fifth District has helped this community survive the pandemic, who worked on the ground with people in need, one name was mentioned over and over, and that was Pastor Derrick Scobey of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

He and his band of volunteers have worked countless hours to make sure Oklahomans everywhere were fed, not just in the surrounding community but in towns and cities across the great State of Oklahoma. In partnership with the World Vision Organization, Pastor Scobey distributed more than 91,000 boxes of fresh food in the past year. That is 2.3 million pounds of food hand-delivered by Ebenezer Baptist Church and his countless volunteers throughout the State.

□ 2030

My team and I had the pleasure of assisting Pastor Scobey with a few of his distribution events in Oklahoma City. I was overwhelmed with the gratitude on the faces of those who were receiving these food boxes.

This man right here is truly making a difference to those in need. He has been on the ground day in and day out making sure that more than 150,000 Oklahomans did not go hungry during this pandemic.

In addition to food, he made sure that those needing furnishings did not go without. His group distributed 2,300 pallets of furniture to the underserved as well. It is a monumental task that Pastor Scobey took on, but he saw the need in his community. He heard from pastors and communities from across the State with similar needs, rolled up his sleeves, and he got to work.

This Nation needs more pastors like Derrick Scobey, who aren't afraid of the hard work of feeding our communities not just with the word of God on Sunday morning, but with hours of heavy lifting, sweating in the heat of the summer, or trying to stay warm in the subzero temperatures, all to make sure those who were hungry have something to eat.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Scobey for being a hero to Oklahomans from every corner of the great State of Oklahoma.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the great State of Oklahoma. It has been an honor so far serving with her in this Congress, and I expect that we will be hearing many more stories of great Oklahomans who are doing incredible work in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to honor a gentleman who is much like my husband, a hero and a firefighter. Justin Dean serves the Orange Park Fire Department and its city both in his capacity as a firefighter and as a heroic private citizen. Mr. Dean was driving home one afternoon recently when he noticed a car parked on the side of the bridge near Doctor's Lake. He pulled his vehicle over, proceeded to talk to the woman standing at the top of the bridge, and he offered her a hug. When she accepted, Firefighter Dean jumped into action and pulled her tightly over the rail to safety. He was awarded a meritorious award for his brave, lifesaving action.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Justin.

Mr. Speaker, Rhonda Wilson is a hero from my hometown of Gainesville, Florida. She wears many hats in our community. She is a middle school teacher, a thespian, a theater director, and a philanthropist. She founded the Star Center Theatre nearly two decades ago and, in the years since, has provided an opportunity for local children and families to perform and enjoy fine arts.

A portion of all the theatre's proceeds go to Created Gainesville, a nonprofit committed to reaching and restoring women caught in sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in Gainesville. Rhonda's work is especially impactful to me, as I have worked to eliminate human trafficking from our District and our State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, my good friend, Congresswoman CAMMACK, for bringing this great idea to the House Chamber to honor those of us in our communities who have done, frankly, more than Members of Congress actually have. The sacrifices that they have made not only in our communities but throughout their lives is really something to honor, it is something to behold, and it is something to cherish. I am just grateful for this opportunity to do this on the peoples' floor this evening.

The first hometown hero I wish to honor is Captain Wayne Ogden Smith. Today, we pay tribute to one of Naples' hometown heroes. Mr. SMITH was a United States Air Force fighter pilot and a Vietnam prisoner of war. Captain Smith was a prisoner of war at the Hanoi Hilton for 5 years, alongside Senator Sam Johnson and Senator John McCain. However, he would never call himself a hometown hero.

Wayne was a 1965 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and would fly 90 F–4 fighter combat missions over North Vietnam and Laos. Captain Smith was shot down on January 18, 1968, at the age of 24. He survived 5 years and 2 months and was repatriated on March 15, 1973.

Wayne's combat honors include two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze ''V'' Stars, seven Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

Now retired from the business world, Wayne Smith spends his time with his wife helping veterans and active military around the country through organizations like Wreaths Across America and Naples Spirit of '45, a celebration honoring our World War II veterans and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, another hometown hero from my District is Allison Dawson. Allison has proudly dedicated her life to educating our youth. Allison's career in youth education spans over 30 years, almost 20 of those in Lee County, Florida.

A single mom who raised three kids, she struggled to pay bills and struggled to put food on the table. Despite these obstacles, Allison remained committed

to her passion and her life's work: teaching and helping low-income students learn and grow to succeed.

During COVID–19, like thousands of teachers across our Nation, she juggled virtual school and in-person instruction flawlessly, all to ensure her students received the very best education. She is a prime example of how hard all teachers across America work every single day.

I am honored to recognize Allison Dawson today as a teacher and as a public servant. I thank Allison for her 30 years of service; her commitment to serving others; and ensuring that every child, no matter their race, gender and socioeconomic background, has access to a world-class education.

Mr. Speaker, my last hometown hero is Major Jose Martinez, BSN, RN. Jose Martinez, BSN and RN, is the nursing director of adult and pediatric emergency department at North Naples Hospital in southwest Florida. He has been a nurse for 22 years, and 13 of them at NCH.

Major Jose Martinez has a 19-year military career. He has served 9 years with the Army National Guard and 10 years with the Air Force Reserve.

Major Martinez is currently a flight nurse instructor and clinical management flight commander in the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. Major Martinez just returned from a 6-month deployment at duty station Travis Air Force Base in California. Major Martinez coordinated more than 50 Aeromedical Evacuation Westpac/Cross Country Aeromedical missions with more than 400 aeromedical evacuation crew, critical care crew, and neonatal critical care members serving more than 100 patients who represent our U.S. military and their families.

He has dedicated his life to serving others and has saved countless lives. I am honored to recognize Major Martinez today and his sacrifices for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes in all of our communities. These are just three who happen to live in my congressional district, and it is my honor to honor them this evening.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Floridian, I look forward to getting to know the gentleman's hometown heroes at some point in the near future. I thank the gentleman for joining me here on the floor of the people's House to honor the hometown heroes who make up the great State of Florida.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize my friend and the great sheriff of Marion County, Sheriff Billy Woods. I have known Billy for nearly a decade, and in that time, I have seen his passion for helping people. I am proud to have worked with Sheriff Woods on combating human trafficking in the State of Florida, as well as taking on criminal drug traffickers and supporting the rights of lawful gun owners. I am also proud to recognize his tireless efforts tonight to protect and serve our ever-growing community in Marion County. I know Billy to be a man of integrity, grit, and honesty. He is a tremendous defender of freedom and security, and I am proud to call him and his wife, Samantha, dear friends.

I am deeply grateful for all of the people who have spoken here today. Their work and their efforts to make my district and its many communities a better place to live and raise a family do not go unnoticed. They make me proud to be an American and the Representative from Florida's Third Congressional District. I chose to celebrate these hometown heroes today to honor their work and celebrate their passion for helping others. I challenge my constituents and all Americans to take stock of the everyday heroes all around us and thank them for what they do.

Whether it is working as a frontline healthcare worker in a local clinic, a law enforcement officer supporting children, librarians assisting students with virtual learning, or a delivery worker ensuring that we all get our critical packages on time, they are all—and there are so many more out there—extraordinary Americans who continue to put duty above all else.

I thank the nominees and the nominators of today's heroes. Again, I look forward to continuing this yearlong series of honoring our hometown heroes, and I look forward to hearing more of my colleagues' stories from their hometown heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity here tonight to honor these heroes, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HOMETOWN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Olivia Letts, who passed away on February 1 at the age of 93. Ms. Letts was a true trailblazer.

After being hired as the first Black schoolteacher in Lansing, she was a constant force for good in the community. It is my privilege to honor her with my remarks on the floor of the people's House.

Born on the south side of Chicago, Ms. Letts did not let anything get in the way of her own education. According to her grandsons, the only time she was ever late for school was because of a trolley accident.

At the rooming house that she and her family shared with other families, she would wake up as early as 4 a.m. to study in the bathroom because it was the only time she could find peace and quiet.

She maintained her devotion to learning during her time at the Chicago Teachers College and her three advanced degree programs at Michigan State University. Nothing could keep Ms. Letts from the classroom, not even the racial discrimination of the day.

To be sure, breaking the color barrier in Lansing schools wasn't easy. The first time she applied to be a teacher, she was rejected with a letter that said the district ''had never made a practice of hiring anyone of her race, but would keep her under consideration.'' Undeterred, Ms. Letts lobbied local leaders until she was asked to reapply. Ten years later, she was promoted to principal.

Ms. Letts' story wouldn't be complete without mention of her husband and lifelong love, Richard, who passed away in 1997. For nearly half a century, their union was an unstoppable force for good in Lansing—she as the consummate advocate and role model for students and he as the city's equal opportunity officer and human relations director for 44 years. They are the namesake of the Letts Community Center, where this photo was taken.

Ms. Letts was an eternal optimist. She liked books with happy endings, whether they were Nicholas Sparks novels or President Obama's memoirs.

She lived a full life, and her story had a happy ending, too. Just a few days before her passing, she parked herself in front of the television, thrilled to watch her fellow Alpha Kappa Alpha sister, KAMALA HARRIS, be inaugurated as Vice President.

She is survived by her daughter, Eileen; her two grandsons, Robert and Matthew; as well as the countless individuals she touched with her grace and humility.

Since her passing, the tributes to her life have been effusive:

''She was just delightful.''

''She helped pave the way.''

''She just did what was right.''

And my personal favorite, ''Her legacy lives on in the work that folks are doing here in the community.''

What a fitting way to remember such a towering figure of the Lansing community. May she indeed live on in the work and in these words spoken into the permanent RECORD of the people's House.

□ 2045

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES BIBBS

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor another legend in the Lansing community, Mr. James Bibbs.

Mr. Bibbs has had many words written about him over the years, and almost all of them mention his distinction as the longest-tenured track-and-field coach in Michigan State University history.

From 1968 to 1995, his students won 52 Big Ten titles, 26 All-American honors, three NCAA titles, and broke two world records.

But those who know Coach Bibbs will tell you that it has never been about the number of titles and his own career. What has distinguished him over the years was the size of his heart and the kindness he has shown over the course of his life.

From high school to AAU club teams, collegiate squads, to national and international teams, Coach Bibbs lived by the words he spoke in 2010 when he was inducted into the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame: ''I just loved track and I loved to work with the youngsters.''

And yet, it almost didn't happen. After graduating as a star baseball recruit from Ecorse High School, he turned down a minor league contract offered by the Yankees to attend Eastern Michigan University.

At the time, EMU didn't have a freshman baseball team, so he decided to join the track team instead. And as with the races he would win as a champion sprinter, he never looked back.

Mr. Bibbs later became a teacher in Detroit before assuming the title of coach for the first time in 1959. He led his hometown high school in Ecorse to multiple championships before arriving in East Lansing as an assistant in 1968, the first African-American coach ever hired at Michigan State.

In 1977, Coach Bibbs became head coach, and over the next 27 years, he inspired hundreds of student athletes to be their best selves by connecting their personal achievements on the track with their personal achievement in life.

Many of his former runners have credited him with planting the seeds of confidence that allowed them to compete all over the world. It is no surprise that several of them have paid it forward by becoming track coaches themselves.

Today, his path has taken him full circle as a volunteer with the team at East Lansing High School, where his son is the principal.

Even after all the Hall of Fame inductions and all the honors bestowed on him, Mr. Bibbs is still the same gentle and humble man he has always been, a man who loves track and the lessons it can teach others.

His wife, Martha, who passed away in October of last year, was his partner of 50 years. A trailblazer in her own right, she was the first woman and first Black woman to serve as personnel director for the State of Michigan.

These two were a power couple in Lansing, recognized for their high profile jobs and their contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to deliver these remarks so that Coach Bibbs' achievements may forever exist in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as a proud Spartan, as a legend in the track and field community, and as a pioneer for equality.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION OF MID-MICHIGAN

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization that has been on the front lines of advocating for racial equality over the past 40 years: The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan.

Founded in 1979, with the goal of establishing a Federal holiday for the icon of the civil rights movement, the MLK Commission realized its mission just 4 years after its founding. Ever since, the group has been working to preserve the legacy and teachings of Dr. King, in part, by supporting community agencies and empowering youth to achieve their goals.

The Commission's success can be found in its record: 40 high schoolers sponsored each year to go on a college tour of historically Black colleges and universities, more than $100,000 in scholarships awarded, and more than $70,000 in grants given to local organizations.

In the past, the Commission has sent delegations to notable milestone events, from the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama.

Under the capable leadership of my friend, Ms. Elaine Hardy, its chairperson, the MLK Commission has flourished as a proud beacon of justice in our State.

But to really understand the impact, you need only look at the annual Day of Celebration, the largest and longest-running in the entire country. I have been many times.

Every third Monday of January, more than 1,500 attendees come together in Greater Lansing to recognize local students, hear from keynote speakers, and recommit to the unfinished work of Dr. King.

Each celebration is focused on one of Dr. King's quotes. For this year's event, held remotely for the first time due to the pandemic, the Commission selected: ''Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope,'' and invited Bernice King to address the group.

At a time when we face unprecedented challenges, the MLK Commission of Mid-Michigan is that stone of hope for so many in our beloved community.

For 42 years, the Commission has shown what is possible when folks from all walks of life come together under the banner of equality and justice.

May it continue to shine as an example of community leadership for the next 42 years; and may its legacy live on forever in the official record of the U.S. Congress.

HONORING THE LEGACIES OF JAMES RILEY, SR. AND JAMES RILEY, JR.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a father and son duo who, between them, have served Lansing for over 60 years: James Riley, Sr. and James Riley, Jr.

Their story begins when the elder Riley moved to Michigan after graduating high school at 17. He took a job at the Ford plant in River Rouge but left 2 years later to join the military when World War II broke out.

While stationed in Charleston, he met his future wife of 70 years, Deresa, at a dance. They moved back to Detroit soon after, and Mr. Riley used his GI benefits to attend Wayne State University while working at the Post Office.

On the advice of a friend, he majored in mortuary science, obtaining his license before moving to Lansing and starting Riley Funeral Home in 1957.

As the oldest Black-owned funeral home, and perhaps even the oldest Black-owned business in Lansing, the Riley name is synonymous with being active in our community, being kind and courteous, and serving families with professionalism and grace.

But it wasn't an easy path. When Mr. Riley first set out to get his business off the ground, he found that no bank would extend him a loan. It was a time when financial institutions could deny a man a line of credit based on the color of his skin.

Indeed, Mr. Riley would later recall that loan officers seemed almost amused by the novelty of a Black man asking for a loan. So he turned to the community, cobbling together his savings with some contributions from his sisters and friends who sold or lent him equipment.

At first, business was slow. They had just seven services in their first year. This was the late 1950s, a time when African Americans would routinely be turned away from other funeral homes. If and when they were able to secure a service, they were continually assigned a date and relegated to the afternoon, after the White services were finished in the morning.

And so it went for the Rileys in their first decade of operation, working hard to earn the trust of the community with sincerity and good faith. It took time and concerted effort, but by the time James, Jr. took over the business from his parents in 1993, Riley Funeral Home was handling 150 services per year.

In a business that operates on trust, the younger Riley has taken his family's business even further, making sure that every family that comes to him is treated with care and respect.

After almost 30 years at the helm, James Jr., has devoted the same attention to detail and standard of excellence his father was known for.

James, Sr., passed away in 2016, 1 year after Deresa. And while they may be gone, it is clear that their legacy lives on with their son.

Last October, I had the opportunity to visit Riley Funeral Home and talk to James personally about his family story. He shared how Black-owned businesses were routinely discriminated against and regularly denied capital and credit. It is thanks to legislation passed by this body that that discrimination is no longer the case.

The Rileys have overcome tremendous obstacles to get where they are. It is my honor to recognize both father and son today so that their contributions to the Lansing community may live on in the permanent record of the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF GREGORY EATON

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a living legend in Lansing, Mr. Gregory Eaton, proprietor of Gregory's Soul Food Bar & Grill.

Mr. Eaton embodies the motto of ''no job too small, no job too large.'' It may be his name on the door, but he is often found on the floor, busing tables, offering refills, and making sure that guests are taken care of.

Growing up, Mr. Eaton developed a legendary work ethic that continues to inspire to this day. His first jobs were shining shoes for his dad, who worked at the Lansing Country Club and later ran a shoe repair store.

When Mr. Eaton was 20 years old, he founded his first company, Greg's Janitorial Service, with the slogan, ''We search for dirt.'' He won cleaning contracts the old fashioned way, by word of mouth, working hard, and helping others.

He hired local student athletes as a way to help them. Even future superstars like Magic Johnson punched a time card under Mr. Eaton, for a whopping $1.65 an hour.

Mr. Eaton has lived a life out of a movie. He is one of only a handful of individuals to have attended all 53 Super Bowls in person. He has been to title fights, the Masters, and was even in the stands at the 1968 Olympics when Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists at the podium.

But no matter how far and wide he travels, Mr. Eaton's heart remains in Lansing. It remains with his three kids, 8 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. And it remains with all the individuals he has helped along the way with his never-ending generosity.

Even in the midst of a pandemic that has claimed so many local restaurants, Gregory's Soul Food has been able to keep its doors open, thanks to a loyal and dependable clientele. Gregory's is an institution, like the man it is named after.

So today, I am proud to recognize him on the floor of the people's House, so that future generations may learn about his selfless service to the Lansing community.

HONORING ALEX'S GREAT STATE RACE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an organization that brings together fierce rivals in the name of shared community; an organization that bridges the sometimes impossible differences between us; an organization helping to bring arch rivals together for the betterment of the community and, most specifically, an organization that literally bridges the 64 miles between Michigan State University in East Lansing and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Most days, any Spartan or Wolverine will tell you that those miles are still too close for comfort. But on the Friday before the big game between both schools, a new tradition has emerged in the name of charity, community spirit, and expanding access to education for all: It is called Alex's Great State Race.

Named after Alex Powell, a young man accepted to Michigan State as he underwent treatment for a rare and aggressive cancer, Alex had always dreamed attending MSU. But the surgeries, chemo and radiation treatment left him unable to carry out his studies with the normal vigor of a freshman student.

Thankfully, Alex turned to MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, or RCPD. Devoted to inclusivity on campus for students, employees, and visitors alike, the RCPD provided Alex with a dorm room near his classes, offered support to him and his family, and accommodated his needs as they became more complex.

They made arrangements to provide Alex the same MSU experience as any other student, even when he was being treated at a cancer center at the University of Michigan, 64 miles away.

Despite has valiant fight, Alex lost his battle with cancer in 2011. Those around him remember his vibrant spirit and easy sense of humor, even in the midst of a debilitating illness.

More than anything, Alex wanted to leave a legacy that would inspire others, which is how his mother, Juliana, got in touch with the folks at the Resource Center who played such an important role in his life.

Together, they created the Great State Race in Alex's name, a charity organization dedicated to raising money for the RCPD, as well as its counterpart at the University of Michigan, the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Now celebrating its seventh year, Alex's Great State Race is an example of what can unite us. Each year, no matter how intense the rivalry between the two schools, ROTC cadets from both Michigan and Michigan State come together to run the game ball the 64 miles separating the two campuses.

Supported by police that line the route, gracious donations that make it possible, and a community united by the spirit of charity, Alex's Great State Race proves that despite our split allegiances, we absolutely have a common humanity.

Today, I am proud to honor the Powell family, the ROTC cadets, and all of the folks involved at both schools who raise money for such a worthy cause.

As the Jewish Prayer of Remembrance says: ''So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.''

Mr. Speaker, we all remember Alex as long as these words will exist in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which is to say, we remember Alex forever.

□ 2100

HONORING JESSICA WITKOWSKI

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jessica Witkowski, a young woman making a difference in her hometown of Hartland, Michigan. For her efforts, she has earned the distinction of being one of the first female Eagle Scouts in the country. Drawn by the Scouts' emphasis on environmental stewardship, service to community, and development of leadership skills, Jessica joined the Scouts 2 years ago as a sophomore in high school, shortly after they opened membership to girls.

She set her sights on a lofty goal, being a part of the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts. After building and installing bluebird houses in Settler's Park for her Life Scout rank, she started brainstorming Eagle Scout projects that would similarly align with her love of the outdoors.

But soon after, the pandemic hit, and stay-at-home orders forced a change. Like a good Scout, though, Jessica adapted. She soon realized that the greatest need in the community was for face masks for seniors in retirement homes. Through Zoom meetings and video tutorials, she gathered 16 of her classmates and set out to teach them how to create face masks.

The fact that she had never sewn before did not hold her back, nor did the fact that she would have to sew with gloves on in order to follow the best practices for sanitation and avoiding potential spread.

From start to finish, the project took 2 months. By the time it was completed, Jessica and her determined group of volunteers had surpassed their initial goal of creating 600 masks, which Jessica distributed to the three local organizations taking care of seniors vulnerable to the pandemic.

Last fall, just by chance, on a tour of cider mills in my district, I actually ran into Jessica at Spicer's. Even now, I can still remember her infectious personality and her thousand-watt smile, even behind her face mask. She is an impressive young woman, and I am proud to represent her here in Congress.

Although we haven't been able to hold her official court of honor due to the pandemic, I know that it will come, and Jessica will be able to celebrate her achievement surrounded by her friends and family. In the meantime, it is my personal honor to speak these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that folks back home can read about her hard work and dedicated service to community.

CELEBRATING MARCUS GOLLER

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, lastly, I rise to pay tribute to Marcus Goller, a cornerstone of the Brighton community who sadly passed away late last month.

Marcus owned and operated the Brighton Coffeehouse and Theater alongside his wife, Amy, and their two kids, Spencer and Macy.

The spot is a mainstay of downtown Brighton, a place to pop in for a quick coffee or pastry or to take in a show in its 70-seat black box theater. But before it was a reality, it was just a dream between a couple and their kids.

Marcus had had a long career in the coffee business, running a chain of coffee shops in college towns all across the Midwest. Amy had acted professionally and directed productions at Brighton High School.

One day, while sitting in the children's reading room at a small bookstore on Main Street, they had the idea of opening their own coffeehouse. What started that day as a dream became a reality in 2018 when Brighton Coffeehouse and Theater opened its doors and quickly became a cornerstone of downtown.

It is the perfect place to gather. I still remember hosting a townhall conversation there in 2019 and the incredible sense of community that you felt as soon as you walk in the door. It is the reason that student organizations and performers constantly use the space, because you immediately feel at home.

As anyone will tell you, that is because of Marcus. He was the soul of Brighton Coffeehouse, a quiet, kind presence. He treated visitors like neighbors and neighbors like family, always making sure that they were well served and had everything they needed.

It was his idea to start the Brighton Yacht Club, a fleet of dozens of little motorized remote-controlled sailboats that people could rent and sail on the millpond just outside. He loved his business, and the people loved his business back.

He would be the first to tell you that it wasn't easy, that the road from a conversation to construction was filled with twists and turns and setbacks, but Marcus never met an obstacle he couldn't overcome.

His passing is our loss. To Amy, Spencer, and Macy, to all those who knew Marcus and loved him, may they hold on to the dark roasts, the baked goods, the theater productions that brought them close together.

I speak these words today so that his legacy is forever remembered in the permanent RECORD of the people's House, letting all who read know Marcus made a difference.

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

DISRUPTING THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, in the past, I have taken time to discuss Black Lives Matter, a powerful group in this past election, which I think was very instrumental in the Democratic Party retaining their majority, and talking about the Marxist roots of their founders. In their statement, ''What We Believe,'' they, Black Lives Matter, clearly state that one of their goals is to disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure.

First of all, to say that the traditional family is a Western family is insulting to all the people from East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa that already have mothers and fathers at home. This is not a Western thing.

Nevertheless, it is apparent that the founders of Black Lives Matter did consider the traditional nuclear family something to be disrupted. And that is part of Marxism, to get rid of the traditional families. And it is scary that one of our two major political parties held its majority by closely aligning itself with this group.

I have asked for a hearing before the Education Committee on the Pell Grant Program, which already brazenly penalizes nuclear families—no hearing as of yet. But, today, I ran across an article in the City Journal called ''Failure Factory,'' talking about the influence of, to a certain extent, Marxist ideology and, to a certain extent, critical race theory on their curriculum.

This curriculum itself denigrates the traditional family. I don't know why we would, in schools—and they are talking about the Buffalo Public Schools here—why in schools we would denigrate a traditional family with father at home.

This curriculum appears designed to make young people bitter, defeatist, and antipolice. Our poor children—and by poor, I don't mean materially poor. Our poor children have to put up with this sort of curriculum.

In other countries, strong families are the norm, and children are excelling at math, reading, and science. They immigrate here, children from all different racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds, and they will outperform our homegrown students who get this antifamily, antipolice drivel.

I would also ask my good friend Education Chairman BOBBY SCOTT to hold a hearing on critical race theory, which is infecting our schools, before any more damage is done. The Federal Government puts $40 billion into K–12 in this country, and we are spending a total of over $12,000 a child. If teachers are going to teach the students that families with fathers are not good, the police are racist, and that it is so difficult to achieve in this country, it doesn't matter how much we spend. Please, chairman of the Education Committee, BOBBY SCOTT, hold a hearing on critical race theory and the influence it has on our public schools.

Again, I will mention the article describing the curriculum in the Buffalo Public Schools would be called ''Failure Factory'' in the City Journal. So if you want to Google ''Failure Factory,'' City Journal, you can read about what goes on in our Buffalo Public Schools.

ICE AGE TRAIL

Mr. GROTHMAN. Now, I would like to talk a little bit about an amendment that was done in a bipartisan fashion, and I know far too many people outside of Washington don't realize that the vast majority of things we do here are in a bipartisan fashion.

The amendment concerns the Ice Age Trail, a trail that winds throughout the Midwest. But in the State of Wisconsin, it begins in the eastern part of the State in Door County and winds its way out the western part of the State on the Minnesota border. The Ice Age Trail goes through Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Columbia, Marquette, and Waushara Counties in my district.

According to a study by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the trail has had an annual economic impact of $113 million, drawing 1.2 million visitors.

Currently, the Ice Age Trail is not categorized as a unit of the National Park System administered by the Department of the Interior. The bipartisan amendment, which I worked on with my friend Congressman POCAN from the Madison area, would allow the Ice Age Trail that opportunity.

As a unit of the National Park System, Federal funds will be allowed to go to Wisconsin for maintenance and improvement of these trails, which drive tourism and provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Wisconsinites and visitors alike.

More than thousands of years ago, an immense flow of glacial ice sculpted a landscape of remarkable beauty across Wisconsin. And let me tell you, I think Wisconsin is the most beautiful State we have. So, please, everybody come visit our Ice Age Trail.

As the glacier retreated, it left behind a variety of landscape features. These glacial remnants are now considered among the world's finest examples of how continental glaciation sculpts our planet.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand miles that highlights these landscape features as it travels through some of the State's most beautiful natural areas. The trail is entirely within Wisconsin.

The Ice Age Trail is more than a path through the woods. It is a place for mental and physical rejuvenation, a place to unwind after a hard day and enjoy the landscape of Wisconsin. More than a million people use the trail each year to hike and snowshoe, to backpack, to disconnect, and to reconnect.

Behind the scenes, a vibrant community of volunteers across the State work to build and maintain the trail, making it one of the country's best hiking experiences.

I sincerely hope that the bill that is going to come up that we are going to vote on tomorrow, that this amendment becomes part of that bill. I am confident that it will.

It is going to improve the Ice Age Trail, making it even more consumer-friendly for the millions of Wisconsinites who have taken advantage of the trail. Particularly this year, where we have way too many people sitting inside, it is going to be a great year to tour the trail.

The trail was begun in the 1950s as the dream of Milwaukeean Ray Zillmer, who had a vision of a long, linear park winding through Wisconsin

along the glacier's terminal moraine. This will be a great addition to the trail, and it will improve the experience of those who use it.

BENEFITS OF VITAMIN D

Mr. GROTHMAN. Let's address COVID. While it appears we have turned the corner on COVID, it still appears as though we have over 2,000 deaths most days.

For whatever reason, the CDC and the public health establishment have refused to inform the public of the huge benefits of vitamin D. Almost 40 percent of American adults are vitamin D deficient.

This is a bigger problem in winter in the North, where people don't get as much sun, and also a bigger problem with darker skinned populations and a bigger problem with older populations since older people don't produce as much vitamin D.

You should take 5,000 units of vitamin D a day. If you have COVID, you should immediately take additional vitamin D. Countries such as England already inform their population of the benefits of vitamin D, and in India, there is a study showing potentially huge benefits of large amounts of vitamin D given to people as soon as they know they have this disease.

It is unfortunate that our public health establishment has not pushed vitamin D as much as you would think they should. Please, America, look up the website vitaminDforall.org. Over 200 experts, led by Dr. Karl Pfleger of California and Richard Carmona, Surgeon General under President Bush, are advocates of vitamin D. They believe science is on our side, and they believe that if we had adequately informed the 40 percent of the population that was vitamin D deficient, we could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives in this pandemic. Please, we do not want any more patients to die with a vitamin D deficiency.

An interesting thing about vitamin D, a lot of times the medical establishment is reluctant to push something forward because something horrible would happen to a given percentage of the population who take it, but there really is only a minimal downside to taking vitamin D, so I really wish the CDC would step up to the plate, as they have in other countries, and spend some of the time they spend talking about social distancing or masking, which we hear about all the time, educating people to take vitamin D.

Dr. Fauci himself let it slip in an interview with a Hollywood actress that he takes vitamin D. But while he let it slip in kind of a fun interview, he doesn't routinely tell the American public that, and I wish he would do that. I don't know why Dr. Fauci would be so quiet about vitamin D when he, himself, has admitted that he takes a significant amount of it.

The failure of CDC to issue guidances encouraging people to take vitamin D is one of the reasons why we have had so many fatalities. Let's not lose anyone else.

Again, remember to look at the website, vitaminDforAll, and make sure you take vitamin D both for yourself and for your family.

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

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

ADJUSTED AGGREGATE SPENDING LEVELS AND AGGREGATE REVENUE LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITIEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2021.

MADAM SPEAKER, Pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (S. Con. Res. 5) and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record: (Table 1) adjusted aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2021 and aggregate revenue levels for fiscal year 2021 and for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2030, (Table 2) allocations for fiscal year 2021 for the House Committee on Appropriations, and (Table 3) committee allocations for fiscal year 2021 and for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2030 for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations. The authorizing committee allocation is divided into current law amounts and reauthorization. Reauthorization refers to amounts assumed in CBO's baseline for legislation that would extend current law provisions. Tables 1 and 3 also reflect reconciliation amounts, pursuant to section 2001 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (S. Con. Res. 5).

This filing is made for technical purposes as required by S. Con. Res. 5, and the budgetary material published herein is for the purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement provisions. If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer of the Budget Committee staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—BUDGET AGGREGATE TOTALS

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

	2021	2021-2030
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	5,868,572	n.a.
Outlays	5,998,437	n.a.
Revenues	2,523,057	35,075,136

TABLE 2—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITIEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[Unified amounts in millions of dollars]

	2021
Discretionary Action [1]:	
BA	1,396,516
OT	1,457,891
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	1,370,975
OT	1,321,625

[1] Allocation is consistent with the requirements of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, including allowable adjustments pursuant to Sec. 251 of the Congressional Budget Act.

TABLE 3—ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS [1]

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2021		2021–2030 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
Current Law	20,098	30,236	83,852	100,490
Reauthorization			587,985	579,634
Total	20,098	30,236	671,837	680,124
Armed Services:				
Current Law	185,841	185,746	1,665,926	1,664,605
Reauthorization				
Total	185,841	185,746	1,665,926	1,664,605
Education and Labor:				
Current Law	8,513	2,066	62,238	6,517
Reauthorization	918	762	42,189	38,935
Total	9,431	2,828	104,427	45,452
Energy and Commerce:				
Current Law	685,184	812,635	8,076,650	8,174,189
Reauthorization			45,900	37,114
Total	685,184	812,635	8,122,550	8,211,303
Financial Services:				
Current Law	−471,874	−9,831	−375,353	14,613
Reauthorization				−838
Total	−471,874	−9,831	−375,353	13,775
Foreign Affairs:				
Current Law	51,407	40,997	446,114	432,155
Reauthorization				
Total	51,407	40,997	446,114	432,155
Homeland Security:				
Current Law	2,682	2,436	27,639	28,267
Reauthorization				
Total	2,682	2,436	27,639	28,267
House Administration:				
Current Law	13	−10	127	−79
Reauthorization				
Total	13	−10	127	−79
Judiciary:				
Current Law	16,792	20,624	144,480	149,216

TABLE 3—ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS [1]—Continued

[On-budget amounts in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2021		2021–2030 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Reauthorization				
Total	16,792	20,624	144,480	149,216
Natural Resources:				
Current Law	9,077	6,699	75,822	72,946
Reauthorization			−1	−373
Total	9,077	6,699	75,821	72,573
Oversight and Reform:				
Current Law	134,329	133,118	1,493,775	1,476,957
Reauthorization				
Total	134,329	133,118	1,493,775	1,476,957
Science, Space, and Technology:				
Current Law	91	118	1,510	1,448
Reauthorization				
Total	91	118	1,510	1,448
Small Business:				
Current Law	1,941	1,941	1,941	2,146
Reauthorization				
Total	1,941	1,941	1,941	2,146
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Current Law	98,502	35,904	277,600	207,265
Reauthorization			551,840	5,439
Total	98,502	35,904	829,440	212,704
Veterans' Affairs:				
Current Law	640	1,031	2,345	4,319
Reauthorization			131,467	131,467
Total	640	1,031	133,812	135,786
Ways and Means:				
Current Law	1,498,210	1,498,346	14,028,581	14,037,875
Reauthorization		171	188,439	178,771
Total	1,498,210	1,498,517	14,217,020	14,216,646

[1] Reconciliation instructions are not assigned to a committee in this table because some amounts are assigned to more than one committee. The totals for reconciliation instructions are:

	2021		2021–2030 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Reconciliation	1,670,061	1,238,937	1,856,129	1,856,219

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
WORKPLACE RIGHTS,
Washington, DC.
February 25, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to biennially submit a report containing recommendations regarding Federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations that should be made applicable to Congress and its agencies. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the rights afforded by the CAA to legislative branch employees and visitors to Capitol Hill and district and state offices remain equivalent to those in the private sector and the executive branch of the Federal Government. As such, these recommendations support the intent of Congress to keep pace with advances in workplace rights and public access laws.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Board's Section 102(b) Report for the 117th Congress. This report was submitted electronically to you and President Pro Tempore Grassley on December 31, 2020, which was the filing date required by statute. We welcome discussion on these issues and urge that Congress act on these important recommendations.

As required by the CAA, we request that this publication be printed in the Congressional Record and referred to the Committee on House Administration as the committee of the U.S. House of Representatives with jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN.
Executive Director,
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Attachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Office of Congressional Workplace Rights—Board of Directors' Biennial Report required by 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act issued at the conclusion of the 116th Congress for consideration by the 117th Congress

Statement from the Board of Directors

With its enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) in 1995, Congress first applied to the legislative branch the same laws regarding workplace rights and the employment relationship as governed the executive branch and private sector, including those addressing discrimination, workplace safety and health, wages and hours, accessibility, and collective bargaining and labor-management relations. Passage of the CAA in the opening days of the 104th Congress with nearly unanimous approval reflected a Congressional promise to the American public that it would hold itself accountable to the same federal workplace and accessibility standards as apply to private sector employers and executive branch agencies.

This commitment is not meant to be static. Rather, the CAA provides for an ongoing, vigilant review of federal law to ensure that Congress continues to apply to itself—where appropriate—the labor, employment, health, and safety laws that it enacts. To further this goal, section 102(b) of the CAA tasks the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to review federal legislation and regulations to ensure that workplace protections in the legislative branch are on par with those applicable to private sector and executive branch agencies. Accordingly, every Congress, the Board reports on:

whether or to what degree [provisions of Federal law (including regulations) relating to (A) the terms and conditions of employment (including hiring, promotion, demotion, termination, salary, wages, overtime compensation, benefits, work assignments or reassignments, grievance and disciplinary procedures, protection from discrimination in personnel actions, occupational health and safety, and family and medical and other leave) of employees; and (B) access to public services and accommodations] . . . are applicable or inapplicable to the legislative branch, and (2B) with respect to provisions inapplicable to the legislative branch, whether such provisions should be made applicable to the legislative branch.

This section of the CAA also requires that the presiding officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate cause our Report to be printed in the Congressional Record and refer the report to Committees of the House and Senate with jurisdiction.

In past Reports, the Board has taken a broad approach in presenting its recommendations to amend the CAA. In this Report, we highlight key recommendations that the Board has made in past Section 102(b) Reports that have not yet been implemented, as well as additional recommendations to amend the CAA to increase transparency, discourage protracted administrative proceedings at the taxpayers' expense, and enjoin unlawful conduct.

While recognizing the enormous importance of many of the other issues faced today by the 117th Congress, the Board is hopeful that issuance of this Section 102(b) Report will result in legislative action necessary to implement these recommendations so that the CAA remains current with the employment needs of the legislative branch. Without action on the Board's recommendations, the worthy goals of the CAA gradually may be eroded.

The Board welcomes an opportunity to further discuss these recommendations and asks for careful consideration of the requests by the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,
Chair, Board of Directors.
BARBARA L. CAMENS.
ALAN V. FRIEDMAN.
ROBERTA L. HOLZWARTH.

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL.

Recommendations for the 117th Congress

Amend the CAA to Allow the OCWR Board of Directors to Authorize the OCWR General Counsel to Seek Appropriate Temporary Relief after Filing an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) Charge

Section 220 of the CAA incorporates certain provisions of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS) to the legislative branch. 2 U.S.C. §1351. In general, the OCWR General Counsel exercises the same authority delegated to the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) under 5 U.S.C. §§ 7104 and 7118 in the executive branch, that is, the authority to investigate allegations of ULPs and to file and prosecute complaints regarding ULPs.

The CAA, however, does not currently incorporate the provisions of 5 U.S.C. §7123(d), pursuant to which parties to ULP proceedings in the executive branch may request the FLRA General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief, including issuance of a temporary restraining order. Specifically, section 7123(d) provides:

The Authority may, upon issuance of a complaint as provided in section 7118 of this title charging that any person has engaged in or is engaging in an unfair labor practice, petition any United States district court within any district in which the unfair labor practice in question is alleged to have occurred or in which such person resides or transacts business for appropriate temporary relief (including a restraining order). Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall cause notice thereof to be served upon the person, and thereupon shall have jurisdiction to grant any temporary relief (including a temporary restraining order) it considers just and proper. A court shall not grant any temporary relief under this section if it would interfere with the ability of the agency to carry out its essential functions or if the Authority fails to establish probable cause that an unfair labor practice is being committed.

This important statutory provision in the FSLMRS allows the FLRA General Counsel to seek, in appropriate cases when a ULP Complaint is filed, temporary relief in any United States District Court when it would be just and proper to do so and the record establishes probable cause that an ULP is being committed.

Incorporating the provisions 5 U.S.C. §7123(d) into the CAA would allow the OCWR Board to authorize the OCWR General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief in the same manner and under the same circumstances. In the Board's view, the grant of authority to the OCWR General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief under the CAA would, as has proven to be in the executive branch, operate as a strong disincentive for parties in the legislative branch to engage in protracted administrative proceedings at the taxpayers' expense while continuing to engage in ULPs.[1]

Amend the Confidentiality Provisions of the CAA to Exclude Proceedings under the FSLMRS and the Public Access Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (CAA Sections 210 and 220)

The general confidentiality provisions of the CAA that govern administrative hearings and deliberations are set forth at section 416 of the Act. 2 U.S.C. §1416. They currently provide in relevant part that ''all proceedings and deliberations of hearing officers and the Board, including any related records, shall be confidential. This subsection shall not apply to proceedings under section 1341 of this title [concerning proceedings under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHAct)], but shall apply to the deliberations of hearing officers and the Board under that section.'' Congress excluded proceedings under the OSHAct from these confidentiality provisions because it determined that the public interest in transparency concerning safety and health proceedings on Capitol Hill outweighed any value in keeping them confidential.

The Board believes that the public interest in transparency outweighs any value in confidentiality for proceedings under the ADA public access provisions and the labor-management provisions of the CAA. 2 U.S.C. §§1331, 1351. Unlike the individual employment matters covered by Part A of subchapter II of the CAA where there is undoubtedly value in keeping individual personnel disputes confidential, the matters covered by Parts B (ADA public access), C (occupational safety and health), and D (labor-management relations) primarily involve institutional and public concerns with maintaining facilities, policies, and programs that are safe, healthful, accessible, and free from ULPs. The current lack of transparency undermines the public's confidence that those statutory mandates are being fully enforced, encourages protracted litigation at taxpayer expense, and discourages voluntary compliance.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that section 416 of the CAA be amended to exclude from its confidentiality provisions, proceedings under the FSLMRS and the public access provisions of the ADA. This could be accomplished by amending the second sentence in CAA section 416(b) as follows: ''This subsection shall not apply to proceedings under sections 1331, 1341, and 1351 of this title, but shall apply to deliberations of hearing officers and the Board under these sections.''

Amend the Voluntary Mediation Provisions of the CAA's Administrative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Procedures to Require Mediation upon Request of the Claimant

Prior to the CAA Reform Act, the CAA's ADR procedures required, among other things, that an employee file a request for mediation with the OCWR as a jurisdictional prerequisite to filing a complaint with the OCWR or in the U.S. District Court. Further, the CAA provided that the mediation period ''shall be 30 days,'' which could be extended upon the joint request of the parties.

As a result of the CAA Reform Act amendments, however, mediation is no longer mandatory—rather, mediation takes place only if requested and only if both parties agree. 2 U.S.C. §1403. This change from mandatory to voluntary mediation was enacted amid concerns that the mandatory mediation process could serve to delay the availability of statutory relief for victims of harassment or other conduct prohibited by the CAA. Concerns were also expressed that employees could view the mandatory mediation process as intimidating—especially those who are unrepresented by counsel in mediation but who face an employing office represented by legal counsel. The amendment was also enacted amid consensus that mediation is most successful when claimants feel comfortable and adequately supported in the process.

The Board continues to view mediation as a valuable option available to settle disputes under the CAA. The OCWR's experience over many years has been that a large percentage of controversies have been successfully resolved without formal adversarial proceedings, due in large part to its mediation processes. Mediation can save the parties from burdensome litigation, which can be expensive, time consuming, and a drain on resources and workplace productivity. Mediation also gives the parties an opportunity to explore resolving the dispute themselves without having a result imposed upon them. Furthermore, OCWR mediators are highly skilled professionals who have the sensitivity, expertise, and flexibility to customize the mediation process to meet the concerns of the parties. In short, the effectiveness of mediation as a tool to resolve workplace disputes cannot be understated.

The Board is concerned, however, that the CAA Reform Act amendments requiring the consent of both parties to mediation effectively gives the employing offices a veto over claimants who wish to attempt to settle their claims with the assistance of an OCWR mediator. None of the concerns expressed at the time the CAA Reform Act was passed warrant such a result. Moreover, none of the policies underlying mediation are furthered when an employee's request for mediation is effectively denied by the employing office. Further, there is no indication that an employing office would be adversely affected if it were required to participate in mediation when it is requested by the claimant. Requiring mediation upon the request of a claimant will maximize the chances of achieving a voluntary settlement that best meets the needs of all parties to the dispute.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that the CAA be amended to provide that mediation take place if requested by the claimant, or if requested by the employing office and agreed to by the claimant.

Protect Employees Who Serve on Jury Duty (28 U.S.C. §1875)

Section 1875 of title 28 of the U.S. Code provides that no employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any permanent employee by reason of such employee's jury service, or the attendance or scheduled attendance in connection with such service, in any court of the United States. This section currently does not cover legislative branch employment. For the reasons set forth in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board recommends that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Protect Employees and Applicants Who Are or Have Been In Bankruptcy (11 U.S.C. §525)

Section 525(a) of title 11 of the U.S. Code provides that ''a governmental unit'' may not deny employment to, terminate the employment of, or discriminate with respect to employment against, a person because that person is or has been a debtor under the bankruptcy statutes. This provision currently does not apply to the legislative branch. Reiterating the recommendations made in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board advises that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Prohibit Discharge of Employees Who Are or Have Been Subject to Garnishment (15 U.S.C. §1674(a))

Section 1674(a) of title 15 of the U.S. Code prohibits discharge of any employee because his or her earnings ''have been subject to garnishment for any one indebtedness.'' This section is limited to private employers, so it currently has no application to the legislative branch. For the reasons set forth in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board recommends that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Provide Whistleblower Protections to the Legislative Branch

Civil service law provides broad protection to whistleblowers in the executive branch to safeguard workers against reprisal for reporting violations of laws, rules, or regulations, gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. In the private sector, whistleblowers also are often protected by provisions of specific federal laws. However, these provisions do not apply to the legislative branch.

The OCWR has received a number of inquiries from congressional employees concerned about their lack of whistleblower protections. The absence of specific statutory protection against reprisal such as that provided under 5 U.S.C. §2302(b)(8) chills the disclosure of vital information in the public interest to guard against legislative branch mismanagement and abuse. Granting whistleblower protection could significantly improve the rights and protections afforded to legislative branch employees in an area fundamental to the institutional integrity of the legislative branch by uncovering waste and fraud and safeguarding the budget.

The Board has recommended in its previous Section 102(b) Reports and continues to recommend that Congress provide whistleblower reprisal protections to legislative branch employees comparable to that provided to executive branch employees under 5 U.S.C. §2302(b)(8) and 5 U.S.C. §1221. Additionally, the Board recommends that the Office be granted investigatory and prosecutorial authorities over whistleblower reprisal complaints, by incorporating into the CAA the authority granted to the Office of Special Counsel, which investigates and prosecutes claims of whistleblower reprisals in the executive branch.

Provide Subpoena Authority to Obtain Information Needed for Safety and Health Investigations and Require Records to Be Kept of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The CAA applies the broad protections of section 5 of the OSHAct to the congressional workplace. The OCWR enforces the OSHAct in the legislative branch much in the same way the Secretary of Labor enforces the OSHAct in the private sector. Under the CAA, the OCWR is required to conduct safety and health inspections of covered employing offices at least once each Congress and in response to any request, and to provide employing offices with technical assistance to comply with the OSHAct's requirements. But Congress and its agencies are still exempt from critical OSHAct requirements imposed upon American businesses. Under the CAA, employing offices in the legislative branch are not subject to investigative subpoenas to aid in inspections as are private sector employers under the OSHAct. Similarly, Congress exempted itself from the OSHAct's recordkeeping requirements pertaining to workplace injuries and illnesses that apply to the private sector.

The Board continues to recommend that legislative branch employing offices be subject to the investigatory subpoena provisions contained in OSHAct section 8(b) and that legislative branch employing offices be required to maintain records of workplace injuries and illnesses under OSHAct section 8(c), 29 U.S.C. § 657(c), in the interests of the safety and health of legislative branch employees.

Adopt Recordkeeping Requirements under Federal Workplace Rights Laws

The Board has recommended in several Section 102(b) Reports, and continues to recommend that Congress adopt all recordkeeping requirements under federal workplace rights laws, including title VII. Although some employing offices in the legislative branch keep personnel records, there are no legal requirements under the CAA to do so.

Approve the Board's Pending ADA Public Access Regulations

The CAA directs the OCWR Board to promulgate regulations implementing the CAA to keep Congress current and accountable to the workplace laws that apply to private and public employers. The Board is required to issue substantive regulations to achieve parity, unless there is good cause shown to deviate from the private sector or executive branch regulations. Pursuant to section 304 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384, the procedure for proposing and approving substantive regulations provides that: (1) the Board of Directors proposes substantive regulations and publishes a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the Congressional Record; (2) there be a comment period of at least 30 days after the date of publication of the general notice of proposed rulemaking; (3) after consideration of comments by the Board of Directors, the Board adopts regulations and transmits notice of such action (together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for congressional approval of the regulations) to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record; (4) there be committee referral and action on the proposed regulations by resolution in each House, concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution; and (5) there be final publication of the approved regulations in the Congressional Record, with an effective date prescribed in the final publication.

The Board recommended in its 2019 Section 102(b) Report to the 116th Congress that Congress approve the Board's pending regulations that would implement titles II and III of the ADA in the legislative branch. The Board again recommends in this Report that Congress approve its adopted regulations.

Public access to Capitol Hill and constituent access to district and state offices have long been congressional hallmarks of our democracy. The Board's ADA regulations, which await Congressional approval, further ensure that continued access. First, the Board's ADA regulations clarify which title II and title III regulations apply to the legislative branch. This knowledge will undoubtedly save taxpayers money by ensuring pre-construction review of construction projects for ADA compliance—rather than providing for only post-construction inspections and costly redos when the access is not adequate. Second, under the regulations adopted by the Board, all leased spaces must meet some basic accessibility requirements that apply to all federal facilities that are leased or constructed. In this way, Congress will remain a model for ADA compliance and public access. Under the authority of the landmark CAA, the OCWR has made significant progress toward making Capitol Hill more accessible for persons with disabilities. Our efforts to improve access to the buildings and facilities on the campus are consistent with the priority guidance in the Board's ADA regulations, which it adopted in February 2016. Congressional approval of those regulations would reaffirm its commitment to provide barrier-free access to the Capitol Hill complex for the visiting public.

Approve the Board's Pending FMLA and USERRA Regulations When They Are Resubmitted to Congress

The Board also recommended in its Section 102(b) Report to the 116th Congress that Congress approve its pending regulations to implement the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). As discussed below, however, further legislative developments, including the enactment of the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115–397, and Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (FEPLA) (subtitle A of title LXXVI of division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Public Law 116–92, December 20, 2019), have and will necessitate further amendments of these regulations, which the Board will resubmit to Congress for approval.

THE BOARD's FMLA REGULATIONS

On June 22, 2016, the Board adopted and submitted for publication in the Congressional Record additional amendments to its substantive regulations regarding the FMLA. 162 Cong. Rec. H4128–H4168, S4475–S4516 (daily ed. June 22, 2016). The 2016 amendments provided needed clarity on certain aspects of the FMLA. First, they added the military leave provisions of the FMLA, enacted under the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2010, Pub. L. 110–181, Div. A, Title V 585(a)(2), (3)(A)-(D) and Pub. L. 111–84, Div. A, Title V 565(a)(1)(B) and (4), which extended the availability of FMLA leave to family members of the regular armed forces for qualifying exigencies arising out of a servicemember's deployment. They also defined those deployments covered under these provisions, extended FMLA military caregiver leave for family members of current servicemembers to include an injury or illness that existed prior to service and was aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty, and extended FMLA military caregiver leave to family members of certain veterans with serious injuries or illnesses. Second, the amendments set forth the revised definition of ''spouse'' under the FMLA in light of the Department of Labor's February 25, 2015 Final Rule on the definition of spouse, and the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell, et al., v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015), which requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

Congress has not yet acted on the Board's request for approval of these 2016 amendments. However, on December 20, 2019, it enacted the FEPLA, which further amended the FMLA to allow most civilian federal employees, including eligible employees in the legislative branch, to substitute up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for unpaid FMLA leave granted in connection with the birth of an employee's son or daughter or for the placement of a son or daughter with an employee for adoption or foster care. Further modifications of the Board's substantive regulations are therefore necessary in order to bring existing legislative branch FMLA regulations (issued April 19, 1996) in line with these recent statutory changes.

Accordingly, on November 16, 2020, the OCWR Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and request for comments from interested parties, which concerns additional proposed amendments to the Board's substantive FMLA regulations to implement FEPLA. The Board also proposed to amend these regulations to update references to the OCWR's current administrative dispute resolution procedures, which were significantly amended by the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018. The comment period ended 30 days from the date of publication of the Board's notice in the Congressional Record, i.e., on December 17, 2020. The Board is currently reviewing the comments it received and is preparing its Notice of Adopted Rulemaking for publication in the Congressional Record. The

Board's Notice of Adopted Rulemaking will also constitute the resubmission for congressional approval of its 2016 amendments to its substantive FMLA regulations discussed above. Congressional approval of the Board's adopted FMLA regulations when they are resubmitted will be critical to implementing these expanded family and medical leave protections in the legislative branch.

THE BOARD's USERRA REGULATIONS

On December 3, 2008, the OCWR Board of Directors adopted USERRA regulations to apply to the legislative branch. These regulations support our nation's veterans by requiring continuous health care insurance and job protections for the men and women of the armed services who have supported our country's freedoms. They signal a commitment to anti-discrimination, anti-retaliation, and job protections under USERRA.

Those regulations, transmitted to Congress over 10 years ago, have not yet been approved. As with the Board's FMLA regulations, however, it has become necessary to make additional amendments to these regulations to update references to the OCWR's current administrative dispute resolution procedures that were significantly amended by the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018.

Approving the USERRA regulations when they are resubmitted for approval will assist servicemembers in attaining and retaining a job despite the call to duty. Approving USERRA regulations would signal congressional encouragement to veterans to seek work in the legislative branch where veteran employment levels have historically been well below the percentage in the executive branch, or even in the private sector, which is not under a mandate to provide a preference in hiring to veterans. Indeed, many reports have put the level of veteran employees on congressional staffs at 2–3 percent or less.

Congress has long focused on issues concerning the health, welfare, accessibility, and employment status of veterans on Capitol Hill. For example, the Veterans Congressional Fellowship Caucus, started in 2014, has supported efforts to bridge the gap between military service and legislative work. In addition, the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program exists in the office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives where Members can hire veteran Fellows for 2-year terms. In the Senate, the Armed Forces Internship Program exists to provide on-the-job training for returning veterans with disabilities. Further, Public Law No. 115–364, signed into law in 2018, makes clear that disabled veterans in the legislative branch are covered under the provisions of the Wounded Warrior Act. As such, they may receive wounded warrior leave during their first year in the workforce for treatment for their service-connected disabilities.

An extension of these laudable efforts in support of our veterans should include the long-delayed passage of the Board's adopted USERRA regulations, which implement protections for initial hiring and protect against discrimination based on military service. Congress can lead by example by applying the USERRA law encompassed in the CAA.

Approving the three sets of Board-adopted regulations outlined above would not only signify a continued congressional commitment to the laws of the CAA—which passed in 1995 with nearly unanimous bicameral and bipartisan support—but would ensure the effective implementation of the laws' workplace protections and benefits on behalf of the legislative branch workforce.

ENDNOTES

1. The Board has long advocated for legislation granting the OCWR General Counsel the authority to investigate and prosecute complaints of discrimination, harassment, and reprisal in order to assist victims and to improve the adjudicatory process under the CAA. On December 21, 2018, as we were in the process of finalizing the Section 102(b) Report for the 116th Congress, the CAA of 1995 Reform Act, S. 3749, was signed into law. As discussed in that Report, the Reform Act establishes new procedures that are also clearly intended to further these policy goals. Under these circumstances, the Board believes that the best course of action is to continue to evaluate the efficacy of the new Reform Act procedures before revisiting the issue of whether the OCWR General Counsel should be granted such investigatory and prosecutorial authority. Accordingly, this recommendation is not discussed further in this Report.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B) of House Resolution 8, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 26, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-402. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures (RIN: 3046-AB19) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-403. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2020-0005; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8657] received February 2, 2021, 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-404. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2020-0005; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8639] received February 2, 2021, 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-405. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0213; Project Identifier 2019-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-21324; AD 2020-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-406. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Flight Authorizations for Supersonic Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0451; Amdt. No.: 91-362] (RIN: 2120-AL30) received February 2, 2021, 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-407. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Tehran Flight Information Region (FIR) (OIIX) [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0874; Amdt. No.: 91-359] (RIN: 2120-AL49) received February 2, 2021, 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-408. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Damascus Flight Information Region (FIR) (OSTT) [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0768; Amdt. No.: 91-348C] (RIN: 2120-AL55) received February 2, 2021, 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-409. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0979; Product Identifier MCAI-2020-01313-E; Amendment 39-21317; AD 2020-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-410. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Baghdad Flight Information Region (FIR) (ORBB) [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0927; Amdt. No.: 91-353A] (RIN: 2120-AL56) received February 2, 2021, 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-411. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of V-5 and V-178, and Revocation of V-513 in the Vicinity of New Hope, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0497; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ASO-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 2021, 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-412. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1019; Product Identifier 2020-NM-104-AD; Amendment 39-21328; AD 2020-23-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-413. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1024; Product Identifier MCAI-2020-01401-T; Amendment 39-21330; AD 2020-23-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-414. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1067; Amdt. Nos.: 1-73, 61-148, 101-10, 107-6] (RIN: 2120-AL43) received February 2, 2021, 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-415. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0582; Product Identifier 2020-NM-059-AD; Amendment 39-21326; AD 2020-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-416. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0652; Product Identifier 2019-SW-066-AD; Amendment 39-21322; AD 2020-23-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-417. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Limited Extension of Relief for Certain Persons and Operations During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0446; Amdt. No(s). Amendment Numbers: 1-103, 61-146, 63-44, 65-61, 91-358, 107-4, 125-70, and 141-22] (RIN: 2120-AL64) received February 2, 2021, 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-418. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0685; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00396-R; Amendment 39-21325; AD 2020-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-419. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0987; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01205-R; Amendment 39-21323; AD 2020-23-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-420. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0769; Product Identifier 2018-CE-033-AD; Amendment 39-21213; AD 2020-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-421. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Paris, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0751; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANM-42] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 2021, 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-422. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Harrison, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0365; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ASW-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 2021, 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-423. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; the Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0686; Product Identifier 2019-NM-035-AD; Amendment 39-21332; AD 2020-24-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-424. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0513; Product Identifier 2019-SW-037-AD; Amendment 39-21321; AD 2020-23-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2, 2021, 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-425. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pottsville, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0277; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AEA-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 2021, 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-426. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting biennial report on recommendations for improvements to the Congressional Accountability Act, pursuant to section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1302; jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and Labor.

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. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. WILD, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARSON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 1320. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Juneteenth Independence Day as a Federal holiday, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 1321. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BANKS, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 1322. A bill to require an annual fiscal state of the union, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BANKS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JACKSON, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 1323. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide estimates of the use of taxpayer funds by the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 1324. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in hospital emergency departments who are at risk of suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRADY (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1325. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1326. A bill to strengthen the Department of Energy's appliance energy efficiency standards program and promote further energy efficiency gains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1327. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to update the Federal purchase requirement to ensure the use of 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1328. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from purchasing or leasing new vehicles that are not zero-emission vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1329. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal loopholes for major integrated oil companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. VELA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. COLE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HERN, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. CLOUD):

H.R. 1330. A bill to repeal changes made by health care reform laws to the Medicare exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals for hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 1331. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reduce health inequities experienced by individuals who are members of historically racial and ethnic minority groups under State plans under the community mental health services block grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 1332. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COOPER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LIEU, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. ROSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BUSH, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BERA, Ms. DEAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. JONES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. WILD, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1333. A bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KIND, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1334. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1335. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program to award grants for the electrification of certain refrigerated vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1336. A bill to require the Attorney General to issue rules pertaining to the collection and compilation of data on the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1337. A bill to provide for grants for States that require sensitivity training for law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws requiring the independent investigation and prosecution of the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1338. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras and securely storing and maintaining recorded data for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 1339. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish an advanced air mobility interagency working group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 1340. A bill to provide for improvements in the treatment of detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 1341. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to establish an advisory board focused on creating opportunities for women in the trucking industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1342. A bill to authorize a study on the efficacy and potential negative impacts of masks to human health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1343. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to meet standards for the location and operation of polling places used in elections for Federal office, including a standard requiring States to ensure that no individual waits for longer than 30 minutes to cast a vote at a polling place, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1344. A bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. EMMER):

H.R. 1345. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis relating to the decline in the business formation rate in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 1346. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a refundable tax credit for travel expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROW, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BASS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. NEWMAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 1347. A bill to amend section 242 of title 18, United States Code, to forbid the use of chokeholds by persons subject to that provision's prohibitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BASS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 1348. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Freedom Riders, collectively, in recognition of their unique contribution to Civil Rights, which inspired a revolutionary movement for equality in interstate travel; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. RYAN):

H.R. 1349. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the conversion of certain accelerated and advance payments to grants under parts A and B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 1350. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 1351. A bill to establish a strategic uranium reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JONES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. NEAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DEAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LIEU, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BASS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 1352. A bill to establish a trust fund to provide for adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Agriculture, 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. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DEAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILD, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 1353. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BASS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 1354. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of portions of the Los Angeles coastal area in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the coastal area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STEWART, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 1355. A bill to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 1356. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to include additional eligible uses of revenue from tolls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MENG, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS):

H.R. 1357. A bill to provide for the establishment of a COVID-19 Compensation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 1358. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. MASSIE:

H.R. 1359. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. MEEKS (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 1360. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish qualified down payment savings programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEUSER (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 1361. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 1362. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against tax for the purchase of communications signal boosters in areas with inadequate broadband internet access service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 1363. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to provide for an additional goal of the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA) to enhance the role of agriculture in innovative sustainability solutions; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 1364. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 1365. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to remove the Andrew Jackson statue and marble base in Lafayette Square in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 1366. A bill to enforce the Twenty-sixth Amendment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 1367. A bill to prohibit certain noncompete agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JONES, Ms. WILD, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CHU, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. OMAR, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 1368. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States and political subdivisions of States to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies involving one or more persons with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. POSEY (for himself and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 1369. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide bonus depreciation for certain space launch expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. EVANS, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MENG, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H.R. 1370. A bill to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect and report certain data concerning COVID-19; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. REED:

H.R. 1371. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, providing coronavirus emergency response and relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 1372. A bill to prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. STANTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 1373. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for urban Indian organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 1374. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement, review, and revise State energy security plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1375. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish an Office of Energy Equity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1376. A bill to eliminate lead-based pipe and tap hazards in housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 1377. A bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. ROSS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MANNING, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CROW, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. WEXTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JONES, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DEAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BASS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. VELA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. STANTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BERA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 1378. A bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. STANTON, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 1379. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their families; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HERN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. REED, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 1380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain changes made by Public Law 115-97 to the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GUEST, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BACON, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COLE, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LONG, Mr. JACKSON, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. COMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HERN, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. ESTES, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1381. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Ms. MACE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. FALLON, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. KELLER, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 1382. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize any abortion or sterilization procedure performed without the informed consent of the person on whom such procedure is performed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 1383. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for long-term debt limits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. TONKO (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JONES, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 1384. A bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V (such as buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. TRONE (for himself, Mr. EMMER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1385. A bill to establish the position of Interagency Coordinator for Behavioral Health to coordinate the programs and activities of the Federal Government relating to mental health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 1386. A bill to require retailers who offer products for purchase through a website to disclose on such website the country of origin for each product offered for sale; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 1387. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to exempt certain immediate relatives of an individual who was awarded the Purple Heart from certain fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 1388. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a program to provide grants for job guarantee programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. WELCH (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 1389. A bill to amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CROW, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1390. A bill to increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TRONE, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LIEU, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CROW, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JONES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. BUSH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BASS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. HERRELL, and Mr. ARMSTRONG):

H. Res. 163. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support, and not limit access to, all domestic sources of energy development in an effort to achieve full energy security; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. HERN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ROSS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H. Res. 164. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BASS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H. Res. 165. A resolution honoring Honoring the life and legacy of John Robert Lewis and commending John Robert Lewis for his towering achievements in the nonviolent struggle for civil rights; to the Committee on House Administration.

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. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 1320.

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, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 1321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 1322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 6

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 1323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 6

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BRADY:

H.R. 1325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: 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. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Amendment XVI of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 7

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 1331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 1333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section XIII of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States;

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1334.

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. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 1335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 1339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1—All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1340.

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, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 1344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 1345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 1346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1347.

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 Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VII: Commerce Clause

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 1351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive 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 Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H. R. 1352.

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 Office thereof.''

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 1353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 1354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 1356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 1358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is authorized by Article I, Section 6, Clause 1 of the Constitution: ''The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.''

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 1359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is authorized by Article I, Section 6, Clause I of the Constitution: ''The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.''

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 1360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 1361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 1362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 1364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 1366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 2 of Amendment XXVI to the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 1368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 1369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 1370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 1372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1373.

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, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 1376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: ''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. SCHRIER:

H.R. 1377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 1379.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:
H.R. 1380.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:
H.R. 1381.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H.R. 1382.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill is based is Congress's power under the Commerce Clause in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution and under the Constitution's grants of power to Congress under the Equal Protection, Due Process, and Enforcement Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

By Mr. STEWART:
H.R. 1383.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 2 & Clause 3

By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 1384.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 1385.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 1386.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. WALTZ:
H.R. 1387.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4: The Congress shall have Power * * * To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 1388.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing 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. WELCH:
H.R. 1389.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..

By Ms. WILD:
H.R. 1390.
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 Execution 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 Ms. MATSUI:
H.J. Res. 27.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 69: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 73: Mr. MAST, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 80: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 82: Mr. TRONE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 95: Mr. CLINE, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 239: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 274: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 275: Mr. KINZINGER.
H.R. 303: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CASE, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 305: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 308: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 310: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 315: Mr. POSEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 322: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 345: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 425: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 477: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 534: Mr. JACKSON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 554: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 567: Mr. ISSA and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 568: Mr. BIGGS and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 593: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 603: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 607: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 611: Mr. BUDD and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 612: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 651: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 677: Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 682: Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. COMER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. CHENEY, and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 684: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.
H.R. 685: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 695: Ms. WATERS, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 705: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 707: Mr. MEIJER and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 708: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 721: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 734: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 735: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CORREA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 738: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 783: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 823: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 852: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 869: Ms. MANNING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KEATING, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 890: Mr. KILMER, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 897: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 910: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 941: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 959: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 963: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 965: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1012: Mr. TURNER and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1016: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1021: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GAETZ, and Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 1024: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1035: Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1046: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 1047: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 1048: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 1099: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1109: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1145: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 1160: Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 1164: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1165: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1177: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. DEAN, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1179: Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1182: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 1193: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1202: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1211: Mr. ISSA and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1214: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1222: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1246: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1251: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 1271: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1275: Mr. FULCHER and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1276: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MURPHY of

North Carolina, Mr. LAMB, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. MACE, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CAWTHORN, and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1280: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1282: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CROW, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 1283: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1284: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 1290: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 1297: Mr. BOST, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H. Res. 47: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H. Res. 114: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H. Res. 127: Mr. ARRINGTON.

H. Res. 134: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. BOWMAN.

H. Res. 138: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H. Res. 144: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 150: Mr. BABIN.

H. Res. 161: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 *No. 36*

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Righteous God, Your power is unsurpassed. Manifest Your might during this challenging season. Lord, show us Your strength.

Use our Senators for Your glory. Provide them with the wisdom to look ahead and to count the cost. Inspire them to desire, above all else, to remain within the circle of Your loving and prevailing providence. Lord, give them sufficient caution to see the danger coming and refuse to plunge ahead.

And, Lord, we thank You for the amazing service of Secretary Julie Adams.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, the Senate is laser-focused on confirming President Biden's impressive Cabinet while paving the way for another round of urgent COVID relief. The two tasks will remain the top Senate priorities over the next several weeks.

By the end of this week, the Senate will have confirmed three Cabinet-level officials—the U.N. Ambassador and the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy—and will have set up confirmation votes early next week for the Secretaries of Education and Commerce and the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

This week, Senate committees also held confirmation hearings on scores of other nominations, including the President's candidates for Attorney General, HHS Secretary, Interior Secretary, CIA Director, Surgeon General, and U.S. Trade Representative.

At the same time, Democrats are preparing to proceed with the urgently needed President Biden American Rescue Plan, a $1.9 trillion lifeline that will lay the foundation for economic recovery and a return to life as normal.

We have come a long way in our fight against COVID, but we still have a long way to go. Over 60 million vaccinations have now been administered across the country. Death rates are finally, finally declining. But while the trends are headed in the right direction, more Americans are still dying per day than at any point during the worst weeks of last summer.

The same goes for our economy. While there are green shoots, our country remains 10 million jobs short of where we were last February—10 million jobs short. That is nothing to trifle with or pass over. Today's report on new jobless claims was the 49th week that the number was higher than at any point during the great recession.

Let me repeat that. Today's report on the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits for the first time was the 49th week during the COVID pandemic that new unemployment claims were higher than at any point during the great recession. In the words of Fed Chairman Powell, hardly a big liberal, ''The economic recovery remains uneven and far from complete, and the path ahead is highly uncertain.''

That is from a very serious, staid man not prone to any hyperbole at all. But what he is telling us is simple: We cannot take our foot off the gas. We cannot slow down before the race is won. We must proceed boldly and decisively.

Senate Democrats will move forward on the American Rescue Plan as soon as possible. The bill will erase any doubt that the American people, businesses, families, workers will have the resources that they need until we can defeat the virus and our economy comes roaring back. The American people should expect nothing less.

Just yesterday, over 150 executives from the Nation's business community said that taking action on the American Rescue Plan is the right thing to do. The business community is firmly lined up behind this plan. Earlier this month, 400 mayors from both parties, Democratic and Republican, sent a letter to Congress supporting the plan and the help it provides to keep teachers and firefighters and other essential public employees on the job.

In poll after poll, the American public overwhelmingly supports congressional action on a bold COVID relief package, a majority of Democrats and a majority of Republicans. As many as 7 in 10 Americans support the American Rescue Plan. There is a clear, bipartisan, nationwide mandate to act, and that is just what the Senate is going to do—a clear, bipartisan, nationwide mandate to act, and that is what we will do.

Now, from the start, we had hoped this effort would be bipartisan. As I said before, there is nothing about the budget process that precludes bipartisanship. The same process has been used no fewer than 17 times to produce major bipartisan legislation. But it seems that despite the historic nature of the crisis, despite the clear and pressing needs of the country, despite the support of mayors and Governors and economists and business leaders from across the political spectrum, and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

despite the popularity of the legislation with the American people, my Republican colleagues are organizing to oppose the next round of COVID relief.

A report in CNN suggested that Republican leaders were ''maneuvering'' to keep every single Republican from supporting the American Rescue Plan, an exercise in pure partisanship. We have started to hear the same predictable objections in almost the same exact words that Republicans use in response to nearly every piece of Democratic legislation: ''a liberal wish list''; ''socialism.''

One Republican Member said that the American Rescue Plan was ''to the left of Lenin.'' Seriously, to the left of Lenin? Money for schools, vaccines, direct checks to struggling American families—checks that nearly every Member of the Senate supported just a few months ago—now it is to the left of Lenin?

This kind of reflexive partisan opposition is not going to wash with the American people. It wouldn't wash at any time, but it especially doesn't wash during this time of crisis. The American people have all heard it before, and they know the country needs help.

All week our Republican colleagues have been raising concerns about school closures. Well, I will tell you what, we all want to open schools. We all want them to reopen. We are all concerned, though, about the cost of remote learning on children and parents. So are the teachers. So are the children. So are the parents.

But how about we actually give schools the funding they need to reopen as quickly and safely as possible? That funding is in the American Rescue Plan. While our Republican colleagues are cynically attacking teachers—something they have done for decades—the school districts in their States are telling them they need more funding. Their school districts are telling them they need more funding to hire extra teachers and reduce class size, to change the infrastructure of their schools to increase social distancing, to hire tutors for summer school and the fall to help our children make up for lost time.

The education commissioner for the State of Nebraska, hardly a Democratic stronghold, put it simply: ''There's a lot of damage to repair.'' Our Republican colleagues want schools to reopen. So do we. But what about actually doing something to make that happen as safely and as quickly as possible?

It seems my Republican colleagues have even taken issue with the tiny amount of funding in the bill that goes to a bridge in New York. They say: Look, a pork-barrel earmark from the Democratic leader, totally non-COVID-related. The truth is, this is one of the only bridges operated by the Federal Government. Its revenues for operating expenses have collapsed because of COVID. No one is using the bridge.

Ironically, the bridge is located in a district represented in the House by a Republican. And the request for this funding wasn't made by me or any Democrat, for that matter. It came from the Trump administration 5 months ago. I learned about it being in the bill when I read about it in the newspaper.

That is how silly the talking points of the other side have gotten. Republicans are not happy about a small provision in the bill requested by the previous Republican administration, so they are going to oppose direct checks to struggling families, another round of assistance for small businesses, and money for schools and vaccinations. The argument is absurd and, we know, a total excuse.

Look, we Democrats would prefer to work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass this bill. We had an open, bipartisan amendment process on the budget resolution. We have already included many bipartisan amendments the Senate adopted into this new reconciliation bill. The first amendment we put on the floor for the restaurants was bipartisan, and that was the first amendment I put on the floor as majority leader, showing my intent to be bipartisan.

But, at the end of the day, we cannot let obstructionism stop us. At the end of the day, the American people sent us here with a job to do.

The bottom line is simple: We are still in a historic crisis of the health of the economy. The American people know we are in a historic crisis. And the Senate will soon take action on our plan to solve this crisis, a plan with overwhelming public support. Our Republican colleagues will have to decide whether they will work with us to approve the legislation or obstruct it to the bitter end.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Vermont.

WELCOMING ANN BERRY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate what the leader just said about COVID. It certainly reflects the feelings of people in my State that we have to get going.

But I am here on a different matter today. Since the 1780s, we have had an extraordinary list of Secretaries of the Senate. The outgoing Secretary Julie Adams is one of those extraordinary people who have been here, and I have had the distinct pleasure and honor of serving with so many.

But let me be personal for a moment. On Monday, in my role as President pro tempore, I will administer the oath of office to an amazing person, Sonceria Ann Berry. She will become the Secretary of the Senate.

This is a woman who earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of North Alabama, and she has had so much experience in the Senate. She first worked for Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama.

I had the pleasure of serving with Senator Heflin—as I found when I would travel to Alabama with him, he usually would be greeted with ''Hello, Judge.'' He was a man who had an extraordinary sense of how the Senate worked but made very clear to me how much he relied on Ann Berry. She worked with other good friends of mine: Senator Pat Moynihan, whose office was right down the hall from mine, and Senator Edwards and Senator CARPER. She took time out from her duties in my office to help stand up Senator JONES' office.

She came to the Leahy office in 2007, and she worked with my chief of staff, J.P. Dowd. They gave such leadership to my office, and I have found that almost daily, I would stick my head into Ann's office and say: Here is the situation; what do you think we should do here or there? I knew what a go-to in the Senate she had been for generations of staffers, a mentor to dozens of young staffers and interns. I have also said over and over again that we Senators are merely a constitutional impediment to our staffs. Well, this impediment was delighted he could go to Ann Berry and seek help and advice.

I think of her and her family—Reginald, her wonderful husband, and her daughter, Elizabeth, whom I have had a chance to see grow up to become a young woman who is distinguishing herself working here in the Senate.

I also think of her sayings, like ''This, too, shall pass'' or ''I may have been born at night, but I wasn't born last night.'' ''There is more than one way to skin a cat,'' or sometimes when we had been here late into the night, she says, ''Nothing good happens after midnight.'' But with her, everything good happened.

I think of the Senate and all of us in it, in a way, as a family. Over my years here, I have become more and more aware of that. But Ann Berry truly was. I don't know how many times somebody working in my office would have an issue—not just the professionals things; she was always there to answer those and give direction. They would go in and say, ''You know, I have had this thing that has been troubling me'' and know that they could get wonderful advice but also advice in confidence.

I will admit that my grandchildren, my wife and I think the world of her. We do have one grandchild, now 15, but

for the last few years, he would be in my office, and he would say, ''I want to go leave a note for Miss Ann,'' and young Patrick would go and leave notes for her. It is a kind of family.

I think the world of our majority leader. When he told me that he wanted to appoint Ann Berry as Secretary of the Senate, I told him I will forgive him this once only because of her extraordinary capabilities.

I will speak more about her next week, but one thing that is going to give me pride because of who it involves is that on Monday, as President pro tempore, I will administer the oath of office to the extraordinary Ann Berry, and I will do it as one of the proudest moments since I have been here.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, next week, House Democrats say they will try to recycle failed legislation that would have Washington Democrats grab unprecedented power over how America conducts its elections and how American citizens can engage in political speech.

For several years now, we have seen the political left grow less interested in having normal policy debates within our governing institutions and more interested in attacking the institutions themselves to tilt the playing field in their side's favor.

When their side loses a Presidential election, it is not their fault; it is the electoral college's. When they don't like a Supreme Court's decision, it is time to threaten the Justices or pack the Court. When longstanding Senate rules threaten to frustrate far-left proposals, it is the Senate rules they want to change. And now House Democrats want to try to use their slim majority to unilaterally rewrite and nationalize election law itself. They want to use the temporary power the voters have granted them to try to ensure they will never have to relinquish it.

This year's version of the House Democrats' legislation contains the same bad ideas as their efforts 2 years ago. For example, when the Federal Election Commission was created after Watergate with the sensitive job of regulating American politics, it was designed to require bipartisan consensus. House Democrats want to scrap those rules and turn the FEC from an even-numbered body, bipartisan body, to an odd-numbered partisan body so Democrats can dominate it. Then they want to hand the newly partisan FEC new authorities to scrutinize and regulate an even wider share of political speech and private citizens' activities. Or take election law itself—House Democrats have looked at the division and the disunity of the last several months and decided that what American elections really need is a one-size-fits-all partisan rewrite by one side here in Washington.

In our country, States and localities run elections. Those of us in the Federal Government do not get a stranglehold over the ways in which voters decide our fates. But House Democrats want to change that. Their bill would take prudential questions about early voting, registration, and no-excuse absentee balloting and resolve them one way for the entire Nation. They want to force all 50 States to allow the absurd practice of ballot harvesting, where paid operatives can show up at polling places carrying a thick stack of filled-out ballots with other people's names on them. They want to forbid States from implementing voter ID or doing simple things like checking their voter rolls against change-of-address submissions. They want to mandate no-excuse mail-in balloting as a permanent norm, post-pandemic. And—I promise I am not making this up—their bill proposes to directly fund political campaigns with Federal tax dollars. They want to raise money through new financial penalties, which the government would then use to fund campaigns and consultants. It is a strange idea. It takes a minute to kind of wrap your head around it. They want the Federal Government itself to send money for things like political ads that half the country disagrees with. What a bizarre concept that nobody is asking for.

This sweeping Federal takeover would be exactly the wrong response to the distressing lack of faith in our elections that we have recently seen from both political sides.

After both 2016 and 2020, we saw significant numbers of Americans on the losing side express doubt in the validity of the result. As recently as late last September, fewer than half of Democrats said they were confident the 2020 election would be free and fair. Just weeks later, however, by mid-November, once things had gone the way they wanted, Democrats' confidence in the election magically skyrocketed up to 90 percent. We cannot keep trending toward a future where Americans' confidence in elections is purely a function of which side won.

A sweeping power grab by House Democrats, forcibly rewriting 50 States' election laws, would shove us further and faster down that path. In this country, if the people who win elections want to hold on to power, they need to perform well, pass sound policies, and earn the support of the voters again. House Democrats do not get to take their razor-thin majority, which voters just shrunk, and use it to steamroll States and localities to try to prevent themselves from losing even more seats the next time. Protecting democracy cannot be a partisan issue.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE ADAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a completely different matter, this week, the institution of the Senate is losing a talented leader who has spent 6 years as one of our top officials.

The Secretary of the Senate is a truly unique position in American Government. She or he is essentially the chief administrative officer of the institution itself. Back in the 18th century, that meant keeping the minutes and records and making sure people had ink for their quills. Today, it means managing a sprawling array of offices packed with career professionals, everything from parliamentary procedure to payroll, to public records, to the Senate Library and the page school and much more. The Secretary also fulfills key institutional functions. She or he signs every act that we pass. They carry formal messages to other branches of our government.

It takes major smarts, guts, integrity, and people skills just to survive in this mammoth job, let alone to actually thrive in it, but for the last 6 years, Julie Adams hasn't just survived, she hasn't just personally thrived; she has strengthened the entire institution of the Senate.

I first met Julie back in 2003 when we hired her to help out our press team. I was just starting my time as Republican whip. Julie was new to Washington, but she wasn't new to policy or to politics, and she knocked everyone's socks off right from the start. She combined diligence and professionalism with a heart of gold. She mastered her day job, volunteered for tasks above and beyond, and became the whole office's favorite teammate.

Of course, nobody is perfect; for example, Julie is not a Kentuckian. She is a proud daughter of Iowa. But trust me, she has become an honorary citizen of the Commonwealth many times over.

A few years later, she was stolen away to do important work for First Lady Laura Bush, but in 2009, we brought her back to coordinate operations and administration across both my personal office and my leadership office. She brought great judgment, a quick mind, stellar instincts, and a meticulous eye to a big job and made us all a whole lot better. From short-term crises to long-term relationships, Julie can do it all.

While perpetually juggling 10 tasks for herself, she always found ways to look after everyone else. She made sure each of her colleagues, down to the most junior, got the attention and the resources they needed. Everyone was included. Everyone mattered. She made sure of it.

Her talent and skills made Julie an easy choice for Secretary of the Senate after we took the majority in 2014. Now, there is always the potential for sensitivity when a new leader, appointed by a Senate leader of one party, comes in to oversee huge numbers of dedicated, long-serving, nonpartisan specialists. Not surprisingly,

Julie rapidly won the admiration, affection, and trust of the men and women under the Secretary's umbrella. She has championed the professionals who make this place go. She empowered them. She stuck up for them and made sure they were properly insulated from political pressure.

Everyone knows Julie puts this institution and its rules first. Staff trust her. Senators on both sides trust her. Leaders across other branches of government trust her. She plays everything down the middle with total integrity.

And amid all of this, she maintained the generous spirit that everyone admires. Whether she is delivering official Senate correspondence to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Secretary of State or checking in with a Senate employee on a birthday or during a tough personal time, everyone gets the same friendly ''hello'' and sincere kindness from Julie Adams.

Alas, it is customary to have a new Secretary of the Senate when there is a change in party control. Tomorrow is Julie's last day. I am really, really sorry to say good-bye to such a key player.

So on behalf of the whole Senate, I want to thank Julie's proud parents, Dr. Harold and Leah Adams; her siblings, John and Jessica; and her beloved canine companion Maggie for sharing this great friend and essential colleague with us for many years.

Julie, you made your family proud, you made me proud, and, most importantly, you have been a great credit to this institution. Thank you, sincerely, for your service.

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. 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.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Tom Vilsack as the Secretary of Agriculture. It is a role he is familiar with, having previously served as Agriculture Secretary under President Obama. I voted in support of his nomination because I believe he understands the issues facing farmers and ranchers and is sincere in his desire to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to support our Nation's agriculture producers.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of my home State of South Dakota, and fighting for farmers and ranchers is one of my top priorities here in the Senate. I am very pleased to, once again, serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee in this Congress, which gives me an important platform to advocate for South Dakota farmers and ranchers and farmers and ranchers across the country.

One huge priority for me over the past year has been making sure agriculture producers have the support they need to weather this pandemic. During debate on the CARES Act—our largest coronavirus relief bill to date—I fought to make sure we included relief for farmers and ranchers, and I followed up by advocating for cattle producers with the Department of Agriculture to make sure they would receive funds.

I also worked to ensure that additional relief for farmers and ranchers was included in the COVID legislation that we passed in December. The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that the USDA established to distribute funding, included in the CARES Act, has distributed billions in direct support to agriculture producers, which has been key in helping them weather this pandemic.

Now that Secretary Vilsack has been confirmed, I urge him to lift the Biden administration's freeze on part of this important program and distribute the additional funding from the December relief package as soon as possible. I also urge the Department of Agriculture to use its authority to provide assistance to agriculture processors like the biofuels industry.

During my meeting with Secretary Vilsack prior to his confirmation, we spent time discussing my Soil Health and Income Protection Program, which became law as part of the 2018 farm bill. That program, the SHIPP program, allows farmers to take their lowest performing croplands out of production for 3 to 5 years. This benefits the environment by increasing soil health and water quality, and it benefits farmers by providing them with a rental payment for the acres they have temporarily removed from production.

I will continue to urge Secretary Vilsack to expand farmers' access to SHIPP by holding another signup this year. I will also continue to urge him to address another priority I brought up in our meeting, and that is the November 1 haying and grazing date for cover crops on prevented plant acres, which is too late in the year for farmers in more northern States like South Dakota.

As I said, one of my top priorities has been making sure farmers and ranchers have the support they need during the pandemic. When it became clear that farmers and ranchers were largely missing out on the Paycheck Protection Program that Congress had set up to help small businesses weather the pandemic, Senator BALDWIN and I introduced legislation to allow more farmers and ranchers to access the program by allowing them to use their gross incomes rather than their net incomes to determine their loan awards. Our Paycheck Protection for Producers Act became law as part of the coronavirus relief bill that Congress passed in December.

Senator BALDWIN and I have continued to engage with the Treasury Department and the Small Business Administration to ensure that the Paycheck Protection Program is working properly for farmers and ranchers. For example, we recently led a bipartisan letter urging a broader implementation of our Paycheck Protection for Producers Act to ensure that farmers and ranchers who are organized as partnerships or limited liability companies are allowed to apply for Paycheck Protection Program loans by using this more favorable gross income formula, as was intended.

These issues are front of mind for ag producers in my State, and, last week, I had the opportunity to discuss many of them in person with representatives of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, which represents and advocates for corn farmers in South Dakota. Another thing we spent a lot of time talking about was biofuels. In addition to helping to feed our Nation, corn and soybean farmers provide essential feedstocks for biofuels, like ethanol and biodiesel, which provide an important source of cleaner energy. I have long been an advocate for biofuels for their clean energy potential and the benefits they offer to the agriculture industry.

When I met with Secretary Vilsack, he committed to working with me to promote ethanol as a form of clean energy—a commitment he echoed at his confirmation hearing.

I recently introduced two bipartisan pieces of legislation to support the increased use of biofuels and emphasize their clean energy potential. The Adopt GREET Act, which I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, would require the Environmental Protection Agency to update its greenhouse gas modeling for ethanol and biodiesel by using the U.S. Department of Energy's GREET model. A recent Harvard study found that ethanol is 46 percent cleaner than gasoline, with some technologies reducing life-cycle emissions by as much as 61 percent. These findings underscore how biofuels can reduce emissions in the near term using our Nation's existing vehicles. Currently, however, the EPA's modeling does not fully recognize the tremendous emissions-reducing potential of ethanol and other biofuels. The Adopt GREET Act would fix this problem and pave the way for increased biofuel use both here and abroad.

I also introduced a bill to advance long-stalled biofuel registrations with the EPA. Regulatory inaction has stifled the advancement of promising technologies, like ethanol derived from corn kernel fiber, even though some of these fuels are already being safely used in States like California. My bill would speed up the approval process for these innovative biofuels. This would allow biofuel producers to capitalize on the research and facility investments they have made and improve their operating margins while further lowering

emissions and helping our Nation's corn and soybean producers by reinforcing this essential market.

The pandemic has highlighted vulnerabilities in our Nation's food supply chain, especially when it comes to meat processing capacity. Too much of our Nation's processing capacity is concentrated in a handful of facilities, leaving our meat supply vulnerable if a problem like a coronavirus outbreak occurs at one of these plants.

I recently introduced the Strengthening Local Processing Act with Senator MERKLEY. Our legislation would help expand national meat processing capacity by providing new resources for smaller, more local meat processing operations. Spreading out and expanding our Nation's meat processing capacity over more plants will make our Nation's meat supply less vulnerable to interruption in situations like the coronavirus pandemic or natural disasters and provide livestock producers with more marketing options.

I am proud to represent South Dakota's farmers and ranchers here in Congress, and I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that all of our Nation's farmers and ranchers have the support they need to weather the rest of this pandemic and to continue feeding our Nation and the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I am proud to stand today in support of Jennifer Granholm's nomination to be the next Secretary of Energy.

I have known Secretary-designate Granholm for many years, and I served in her administration while she was Governor. There is no question she is uniquely qualified to serve as Secretary of Energy. As the Governor of Michigan, she led our State through an economic crisis. She knows how to deal with multifaceted challenges and has a documented record of strong leadership.

During her confirmation hearing, Jennifer Granholm outlined three key missions that she wants to prioritize in her new role: one, strengthening national security, particularly on nuclear nonproliferation through the National Nuclear Security Administration; two, supporting the research and development at scientific research facilities all across our Nation; and, three, utilizing that research to create new, good-paying jobs for Americans. All of these issues are issues that Jennifer Granholm has been focused on throughout her entire career.

As Governor, she worked to support groundbreaking research that is conducted at Michigan's world-class institutions—research that is constantly leading to new discoveries that will change the world to create jobs and save lives. As Governor, Jennifer Granholm secured bipartisan support to establish the 21st Century Jobs Fund, which leveraged funding to diversify Michigan's economy, create jobs in clean energy by attracting new business investments, and put Michigan on a better path.

Those are the kinds of actions and investments that I look forward to working closely with Secretary-designate Granholm on in the coming months and in the coming years, and it is clear that she also recognizes what must be done to advance our Nation's energy interests, because she has already achieved results in Michigan.

If we are going to build back better, we must do so in a sustainable, forward-thinking way that addresses climate change. That is something President Biden's administration is committed to doing, and I know Secretary Granholm is as well. I could not be more excited to say that we will have a fellow Michigander leading the Department of Energy, and I urge all of my colleagues to support her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from West Virginia and I both be allowed to complete our remarks before moving to the rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, when Governor Granholm came before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for her nomination hearing, she said she was committed to American energy dominance. She stated she understood the importance of having a broad energy mix and supporting energy innovation.

Now, I asked her if it was a good thing that the United States is the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and she said it was. I asked her if low energy prices and high-paying American energy jobs were good things, and she agreed that they were. And when I asked her if America exporting its energy influence around the globe was a good thing, she again affirmed that it was. She has demonstrated that she is dedicated to supporting carbon capture, nuclear power, and American uranium production.

For these reasons, she cleared our committee with broad bipartisan support and will soon be confirmed by the Senate. I expect we will work together closely on these efforts when she leads the Department of Energy.

During her nomination hearing, Governor Granholm also said that she didn't want to see anyone lose their job or get left behind. Yet this is exactly what the Biden administration is doing to thousands of American energy workers.

On Inauguration Day, the President spoke of unity and bringing our Nation back together. Once he arrived at the White House, however, he threw that rhetoric out the window, picked up his pen, and started signing radical Executive orders.

His orders to ban oil, gas, and coal leasing on Federal lands and to kill the Keystone XL Pipeline will throw thousands of Americans out of work. These workers' livelihoods are being sacrificed in the name of the Biden agenda. Leaders in the administration are telling these oil rig and coal mine and pipeline workers that they can simply get new jobs building solar panels.

Actually, John Kerry said that the Biden administration policies will give these workers better choices. In 2019, the average salary of a solar panel technician was about $30,000 a year less than the average salary of a worker in the gas, oil, and coal industry. So John Kerry flies around the world, private jet, but is asking American energy workers to each take $30,000 a year less in income. And that is if these green energy jobs even exist.

To that point, the Washington Post Fact Checker took a look at what John Kerry had said, and they said he was offering ''false hope with a misleading use of statistics.''

Look, we have heard it all before. When President Biden was Vice President, the Obama administration promised thousands of green energy jobs—jobs that never materialized. Millions of taxpayer dollars were wasted on green energy companies that went belly-up.

Now the ''Solyndra Syndrome'' has returned. The Washington Post Fact Checker said it expects just a little over 10,000 new wind and solar jobs over the next 10 years.

In Wyoming alone, the long-term leasing ban would result in 33,000 workers losing their jobs. And where are these Wyoming workers supposed to go?

Hundreds of thousands more workers are going to lose their jobs in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, and other States. How will they provide for their families?

The Biden ban won't just hurt workers; it is going to hurt kids too. A long-term leasing ban is going to eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in State revenue—the dollars which go for essential services, for public schools, for roads, bridges, and hospitals. A long-term leasing ban is going to hurt teachers, students, and the communities they call home.

America needs all the energy—the oil, the gas, the coal, the uranium, the

wind, the solar—all of them. Banning fossil fuels will hurt our economy and force more workers out of work.

President Biden has declared war on American energy and American energy workers, and I just can't stand by as this administration tries to crush Wyoming's economy. I can't support an administration that throws my constituents out of work and hurts the schools and the hospitals in the communities and the teachers who teach the children.

Energy is a force multiplier. American energy is—America is an energy superpower. We need to act that way.

President Biden seems to want to pull the plug on American energy dominance. So I cannot in good conscience vote to approve his nominee for Secretary of Energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that upon the disposition of the Granholm nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Cardona nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first of all, I am delighted to speak today on the nomination of Jennifer Granholm to be Secretary of Energy.

I have known Jennifer since we were Governors together more than a decade ago. She served two terms as Governor of Michigan from 2003 to 2010. That was a particularly challenging time in her State's history, and I saw how she handled the difficult challenges facing her during the Great Recession and when the bottom dropped out of the auto industry in her State.

She was up to those challenges. She helped save the domestic auto industry. She diversified Michigan's economy. She brought in new investment and new industry, and she created new jobs, leaving no worker behind.

I know she will continue to apply the mindset at the national level. She has the leadership skills, the vision, and the compassion for people that we need at the helm of the Department of Energy to face the climate challenge and, at the same time, preserve our energy security, protect our national security, clean up the Cold War legacy, and preserve our scientific and technological prowess.

Moreover, she is someone you can talk to and work with. She listens, and she is an honest broker. She may not always agree with you, but she will listen to your concerns and will try to address them.

Finally, she is just simply a good person. That is a quality that I value and expect all of my colleagues would benefit from.

I believe she is extremely well qualified to lead the Department of Energy, and I urge—I truly urge—all of my colleagues to show in this bipartisan vote to confirm her nomination today.

I also yield back the remaining time of our presentation.

VOTE ON GRANHOLM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Granholm nomination?

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Risch
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Romney
Booker	Johnson	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Rounds
Burr	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Luján	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tester
Cramer	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

NAYS—35

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Rubio
Blunt	Hagerty	Sasse
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Inhofe	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Sullivan

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senior Senator from Missouri.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on January 20, the world watched as we inaugurated the 46th President of the United States on the west front of the Capitol, as we have done now for the last four decades. But this was the 59th time in our Nation's history that we have gathered to witness one of what has really become one of our most iconic and sacred ceremonies. I described it that day, as President Reagan did 40 years earlier, as ''commonplace and miraculous.'' Commonplace because we have done it every 4 years since 1789; miraculous because we have done it every 4 years since 1789.

This is the second time I have had the privilege to serve as the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies or, as it is normally known, JCCIC, and that is how I will refer to it in the rest of these remarks. Senator KLOBUCHAR, the ranking member at that time on the Rules Committee, was a big part of helping with that, as were the other four members of that committee.

In a normal year, organizing an inauguration is a major undertaking, but when you add a pandemic and then you add the events of January 6, it is uniquely challenging. Without a doubt, this was an inauguration of twists and turns, where adaptability, creativity, and determination were crucial.

Today, I am here on the floor to thank the staff, the partners, and the volunteers who met those challenges and made this year's inauguration a success.

As I mentioned earlier, the two factors that posed the greatest challenges this year were the pandemic and security. In order to keep the inauguration from becoming a superspreader event, we consulted with public health authorities at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the Cleveland Clinic. We engaged experts from the National Football League, the Major League Baseball, NASCAR, the National Hockey League, Disney, Ardian Group, and CLEAR about pandemic protocols and technology that relates to them.

We were in regular consultation with the Office of the Attending Physician, particularly Dr. Monahan and his chief of staff, Keith Pray. And we relied on support from the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services' COVID–19 Joint Command Cell. Testing was required for all attendees, and over 7,000 tests were administered at two sites, one in the Capitol and one in the Pentagon.

Masks were required to be worn by all attendees. Graciously, Ford Motor Company produced a significant quantity of masks, truly a first for this or any inauguration, and we are grateful to them, and 3M provided some specialized masks for the limited indoor activities that we had.

The health and safety measures put together really created significant logistical challenges. All of this couldn't have been done without the leadership of Robin Mangan, our director of operations for that health activity and that testing activity. Her team,

Dr. Alex Lazar, who was on sabbatical from MD Anderson; Jordan Wilson was with us from ROB WITTMAN's office; Shannon Ryder, detailed from the Capitol Police Office of Emergency Management to help with that part of what we did.

Security is always the foremost consideration for an inauguration. It is a time of great exposure, frankly, for our democracy and our Nation's leaders.

And, as I said earlier, just 2 weeks earlier, the inaugural platform itself had been stormed and damaged. The officers who fought valiantly that day to protect the Capitol were also in charge, 2 weeks later, with keeping the inauguration safe. And while carrying the burden of the events of January 6, the U.S. Capitol Police officers, with the assistance of the National Guard, ensured that the inauguration was secure and that the events of the day would occur without interruption.

Our committee's Capitol Police liaison, Lieutenant Jillian Jeffers, seamlessly coordinated the work of the JCCIC and the department's Inaugural Task Force. I want to thank Lieutenant Jeffers, the U.S. Capitol Police, and the Inaugural Task Force, along with the National Guard, and the entire Executive Steering Committee, and law enforcement elements of this National Special Security Event for maintaining the security of the Capitol Complex during the inauguration.

Because COVID significantly limited in-person participation, we had to put a particular emphasis on ensuring that people at home could also experience the inauguration. I believe we succeeded. Viewers of the 59th Inaugural Ceremonies totaled more than 108 million people. The enhanced viewing experience provided by JCCIC was viewed by more than 75 million people across social media platforms and the committee's website. This was more than double—surprising to me, at least—the viewership of the traditional national television news broadcast, which tallied about 33.8 million people. In addition, the JCCIC was able to generate 5.2 million individual impressions on Twitter, making it one of the bigger Twitter events ever.

One of the most well-received aspects of the JCCIC production was the narration provided by two Capitol Visitor Center guides, Janet Clemens and Ronn Jackson, who described the various events through the day, offering viewers a behind-the-scenes experience that only somebody who spent day after day totally understanding the Capitol Building could have done.

We appreciate the technical expertise and the creative insights offered us by industry professionals, like Gorilla Flicks and Razor Management, Showcall, Castle Technologies, and TRI Leadership Resources. All of those groups came together to help give us advice and assistance.

I want to especially thank Paige Waltz, the JCCIC's communications director. Paige was on loan from Senator ROMNEY, and her vigorous efforts to overhaul the JCCIC brand and the website and to realize innovative ways to make our ceremonies more inclusive for Americans and viewers around the world really paid off on inaugural day. I think we can all agree that Paige and her team—Spring Binsted, Corinna Schutte, Channing Foster, and Matthew Mondello—outshined any expectations anybody would have had for what we were able to get across in this different kind of Inauguration Day.

There was much to be seen on what we call ''I-Day,'' as the staff called it, and there is so much that we didn't get a chance to see. The staff worked tirelessly in the background. That is the work we didn't see—the months for some, weeks for others—to make the inaugural presentation seem like it was basically effortless, even though there was incredible effort.

Jen Jett, on loan from Senator WICKER's office, was our director of administration and kept a master timeline, a lengthy document and intricate task that allowed the President to be sworn in before noon, as required by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution. We all watched President Biden take the oath of office at 11:48.

Jen was ably assisted by Abby Stahl, who was the first to greet you when you called or visited the JCCIC offices, as we made preparations for this inauguration.

Todd Beyer, our director of advance, made certain we all knew where to be and when to be there through all the ceremonies of the day. Jackson Blodgett skillfully supported those advanced efforts and facilitated an immense undertaking of credentialed access.

Grace Higgins, hired to support our alternative plans for inclement weather, instead became responsible for successfully managing a complex technical solution and the integration of elaborate health screening processes to ensure everyone's health safety.

Sam Burke, most recently a Marine Corps Senate liaison officer, served as the JCCIC's operation manager and military liaison, where he worked closely with the joint task force officials from the military district of Washington, who also played an incredibly instrumental role on that day.

Martha Scott Poindexter, now the Republican staff director of the Senate Agriculture Committee, served as our director of member services and ticketed and was responsible for assisting Senators, Representatives, Governors, foreign dignitaries, former Presidents, and former Members, frankly, as only she can, through the complexities of participating in this year's ceremonies.

Volunteers manager, Molly Harris Stevens, who was on loan from Representative STAUBER, and Vincent Brown, on loan from Senator KLOBUCHAR's Rules staff, recruited and managed 278 essential volunteers over months of unacknowledged tasks. Molly also helped design and implement a brandnew and seamless integration of our health and security operation, fielded by our volunteers.

Without the volunteers, an inauguration would not be able to be carried out. We want to thank each of them, and the names of each of them I would like to be printed in the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that those names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

Alexis Alavi, Hannah Albert, Bre Allen, Connor Allison, Alexis Anderson, Nina Andrews, Chelsea Angelo, Jonathan Aquino, Miguel Argueta, Hector Arias, Mauricio Armaza, Anourath Arounlangsy, Abby Atkins, Shallum Atkinson, Molly Austin, Adam Axler, Shahryar Baig, Scott Balough, Jake Barr, Laura Bart, Alec Bartishevich, Andres Bascumbe, Amanda Beaumont, Stewart James Becker, Jenna Behringer, Auburn Bell.

Elizabeth Berry, Jeff Bishop, Meredith Blanford, Zoe Bluffstone, Lyron Blum-Evitts, Tia Bogeljic, Christopher Boldig, Delanie Bomar, Matthew Bonaccorsi, Abigail Borges, Bradley Bottoms, Taylor Bradley, Robert Braggs III, Anna Brightwell, Thomas Broadbent, India Brooks, LaVontae Brooks, Layla Brooks, Jordan Brossi, Paul Burdette, Benjamin Burnett, Taylor Burnett, Jessica Butherus, Cassandra Byrd, Saskya Cabral, Heather Campbell, Magdalonie Campbell.

Shawn Campbell, Molly Carpenter, Shana Chandler, Mindy Cheng, Robert Clark, Hart Clements, Michael Cobb, Joe Cobly, Maxwell Coker, Donald Cook, John Creedon, Emma Cunningham, Michele Curtis, Miranda Dabney, Evan Dale, Kelsey Daniels, Elizabeth Darnall, Graydon Daubert, Frishta Daud, Alexandra Davis, Tiffany Deliberto, Darlene DeMoss, Joshua DiRenzo, Marie Do, Cole Donaldson, Parker Dorrough, Sarah Drake.

Luke Dube, MaCherie Dunbar, Joy Durkin, AlmazEgga, Eric Einhorn, Mercedes Erikson, Rachel Erlebacher, Sarah Ferrell, John Fossum, Hannah Fraher, Gabriela Frazier, Sophie Friedfeld-Gebaide, Abe Friedman, Dana Gansman, Jessica Garcia, Benjamin Gardenhour, Renee Gasper, Tiffany Ge, Eric Gebhart, Kristen Gentile, Dianna Gilkerson, Andrew Gleaton, Jaron Goddard, Ruben Goddard, Andre Gonzales, Caroline Goodson, Marissa Goodstone.

Ian Graham, Jacqueline Greco, Max Green, Lindsay Gressard, Kevin Grout, Mary Guenther, Anuj Gupta, Joseph Hack, Joy Hamer, Hailee Hampton, Lillian Hanger, Beverly Hart, Mitch Heidenreich, Carrick Heilferty, Luke Hendrixson, Jessica Hernandez, Zoleiry Hernandez, Alyssa Hinman, Andy Ho, Kaitlin Hooker, Randall Hopkins, Alyse Huffman, Jacob Huls, Hayes Ingraham, Trelaine Ito, Matthew Jansen, Anjunelly Jean-Pierre.

Alexandra Jenkins, Jacob Jernigan, BreYhana Johnson, Caroline Jones, Samuel Kaardal, Elizabeth Kanick, Kellie Karney, Robert Kelly, Jazmine Kemp, Saadia Khan, Sheresh Khan, Katherine Kielceski, William Kiley, Lucy Koch, Samantha Koehler, Courtney Koelbel, Aria Kovalovich, Vikram Kulkarni, Ethan Lang, Katherine Lee, Kevin Lefeber, Nicholas Leiserson, Zach Lewis, Leah Li, Mary Lieb, Jaymi Light, Geremiah Lofton.

Alana Lomis, Shelby Luce, Richard Luchette, Jenny Luk, Daniel Maher, Meghan Mahoney, Michael Manning, Anna Marshall, Landers Mayer, John McDonald, Kevin McDonald, Trent McFadyen, John McIlveen,

John McInerney, Mary McTague, Alina Meltaus, Jacob Mitchell, Maddie Mitchell, Michelle Morenza, Catherine Morvis, Kelly Moura, Meg Murphy, Jeff Naft, Samuel Negatu, Paul Nicholas, Sedinam Norvor, Gabriela Ochoa.

Jeremy Ortiz, Anna Owens, Karen Owens, Jasmin Palomares, Shivani Pampati, Laura Pastre, Stephanie Penn, Mehgan Perez-Acosta, Tracie Pough, Kayla Priehs, India Prophet, Sanjana Puskoor, Ronald Ratliff, Christiana Reasor, Ken Reidy, Anthony Reyes, Margaret Robert, Alivia Roberts, Connor Roberts, Drew Roberts, Frankie Robirds, Andrea Ross, Shauna Rust, Adrienne Salazar, Dana Sandman, Rita Santibanez, Laura Santos.

Naomi Savin, Michelle Schein, Nichelle Schoultz, Athena Schritz, Diane Scott, Riley Scott, Santiago Serrano, Sarah Shapiro, Moh Sharma, Meagan Shepherd, Sara-Paige Silvestro, Annie Simmons, Sam Sjoberg, Alaina Skalski, Cameron Smith, Chandler Smith, Cierra Smith, Jasmine Smith, Wendy Smith, Amy Soukup, Sarah Steinberg, David Stephens, Regan Still, Thomas Story, Aubrey Stuber, Elmamoun Sulfab, Brennan Sullivan.

Mary-Margaret Sullivan, Evelyn Swan, Adrian Swann, Kylie Tanner, Reggie Taylor, Mikael Tessema, Nisha Thanawala, Jackson Thein, Katherine Thomas, Tiana Thomas, Carter Thompson, Heidi Todacheene, Vickie Togans, Dominic Travis, Brian Trott, Sherman Tylawsky, Ana Unruh Cohen, Sydnee Urick, Daniela Valles, Amy Vanderveer, Cristina Villa, Landy Wade, Nathaniel Wallace, Ellasandra Walsh, Maura Weaver, Mary Werden, Jake Wessel.

Jared Wood, Theresa Wrzesinski, Jasmine Wyatt, Grayson Yachup, Alexandra Yiannoutsos, Elizabeth Yoder, Esther Yoon, Emily Ziegler.

Mr. BLUNT. While the JCCIC had to make the difficult decision to forgo a traditional congressional luncheon this year, we are grateful to partners like Korbel, Lenox, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum for working so closely with us on planning.

Emily Kearney, the first person hired by the JCCIC, who early on worked with our partners at the Government Printing Office to design the tickets, invitations, and programs, is certainly to be commended for her work and to later coordinate and maintain the tradition of gifts presented to the President and Vice President in the Capitol Rotunda.

Lauren McBride, detailed from the House Sergeant at Arms to manage our exercises and rehearsals, expertly led our JCCIC team and core partners through a series of new ways to prepare for inclement weather, and she directed the massive undertaking of the dress rehearsal.

There is also a small group of dedicated staff who returned to support inauguration after inauguration: Celeste Gold, from Senator ROMNEY's office; Michelle Reinshuttle, from the House Appropriations Committee; Tim Mitrovich from the Senate Sergeant at Arms returned to the JCCIC and once again loaned their experience to benefit the ceremonies.

Special thanks to Jen Daulby and Tim Monahan, the Republican staff director and deputy staff director, respectively, of the Committee on House Administration, for their assistance in the inauguration's performers and program participants.

I also want to thank the JCCIC staff representatives of our committee members, my personal staff, and my Rules Committee staff, who, in addition to their normal duties, were also able to lend their considerable talents and expertise to the JCCIC.

I especially want to thank Rules Committee staff Fitz Elder, who served as the dedicated staff director of the JCCIC, overcame the extraordinary challenges presented to the committee, and was undeniably paramount in the ultimate success of the ceremonies; Rachelle Schroeder, deputy staff director; Jackie Barber, chief counsel; Cindy Qualley, chief clerk; and James Ferenc, director of information technology.

Cami Morrison, the deputy inaugural coordinator, was once again responsible for the organization of the Presidential platform. She seated every single person in attendance and made certain we were 6 feet apart or sitting right by somebody whom we sit by all the time. I am thankful for her tireless efforts, patriotic heart, and inaugural expertise. This was Cami's fifth inauguration on the JCCIC staff.

Maria Lohmeyer, chief of inaugural ceremonies—this is the second inauguration that I have asked Maria to take responsibility for, and she helped once again to plan and execute this in a way that I am very grateful for. I am glad she did it the first time and even more pleased she was willing to come back and do it again. Right before she joined us with JCCIC, she had been deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of her duties in the Navy Reserve. Maria, ever the determined professional, developed a plan and then another plan and then another plan and then another plan. She built a staff and a positive culture in a really challenging time. She exceeded expectations and with determination made certain that democracy prevailed on January 20.

Finally, I want to thank the Office of the House Chief Administrative Officer; the Appropriations Committee and especially the Legislative Branch Subcommittee clerks, Jessica Berry and Lucas Agnew; Julie Adams and many of the behind-the-scenes staff in the Office of the Senate Secretary, especially Sydney Butler, Senator Curator Melinda Smith, and Senate Historians Betty Koed and Beth Hahn; and Clerk of the House Cheryl Johnson for lending the technical expertise of her communication editorial staff, Catherine Cooke and January Layman-Wood.

I want to thank Architect of the Capitol Brett Blanton and his staff, who not only had to build a platform and put in a sound system, but they had to repair that platform and replace the sound system; from Brett Blanton's staff, in particular Mark Reed, Jason McIntyre, Raynell Bennett, and Dwayne Thomas.

I thank Acting House Sergeant at Arms Tim Blodgett and his staff, especially Ted Daniel and Davita Jones, and Acting Senate Sergeant at Arms Jennifer Hemingway and her staff, especially Becky Schaaf and Carly Flick.

I also want to thank Acting Chief Pittman of the U.S. Capitol Police and in that case especially Inspector John Erickson, who commanded the ITF and took personal responsibility to safeguard our JCCIC staff.

On January 20, 2021, the world witnessed the 59th inaugural ceremonies—''Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union''—as a periodic event that has really become, as I said earlier, both commonplace and miraculous. The inaugural ceremonies are not only a hallmark of American governance and democracy but also fulfill our constitutional duty and give assurance of our unbroken commitment to continuity, perseverance, and democracy.

With great thanks to everybody mentioned and with tremendous cooperation from Members of the House and Senate, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wanted to join Senator BLUNT in thanking the JCCIC staff. I see them up there, all 6 feet apart. They are incredible and did such a good job in a really difficult circumstance with this inauguration.

I want to thank Senator BLUNT for his great leadership through thick and thin. There were a lot of hard decisions that had to be made, and he made the right ones. We worked together really well, and the sky was blue when the new President got inaugurated. Somehow he pulled that off as well. So I thank the staff and thank Senator BLUNT for his friendship and his great leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a lot of people are familiar with this saying. It goes like this:

> Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall [delay] these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

That is the motto of the U.S. Postal Service, inscribed on the buildings, and emblazoned in our memories of the dutiful work and awesome responsibility of the U.S. Postal Service throughout our history.

I am proud of the Postal Service, and most Americans are as well. If you ask many people ''What is your contact with the Federal Government, the U.S. Federal Government?'' they might be hard-pressed to identify it, but when you mention the Postal Service, they say ''Of course. Six days a week, my mailman, the person delivering the mail.''

During the recent COVID–19 pandemic, many of us stayed home in our neighborhoods for lengthy periods of time. It became a routine that when the mailman came each day, as he did, we went out to greet him with masks

on and chatted for just a moment or two.

It was a tough assignment. They were no longer showing up at 2 p.m. in the afternoon as usual but sometimes 7 and 8 o'clock at night. They kept up with their responsibility.

I say that because I want to preface these remarks by letting everyone know that I am proud of the Postal Service. I will fight to keep it in business serving America, and I know that it is going through extreme hardship at the present time.

But 2 nights ago, I was on a town meeting call with Alderman Leslie Hairston of the Fifth Ward in Chicago. She asked me to come on the call because of the problems that she is having in the Hyde Park area. She wanted me to hear some of the situations that they were facing in the Fifth Ward.

The U.S. Postal Service, unfortunately, is a lifeline that is being threatened at the current time. So many people in Chicago and all across the country depend on it for regular, prompt mail service to deliver everything from birthday cards to bills, cards, checks, and medicine. Yet, for months now, mail delivery has been slow and unpredictable for millions of Americans.

I have heard from many Chicago-area residents, just like I heard the other night, and small businesses that have gone upwards of a month—a month—without the delivery of mail. These delays are having a devastating impact on the lives of families in my State.

One Chicago man said that after receiving no mail for 3 weeks, he went to the local post office to check where his mail was. He waited in line for 6 hours before he finally was given his mail. Another woman wrote me that she worries that missing bills will hurt her credit rating, making it even harder for her to make ends meet. Another woman wrote that she worries that missing bills will hurt not only her credit rating but could hurt her personally by denying basic prescriptions and medicine that she counts on. Small business owners are losing customers because their mail-order deliveries are delayed or just flat disappear.

But this vivid example that brings these together is the story of Ms. Carmella McCoy Gonzalez. She has a disability. She is unable to travel really much outside her home—restrictions that have become even more constraining during the pandemic. Ms. McCoy Gonzalez suffers from high blood pressure and a heart condition, making her regular delivery of medication essential. However, she reports that for the past few months, she and her neighbors are lucky if they get mail delivered one day a week. She told my office that a shipment of medicine sent on February 8 didn't reach her home until February 23, while others just simply didn't arrive at all.

When they reached out to the local post office, they were told that they wouldn't be getting any mail because there weren't enough carriers to deliver it. In fact, a report from the Postal Service Office of the Inspector General in early February found that the reason there weren't enough postal carriers to deliver the mail is that the administrators just hadn't bothered removing the names of employees who no longer worked there. This meant they weren't able to bring in additional staff when needed to deliver a growing backlog of delayed mail.

The report noted that more than 60,000—60,000—pieces of mail had been delayed in Chicago neighborhoods over a period of several weeks. These delays are not new, and they are certainly not confined to Chicago. U.S. Postal Service customers in many States have endured delays and other problems with mail service for months. Veterans are going without medication that has been mailed to them from the VA. Small businesses are missing delivery dates. Families are missing paychecks and not receiving notices of premiums due in time.

Timely, reliable mail delivery is always important, and it is especially critical now. Receiving medications and other important deliveries enables people to stay safely at home rather than to venturing out and risking COVID infections.

Regular mail service helps sustain the economy during an unprecedented public health crisis by providing a low-cost shipping option for small businesses that are struggling to survive. Yet, rather than focusing on how to fix the current delivery delays, U.S. Postal Service leaders are now considering changes that could result in higher prices and even more delays. This is no plan to fix the Postal Service; it is a plan to sabotage the Postal Service in order to benefit its commercial competitors.

Cut service, raise prices, then lose customers because you cut services and raised prices, and then just repeat that destructive cycle again and again until there are little or no customers left—that is the plan of the Postal Service under Postmaster General DeJoy, and Congress needs to step in. We must demand that the Postmaster General implement new policies and operational changes immediately to end delivery delays in Chicago and across the country. Congress needs to ensure the Postal Service has all the resources and tools it needs to provide reliable and affordable services during this critical time and to come out of this pandemic on secure financial footing.

Our Founders understood that reliable and affordable mail service was essential to our economy and our national unity. The Postal Service is the one public service that is so important that it is actually mentioned by name in the Constitution. We cannot allow its temporary custodians, appointed by the previous administration, to kill it with a death of a thousand cuts in order to enrich private competitors, especially during this pandemic.

This situation is grave and serious. For a lot of people, the delay of a day or two in receiving mail is just an inconvenience; for others, it could be a matter of life or death literally when so many medicines are moving through the mail, prescriptions and medications that people count on for their livelihood. And it really is something that has been so fundamental in America.

We have to ask the basic question: What is going on here? I am happy to report that yesterday the Biden administration announced that they were appointing three new Governors to fill three vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors. Those vacancies have been too long in festering and creating the situation we have today.

The Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy, who came to this position in controversy when he started suggesting he was going to delay the delivery of ballots in the previous election of November 3, is adamant that he is going to continue on his mission. We have to intervene on behalf of the people whom we represent and on behalf of this country.

I stand by the Postal Service. I believe in the men and women who make it work. And everyone I have met—certainly in my neighborhood and the ones who have been coming to my home over the years—almost became a part of the family. I knew all about their families and some of the problems and wonderful things that were happening in their lives. That was part of the experience, the postal experience, in smalltown America that we want to preserve. But when it comes to the big cities, we have to be sensitive to that as well. When massive amounts of mail are being held in trailer trucks behind the post office, not being sorted and delivered, it is just absolutely, positively unacceptable.

If COVID–19 among the workforce is one of the reasons, let's address that directly—in terms of vaccinations, No. 1; in terms of replacement employees or temporary employees, No. 2; whatever it takes to keep the Postal Service at the highest quality.

I urge my colleagues, when you go home, if you are hearing the same stories about the U.S. Postal Service, let's make this a bipartisan response. Families and businesses and vulnerable individuals across America are counting on us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING MAXINE HORNER

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in 1932, 11 years after the Tulsa Race Massacre, Maxine Horner was born in Tulsa, OK. She was Maxine Cissel at the time. She grew up in segregated Greenwood, a district recovering from the devastating effects of the massacre, just a little over a decade before.

Her parents were exceptionally protective and instructed Maxine and her siblings not to go into certain stores in

downtown Tulsa, knowing their children wouldn't be welcome. They didn't want their children to experience the pain and humiliation of being told to leave a store or to not sit at that end of the counter.

Her mother once told her, though:

Never let the color of your skin get in the way of achieving your goals. If you put your mind to it, you can do anything and be anyone.

Maxine was part of the first class to graduate from Booker T. Washington High School, which, at the time, was an all-Black school. She was proud of the education she received at Booker T. and spent 2 years studying at Wiley College before returning back to Tulsa.

She got a job working for Congressman James Jones, an opportunity that sparked some political ambitions in her. In her fifties, she returned back to school and received a bachelor's degree from Langston University in 1985. Despite being decades older than her fellow classmates and occasionally being mistaken to be the professor in her class rather than one of the other students, she finished her education.

In 1986, she ran for the Oklahoma State Senate and became one of two women to be elected for the first time into the Oklahoma State Senate as an African American.

Maxine was a true trailblazer. She worked hard for her constituents, and she championed education and the arts.

Her life was full of some poetic justice, quite frankly. She grew up in the Greenwood District in the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, but in the late 1990s, she sponsored the State legislation that created the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. She also cofounded the Greenwood Cultural Center. After she left office, she continued to fight for the victims of the massacre and chaired the committee overseeing the search for the burial sites—work that is still going on today.

As a young teen, she recalls going into the Tulsa Union Depot and seeing drinking fountains labeled ''Colored'' and ''White.'' But as a State senator, she sponsored the legislation that created the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, which now occupies the old Tulsa Union Depot building, where they don't have drinking fountains labeled ''Black'' or ''Colored'' and ''White.''

As a student, she attended segregated schools. As a Senator, she championed the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program or what we now call Oklahoma's Promise—a scholarship program for low and middle-income students in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's Promise helped over 75,000 young Oklahomans pursue higher education. She left quite a legacy.

Two weeks ago, on February 8, Oklahoma lost this transformational giant. Maxine Horner passed away at the age of 88, and she will be certainly missed by her families, and she will be missed by Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE

Mr. President, I did mention that in 1986 she was one of two ladies who were African American who were elected in the State senate that year—the first ladies who were African American to be elected into our State senate. The other lady was a dear friend, Vicki Miles-LaGrange. She is younger. She was born in 1953 in a segregated hospital in Oklahoma City.

She grew up in a loving home with her parents and older sister. Her parents were well-respected educators in Oklahoma City. They both got their master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma in 1955, just 7 years after Ada Lois Sipuel won her case at the Supreme Court to allow Black Oklahomans to even attend the University of Oklahoma.

As a young girl, she was interested in government. And when her friend's mother, Hannah Atkins, decided to run for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Vicki helped out, even as a teenager. She became what they put together called Hannah's Helpers, a group of young people who campaigned for Hannah Atkins. And Atkins won her race and became the first Black female to serve in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Vicki attended McGuinness High School. She stayed involved in a little bit of politics there, participating in Girls State. Asking a mutual friend, Patrick McGuigan, who I am convinced had a crush on her when they were in high school—asking Patrick about that time, he recounts the stories and has written even in some of his writings about how Vicki went to Girls State and was elected governor of the Oklahoma Girls State Program that year, but when the sponsoring organization decided who they were going to send to Girls Nation, they for the first time did not send the governor; they chose to send the lieutenant governor. That is what Vicki faced as she grew up.

She attended Vassar College, and at 18 became a delegate at the Democratic Oklahoma State Convention. It was there that she met Carl Albert, who told her that if she ever ended up in DC to look him up and to come work for him. Well, that is all you would have to tell Vicki. She attended Howard University Law School, walked right into the Speaker of the House's office one day here at the Capitol and convinced Carl Albert that he should remember his offer, and she became an intern in his office immediately while she pursued her law degree.

This was not an unusual thing for Vicki. After graduating law school, she clerked for a Federal judge in Houston, joined the criminal division of the Department of Justice, where she helped prosecute Nazi war criminals.

In 1983, she decided she wanted to return to Oklahoma. So she returned, though she was rejected for an office in the U.S. Attorney's Office—ironic because later she became the U.S. attorney for the Western District. She walked right into the district attorney's office, Bob Macy's office, resume in hand, no appointment, and asked to be able to speak with him. And she waited outside of his office until he came out of his office. He came out for lunch and walked out with a job offer after that.

In 1986, she decided to run for State senate. This was the same year Maxine ran as well. Her dad, a former industrial arts teacher, helped fix up her campaign headquarters. Her mother and her mother's best friend were her campaign managers, and she won that race and unseated Senator Porter, a 22-year incumbent.

When you look at Vicki's life, there are a lot of firsts. Along with Maxine Horner, she was the first African-American female to be elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. In 1993, she became the first African-American woman to become the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. A year later, in 1994, President Clinton appointed her to be the U.S. district judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. She was the first African-American Federal judge among the six States that make up the Tenth Circuit of that Federal jurisdiction.

She was appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist in the U.S. Supreme Court as a member of the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Shortly after, when she became a Federal judge, the horrific genocide unfolded in Rwanda. Vicki advocated for an independent judiciary in Rwanda and was part of a group of international legal experts who were sent to Rwanda to help reform the system. She made eight trips to Rwanda at her own personal risk. In 2006, she was awarded the Fern Holland Courageous Lawyer Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association.

In 2013, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the highest honor an Oklahoman can receive for their contributions to the State.

She received many other awards, including the Oklahoma Bar Association's Women Trailblazer Award.

In the early 1960s, she was so inspired by President Kennedy's inaugural address that she wrote to him to say how happy she was that he was President. One of his advisers actually wrote her a letter back. She kept that letter, and, in fact, she hung it in her office while she was a judge. She was quoted as saying that, above all else, she is a career public servant. There was a newspaper article when she took her very last case in 2018 as a Federal judge, and it quoted back to 1994 when she was in front of this Senate for confirmation hearings, being the first African-American judge ever in the Tenth Circuit. And she said this:

My race will not determine my decisions.

She said: I don't want to be known as a good Black judge. I want to be a respected and good and fair judge.

Vicki Miles-LaGrange, that is exactly how we remember you.

Oklahoma is proud of these two ladies and what they have done. We are

proud to call them fellow Oklahomans in the trailblazing that they have done.

Thanks for your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, we are all representative of heroes and idols and, clearly, my colleague from Oklahoma appoints several out from his home State.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks before we go to the vote this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. CARDONA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to support the nomination of Miguel Cardona to be the next Secretary of Education. He has the background, qualifications, and the temperament to serve in this position. Dr. Cardona has a meteoric rise from a classroom teacher to a school principal, to a commissioner of education for the State of Connecticut.

I am glad the President has nominated him to lead the Education Department in such a challenging time for our Nation's schools.

COVID–19 related school closures have led to significant learning losses, with millions of children stuck at home, trying to learn. Parents are at their wits' end because many of the adults running public schools across our country are failing to actually follow the science. We should be seriously talking about reopening schools as quickly as possible. That is what the science tells us, and that is what students need.

Dr. Cardona testified before the Senate HELP Committee. He stressed the need for students to get back to school, and I am glad that is now, finally, a bipartisan mission.

At the same time, each school district, college, university, State and local community faces different circumstances in dealing with this pandemic. Trying to treat them as a monolith instead of providing flexible advice for States and localities to use if applicable and useful would be a mistake.

Dr. Cardona said he understands that one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington won't work. Dr. Cardona also agreed to be responsive to our oversight requests and to keep us updated on his plans and Department action. We won't agree on everything, but we should be able to find places where we can agree and we can move forward.

I support the nomination of Dr. Cardona and look forward to working with him, and I encourage my colleagues to support his nomination as well.

SECURITY

Mr. President, on a personal note, it is time to take the fences down around this Capitol. To leave them up—it is not about security. It is about an attempt to say: We are really, really important. We work here.

Let me say what I think most of my colleagues believe. We aren't. We are like everyone whom we represent and whom Lincoln referred to as common folks.

At one time, this was a shining city on a hill, and today we have made it into a bunker on the Hill. The message that sends globally, the message that it sends domestically, is wrong. It is time for us to take these 4,000 national guardsmen and let them go see their families versus for 24 hours a day to patrol when we don't even provide them a cafeteria that is open at night. They eat out of vending machines or they bring what they eat.

We thank all of these individuals for the safety they have provided us after a horrendous January 6 event. Now it is past time for us to open up this campus and to allow DC, the District of Columbia, to fully open up to the tourism that they thrive off of.

I thank the President for his indulgence.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 16, Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Jon Ossoff, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Sherrod Brown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Carper	Duckworth
Booker	Casey	Durbin
Brown	Cassidy	Feinstein
Burr	Collins	Fischer
Cantwell	Coons	Gillibrand
Grassley	McConnell	Sanders
Hassan	Menendez	Schatz
Heinrich	Merkley	Schumer
Hickenlooper	Moran	Shaheen
Hirono	Murkowski	Sinema
Hyde-Smith	Murphy	Smith
Johnson	Murray	Stabenow
Kaine	Ossoff	Tester
Kelly	Padilla	Tillis
King	Peters	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Portman	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warnock
Luján	Romney	Warren
Manchin	Rosen	Whitehouse
Markey	Rubio	Wyden

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Graham	Rounds
Blackburn	Hagerty	Sasse
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Braun	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe Sullivan

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 66, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 18 through 25 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Anthony P. Angello
Col. Frank L. Bradfield, III
Col. Howard Travis Clark, III
Col. Robert W. Claude
Col. Lisa M. Craig
Col. Mitchell A. Hanson
Col. Jennie R. Johnson
Col. Andrew J. Leone
Col. John D. McKaye
Col. Craig McPike
Col. Kevin J. Roethe
Col. Regina A. Sabric
Col. Michael T. Schultz

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. John M. Painter

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Bonnie Joy Bosler

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael A. Battle

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mitchel Neurock

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. James E. Rainey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Maria R. Gervais

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Richard E. Angle
Brig. Gen. James E. Bonner
Brig. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp
Brig. Gen. Richard R. Coffman
Brig. Gen. Charles D. Costanza
Brig. Gen. Robert L. Edmonson, II
Brig. Gen. Brian S. Eifler
Brig. Gen. James J. Gallivan
Brig. Gen. Anthony R. Hale
Brig. Gen. William J. Hartman
Brig. Gen. Donn H. Hill
Brig. Gen. David M. Hodne
Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle
Brig. Gen. Scott A Jackson
Brig. Gen. Mark H. Landes
Brig. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve
Brig. Gen. David A Lesperance
Brig. Gen. Charles R. Miller
Brig. Gen. Michael T. Morrissey
Brig. Gen. Allan M. Pepin
Brig. Gen. Anthony W. Potts
Brig. Gen. Walter T. Rugen
Brig. Gen. Douglas F. Stitt
Brig. Gen. Darren L. Werner

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN45 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning TRAVIS D. BELLICCHI, and ending PAUL S. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN46 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JOEL R. BISCHOFF, and ending WAYNE T. SLETTEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN47 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JOHN D. CALDWELL, and ending MARION R. WENDALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN48 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning ANDREW C. GORDON, and ending RICHARD G. WITTMEYER, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN49 AIR FORCE nomination of Alexander O. Kirkpatrick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN50 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JAMILA G. EVANS, and ending DEVAN M. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

PN51 ARMY nomination of Terra L. Dawes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN52 ARMY nominations (89) beginning RACHELE A. ADKINS, and ending AARON G. YEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN53 ARMY nomination of Clifton C. Kyle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN54 ARMY nomination of Dewayne L. Deener, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN58 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher L. Hardin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN60 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL S. DEWEY, and ending PAUL M. HERRLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN64 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jameel A. Ali, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN65 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY M. LANDWERLEN, and ending LONG N. VO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN67 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason M. Davis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN68 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning STEVEN L. FERWERDA, and ending WEIGUO R. XU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN69 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning BENJAMIN D. KASTNING, and ending PAUL F. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN70 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning DAVID W. DIXON, JR., and ending THOMAS R. RICE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN71 MARINE CORPS nomination of Aaron Mora, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN72 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MARIO J. ARELLANO, and ending THOMAS B. WHITE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN73 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning KELLY E. DAYTON, and ending RICHARD L. RAINES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN74 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning ISMAEL ALICEA, and ending ALFREDO TOPETE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

PN75 MARINE CORPS nominations (34) beginning JAMES L. BIGGERS, JR., and ending CARL M. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE NAVY

PN55 NAVY nomination of Mondre X. Barnes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN77 SPACE FORCE nomination of Joshua D. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOMMA ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week America reached a heartbreaking milestone, one that would have seemed unthinkable a year ago. We have now lost more than 500,000 Americans to the COVID–19 pandemic. That is one in every five COVID–19 deaths in the world. We have lost mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. On Monday evening, President Biden, Vice President Harris, and their spouses remembered all of these lost souls in a moving ceremony at the White House. Behind them, 500 flickering candles lined the White House stairs, each candle representing a thousand lives cut short by the virus, a thousand grieving families. In addition, more than 28 million Americans have been infected by the coronavirus in this pandemic

No State, no community in America, has been spared in this sadness. In my State of Illinois, COVID–19 has claimed more than 20,000 lives. My heart goes out to and every American trying to survive in this terribly difficult year. I have heard others say, and I agree: This pandemic will not break us, but it is showing us where we are broken.Like so many other diseases and health conditions, the pandemic has inflicted disproportionate harm on people and communities of color—Black Americans, Native Americans, and members of the Latinx community.

Black Americans get sick and die of COVID at 1.5 times the rate of White Americans. Despite their greater risks of infection and death, people of color are receiving COVID vaccinations at less than half the rate as White Americans. In Illinois, Black residents make up 15 percent and Latinx residents make up 18 percent of our State's population, yet each group accounts for

only 8 percent of the COVID vaccines allocated so far.

Sadly, these statistics come as no surprise. America has a long history of medical inequality. From premature births to premature deaths, people of color suffer disproportionately from America's troubled health care system. People of color in America suffer more chronic and acute health conditions. They are more likely to go without needed medical care, and they have shorter life expectancies. According to new estimates from the CDC, life expectancy in the United States fell by a full year as COVID–19 swept through the Nation last year—the steepest decline in life expectancy since World War II. Again, the pain was unequal. Latinx Americans' life expectancy declined by 2 years and Black Americans' by 3 years. The reasons for the disparities are many and varied, but they include unequal access to affordable healthcare, inadequate research, and too few healthcare professionals of color.

Martin Luther King called healthcare inequality ''the most shocking and inhumane'' form of injustice. Far too often, this inequality begins even before birth. It should shock our consciences that the United States, one of the wealthiest nations on Earth, has one of the world's poorest records for maternal and infant health. Think of this: The United States is one of only 13 nations in the world where the maternal mortality rate is worse now than it was 25 years ago. Every year in America, nearly 1,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications and 70,000 others suffer near-fatal complications as a result of pregnancy. Now consider this: Women of color in the United States are three times more likely than White women to die as a result of their pregnancy. In Illinois, they are six times as likely to die. What makes these maternal deaths even more tragic is that an estimated 60 percent of them are preventable. The same is true of many infant deaths. Every year in America, more than 23,000 infants die due to factors that, in many cases, could be prevented. Among the 35 wealthiest nations in the world, the United States ranks 32nd in infant mortality. Again, the risks are unequal. Black babies are twice as likely to die in their first year of life as White babies.

I have given a lot of thought and spoken with many experts about how we can bridge this racial divide. This week, I am reintroducing a bill with Senator DUCKWORTH that I believe can decrease America's rates of maternal and infant sickness and deaths, especially among those of color. It is called the MOMMA Act. My companion in the House is Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY of Chicago. She and I have introduced this bill for the last two Congresses. It is time to make it law.

First and foremost, the MOMMA Act would expand Medicaid coverage for new moms from 60 days to a full year postpartum. Making sure new moms have health coverage for a full year postpregnancy will go a long way toward catching, preventing, and treating potentially life-threatening conditions and problems. This is critical because in some States—like Illinois—nearly 60 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths occur between 43 and 364 days postpartum. Many States' Medicaid Programs, including Illinois's are strapped for cash, and the pandemic has increased their shortfalls. In addition, our bill would provide States with guidance and options to expand their Medicaid coverage to include doulas, who are often invaluable assets and advocates for pregnant women. Next, our bill would save lives by improving health care education and training to reduce the unconscious biases and discrimination that woman of color too often encounter from healthcare professionals. Lastly, our bill would improve hospital coordination and reporting on maternal health outcomes. Accurate reporting will enable us to chart our progress and make adjustments where and when they are needed.

Among the women at greatest risk of pregnancy-related health complications are women who are incarcerated. Again, the risks for Black women are greater. To help these mothers and their babies, Senator BOOKER and I have introduced a separate bill. The Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act helps incarcerated pregnant women and new mothers with access to doulas and other health workers, as well as counseling, because a jail sentence should never be a death sentence for a mother or her newborn. As the poet Maya Angelou told us, we can't change the past. But when we know better, we must do better. We now know how we can do better to protect the lives of pregnant women and newborn babies. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting these two important measures to give mothers and babies the healthy start in life that they deserve.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President the Committee on Finance has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 117th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying rules for the Senate Committee on Finance be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

I. RULES OF PROCEDURE

(ADOPTED FEBRUARY XX, 2021)

Rule 1. Regular Meeting Days.—The regular meeting day of the committee shall be the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except that if there be no business before the committee the regular meeting shall be omitted.

Rule 2. Committee Meetings.—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to special meetings called by a majority of the committee) and subsection (b) of this rule, committee meetings, for the conduct of business, for the purpose of holding hearings, or for any other purpose, shall be called by the chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member. Members will be notified of committee meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless the chairman determines that an emergency situation requires a meeting on shorter notice. The notification will include a written agenda together with materials prepared by the staff relating to that agenda. After the agenda for a committee meeting is published and distributed, no nongermane items may be brought up during that meeting unless at least two-thirds of the members present agree to consider those items.

(b) In the absence of the chairman, meetings of the committee may be called by the ranking majority member of the committee who is present, provided authority to call meetings has been delegated to such member by the chairman.

Rule 3. Presiding Officer.—(a) The chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the committee except that in his absence the ranking majority member who is present at the meeting shall preside.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a) any member of the committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

Rule 4. Quorums.—(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) one-third of the membership of the committee, including not less than one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a), one member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

Rule 5. Reporting of Measures or Recommendations.—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present and a majority of those present concur.

Rule 6. Proxy Voting; Polling.—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 7(a)(3) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitation on use of proxy voting to report a measure or matter), members who are unable to be present may have their vote recorded by proxy.

(b) At the discretion of the committee, members who are unable to be present and whose vote has not been cast by proxy may be polled for the purpose of recording their vote on any rollcall taken by the committee.

Rule 7. Order of Motions.—When several motions are before the committee dealing with related or overlapping matters, the chairman may specify the order in which the motions shall be voted upon.

Rule 8. Bringing a Matter to a Vote.—If the chairman determines that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, he may call for a vote on such motion or amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate.

Rule 9. Public Announcement of Committee Votes.—Pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public announcement of votes), the results of rollcall votes taken by the committee on any measure (or amendment thereto) or matter shall be announced publicly not later than the day on which such measure or matter is ordered reported from the committee.

Rule 10. Subpoenas.—Witnesses and memoranda, documents, and records may be subpoenaed by the chairman of the committee

with the agreement of the ranking minority member or by a majority vote of the committee. Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of memoranda, documents, and records shall be issued by the chairman, or by any other member of the committee designated by him.

Rule 11. Nominations.—In considering a nomination, the committee may conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, and suitability, to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the committee may request. The committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis. Witnesses called to testify on the nomination may be required to testify under oath.

Rule 12. Open Committee Hearings.—To the extent required by paragraph 5 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitations on open hearings), each hearing conducted by the committee shall be open to the public.

Rule 13. Announcement of Hearings.—The committee shall undertake consistent with the provisions of paragraph 4(a) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public notice of committee hearings) to issue public announcements of hearings it intends to hold at least one week prior to the commencement of such hearings.

Rule 14. Witnesses at Hearings.—(a) Each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing must submit his written testimony to the staff director not later than noon of the business day immediately before the last business day preceding the day on which he is scheduled to appear. Such written testimony shall be accompanied by a brief summary of the principal points covered in the written testimony. Having submitted his written testimony, the witness shall be allowed not more than ten minutes for oral presentation of his statement.

(b) Witnesses may not read their entire written testimony, but must confine their oral presentation to a summarization of their arguments.

(c) Witnesses shall observe proper standards of dignity, decorum, and propriety while presenting their views to the committee. Any witness who violates this rule shall be dismissed, and his testimony (both oral and written) shall not appear in the record of the hearing.

(d) In scheduling witnesses for hearings, the staff shall attempt to schedule witnesses so as to attain a balance of views early in the hearings. Every member of the committee may designate witnesses who will appear before the committee to testify. To the extent that a witness designated by a member cannot be scheduled to testify during the time set aside for the hearing, a special time will be set aside for the witness to testify if the member designating that witness is available at that time to chair the hearing.

Rule 15. Audiences.—Persons admitted into the audience for open hearings of the committee shall conduct themselves with the dignity, decorum, courtesy, and propriety traditionally observed by the Senate. Demonstrations of approval or disapproval of any statement or act by any member or witness are not allowed. Persons creating confusion or distractions or otherwise disrupting the orderly proceeding of the hearing shall be expelled from the hearing.

Rule 16. Broadcasting of Hearings.—(a) Broadcasting of open hearings by television or radio coverage shall be allowed upon approval by the chairman of a request filed with the staff director not later than noon of the day before the day on which such coverage is desired.

(b) If such approval is granted, broadcasting coverage of the hearing shall be conducted unobtrusively and in accordance with the standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the Senate.

(c) Equipment necessary for coverage by television and radio media shall not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing room while the committee is in session.

(d) Additional lighting may be installed in the hearing room by the media in order to raise the ambient lighting level to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of the hearing at the then current state of the art of television coverage.

(e) The additional lighting authorized by subsection (d) of this rule shall not be directed into the eyes of any members of the committee or of any witness, and at the request of any such member or witness, offending lighting shall be extinguished.

Rule 17. Subcommittees.—(a) The chairman, subject to the approval of the committee, shall appoint legislative subcommittees. The ranking minority member shall recommend to the chairman appointment of minority members to the subcommittees. All legislation shall be kept on the full committee calendar unless a majority of the members present and voting agree to refer specific legislation to an appropriate subcommittee.

(b) The chairman may limit the period during which House-passed legislation referred to a subcommittee under paragraph (a) will remain in that subcommittee. At the end of that period, the legislation will be restored to the full committee calendar. The period referred to in the preceding sentences should be 6 weeks, but may be extended in the event that adjournment or a long recess is imminent.

(c) All decisions of the chairman are subject to approval or modification by a majority vote of the committee.

(d) The full committee may at any time by majority vote of those members present discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of a specific piece of legislation.

(e) The chairman and ranking minority members shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the subcommittees on which they do not serve as voting members.

(f) Any member of the committee may attend hearings held by any subcommittee and question witnesses testifying before that subcommittee.

(g) Subcommittee meeting times shall be coordinated by the staff director to ensure that—

(1) no subcommittee meeting will be held when the committee is in executive session, except by unanimous consent;

(2) no more than one subcommittee will meet when the full committee is holding hearings; and

(3) not more than two subcommittees will meet at the same time. Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), a subcommittee may meet when the full committee is holding hearings and two subcommittees may meet at the same time only upon the approval of the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee and subcommittees involved.

(h) All nominations shall be considered by the full committee.

(i) The chairman will attempt to schedule reasonably frequent meetings of the full committee to permit consideration of legislation reported favorably to the committee by the subcommittees.

Rule 18. Transcripts of Committee Meetings.—An accurate record shall be kept of all markups of the committee, whether they be open or closed to the public. A transcript, marked as ''uncorrected,'' shall be available for inspection by members of the Senate, or members of the committee together with their staffs, at any time. Not later than 21 business days after the meeting occurs, the committee shall make publicly available through the Internet—

(a) a video recording;

(b) an audio recording; or

(c) after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements, a corrected transcript.

Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the record of an executive session of the committee that is closed to the public pursuant to Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record shall not be published or made public in any way except by majority vote of the committee after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements made.

Rule 19. Amendment of Rules.—The foregoing rules may be added to, modified, amended, or suspended at any time.

II. Excerpts From the Standing Rules of the Senate Relating to Standing Committees

Rule XXV

standing committees

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Congress, and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

(i) Committee on Finance, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Bonded debt of the United States, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery.

3. Deposit of public moneys.

4. General revenue sharing.

5. Health programs under the Social Security Act and health programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund.

6. National social security.

7. Reciprocal trade agreements.

8. Revenue measures generally, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

9. Revenue measures relating to the insular possessions.

10. Tariffs and import quotas, and matters related thereto.

11. Transportation of dutiable goods.

Rule XXVI

committee procedure

2. Each committee shall adopt rules (not inconsistent with the Rules of the Senate) governing the procedure of such committee. The rules of each committee shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress, except that if any such committee is established on or after February 1 of a year, the rules of that committee during the year of establishment shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than sixty days after such establishment. Any amendment to the rules of a committee shall not take effect until the amendment is published in the Congressional Record.

5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules, when the Senate is in session,

no committee of the Senate or any subcommittee thereof may meet, without special leave, after the conclusion of the first two hours after the meeting of the Senate commenced and in no case after two o'clock post meridian unless consent therefor has been obtained from the majority leader and the minority leader (or in the event of the absence of either of such leaders, from his designee). The prohibition contained in the preceding sentence shall not apply to the Committee on Appropriations or the Committee on the Budget. The majority leader or his designee shall announce to the Senate whenever consent has been given under this subparagraph and shall state the time and place of such meeting. The right to make such announcement of consent shall have the same priority as the filing of a cloture motion.

(b) Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules as the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator. When the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

(e) Each committee shall prepare and keep a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to fully record the proceeding of each meeting or conference whether or not such meeting or any part thereof is closed under this paragraph, unless a majority of its members vote to forgo such a record.

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. CARDONA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of Dr. Miguel Cardona's nomination to serve as Secretary of Education and to urge my colleagues to confirm him to this position.

Dr. Cardona will bring a deep understanding of the needs of students and teachers, a firm grasp of our educational system, and a fresh perspective to the Department of Education.

Dr. Cardona was the first in his immediate family to go to college. He is the father of two school-aged children, and he brings to this role decades of experience as an educator, having served as an elementary school teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cardona has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of students. He has fought to make sure college is accessible for all students. As the education commissioner for the State of Connecticut, he was on the frontlines helping his state tackle the complex issues facing their schools during the pandemic.

In his opening statement before the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Dr. Cardona reaffirmed his commitment to forging opportunity out of crisis. He also recognized the need to address educational inequities head-on and build a better future for the next generation.

He has the track record to show he understands the value of education and knows how to get things done. Under Dr. Cardona's leadership, Connecticut became the first State in the Nation to ensure that all of its public school students had access to a laptop and a high-speed internet connection to engage in remote learning during the pandemic. At another point in Dr. Cardona's career, he led a task force to help figure out how to close the academic achievement gap among students in his State.

The value of education is something that is personal to me.

My grandpa worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines of Ely, and he never graduated from high school, but he knew the value of a quality education, saving money in a coffee can in the basement to send my dad to college.

My dad graduated from Vermilion Community College and earned his graduate degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. He went on to be a sports reporter and a newspaper columnist.

My mom was a public school teacher who taught second grade until she was 70 years old. She loved teaching. Her favorite unit was the monarch butterfly unit, where we would dress up as a monarch butterfly, and she would teach the kids about metamorphosis. She would also wear that monarch butterfly costume to the supermarket. She was dressed as this big monarch butterfly with little antennas on her head and a sign that said ''to Mexico or bust'' because that is where the monarch would fly on its way from Canada through Minnesota and down.

At the visitation on the night before my mom's funeral, I met a family. I had never met them before, but the mom was sobbing, and she had an older son who had a severe disability. The mom said, ''You know, your mom had my son here in school when he was in second grade. Now he was grown up, and he said he always loved that monarch butterfly unit. And after he graduated, he got a job bagging groceries, and your mom would continue to go to the grocery store and she would stand in line in her monarch butterfly outfit. For years she did this, and would always give him a big hug when she got to the end of the line.'' That was my mom, and she loved her kids, and she was a devoted teacher.

I learned the value of education from my parents and grandparents, and I believe that it is a basic right that we have in this country that every child should have a right to education. I know that Dr. Miguel Cardona also believes in that right, and this is why I support his confirmation as Secretary of Education. I will also note that several of my Republican colleagues, including Senator BURR, ranking member on the HELP Committee, have come to the same conclusion.

This past year has been like no other, filled with tremendous challenges for students, educators, and families. As a result of this pandemic, parents have had to teach their first graders how to use the mute button to go to school. The crisis has taken a toll on the mental health of students and educators. There is major work to do to make sure that all students can catch up on lost learning caused by gaps in access to technology and broadband during the pandemic.

Thankfully, there is now light at the end of the tunnel with the development and distribution of vaccines that protect against the coronavirus and stand to save millions of lives. Our country now faces important decisions about how to safely and equitably return to in-person learning, and we need strong, thoughtful leadership to help guide these decisions and get our country back up and running. That means leadership we can trust to provide guidance that is driven by science and by public health experts. It also means leadership that will support the rights of all students to have a full and enriching educational experience.

I believe that Dr. Cardona will be a Secretary who will fight for public education, not against it; a Secretary who takes seriously the Federal Government's role in making education policy, informed by the most rigorous science; perhaps most of all, a Secretary who fosters compromise, not conflict, in addressing our Nation's many educational challenges.

As one of my mentors Senator Paul Wellstone put it, government should work to improve people's lives, and we have a lot of work to do with so many students and families in need. But I come to this Chamber today optimistic because our country has had a long and strong history of stepping up during challenging times like these. I look forward to partnering with Dr. Cardona to meet the needs of this moment and overcome the obstacles we face to support students, teachers, and schools as we work to recover from this pandemic and move forward.

With that, I ask my colleagues to support the nomination: Miguel Cardona as Secretary of Education.

TRIBUTE TO JANE HARMAN

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the extraordinary service of my friend Representative Jane Margaret Lakes Harman, who will be leaving her position as president and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars after nearly a decade of distinguished leadership.

Born in New York City, Representative Harman grew up in Los Angeles and received her bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Smith College and her law degree from Harvard Law School. Like many young people who believe in the unmatched power of public service, Jane moved to Washington, DC, where she served as a staffer to Senator John Tunney and with the Senate Judiciary Committee. She would go on to serve her country in the Department of Defense and as President Carter's Secretary of the Cabinet.

From 1993 until 2011, Representative Harman served the people of Southern California's 36th District. Throughout her tenure, Representative Harman fundamentally improved the national security of the United States through her work on the Armed Services, Intelligence, and Homeland Security Committees. Not content with leading just from the halls of Congress, she sought to find the truth for herself. Her work in pursuit of the facts relevant to protecting our democracy and our allies took her to Guantanamo Bay, Syria, and North Korea. Her oversight and leadership on national security was especially critical throughout this time period, as the United States sought to understand and push back from threats both new and old, including foreign terrorism. While Representative Harman's contributions speak for themselves, her receipt of the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service, the CIA Seal Medal, the CIA Director's Award, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal highlight an extraordinary career serving the American people.

At the Wilson Center, Representative Harman continued her diligent work keeping our policymakers and the public informed on the ongoing security challenges the United States and her allies face. As we prepare and steel ourselves for the next era of security challenges, knowledge produced under her leadership and the relentless efforts of her colleague and staff will continue to be an invaluable resource.

Like many extraordinary Americans, Representative Harman carried out this work while also caring for her family, including her four children, her four grandchildren, and her late husband Sidney, an enormous personality in his own right. After a lifetime of public service, from staffer to elected official to thought leader in the policymaking community, Representative Jane Harman has left an indelible mark that has deeply strengthened the safety of our Nation. I am forever grateful for her service, her friendship, and wish her all the best in her next adventures.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHAROLETTE TIDWELL AND RECOGNIZING ANTIOCH FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Ms. Charolette Tidwell and her organization, Antioch for Youth and Family, in Fort Smith, AR. This nonprofit, all-volunteer organization has played an important role in feeding local families for several years, but its efforts in 2020 made it a critical lifeline for thousands of people in western Arkansas.

Last year alone, Antioch distributed more than 3.5 million pounds of food, including almost 1 million pounds of fresh produce, milk, dairy, and cooked meats provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. By hosting regular drive-up events at Martin Luther King Park in Fort Smith, Ms. Tidwell and her team provided help to families who needed it most during the COVID–19 pandemic. In 2020, their efforts meant more than $6 million worth of food went to local residents, making it one of the largest food assistance efforts in the State. More than one in six households in Arkansas is food insecure. In Fort Smith, that number is one in five. Unfortunately, the current crisis has only increased those needs.

I have been honored to visit with Ms. Tidwell and see her impressive efforts to fill the gap in her community in action. Before the pandemic, she was already hard at work with a food pantry, a community garden, and mobile food deliveries to low-income elderly and disabled residents and other struggling families.

She has been an inspiration whose work has been recognized nationwide. L'Oreal Paris honored her in 2017 as one of 10 Women of Worth and in 2020 with the L'Oreal Paris Karen T. Fondu Impact Award for her tireless efforts to address the area's hunger crisis. Last year, she was featured on bags of Lay's potato chips as part of the company's initiative featuring ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

Those awards and acknowledgements speak to the nature of her impact and the vital role she plays within the community. Fortunately, she has once again dedicated herself to meeting a tremendous need with the same compassion and care she brings to every challenge.

I am grateful for Ms. Tidwell, the entire team at Antioch for Youth and Family, and their wonderful partners. With support from the River Valley Regional Food Bank, Feeding America, local businesses, and many volunteers, Antioch continues to make a difference and set an example for organizations across the State and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO VERNIS JACKSON

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Vernis Jackson of Portsmouth as February's Granite Stater of the Month. Jackson is the founder of the Seacoast African American Cultural Center and played a critical role in establishing the African Burying Ground in downtown Portsmouth.

Jackson moved to Portsmouth from her hometown of Savannah, GA, in 1963 and in 1974 joined another Granite Stater in organizing the first chartered organization, Kwanza, for African-American women in New Hampshire. The group worked to support young people and communities on the Seacoast; however, Jackson felt that there was more that she could do to elevate African-American achievements in the State.

In 2000, Jackson founded the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, which holds concerts, educational programs, and exhibits to help highlight the contributions, both modern and historical, that individuals of African descent have made to communities on the Seacoast and around the world.

Jackson, who taught for 38 years in the Portsmouth school system, wanted to make sure that the center could be used as a resource for students. Thanks to Jackson's leadership, the center works closely with schools across Portsmouth, including holding art exhibits for middle school students and providing scholarships for high school students of color.

In 2016, the center featured an exhibit featuring dolls of color, and last year it hosted an exhibit showcasing photos from former President Barack Obama's White House photographer Pete Souza.

Jackson also helped lead efforts in Portsmouth to establish the African

Burying Ground, which commemorates the spot where 13 individuals of African descent were buried in the 18th century.

Jackson's work to elevate the stories and culture of African Americans on the Seacoast and around the world represents the best of New Hampshire's efforts to create a more informed, inclusive, and just State that is welcoming of all people and backgrounds. I am honored to recognize her efforts and wish the center continued success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 447. An act to amend the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly referred to as the ''National Apprenticeship Act'') and expand the national apprenticeship system to include apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship registered under such Act, to promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, and for other purposes.

H.R. 546. An act to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1192. An act to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as ''PROMESA'').

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 155. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Ronald J. Wright, a Representative from the State of Texas.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 447. An act to amend the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly referred to as the ''National Apprenticeship Act'') and expand the national apprenticeship system to include apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship registered under such Act, to promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 546. An act to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1192. An act to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as ''PROMESA''); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 461. A bill to create a point of order against legislation modifying the number of Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 9. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

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–513. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Streamlined Launch and Reentry License Requirements'' ((RIN2120–AL17) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0229)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–514. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Northcentral United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0667)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–515. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Lebanon, New Hampshire'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0735)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–516. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Nashville, Tennessee'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0701)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–517. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of V–6, V–30, V–58, V–119, and V–226 in the Vicinity of Clarion, Pennsylvania'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0709)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–518. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Class E Airspace; Newburyport, Massachusetts'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0924)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–519. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Toughkenamon, Pennsylvania'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0835)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–520. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 556'' ((RIN2120–AA63) (Docket No. 31345)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–521. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Class E3 Airspace; Fresno, California'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2018–1001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–522. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Establishment of Multiple Air Traffic Service Routines; Western United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0660)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–523. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of V–53, V–115, V–140, T–215, and T–323, and Revocation of V–339 in the Vicinity of Hazard, Kentucky'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0654)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–524. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Side Impact Protection, Ejection Mitigation; Technical Corrections'' (RIN2127–AM31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–525. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Motorcycle Brake Systems; Motorcycle Controls and Displays'' (RIN2127–AL48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. CASEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 439. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 440. A bill to provide continued funding for services under the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 441. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 442. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most lifecycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 443. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 444. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 445. A bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 446. A bill to amend title 18, United State Code, to criminalize any abortion or sterilization procedure performed without the informed consent of the person on whom such procedure is performed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 447. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 448. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to prohibit lifetime or annual limits on dental coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and to require wraparound coverage of dental services for certain children under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain federally-subsidized loan repayments for dental school faculty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 450. A bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 451. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to help facilitate the adoption of composite technology in infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 452. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 453. A bill to increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID–19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 454. A bill to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 455. A bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 456. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 457. A bill to establish a grant program for innovative partnerships among teacher preparation programs, local educational agencies, and community-based organizations to expand access to high-quality tutoring in hard-to-staff schools and high-need schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 458. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the representative of record of a claimant for compensation or benefits administered by the Secretary an opportunity to review a proposed determination regarding that claim; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 459. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to promote integrity in voter registration, the casting of ballots, and the tabulation of ballots in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 460. A bill to extend the authority for Federal contractors to reimburse employees unable to perform work due to the COVID–19 pandemic from March 31, 2021, to September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 461. A bill to create a point of order against legislation modifying the number of Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States; read the first time.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr.

KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 462. A bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 463. A bill to require congressional approval of national emergency declarations and to repeal the emergency powers and authorities most susceptible to abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 464. 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 465. A bill to establish and support public awareness campaigns to address COVID–19-related health disparities and promote vaccination; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 466. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require providers of a covered service to provide location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user of such service to an investigative or law enforcement officer or an employee or other agent of a public safety answering point in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical harm or in order to respond to the user's call for emergency services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 467. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in hospital emergency departments who are at risk of suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 468. A bill to expedite transportation project delivery, facilitate infrastructure improvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 469. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to establish an advisory board focused on creating opportunities for women in the trucking industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 470. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 471. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 472. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 473. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the subset for the definition of a small business debtor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 474. A bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from providing financing to persons with seriously delinquent tax debt; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BURR, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 475. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 476. A bill to provide for the establishment of a COVID–19 Compensation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 477. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a refundable tax credit for travel expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 478. A bill to gradually raise the Federal minimum wage, to permanently establish the E-Verify employment eligibility verification system, to mandate the use of E-Verify by all employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 480. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 481. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 482. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other Federal officials to compile into a searchable database information relating to Federal support for biomedical research and development related to COVID–19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 483. A bill to prohibit certain noncompete agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 484. A bill to establish grant programs for maternal mental health equity and to grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral health care workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 485. A bill to establish a grant program for family community organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 486. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish the Rural Innovation and Partnership Administration and to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish the Rural Future Partnership Fund to invest in the rural areas of the United States to achieve their preferred future while maximizing their contribution to the well-being of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 487. A bill to make supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, Homeland Security, Labor, and Commerce for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms.

ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SASSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 488. A bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 489. A bill to require an annual report of Federal employees and retirees with delinquent tax debt; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 76. A resolution congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on the celebration of its 100th anniversary on February 19, 2021, and recognizing the vital contributions its members have made to the United States over the past 100 years; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 77. A resolution designating the week of February 22 through February 26, 2021, as ''Public Schools Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Con. Res. 6. A concurrent resolution urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 96

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 181

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 181, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 212, 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. 220

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 220, a bill to provide emergency relief to youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness, in light of the health and economic consequences of COVID–19.

S. 236

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to improve activities for the gathering of data on, and the tracking of, new variants of COVID–19.

S. 239

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to permanently enact certain appropriations Act restrictions on the use of funds for abortions and involuntary sterilizations, and for other purposes.

S. 247

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

S. 251

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and make the credit fully refundable.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 365

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 365, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require a provider of a report to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children to preserve the contents of such report for 180 days, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 19, a resolution recognizing January 2021 as ''National Mentoring Month''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 448. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to prohibit lifetime or annual limits on dental coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and to require wrap-around coverage of dental services for certain children under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss two bills addressing oral health, which I am introducing today. These bills will provide incentives for dental and dental hygiene graduates to remain as dental school faculty and make the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) more affordable for at-risk patients and families. We rely on dental faculty to train the next generation of oral health providers, but too often, these educators find themselves pushed to work in private practice in order to pay off their student loans. The Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act will ease some of this financial burden and allow faculty members to stay where they are needed most by eliminating certain loan assistance benefits from counting as taxable income. For low-income children, the CHIP program provides access to affordable oral health care. The Ensuring Kids Have Access to Medically Necessary Dental Care Act makes oral

health more affordable by eliminating annual and lifetime dollar limits for dental care provided under CHIP and requires that CHIP wraparound dental coverage be the same as dental coverage for CHIP enrollees.

The ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic has decreased access to oral health care. Though patient volumes have improved since last spring, recent surveys from the American Dental Association (ADA) indicate that since August many private practices have been operating at around 80 percent of pre-COVID–19 patient volumes while public health practices have been operating at around 60 percent of pre-COVID–19 patient volumes. Patients nationwide have experienced restrictions throughout the pandemic impeding their ability to visit health professionals like oral health practitioners, while dental practices have experienced financial difficulties brought on by the pandemic. Increases in operating costs to enable safe operations, such as purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE), have strained dental practices' financial resources. These added costs, coupled with reduced patient volume, have led to nearly 60 percent of dental practices applying or planning to apply for small business loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

As patients and providers alike currently struggle with oral health access issues, it is critical that the pandemic not compound access to care inequities. In particular, these challenges are cause for concern for at-risk populations such as communities of color, who experienced oral health disparities before the pandemic began. As families and patients nationwide struggle to access care at this incredibly challenging time, I am introducing these two bills to ease the financial burden of dental professionals and promote increased access to oral health for low-income beneficiaries.

There are nearly 6,500 dental health professional shortage areas nationwide. These are areas where nearly 60 million Americans, including 835,000 Marylanders, struggle to find a dental provider, even with insurance coverage. By 2030, the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) projects that the United States will have a national shortage of 16,000 dentists. We can only hope to solve this problem if we can recruit and retain enough faculty to train the next generation of dentists and dental hygienists. Crippling educational debt should not prevent our Nation from having the oral health care providers it needs, and the Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act will help address that

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Since 1981, this month has afforded us the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of children's dental health. We recognize the significant strides we have made, but we also acknowledge the work that remains to be done. I invite my colleagues to join me to use this month to renew our commitment to ensuring that all children in our country have access to affordable and comprehensive dental services. As former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop said, ''there is no health without oral health.''

Tooth decay—despite being largely preventable—is the single most common chronic health condition among children and adolescents in the United States. It is four times more common than early-childhood obesity, five times more common than asthma, and 20 times more common than diabetes. Among children in families living below the federal poverty line, 52 percent have cavities. Children with cavities in their primary or ''baby'' teeth are three times more likely to develop cavities in their permanent, adult teeth, and the early loss of baby teeth can make it harder for permanent teeth to grow in properly. If tooth decay is untreated, it not only can destroy a child's teeth; it can have a debilitating impact on his or her health and quality of life.

Many of my colleagues have heard me speak before about the tragic loss of Deamonte Driver, a 12–year-old Prince George's County resident, in 2007. Deamonte's death was particularly heartbreaking because it was entirely preventable. What started out as a toothache turned into an abscess and then severe brain infection that an $80 extraction could have prevented. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, Deamonte tragically passed away—fourteen years ago and just a few miles from where we gather here in the Senate Chamber.

Even in less tragic cases, tooth and gum pain can impede a child's healthy development, including the ability to learn, play, and eat nutritious foods. Recent studies have shown that children with poor oral health are nearly three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain, and children reporting recent toothaches are four times more likely to have a lower grade point average than their peers who do not suffer from dental pain. Tooth decay and oral health problems also disproportionately affect children from low-income families and minority communities. According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately 80 percent of childhood dental disease is concentrated in 25 percent of the population. These children and families often face inordinately high barriers to receiving essential oral health care and, simply put, the consequences can be devastating.

In 2009, Congress reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program with an important addition: a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Today, CHIP provides affordable comprehensive health coverage—including dental coverage—to more than 9 million children. Thanks to CHIP, we now have the highest number of children with medical and dental coverage in history. In addition, in 2010, Congress included pediatric dental services in the set of essential health benefits established under the Affordable Care Act. I am pleased to say that our actions have been working, and our numbers are improving. In 2004, nearly 23 percent of all children had untreated tooth decay. In 2016, that number had dropped to 13 percent.

I am very proud that my State of Maryland is recognized as a national leader in pediatric dental health coverage. In a 2011 Pew Center report, ''The State of Children's Dental Health,'' Maryland earned an ''A'' and was the only State to meet seven of eight policy benchmarks for addressing children's dental health needs. In addition, in the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, very qualified health plan now includes pediatric dental coverage, so families do not have to pay a separate premium for dental coverage for their children and do not have a separate deductible or out-of-pocket limit for pediatric dental services.

I am also proud to say that Maryland Medicaid does not place a lifetime or annual limit on pregnant women or children receiving dental benefits under CHIP. This ensures that preventive dental care like exams and cleanings, fillings, crowns, root canals, and dentures are not out of reach for low-income Marylanders because of cost constraints. This benefit is critically important nationwide as millions of Americans have joined Medicaid in the past year due to the pandemic.

Not every State has the same benefit structure for CHIP as Maryland, however, which means that new and existing Medicaid beneficiaries may have limits on the types of services they can access. As we know from the terribly tragic example of Deamonte Driver, no family or child should ever face cost constraint decisions for basic oral health care. This is why I have introduced the Ensuring Kids Have Access to Medically Necessary Dental Care Act, to protect access to oral health care for millions of CHIP and Medicaid enrollees and ensure that the pandemic does not reverse the progress we have made in oral health.

I urge my colleagues to join the senior Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and me in supporting the Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act to help address our critical nationwide shortage of dental healthcare providers and especially dental faculty. We cannot continue to allow crippling graduate student debt to deprive the American people of the teachers and mentors we need to train the next generation of oral healthcare providers. I similarly urge my colleagues to join the senior Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and me in supporting the Ensuring Kids Have Access to Medically Necessary Dental Care Act to improve access to oral health care for low-income beneficiaries. We must learn from the tragic example of

Deamonte Driver, and ensure that cost constraints are not a barrier to accessing oral health care.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 468. A bill to expedite transportation project delivery, facilitate infrastructure improvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 468

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Railroad Rehabilitation and Financing Innovation Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program.
Sec. 3. Conforming amendments.
Sec. 4. Transitional and savings provisions.
Sec. 5. Repeals.

SEC. 2. RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.—Part B of subtitle V of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 223 the following:

''CHAPTER 224—RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

''22401. Definitions.
''22402. Direct loans and loan guarantees.
''22403. Administration of direct loans and loan guarantees.
''22404. Employee protection.
''22405. Substantive criteria and standards.
''22406. Funding.

''§ 22401. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) COST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'cost' means the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification of the direct loan or loan guarantee, calculated on a net present value basis, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

''(B) COST OF DIRECT LOANS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The cost of a direct loan shall be the net present value, at the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

''(I) Loan disbursements.

''(II) Repayments of principal.

''(III) Payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan.

''(ii) CALCULATION.—Calculation of the cost of a direct loan shall include the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

''(C) COST OF LOAN GUARANTEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The cost of a loan guarantee shall be the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

''(I) Payments by the Government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, or other payments.

''(II) Payments to the Government, including origination and other fees, penalties, and recoveries.

''(ii) CALCULATION.—Calculation of the cost of a loan guarantee shall include the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the guaranteed lender of an option included in the loan guarantee, or by the borrower of an option included in the guaranteed loan contract.

''(D) COST OF MODIFICATION.—The cost of a modification is the difference between the current estimate of the net present value of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee contract, and the current estimate of the net present value of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract, as modified.

''(E) ESTIMATION OF NET PRESENT VALUES; DISCOUNT RATE.—In estimating net present values, the discount rate shall be the average interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar maturity to the cash flows of the direct loan or loan guarantee for which the estimate is being made.

''(F) ESTIMATED COST; BASIS.—When funds are obligated for a direct loan or loan guarantee, the estimated cost shall be based on the current assumptions, adjusted to incorporate the terms of the loan contract, for the fiscal year in which the funds are obligated.

''(2) CURRENT.—The term 'current' has the meaning given such term in section 250(c)(9) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(9)).

''(3) DIRECT LOAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'direct loan' means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-Federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of the funds.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'direct loan' includes the purchase of, or participation in, a loan made by another lender and financing arrangements that defer payment for more than 90 days, including the sale of a Government asset on credit terms.

''(C) EXCLUSION.—The term 'direct loan' does not include the acquisition of a federally guaranteed loan in satisfaction of default claims.

''(4) DIRECT LOAN OBLIGATION.—The term 'direct loan obligation' means a binding agreement by the Secretary to make a direct loan when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower.

''(5) INTERMODAL.—The term 'intermodal' means of or relating to the connection between rail service and other modes of transportation, including all parts of facilities at which the connection is made.

''(6) INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING.—The term 'investment-grade rating' means a rating of BBB minus, Baa3, bbb minus, BBB(low), or higher assigned by a rating agency.

''(7) LOAN GUARANTEE.—The term 'loan guarantee' means any guarantee, insurance, or other pledge with respect to the payment of all or a part of the principal or interest on any debt obligation of a non-Federal borrower to a non-Federal lender, but does not include the insurance of deposits, shares, or other withdrawable accounts in financial institutions.

''(8) LOAN GUARANTEE COMMITMENT.—The term 'loan guarantee commitment' means a binding agreement by the Secretary to make a loan guarantee when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower, the lender, or any other party to the guarantee agreement.

''(9) MASTER CREDIT AGREEMENT.—The term 'master credit agreement' means an agreement to make 1 or more direct loans or loan guarantees at future dates for a program of related projects on terms acceptable to the Secretary.

''(10) MODIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'modification' means any Government action that alters the estimated cost of an outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or an outstanding loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) from the current estimate of cash flows.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'modification' includes—

''(i) the sale of loan assets, with or without recourse, and the purchase of guaranteed loans; and

''(ii) any action resulting from new legislation, or from the exercise of administrative discretion under existing law, that directly or indirectly alters the estimated cost of outstanding direct loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment), such as a change in collection procedures.

''(11) PROJECT OBLIGATION.—The term 'project obligation' means a note, bond, debenture, or other debt obligation issued by a borrower in connection with the financing of a project, other than a direct loan or loan guarantee under this chapter.

''(12) RAILROAD.—The term 'railroad' has the meaning given the term 'railroad carrier' in section 20102.

''(13) RATING AGENCY.—The term 'rating agency' means a credit rating agency registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (as defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))).

''(14) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Transportation.

''(15) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION.—The term 'substantial completion' means—

''(A) the opening of a project to passenger or freight traffic; or

''(B) a comparable event, as determined by the Secretary and specified in the terms of the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''§ 22402. Direct loans and loan guarantees

''(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall provide direct loans and loan guarantees—

''(1) to States and units of local government;

''(2) to interstate compacts consented to by Congress under section 410(a) of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–134; 49 U.S.C. 24101 note);

''(3) to government-sponsored authorities and corporations;

''(4) to railroads;

''(5) to joint ventures that include at least 1 of the entities described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (6);

''(6) to private entities with controlling ownership in 1 or more freight railraods other than Class 1 carriers; and

''(7) solely for the purpose of constructing a rail connection between a plant or facility and a railroad, limited option freight shippers that own or operate a plant or other facility.

''(b) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Direct loans and loan guarantees provided under this section shall be used—

''(A)(i) to acquire, improve, or rehabilitate intermodal or rail equipment or facilities, including track, components of track, civil works such as cuts and fills, bridges, yards, buildings, and shops; and

''(ii) to finance costs related to the activities described in clause (i), including preconstruction costs;

''(B) to develop or establish new intermodal or railroad facilities;

''(C) to refinance outstanding debt incurred for the purposes described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

''(D) to reimburse planning, permitting, and design expenses relating to activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

''(E) to finance economic development, including commercial and residential development, and related infrastructure and activities that—

''(i) incorporates private investment;

''(ii) is physically or functionally related to a passenger rail station or multimodal station that includes rail service;

''(iii) has a high probability of the applicant commencing the contracting process for construction not later than 90 days after the date on which the direct loan or loan guarantee is obligated for the project under this chapter; and

''(iv) has a high probability of reducing the need for financial assistance under any other Federal program for the relevant passenger rail station or service by increasing ridership, tenant lease payments, or other activities that generate revenue exceeding costs.

''(2) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT ELIGIBLE.—Direct loans and loan guarantees under this section may not be used for railroad operating expenses.

''(3) SUNSET.—The Secretary may provide a direct loan or loan guarantee under this section for a project described in paragraph (1)(E) only during the 4-year period beginning on December 4, 2015.

''(c) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—In granting applications for direct loans or guaranteed loans under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

''(1) enhance public safety, including projects for the installation of a positive train control system (as defined in section 20157(i));

''(2) promote economic development;

''(3) enhance the environment;

''(4) enable United States companies to be more competitive in international markets;

''(5) are endorsed by the plans prepared under chapter 227 of this title or section 135 of title 23 by the State or States in which the projects are located;

''(6) improve railroad stations and passenger facilities and increase transit-oriented development;

''(7) preserve or enhance rail or intermodal service to small communities or rural areas;

''(8) enhance service and capacity in the national rail system; or

''(9)(A) would materially alleviate rail capacity problems that degrade the provision of service to shippers; and

''(B) would fulfill a need in the national transportation system.

''(d) EXTENT OF AUTHORITY.—

''(1) LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE UNPAID PRINCIPAL AMOUNTS OF OBLIGATIONS.—The aggregate unpaid principal amounts of obligations under direct loans and loan guarantees made under this section may not exceed $35,000,000,000 at any time.

''(2) MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR FREIGHT RAILROADS.—Of the amount referred to in paragraph (1), not less than $7,000,000,000 shall be available solely for projects primarily benefitting freight railroads other than Class I carriers.

''(3) PROPORTION OF UNUSED AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall not establish any limit on the proportion of the unused amount authorized under this subsection that may be used for 1 loan or loan guarantee.

''(e) RATES OF INTEREST.—

''(1) DIRECT LOANS.—The interest rate on a direct loan under this section shall be not less than the yield on United States Treasury securities of a similar maturity to the maturity of the secured loan on the date of execution of the loan agreement.

''(2) LOAN GUARANTEES.—The Secretary shall not make a loan guarantee under this section if the interest rate for the loan exceeds that which the Secretary determines to be reasonable, taking into consideration the prevailing interest rates and customary fees incurred under similar obligations in the private capital market.

''(f) INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of or in combination with appropriations of budget authority to cover the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees as required under section 504(b)(1) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661c(b)(1)), including the cost of a modification of a direct loan or loan guarantee, the Secretary may accept on behalf of an applicant for assistance under this section a commitment from a non-Federal source, including a State or local government or agency, or public benefit corporation or public authority of a State or local government, to fund, in whole or in part, credit risk premiums and modification costs with respect to the loan that is the subject of the application or modification.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The aggregate of appropriations of budget authority and credit risk premiums described in this paragraph with respect to a direct loan or loan guarantee shall not be less than the cost of that direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(2) CREDIT RISK PREMIUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall determine the amount required for credit risk premiums under this subsection on the basis of—

''(A) the circumstances of the applicant, including the amount of collateral offered, if any;

''(B) the proposed schedule of loan disbursements;

''(C) historical data on the repayment history of similar borrowers;

''(D) consultation with the Congressional Budget Office; and

''(E) any other factors the Secretary considers relevant.

''(3) CREDITWORTHINESS.—Upon receipt of a proposal from an applicant for assistance under this section, the Secretary shall accept, as a basis for determining the amount of the credit risk premium under paragraph (2), in addition to the value of any collateral described in paragraph (5), any of the following :

''(A) The net present value of a future stream of State or local subsidy income or other dedicated revenues to secure the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(B) Adequate coverage requirements to ensure repayment, on a nonrecourse basis, from cash flows generated by the project or any other dedicated revenue source, including—

''(i) tolls;

''(ii) user fees, including operating or tenant charges, facility rents, or other fees paid by transportation service providers or operators for access to, or the use of, infrastructure, including rail lines, bridges, tunnels, yards, or stations; and

''(iii) payments owing to the obligor under a public-private partnership.

''(C) An investment-grade rating on the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, unless the total amount of the direct loan or loan guarantee is greater than $150,000,000, in which case the applicant shall have an investment-grade rating from not fewer than 2 rating agencies regarding the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(D) A projection of freight or passenger demand for the project based on regionally developed economic forecasts, including projections of any modal diversion resulting from the project.

''(4) PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS.—Credit risk premiums under this subsection shall be paid to the Secretary before the disbursement of loan amounts (and in the case of a modification, before the modification is executed), to the extent appropriations are not available to the Secretary to meet the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees, including costs of modifications of direct loans and loan guarantees.

''(5) COLLATERAL.—

''(A) TYPES OF COLLATERAL.—An applicant or infrastructure partner may propose tangible and intangible assets as collateral, exclusive of goodwill. The Secretary, after evaluating each such asset—

''(i) shall accept a net liquidation value of collateral; and

''(ii) shall consider and may accept—

''(I) the market value of collateral; or

''(II) in the case of a blanket pledge or assignment of an entire operating asset or basket of assets as collateral, the net liquidation value, the market value of assets, or, the market value of the going concern, considering—

''(aa) inclusion in the pledge of all the assets necessary for independent operational utility of the collateral, including tangible assets such as real property, track and structure, equipment and rolling stock, stations, systems and maintenance facilities and intangible assets such as long-term shipping agreements, easements, leases and access rights such as for trackage and haulage;

''(bb) interchange commitments; and

''(cc) the value of the asset as determined through the cost or market approaches, or the market value of the going concern, with the latter considering discounted cash flows for a period not to exceed the term of the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(B) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—In evaluating appraisals of collateral under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) adherence to the substance and principles of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, as developed by the Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation;

''(ii) performance of the appraisal by licensed or certified appraisers as may be required by the State of jurisdiction for the type of asset being appraised; and

''(iii) the qualifications of the appraisers to value the type of collateral offered.

''(g) PREREQUISITES FOR ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may not make a direct loan or loan guarantee under this section unless the Secretary has made a written finding that—

''(1) repayment of the obligation is required to be made within a term of the lesser of—

''(A) 35 years after the date of substantial completion of the project; or

''(B) with regard to rail equipment or facilities with estimated useful lives that exceed the term described in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) 50 years after the date of substantial completion of the project; or

''(ii) the estimated useful life of the rail equipment or facilities to be acquired, rehabilitated, improved, developed, or established, subject to an adequate determination of long-term risk;

''(2) the direct loan or loan guarantee is justified by the present and probable future demand for rail services or intermodal facilities;

''(3) the applicant has given reasonable assurances that the facilities or equipment to be acquired, rehabilitated, improved, developed, or established with the proceeds of the obligation will be economically and efficiently utilized;

''(4) the obligation can reasonably be repaid, using an appropriate combination of credit risk premiums and collateral offered by the applicant to protect the Federal Government; and

''(5) the purposes of the direct loan or loan guarantee are consistent with subsection (b).

''(h) CONDITIONS OF ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before granting assistance under this section, the Secretary shall require the applicant to agree to such terms and conditions as are sufficient, in the judgment of the Secretary, to ensure that, as long as any principal or interest is due and payable on the obligation, the applicant, and any railroad or railroad partner for whose benefit the assistance is intended—

''(A) will not use any funds or assets from railroad or intermodal operations for purposes not related to the operations, if the use—

''(i) would impair the ability of the applicant, railroad, or railroad partner to provide rail or intermodal services in an efficient and economic manner; or

''(ii) would adversely affect the ability of the applicant, railroad, or railroad partner to perform any obligation entered into by the applicant under this section;

''(B) will, consistent with its capital resources, maintain its capital program, equipment, facilities, and operations on a continuing basis; and

''(C) will not make any discretionary dividend payments that unreasonably conflict with the purposes stated in subsection (b).

''(2) COLLATERAL AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER SOURCE NOT REQUIRED.—

''(A) COLLATERAL.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not require an applicant for a direct loan or loan guarantee under this section to provide collateral.

''(ii) VALUATION.—Any collateral provided or enhanced after being provided shall be valued as a going concern after giving effect to the present value of improvements contemplated by the completion and operation of the project, if applicable.

''(B) REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.—The Secretary may not require an applicant for a direct loan or loan guarantee under this section to have previously sought the financial assistance requested from another source.

''(3) REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall require recipients of direct loans or loan guarantees under this section to comply with—

''(A) the standards of section 24312, as in effect on September 1, 2002, with respect to the project in the same manner that Amtrak is required to comply with the standards for construction work financed under an agreement made under section 24308(a); and

''(B) the protective arrangements established under section 22404, with respect to employees affected by actions taken in connection with the project to be financed by the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(4) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary shall require each recipient of a direct loan or loan guarantee under this section, for a project described in subsection (b)(1)(E), to provide a non-Federal match of not less than 25 percent of the total amount expended by the recipient for the project.

''(i) APPLICATION PROCESSING PROCEDURES.—

''(1) APPLICATION STATUS NOTICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application under this section, or additional information and material under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall provide the applicant written notice as to whether the application is complete or incomplete.

''(2) INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that an application is incomplete, the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide the applicant with a description of all of the specific information or material that is needed to complete the application, including any information required by an independent financial analyst; and

''(B) allow the applicant to resubmit the application with the information and material described under subparagraph (A) to complete the application.

''(3) APPLICATION APPROVALS AND DISAPPROVALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary notifies an applicant that an application is complete under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide the applicant written notice as to whether the Secretary has approved or disapproved the application.

''(B) ACTIONS BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—In order to enable compliance with the time limit under subparagraph (A), the Office of Management and Budget shall take any action required with respect to the application within such 45-day period.

''(4) STREAMLINED APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with section 116, and not later than 180 days after date of the enactment of the Railroad Rehabilitation and Financing Innovation Act, the Secretary shall make available an expedited application process or processes at the request of applicants seeking loans or loan guarantees.

''(B) CRITERIA.—Applicants seeking loans and loan guarantees issued under this subsection shall—

''(i) seek a total loan or loan guarantee value not exceeding $100,000,000;

''(ii) meet eligible project purposes included in subparagraphs (A)(i), (A)(ii), and (B) of subsection (b)(1); and

''(iii) meet other criteria considered appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Transportation Council on Credit and Finance.

''(C) EXPEDITED CREDIT REVIEW.—The total period between the submission of a draft application and the approval or disapproval of a loan or loan guarantee for an applicant under this paragraph may not exceed 90 days. If an application review conducted under this paragraph exceeds 90 days, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide written notice to the applicant, including a justification for the delay and updated estimate of the time needed for approval or disapproval; and

''(ii) post the notice on the dashboard described in paragraph (5).

''(5) DASHBOARD.—The Secretary shall post, on the Department of Transportation's internet website, a monthly report that includes, for each application—

''(A) the applicant type;

''(B) the location of the project;

''(C) a brief description of the project, including its purpose;

''(D) the requested direct loan or loan guarantee amount;

''(E) the date on which the Secretary provided application status notice under paragraph (1);

''(F) the date that the Secretary provided notice of approval or disapproval under paragraph (3); and

''(G) whether the project utilized the expedited application process under paragraph (4).

''(6) REGULAR CREDITWORTHINESS REVIEW STATUS REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to the applicant a regular report containing information related to the application for a loan or loan guarantee, including—

''(i) a summary of the proposed transaction, including—

''(I) the total value of the proposed loan or loan guarantee;

''(II) the name of the applicant or applicants submitting an application;

''(III) the proposed capital structure of the project to which the loan or loan guarantee would be applied, including the proposed Federal and non-Federal shares of the total project cost;

''(IV) the type of activity to receive credit assistance, including whether the project—

''(aa) is new construction or rehabilitation of existing rail equipment or facilities;

''(bb) is a refinancing an existing loan or loan guarantee; and

''(V) if a deferred payment is proposed, the length of such deferment;

''(VI) the credit rating or ratings provided for the applicant;

''(VII) if other credit instruments are involved, the proposed subordination relationship and a description of such other credit instruments;

''(VIII) a schedule for the readiness of proposed investments for financing;

''(IX) a description of any Federal permits required, including under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and any waivers under section 5323(j) of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Buy America Act'); and

''(X) other characteristics of the proposed activity to be financed, borrower, key agreements, or the nature of the credit that the Secretary considers to be fundamental to the creditworthiness review;

''(ii) the status of the application in the pre-application review and selection process;

''(iii) the cumulative amounts paid by the Secretary to outside advisors related to the application, including financial and legal advisors;

''(iv) a description of the key rating factors used by the Secretary to determine credit risk, including—

''(I) the qualitative and quantitative factors used to determine risk for the proposed application;

''(II) an adjectival risk rating for each identified factor, ranked as either low, moderate, or high; and

''(v) a nonbinding estimate of the credit risk premium, which may be in the form of—

''(I) a range, based on the assessment of risk factors described in clause (iv); or

''(II) a justification for why the estimate of the credit risk premium cannot be determined based on available information; and

''(vi) a description of key information the Secretary needs from the applicant to complete the credit review process and make a final determination of the credit risk premium.

''(B) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit the report described in subparagraph (A) not less frequently than every 45 days after the date on which the Secretary presents the first request to the applicant for funding to pay fees for advisors described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

''(C) EXCEPTION.—The report required under this paragraph may not be applied to applications processed using the expedited credit review process under paragraph (5)(B).

''(j) REPAYMENT SCHEDULES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a repayment schedule requiring payments to commence not later than 5 years after the date of substantial completion.

''(2) ACCRUAL.—Interest shall accrue as of the date of disbursement, and shall be amortized over the remaining term of the loan, beginning at the time the payments begin.

''(3) DEFERRED PAYMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If, at any time the date of substantial completion, the obligor is unable to pay the scheduled loan repayments of principal and interest on a direct loan provided under this section, the Secretary, subject to subparagraph (B), may allow, for a maximum aggregate time of 1 year over the duration of the direct loan, the obligor to

add unpaid principal and interest to the outstanding balance of the direct loan.

''(B) INTEREST.—A payment deferred under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) continue to accrue interest under paragraph (2) until the loan is fully repaid; and

''(ii) be scheduled to be amortized over the remaining term of the loan.

''(4) PREPAYMENTS.—

''(A) USE OF EXCESS REVENUES.—With respect to a direct loan provided by the Secretary under this section, any excess revenues that remain after satisfying scheduled debt service requirements on the project obligations and direct loan and all deposit requirements under the terms of any trust agreement, bond resolution, or similar agreement securing project obligations may be applied annually to prepay the direct loan without penalty.

''(B) USE OF PROCEEDS OF REFINANCING.—The direct loan may be prepaid at any time without penalty from the proceeds of refinancing from non-Federal funding sources.

''(k) SALE OF DIRECT LOANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and as soon as practicable after substantial completion of a project, the Secretary, after notifying the obligor, may sell to another entity or reoffer into the capital markets a direct loan for the project if the Secretary determines that the sale or reoffering has a high probability of being made on favorable terms.

''(2) CONSENT OF OBLIGOR.—In making a sale or reoffering under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not change the original terms and conditions of the secured loan without the prior written consent of the obligor.

''(l) NONSUBORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a direct loan provided by the Secretary under this section shall not be subordinated to the claims of any holder of project obligations in the event of bankruptcy, insolvency, or liquidation of the obligor.

''(2) PREEXISTING INDENTURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) for a public agency borrower that is financing ongoing capital programs and has outstanding senior bonds under a preexisting indenture if—

''(i) the direct loan is rated in the A category or higher;

''(ii) the direct loan is secured and payable from pledged revenues not affected by project performance, such as a tax-based revenue pledge or a system-backed pledge of project revenues; and

''(iii) the program share, under this chapter, of eligible project costs is 50 percent or less.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may impose limitations for the waiver of the nonsubordination requirement under this paragraph if the Secretary determines that the limitations would be in the financial interest of the Federal Government.

''(m) MASTER CREDIT AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and to subsection (d), the Secretary may enter into a master credit agreement that is contingent on all of the conditions for the provision of a direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, under this chapter and other applicable requirements being satisfied prior to the issuance of the direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(2) CONDITIONS.—Each master credit agreement shall—

''(A) establish the maximum amount and general terms and conditions of each applicable direct loan or loan guarantee;

''(B) identify 1 or more dedicated non-Federal revenue sources that will secure the repayment of each applicable direct loan or loan guarantee;

''(C) provide for the obligation of funds—

''(i) for the direct loans or loan guarantees contingent on the meeting of all applicable requirements and after all requirements have been met, for the projects subject to the master credit agreement; and

''(D) provide 1 or more dates, as determined by the Secretary, before which the master credit agreement results in the disbursement issuance of each of the direct loans or loan guarantees or in the release of the master credit agreement.

''§ 22403. Administration of direct loans and loan guarantees

''(a) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe the form and contents required of applications for assistance under section 22402, to enable the Secretary to determine the eligibility of the applicant's proposal, and shall establish terms and conditions for direct loans and loan guarantees made under that section, including a program guide, a standard term sheet, and specific timetables.

''(2) DOCUMENTATION.—An applicant meeting the size standard for small business concerns established under section 3(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)) may provide unaudited financial statements as documentation of historical financial information if such statements are accompanied by the applicant's Federal tax returns and Internal Revenue Service tax verifications for the corresponding years.

''(b) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—All guarantees entered into by the Secretary under section 22402 shall constitute general obligations of the United States of America and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

''(c) ASSIGNMENT OF LOAN GUARANTEES.—The holder of a loan guarantee made under section 22402 may assign the loan guarantee in whole or in part, subject to such requirements as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(d) MODIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may approve the modification of any term or condition of a direct loan, loan guarantee, direct loan obligation, or loan guarantee commitment, including the rate of interest, time of payment of interest or principal, or security requirements, if the Secretary finds in writing that—

''(1) the modification is equitable and is in the overall best interests of the United States;

''(2) consent has been obtained from the applicant and in the case of a loan guarantee or loan guarantee commitment, the holder of the obligation; and

''(3) the modification cost has been covered under section 22402(f).

''(e) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure compliance by an applicant, any other party to the loan, and any railroad or railroad partner for whose benefit assistance is intended, with the provisions of this chapter, regulations issued under this chapter, and the terms and conditions of the direct loan or loan guarantee, including through regular periodic inspections.

''(f) COMMERCIAL VALIDITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of claims by any party other than the Secretary, a loan guarantee or loan guarantee commitment shall be conclusive evidence that the underlying obligation is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, and that the obligation has been approved and is legal as to principal, interest, and other terms.

''(2) VALID AND INCONTESTABLE.—A guarantee or commitment under paragraph (1) shall be valid and incontestable in the hands of a holder of the guarantee or commitment, including the original lender or any other holder, as of the date when the Secretary granted the application for the guarantee or commitment, except as to fraud or material misrepresentation by the holder.

''(g) DEFAULT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations setting forth procedures in the event of default on a loan made or guaranteed under section 22402.

''(2) LOAN GUARANTEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that each loan guarantee made under section 22402 contains terms and conditions that provide that—

''(A) if a payment of principal or interest under the loan is in default for more than 30 days, the Secretary shall pay to the holder of the obligation, or the holder's agent, the amount of unpaid guaranteed interest;

''(B) if the default has continued for more than 90 days, the Secretary shall pay to the holder of the obligation, or the holder's agent, 90 percent of the unpaid guaranteed principal;

''(C) after final resolution of the default, through liquidation or otherwise, the Secretary shall pay to the holder of the obligation, or the holder's agent, any remaining amounts guaranteed but that were not recovered through the default's resolution;

''(D) the Secretary shall not be required to make any payment under subparagraphs (A) through (C) if the Secretary finds, before the expiration of the periods described in such subparagraphs, that the default has been remedied; and

''(E) the holder of the obligation shall not receive payment or be entitled to retain payment in a total amount that, together with all other recoveries (including any recovery based upon a security interest in equipment or facilities) exceeds the actual loss of the holder.

''(h) RIGHTS OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) SUBROGATION.—If the Secretary makes payment to a holder, or a holder's agent, under subsection (g) in connection with a loan guarantee made under section 22402, the Secretary shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the holder with respect to the obligor under the loan.

''(2) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may complete, recondition, reconstruct, renovate, repair, maintain, operate, charter, rent, sell, or otherwise dispose of any property or other interests obtained pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall not be subject to any Federal or State regulatory requirements when carrying out this paragraph.

''(i) ACTION AGAINST OBLIGOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may bring a civil action in an appropriate Federal court in the name of the United States in the event of a default on a direct loan made under section 22402 or in the name of the United States or of the holder of the obligation in the event of a default on a loan guaranteed under section 22402.

''(2) RECORDS AND EVIDENCE.—The holder of a guarantee shall make available to the Secretary all records and evidence necessary to prosecute the civil action.

''(3) PROPERTY AS SATISFACTION OF SUMS OWED.—The Secretary may accept property in full or partial satisfaction of any sums owed as a result of a default.

''(4) EXCESS AMOUNT.—

''(A) PAYMENT TO OBLIGOR.—If the Secretary receives, through the sale or other disposition of the property described in paragraph (3), an excess amount described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall pay to the obligor the excess amount.

''(B) AMOUNT.—An excess amount under this subparagraph is an amount the exceeds the aggregate of—

''(i) the amount paid to the holder of a guarantee under subsection (g); and

''(ii) any other cost to the United States of remedying the default.

''(j) BREACH OF CONDITIONS.—The Attorney General shall commence a civil action in an appropriate Federal court to enjoin any activity that the Secretary finds is in violation of this chapter, regulations issued under this chapter, or any conditions that were agreed to, and to secure any other appropriate relief.

''(k) ATTACHMENT.—No attachment or execution may be issued against the Secretary, or any property in the control of the Secretary, prior to the entry of final judgment to that effect in any Federal, State, or other court.

''(l) CHARGES AND LOAN SERVICING.—

''(1) PURPOSES.—The Secretary may collect from each applicant, obligor, or loan party a reasonable charge for—

''(A) the cost of evaluating the application, amendments, modifications, and waivers, including for evaluating project viability, applicant creditworthiness, and the appraisal of the value of the equipment or facilities for which the direct loan or loan guarantee is sought, and for making necessary determinations and findings;

''(B) to cost of award management and project management oversight;

''(C) the cost of services from expert firms, including counsel, and independent financial advisors to assist in the underwriting, auditing, servicing, and exercise of rights with respect to direct loans and loan guarantees; and

''(D) the cost of all other expenses incurred as a result of a breach of any term or condition or any event of default on a direct loan or loan guarantee.

''(2) CHARGE DIFFERENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may charge different amounts under this subsection based on the different costs incurred under paragraph (1).

''(3) SERVICER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint a financial entity to assist the Secretary in servicing a direct loan or loan guarantee under this chapter.

''(B) DUTIES.—A servicer appointed under subparagraph (A) shall act as the agent of the Secretary in servicing a direct loan or loan guarantee under this chapter.

''(C) FEES.—A servicer appointed under subparagraph (A) shall receive a servicing fee from the obligor or other loan party, subject to approval by the Secretary.

''(4) NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU ACCOUNT.—Amounts collected under this subsection shall—

''(A) be credited directly to the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau Account; and

''(B) remain available until expended to pay for the costs described in this subsection.

''(m) FEES AND CHARGES.—Except as provided in this chapter, the Secretary may not assess fees, including user fees, or charges in connection with a direct loan or loan guarantee provided under section 22402.

''§ 22404. Employee protection

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) FAIR AND EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.—Fair and equitable arrangements shall be provided, in accordance with this section, to protect the interests of any employees who may be affected by actions taken pursuant to authorizations or approval obtained under this chapter.

''(2) ARRANGEMENTS BY AGREEMENTS.—The arrangements under paragraph (1) shall be determined by the execution of an agreement between the representatives of the railroads and the representatives of their employees not later than June 4, 1976.

''(3) PRESCRIBED ARRANGEMENTS.—In the absence of an executed agreement under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Labor shall prescribe the applicable protective arrangements not later than July 4, 1976.

''(b) TERMS.—

''(1) APPLICABILITY TO EXISTING EMPLOYEES.—The arrangements required under subsection (a) shall apply to each employee who has an employment relationship with a railroad on the date on which the railroad first applies for financial assistance under this chapter.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such arrangements shall include such provisions as may be necessary for the negotiation and execution of agreements as to the manner in which the protective arrangements shall be applied, including notice requirements.

''(3) EXECUTION PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK.—The agreements shall be executed prior to implementation of work funded from financial assistance under this chapter.

''(4) ARBITRATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an agreement described in subsection (a)(2) is not reached within 30 days after the date on which an application for the assistance is approved, either party to the dispute may submit the issue for final and binding arbitration.

''(B) DECISION.—

''(i) WHEN DECISION IS TO BE RENDERED.—The decision on any arbitration under this paragraph shall be rendered within 30 days after the submission.

''(ii) EFFECT.—The arbitration decision—

''(I) shall not modify the protection afforded in the protective arrangements established pursuant to this section;

''(II) shall be final and binding on the parties to the arbitration; and

''(III) shall become a part of the agreement.

''(5) OTHER INCLUSIONS.—The arrangements shall also include such provisions as may be necessary—

''(A) for the preservation of compensation (including subsequent general wage increases, vacation allowances, and monthly compensation guarantees), right, privileges, and benefits (including fringe benefits such as pensions, hospitalization, and vacations, under the same conditions and so long as the benefits continue to be accorded to other employees of the employing railroad in active service or on furlough, as the case may be) to the employees under existing collective-bargaining agreements or otherwise;

''(B) to provide for final and binding arbitration of any dispute that cannot be settled by the parties with respect to the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the provisions of the protective arrangements;

''(C) to provide that an employee who is unable to secure employment by the exercise of the employee's seniority rights, as a result of actions taken with financial assistance obtained under this chapter, shall be offered reassignment and, where necessary, retraining to fill a position comparable to the position held at the time of the adverse effect and for which the employee is, or by training and retraining can become, physically and mentally qualified, so long as the offer is not in contravention of collective bargaining agreements relating to the provisions in this paragraph; and

''(D) to provide that the protection afforded pursuant to this section shall not be applicable to employees benefitted solely as a result of the work that is financed by funds provided pursuant to this chapter.

''(c) SUBCONTRACTING.—The arrangements that are required to be negotiated by the parties or prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, pursuant to subsections (a) and (b), shall include provisions regulating subcontracting by the railroads of work that is financed by funds provided pursuant to this chapter.

''§ 22405. Substantive criteria and standards

''The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register and post on the Department of Transportation website the substantive criteria and standards used by the Secretary to determine whether to approve or disapprove applications submitted under section 22404. The Secretary shall ensure adequate procedures and guidelines are in place to permit the filing of complete applications not later than 30 days after such publication.

''§ 22406. Funding

''(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated out of the General Fund for credit assistance under this chapter—

''(A) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

''(B) $31,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

''(C) $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

''(D) $33,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(E) $34,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.

''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall be used for loans and loan guarantees with a total value of not more than $200,000,000.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In each fiscal year, not less than $3,000,000 of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for the Secretary for use in lieu of charges collected under section 22403(l)(1) for freight railroads other than Class I carriers and passenger railroads.

''(3) SHORT LINE SET-ASIDE.—In each fiscal year, not less than 50 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) that remain available after the set aside described in paragraph (2) shall be set aside for freight railroads other than Class I carriers.

''(4) PASSENGER RAIL SET-ASIDE.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) that remain available after the set-asides described in paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be set aside for passenger railroads.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 223 the following:

''CHAPTER 224—RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM''.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT.—Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1247(d)) is amended by inserting ''(45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) and chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code'' after ''1976''.

(b) PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT.—Section 11315(c) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (23 U.S.C. 322 note; Public Law 114–94) is amended by striking ''sections 502 and 503 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976'' and inserting ''sections 22402 and 22403 of title 49, United States Code''.

(c) PROVISIONS CLASSIFIED IN TITLE 45, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) Section 101 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''It is the purpose of the Congress in this Act to'' and inserting ''The purpose of this Act and chapter 224 of subtitle V of title 49, United States Code, is to''; and

(B) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''It is declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act'' and inserting ''The policy of this

Act and chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, is''.

(2) Section 11607(b) of the Railroad Infrastructure Financing Improvement Act (Public Law 114–94; 45 U.S.C. 821 note) is amended by striking ''All provisions under sections 502 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.)'' and inserting ''All provisions under section 22404 through 22404 of title 49, United States Code,''.

(3) Section 11610(b) of the Railroad Infrastructure Financing Improvement Act (Public Law 114–94; 45 U.S.C. 821 note) is amended by striking ''section 502(f) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822(f)), as amended by section 11607 of this Act'' and inserting ''section 22402(f) of title 49, United States Code''.

(4) Section 7203(b)(2) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178; 45 U.S.C. 821 note) is amended by striking ''title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code,''.

(5) Section 212(d)(1) of Hamm Alert Maritime Safety Act of 2018 (title II of Public Law 115–265; 45 U.S.C. 822 note) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''for purposes of section 502(f)(4) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822(f)(4))'' and inserting ''for purposes of section 22402 of title 49, United States Code''.

(6) Section 15(f) of the Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring Act (45 U.S.C. 914(f)) is amended by striking ''Section 516 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 836)'' and inserting ''Section 22404 of title 49, United States Code,''.

(7) Section 104(b) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, and section 516 of such Act (45 U.S.C. 836)'' and inserting ''chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, and section 22404 of title 49, United States Code,''.

(8) Section 104(b)(2) of the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (45 U.S.C. 1003(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, and section 516 of such Act (45 U.S.C. 836)'' and inserting ''chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, and section 22404 of such title 49,''.

(d) TITLE 49.—

(1) Section 116(d)(1)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''sections 501 through 503 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821–823)'' and inserting ''sections 22401 through 22403 of this title''.

(2) Section 306(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''chapter 221 or 249 of this title,'' and inserting ''chapter 221, 224, or 249 of this title,''; and

(B) by striking '', or title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821 et seq.)''.

(3) Section 11311(d) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–94; 49 U.S.C. 20101 note) is amended by striking '', and section 502 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822)''.

(4) Section 205(g) of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–432; 49 U.S.C. 24101 note) is amended by striking ''title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code''.

(5) Section 22905(c)(2)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 836)'' and inserting ''section 22404 of this title''.

(6) Section 24903 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(6), by striking ''and the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.)'' and inserting '', the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), and chapter 224 of this title''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''and the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.)'' and inserting '', the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), and chapter 224 of this title''.

SEC. 4. TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESTATED PROVISION.—The term ''restated provision'' means a provision of chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, as added by section 2.

(2) SOURCE PROVISION.—The term ''source provision'' means a provision of law that is replaced by a restated provision.

(b) CUTOFF DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The restated provisions replace certain source provisions enacted on or before December 31, 2020.

(2) SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS AND REPEALS.—If a law enacted after December 31, 2020 amends or repeals a source provision, that law is deemed to amend or repeal, as the case may be, the corresponding restated provision. If a law enacted after December 31, 2020 is otherwise inconsistent with a restated provision of this Act, that law supersedes the restated provision of this Act to the extent of the inconsistency.

(c) ORIGINAL DATE OF ENACTMENT UNCHANGED.—A restated provision is deemed to have been enacted on the date of enactment of the corresponding source provision.

(d) REFERENCES TO RESTATED PROVISIONS.—A reference to a restated provision is deemed to refer to the corresponding source provision.

(e) REFERENCES TO SOURCE PROVISIONS.—A reference to a source provision, including a reference in a regulation, order, or other law, is deemed to refer to the corresponding restated provision.

(f) REGULATIONS, ORDERS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—A regulation, order, or other administrative action in effect under a source provision continues in effect under the corresponding restated provision.

(g) ACTIONS TAKEN AND OFFENSES COMMITTED.—An action taken or an offense committed under a source provision is deemed to have been taken or committed under the corresponding restated provision.

SEC. 5. REPEALS.

The following provisions of law are repealed, except with respect to rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before the date of enactment of this Act:

Schedule of Laws Repealed

Act	Section	United States Code Former Classification
Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210)	501	45 U.S.C. 821.
	502	45 U.S.C. 822.
	503	45 U.S.C. 823.
	504	45 U.S.C. 836.
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA–LU (Public Law 109–59)	9003(j)	45 U.S.C. 822 note.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 470. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to assess the feasibility of establishing a National Heritage Area in the Great Dismal Swamp, as part of an effort to study, recognize, and preserve the historic and natural treasures within this region.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, this bill underscores the ties between the natural landmark and African American history. The Great Dismal Swamp contains one of the largest collections of artifacts from maroon colonies, and it served as both a home for early colonial Free People of Color as well as one of a few known water-based stops for freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. The Great Dismal Swamp also encompasses historic and ancestral lands of Native American tribes such as the Nansemond Indian Nation and the Haliwa-Saponi and Meherrin Tribes.

Today, the Dismal Swamp offers unique educational opportunities, recreational adventures, and environmental benefits. It is an important wildlife refuge for an impressive and diverse list of animal, insect, and plant species. If designated as a National Heritage Area, local communities will have access to technical assistance and advice from the National Park Service while maintaining full ownership, authority over decision-making, and stewardship of the biodiverse land.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator MARK WARNER on this bill, and I am thankful to Congressman DONALD MCEACHIN's leadership on this effort in the House with Representatives BOBBY SCOTT, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, and ELAINE LURIA. There is great potential for community and economic development stemming from a National Heritage Area designation. I

look forward to such grassroots, community-driven development, and plan to personally contribute to the boosted tourism and recreation. As a student of history I am looking forward to learning more from the trove of culture and history the Dismal has to offer.

I encourage the Senate to consider this legislation to help highlight, study, and conserve the unique ecology and cultural history contained in the Great Dismal Swamp for generations to come.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 473. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the subset for the definition of a small business debtor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 473

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 ''COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1113 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5) (11 U.S.C. 1182 note), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B) (11 U.S.C. 101 note), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PLAN AFTER CONFIRMATION.—

(1) Section 1329(d)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

(2) Section 1113(b)(1)(D)(ii) of the CARES Act (11 U.S.C. 1329 note) is amended by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

(c) BANKRUPTCY RELIEF.—Section 1001 of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking ''the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act'' each place the term appears and inserting ''March 27, 2022''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY ON FEBRUARY 19, 2021, AND RECOGNIZING THE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS ITS MEMBERS HAVE MADE TO THE UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 76

Whereas people in the United States depend on civil servants to carry out the important work of the Federal Government, including—

(1) civilian defense employees who support and equip the United States Armed Forces;

(2) doctors and nurses who care for veterans returning home from war;

(3) cybersecurity professionals who protect critical infrastructure and respond to emerging threats;

(4) scientists and researchers who respond to pandemics and develop new cures for diseases;

(5) Federal law enforcement and intelligence officers who protect the United States from foreign and domestic threats to its physical security;

(6) prosecutors and judges who uphold the laws;

(7) prison guards who keep violent criminals off the streets;

(8) postal workers who keep communities connected and the economy churning;

(9) benefit officers and administrators who deliver important Federal retirement and health benefits; and

(10) revenue agents who ensure the United States has the necessary funds to carry out the work described in paragraphs (1) through (9);

Whereas the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NARFE'') was founded in 1921 as the Association of Retired Federal Employees to defend and advance the retirement benefits of civil servants who serve the United States in honor of their service;

Whereas NARFE serves a critical function in promoting the general welfare of the civil servants who serve the United States by delivering valuable guidance, timely resources, and powerful advocacy relating to the earned pay and benefits of the civil servants;

Whereas NARFE is a trusted source of knowledge for the Federal community, Congress, the executive branch, and the media;

Whereas NARFE, a leading voice in Washington and across the country, advocates tirelessly on behalf of the Federal community with the support of grassroots activists in every State and congressional district;

Whereas NARFE provides both Federal workers and retirees with clear, reliable, and accessible counsel to navigate the unique and complex issues relating to their benefits so they can make critical decisions and gain confidence in a secure future; and

Whereas NARFE represents more than 170,000 Federal employees, retirees, and their survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (referred to in this resolution as the ''NARFE'') on the celebration of its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends the civil servants who serve the United States for their outstanding contributions to the United States;

(3) recognizes the vital contributions NARFE members have made to the United States over the past 100 years; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the National President and Executive Director of the NARFE.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, 2021, AS ''PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK''

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas public education is a significant institution in a 21st-century democracy;

Whereas public schools in the United States are where students come to be educated about the values and beliefs that hold the individuals of the United States together as a nation;

Whereas public schools prepare young individuals of the United States to contribute to the society, economy, and citizenry of the country;

Whereas 90 percent of children in the United States attend public schools;

Whereas Federal, State, and local lawmakers should—

(1) prioritize support for strengthening the public schools of the United States;

(2) empower superintendents, principals, and other school leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts and schools in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders; and

(3) support services and programs that are critical to helping students engage in learning, including counseling, extracurricular activities, and mental health supports;

Whereas public schools should foster inclusive, safe, and high-quality environments in which children can learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships;

Whereas public schools should provide environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed beginning in their earliest years, regardless of who a student is or where a student lives;

Whereas Congress should support—

(1) efforts to advance equal opportunity and excellence in public education;

(2) efforts to implement evidence-based practices in public education; and

(3) continuous improvements to public education;

Whereas every child should—

(1) receive an education that helps the child reach the full potential of the child; and

(2) attend a school that offers a high-quality educational experience;

Whereas Federal funding, in addition to State and local funds, supports the access of students to inviting classrooms, well-prepared educators, and services to support healthy students, including nutrition and afterschool programs;

Whereas teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals should provide students with a well-rounded education and strive to create joy in learning;

Whereas superintendents, principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents make public schools vital components of communities and are working

hard to improve educational outcomes for children across the country; and

Whereas the week of February 22 through February 26, 2021, is an appropriate period to designate as ''Public Schools Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of February 22 through February 26, 2021, as ''Public Schools Week''.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6—URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING, AND TRANSFORMATION

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 6

Whereas the first ship carrying enslaved Africans to what is now known as the United States of America arrived in 1619;

Whereas that event 400 years ago was significant not only because it ushered in the institution of chattel slavery of African Americans, but also because it facilitated the systematic oppression of all people of color that has been a devastating and insufficiently understood and acknowledged aspect of our Nation's history over those past 400 years, and that has left a legacy of that oppression that haunts our Nation to this day;

Whereas the institution of chattel slavery in the United States subjugated African Americans for nearly 250 years, fractured our Nation, and made a mockery of its founding principle that ''all men are created equal'';

Whereas the signing of the Constitution of the United States failed to end slavery and oppressions against African Americans and other people of color, thus embedding in society the belief in the myth of a hierarchy of human value based on superficial physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features, and resulting in purposeful and persistent racial inequities in education, health care, employment, Social Security and veteran benefits, land ownership, financial assistance, food security, wages, voting rights, and the justice system;

Whereas that oppression denied opportunity and mobility to African Americans and other people of color within the United States, resulting in stolen labor worth billions of dollars while ultimately forestalling landmark contributions that African Americans and other people of color would make in science, arts, commerce, and public service;

Whereas Reconstruction represented a significant but constrained moment of advances for Black rights as epitomized by the Freedman's Bureau, which negotiated labor contracts for ex-enslaved people but failed to secure their own land for them;

Whereas the brutal overthrow of Reconstruction failed all individuals in the United States by failing to ensure the safety and security of African Americans and by emboldening States and municipalities in both the North and South to enact numerous laws and policies to stymie the socioeconomic mobility and political voice of freed Blacks, thus maintaining their subservience to Whites;

Whereas Reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and other efforts to redress the grievances of marginalized people were sabotaged, both intentionally and unintentionally, by those in power, thus rendering the accomplishments of those efforts transitory and unsustainable, and further embedding the racial hierarchy in society;

Whereas examples of government actions directed against populations of color (referred to in this resolution as ''discriminatory government actions'') include—

(1) the creation of the Federal Housing Administration, which adopted specific policies designed to incentivize residential segregation;

(2) the enactment of legislation creating the Social Security program, for which most African Americans were purposely rendered ineligible during its first 2 decades;

(3) the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the ''G.I. Bill of Rights''; 58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), which left administration of its programs to the States, thus enabling blatant discrimination against African American veterans;

(4) the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which allowed labor unions to discriminate based on race;

(5) subprime lending aimed purposefully at families of color;

(6) disenfranchisement of Native Americans, who, until 1924, were denied citizenship on land Native Americans had occupied for millennia;

(7) Federal Indian Boarding School policy during the 19th and 20th centuries, the purpose of which was to ''civilize'' Native children through methods intended to eradicate Native cultures, traditions, and languages;

(8) land policies toward Indian Tribes, such as the allotment policy, which caused the loss of over 90,000,000 acres of Tribal lands, even though two-thirds of that acreage was guaranteed to Indian Tribes by treaties and other Federal laws, and similar unjustified land grabs from Indian Tribes that occurred regionally throughout the late 1800s and into the termination era in the 1950s and 1960s;

(9) the involuntary removal of Mexicans and United States citizens of Mexican descent through large-scale discriminatory deportation programs in the 1930s and 1950s;

(10) the United States annexation of Puerto Rico, which made Puerto Ricans citizens of the United States without affording them voting rights;

(11) racial discrimination against Latino Americans, which has forced Latino Americans to fight continuously for equal access to employment, housing, health care, financial services, and education;

(12) the Act entitled ''An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese'', approved May 6, 1892 (commonly known as the ''Chinese Exclusion Act''; 22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which effectively halted immigration from China and barred Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens of the United States, and which was the first instance of xenophobic legislation signed into law specifically targeting a specific group of people based on ethnicity;

(13) the treatment of Japanese Americans, despite no evidence of disloyalty, as suspect and traitorous in the very country they helped to build, leading most notably to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans beginning in 1942;

(14) the conspiracy to overthrow the Kingdom of Hawaii and annex the land of the Kingdom of Hawaii, without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii; and

(15) the United States history of colonialism in the Pacific, which has resulted in economic, health, and educational disparities among other inequities, for people in United States territories, as well as independent nations with which the United States has treaty obligations;

Whereas those discriminatory government actions, among other government policies that have had racially disparate impacts, have disproportionately barred African Americans and other people of color from building wealth, thus limiting potential capital and exacerbating the racial wealth gap;

Whereas research has shown that the persistent racial wealth gap has had a significant negative impact on other racial disparities, such as the achievement gap, disparities in school dropout rates, income gaps, disparities in home ownership rates, health outcome disparities, and disparities in incarceration rates;

Whereas United States civic leaders and foundations have spearheaded critical efforts to advance racial healing, understanding, and transformation within the United States, recognizing that it is in our collective national interest to urgently address the unhealed, entrenched divisions that will severely undermine our democracy if they are allowed to continue to exist;

Whereas many of the most far-reaching victories for racial healing in the United States have been greatly enhanced by the involvement, support, and dedication of individuals from any and all racial groups;

Whereas at the same time, much of the progress toward racial healing and racial equity in the United States has been limited or reversed by our failure to address the root cause of racism, the belief in the myth of a hierarchy of human value based on superficial physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features;

Whereas the United States institution of slavery, as well as other examples enumerated in this resolution, represent intentional and blatant violations of the most basic right of every individual in the United States to a free and decent life;

Whereas the consequences of oppression against people of color have cascaded for centuries, across generations, beyond the era of active enslavement, imperiling for descendants of slaves and other targets of oppression what should have otherwise been the right of every individual in the United States to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas more than 40 countries have reckoned with historical injustice and its aftermath through forming Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to move toward restorative justice and to return dignity to their citizens;

Whereas for 3 decades there has been a growing movement inside and outside Congress to have the Federal Government develop material remedies for the institution of slavery, including through a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans described in H.R. 40, 117th Congress, as introduced on January 4, 2021, and S. 40, 117th Congress, as introduced on January 25, 2021;

Whereas the formation of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation does not supplant the formation of a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, but rather complements that effort; and

Whereas contemporary social science, medical science, and the rapidly expanding use of artificial intelligence and social media reveal the costs and potential threats to our democracy if we continue to allow unhealed, entrenched divisions to be ignored and exploited: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) affirms, on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave ship to the United States, that the Nation owes a long-overdue debt of remembrance to not only those who

lived through the egregious injustices enumerated in this resolution, but also to their descendants; and

(2) urges the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward—

(A) jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value;

(B) embracing our common humanity; and

(C) permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 2021, 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 Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 461 AND S.J. RES. 9

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I understand that there are two measures at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the measures by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 461) to create a point of order against legislation modifying the number of Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The measures will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the biennial report from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2021

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to biennially submit a report containing recommendations regarding Federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations that should be made applicable to Congress and its agencies. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the rights afforded by the CAA to legislative branch employees and visitors to Capitol Hill and district and state offices remain equivalent to those in the private sector and the executive branch of the Federal Government. As such, these recommendations support the intent of Congress to keep pace with advances in workplace rights and public access laws.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Board's Section 102(b) Report for the 117th Congress. This report was submitted electronically to President Pro Tempore Grassley and Speaker Pelosi on December 31, 2020, which was the filing date required by statute. We welcome discussion on these issues and urge that Congress act on these important recommendations.

As required by the CAA, we request that this publication be printed in the Congressional Record and referred to the committees of the U.S. Senate with jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN,
Executive Director,
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Attachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Office of Congressional Workplace Rights—Board of Directors' Biennial Report required by 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act issued at the conclusion of the 116th Congress for consideration by the 117th Congress

Statement from the Board of Directors

With its enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) in 1995, Congress first applied to the legislative branch the same laws regarding workplace rights and the employment relationship as governed the executive branch and private sector, including those addressing discrimination, workplace safety and health, wages and hours, accessibility, and collective bargaining and labor-management relations. Passage of the CAA in the opening days of the 104th Congress with nearly unanimous approval reflected a Congressional promise to the American public that it would hold itself accountable to the same federal workplace and accessibility standards as apply to private sector employers and executive branch agencies.

This commitment is not meant to be static. Rather, the CAA provides for an ongoing, vigilant review of federal law to ensure that Congress continues to apply to itself—where appropriate—the labor, employment, health, and safety laws that it enacts. To further this goal, section 102(b) of the CAA tasks the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to review federal legislation and regulations to ensure that workplace protections in the legislative branch are on par with those applicable to private sector and executive branch agencies. Accordingly, every Congress, the Board reports on:

whether or to what degree [provisions of Federal law (including regulations) relating to (A) the terms and conditions of employment (including hiring, promotion, demotion, termination, salary, wages, overtime compensation, benefits, work assignments or reassignments, grievance and disciplinary procedures, protection from discrimination in personnel actions, occupational health and safety, and family and medical and other leave) of employees; and (B) access to public services and accommodations] . . . are applicable or inapplicable to the legislative branch, and (2B) with respect to provisions inapplicable to the legislative branch, whether such provisions should be made applicable to the legislative branch.

This section of the CAA also requires that the presiding officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate cause our Report to be printed in the Congressional Record and refer the report to Committees of the House and Senate with jurisdiction.

In past Reports, the Board has taken a broad approach in presenting its recommendations to amend the CAA. In this Report, we highlight key recommendations that the Board has made in past Section 102(b) Reports that have not yet been implemented, as well as additional recommendations to amend the CAA to increase transparency, discourage protracted administrative proceedings at the taxpayers' expense, and enjoin unlawful conduct.

While recognizing the enormous importance of many of the other issues faced today by the 117th Congress, the Board is hopeful that issuance of this Section 102(b) Report will result in legislative action necessary to implement these recommendations so that the CAA remains current with the employment needs of the legislative branch. Without action on the Board's recommendations, the worthy goals of the CAA gradually may be eroded.

The Board welcomes an opportunity to further discuss these recommendations and asks for careful consideration of the requests by the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,
Chair, Board of Directors.
BARBARA L. CAMENS.
ALAN V. FRIEDMAN.
ROBERTA L. HOLZWARTH.
SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL.

Recommendations for the 117th Congress

Amend the CAA to Allow the OCWR Board of Directors to Authorize the OCWR General Counsel to Seek Appropriate Temporary Relief after Filing an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) Charge

Section 220 of the CAA incorporates certain provisions of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS) to the legislative branch. 2 U.S.C. §1351. In general, the OCWR General Counsel exercises the same authority delegated to the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) under 5 U.S.C. §§ 7104 and 7118 in the executive branch, that is, the authority to investigate allegations of ULPs and to file and prosecute complaints regarding ULPs.

The CAA, however, does not currently incorporate the provisions of 5 U.S.C. §7123(d), pursuant to which parties to ULP proceedings in the executive branch may request the FLRA General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief, including issuance of a temporary restraining order. Specifically, section 7123(d) provides:

The Authority may, upon issuance of a complaint as provided in section 7118 of this title charging that any person has engaged in or is engaging in an unfair labor practice, petition any United States district court within any district in which the unfair labor practice in question is alleged to have occurred or in which such person resides or transacts business for appropriate temporary relief (including a restraining order). Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall cause notice thereof to be served upon the person, and thereupon shall have jurisdiction to grant any temporary relief (including a temporary restraining order) it considers just and proper. A court shall not grant any temporary relief under this section if it would interfere with the ability of the agency to carry out its essential functions or if the Authority fails to establish probable cause that an unfair labor practice is being committed.

This important statutory provision in the FSLMRS allows the FLRA General Counsel to seek, in appropriate cases when a ULP Complaint is filed, temporary relief in any United States District Court when it would be just and proper to do so and the record establishes probable cause that an ULP is being committed.

Incorporating the provisions 5 U.S.C. §7123(d) into the CAA would allow the OCWR Board to authorize the OCWR General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief in the same manner and under the same circumstances. In the Board's view, the grant of authority to the OCWR General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief under the CAA would, as has proven to be in the executive branch, operate as a strong disincentive for parties in the legislative branch to engage in protracted administrative proceedings at the taxpayers' expense while continuing to engage in ULPs.[1]

Amend the Confidentiality Provisions of the CAA to Exclude Proceedings under the FSLMRS and the Public Access Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (CAA Sections 210 and 220)

The general confidentiality provisions of the CAA that govern administrative hearings and deliberations are set forth at section 416 of the Act. 2 U.S.C. §1416. They currently provide in relevant part that ''all proceedings and deliberations of hearing officers and the Board, including any related records, shall be confidential. This subsection shall not apply to proceedings under section 1341 of this title [concerning proceedings under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHAct)], but shall apply to the deliberations of hearing officers and the Board under that section.'' Congress excluded proceedings under the OSHAct from these confidentiality provisions because it determined that the public interest in transparency concerning safety and health proceedings on Capitol Hill outweighed any value in keeping them confidential.

The Board believes that the public interest in transparency outweighs any value in confidentiality for proceedings under the ADA public access provisions and the labor-management provisions of the CAA. 2 U.S.C. §§1331, 1351. Unlike the individual employment matters covered by Part A of subchapter II of the CAA where there is undoubtedly value in keeping individual personnel disputes confidential, the matters covered by Parts B (ADA public access), C (occupational safety and health), and D (labor-management relations) primarily involve institutional and public concerns with maintaining facilities, policies, and programs that are safe, healthful, accessible, and free from ULPs. The current lack of transparency undermines the public's confidence that those statutory mandates are being fully enforced, encourages protracted litigation at taxpayer expense, and discourages voluntary compliance.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that section 416 of the CAA be amended to exclude from its confidentiality provisions, proceedings under the FSLMRS and the public access provisions of the ADA. This could be accomplished by amending the second sentence in CAA section 416(b) as follows: ''This subsection shall not apply to proceedings under sections 1331, 1341, and 1351 of this title, but shall apply to deliberations of hearing officers and the Board under these sections.''

Amend the Voluntary Mediation Provisions of the CAA's Administrative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Procedures to Require Mediation upon Request of the Claimant

Prior to the CAA Reform Act, the CAA's ADR procedures required, among other things, that an employee file a request for mediation with the OCWR as a jurisdictional prerequisite to filing a complaint with the OCWR or in the U.S. District Court. Further, the CAA provided that the mediation period ''shall be 30 days,'' which could be extended upon the joint request of the parties.

As a result of the CAA Reform Act amendments, however, mediation is no longer mandatory—rather, mediation takes place only if requested and only if both parties agree. 2 U.S.C. §1403. This change from mandatory to voluntary mediation was enacted amid concerns that the mandatory mediation process could serve to delay the availability of statutory relief for victims of harassment or other conduct prohibited by the CAA. Concerns were also expressed that employees could view the mandatory mediation process as intimidating—especially those who are unrepresented by counsel in mediation but who face an employing office represented by legal counsel. The amendment was also enacted amid consensus that mediation is most successful when claimants feel comfortable and adequately supported in the process.

The Board continues to view mediation as a valuable option available to settle disputes under the CAA. The OCWR's experience over many years has been that a large percentage of controversies have been successfully resolved without formal adversarial proceedings, due in large part to its mediation processes. Mediation can save the parties from burdensome litigation, which can be expensive, time consuming, and a drain on resources and workplace productivity. Mediation also gives the parties an opportunity to explore resolving the dispute themselves without having a result imposed upon them. Furthermore, OCWR mediators are highly skilled professionals who have the sensitivity, expertise, and flexibility to customize the mediation process to meet the concerns of the parties. In short, the effectiveness of mediation as a tool to resolve workplace disputes cannot be understated.

The Board is concerned, however, that the CAA Reform Act amendments requiring the consent of both parties to mediation effectively gives the employing offices a veto over claimants who wish to attempt to settle their claims with the assistance of an OCWR mediator. None of the concerns expressed at the time the CAA Reform Act was passed warrant such a result. Moreover, none of the policies underlying mediation are furthered when an employee's request for mediation is effectively denied by the employing office. Further, there is no indication that an employing office would be adversely affected if it were required to participate in mediation when it is requested by the claimant. Requiring mediation upon the request of a claimant will maximize the chances of achieving a voluntary settlement that best meets the needs of all parties to the dispute.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that the CAA be amended to provide that mediation take place if requested by the claimant, or if requested by the employing office and agreed to by the claimant.

Protect Employees Who Serve on Jury Duty (28 U.S.C. §1875)

Section 1875 of title 28 of the U.S. Code provides that no employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any permanent employee by reason of such employee's jury service, or the attendance or scheduled attendance in connection with such service, in any court of the United States. This section currently does not cover legislative branch employment. For the reasons set forth in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board recommends that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Protect Employees and Applicants Who Are or Have Been In Bankruptcy (11 U.S.C. §525)

Section 525(a) of title 11 of the U.S. Code provides that ''a governmental unit'' may not deny employment to, terminate the employment of, or discriminate with respect to employment against, a person because that person is or has been a debtor under the bankruptcy statutes. This provision currently does not apply to the legislative branch. Reiterating the recommendations made in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board advises that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Prohibit Discharge of Employees Who Are or Have Been Subject to Garnishment (15 U.S.C. § 1674(a))

Section 1674(a) of title 15 of the U.S. Code prohibits discharge of any employee because his or her earnings ''have been subject to garnishment for any one indebtedness.'' This section is limited to private employers, so it currently has no application to the legislative branch. For the reasons set forth in the 1996, 1998, 2000, 2006, and 2019 Section 102(b) Reports, the Board recommends that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

Provide Whistleblower Protections to the Legislative Branch

Civil service law provides broad protection to whistleblowers in the executive branch to safeguard workers against reprisal for reporting violations of laws, rules, or regulations, gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. In the private sector, whistleblowers also are often protected by provisions of specific federal laws. However, these provisions do not apply to the legislative branch.

The OCWR has received a number of inquiries from congressional employees concerned about their lack of whistleblower protections. The absence of specific statutory protection against reprisal such as that provided under 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8) chills the disclosure of vital information in the public interest to guard against legislative branch mismanagement and abuse. Granting whistleblower protection could significantly improve the rights and protections afforded to legislative branch employees in an area fundamental to the institutional integrity of the legislative branch by uncovering waste and fraud and safeguarding the budget.

The Board has recommended in its previous Section 102(b) Reports and continues to recommend that Congress provide whistleblower reprisal protections to legislative branch employees comparable to that provided to executive branch employees under 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8) and 5 U.S.C. § 1221. Additionally, the Board recommends that the Office be granted investigatory and prosecutorial authorities over whistleblower reprisal complaints, by incorporating into the CAA the authority granted to the Office of Special Counsel, which investigates and prosecutes claims of whistleblower reprisals in the executive branch.

Provide Subpoena Authority to Obtain Information Needed for Safety and Health Investigations and Require Records to Be Kept of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The CAA applies the broad protections of section 5 of the OSHAct to the congressional workplace. The OCWR enforces the OSHAct in the legislative branch much in the same way the Secretary of Labor enforces the OSHAct in the private sector. Under the CAA, the OCWR is required to conduct safety and health inspections of covered employing offices at least once each Congress and in response to any request, and to provide employing offices with technical assistance to comply with the OSHAct's requirements. But Congress and its agencies are still exempt from critical OSHAct requirements imposed upon American businesses. Under the CAA, employing offices in the legislative branch are not subject to investigative subpoenas to aid in inspections as are private sector employers under the OSHAct. Similarly, Congress exempted itself from the OSHAct's recordkeeping requirements pertaining to workplace injuries and illnesses that apply to the private sector.

The Board continues to recommend that legislative branch employing offices be subject to the investigatory subpoena provisions contained in OSHAct section 8(b) and that legislative branch employing offices be required to maintain records of workplace injuries and illnesses under OSHAct section 8(c), 29 U.S.C. § 657(c), in the interests of the safety and health of legislative branch employees.

Adopt Recordkeeping Requirements under Federal Workplace Rights Laws

The Board has recommended in several Section 102(b) Reports, and continues to recommend that Congress adopt all recordkeeping requirements under federal workplace rights laws, including title VII. Although some employing offices in the legislative branch keep personnel records, there are no legal requirements under the CAA to do so.

Approve the Board's Pending ADA Public Access Regulations

The CAA directs the OCWR Board to promulgate regulations implementing the CAA to keep Congress current and accountable to the workplace laws that apply to private and public employers. The Board is required to issue substantive regulations to achieve parity, unless there is good cause shown to deviate from the private sector or executive branch regulations. Pursuant to section 304 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384, the procedure for proposing and approving substantive regulations provides that: (1) the Board of Directors proposes substantive regulations and publishes a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the Congressional Record; (2) there be a comment period of at least 30 days after the date of publication of the general notice of proposed rulemaking; (3) after consideration of comments by the Board of Directors, the Board adopts regulations and transmits notice of such action (together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for congressional approval of the regulations) to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record; (4) there be committee referral and action on the proposed regulations by resolution in each House, concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution; and (5) there be final publication of the approved regulations in the Congressional Record, with an effective date prescribed in the final publication.

The Board recommended in its 2019 Section 102(b) Report to the 116th Congress that Congress approve the Board's pending regulations that would implement titles II and III of the ADA in the legislative branch. The Board again recommends in this Report that Congress approve its adopted regulations.

Public access to Capitol Hill and constituent access to district and state offices have long been congressional hallmarks of our democracy. The Board's ADA regulations, which await Congressional approval, further ensure that continued access. First, the Board's ADA regulations clarify which title II and title III regulations apply to the legislative branch. This knowledge will undoubtedly save taxpayers money by ensuring pre-construction review of construction projects for ADA compliance—rather than providing for only post-construction inspections and costly redos when the access is not adequate. Second, under the regulations adopted by the Board, all leased spaces must meet some basic accessibility requirements that apply to all federal facilities that are leased or constructed. In this way, Congress will remain a model for ADA compliance and public access. Under the authority of the landmark CAA, the OCWR has made significant progress toward making Capitol Hill more accessible for persons with disabilities. Our efforts to improve access to the buildings and facilities on the campus are consistent with the priority guidance in the Board's ADA regulations, which it adopted in February 2016. Congressional approval of those regulations would reaffirm its commitment to provide barrier-free access to the Capitol Hill complex for the visiting public.

Approve the Board's Pending FMLA and USERRA Regulations When They Are Resubmitted to Congress

The Board also recommended in its Section 102(b) Report to the 116th Congress that Congress approve its pending regulations to implement the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). As discussed below, however, further legislative developments, including the enactment of the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115–397, and Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (FEPLA) (subtitle A of title LXXVI of division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Public Law 116–92, December 20, 2019), have and will necessitate further amendments of these regulations, which the Board will resubmit to Congress for approval.

THE BOARD's FMLA REGULATIONS

On June 22, 2016, the Board adopted and submitted for publication in the Congressional Record additional amendments to its substantive regulations regarding the FMLA. 162 Cong. Rec. H4128–H4168, S4475–S4516 (daily ed. June 22, 2016). The 2016 amendments provided needed clarity on certain aspects of the FMLA. First, they added the military leave provisions of the FMLA, enacted under the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2010, Pub. L. 110–181, Div. A, Title V 585(a)(2), (3)(A)-(D) and Pub. L. 111–84, Div. A, Title V 565(a)(1)(B) and (4), which extended the availability of FMLA leave to family members of the regular armed forces for qualifying exigencies arising out of a servicemember's deployment. They also defined those deployments covered under these provisions, extended FMLA military caregiver leave for family members of current servicemembers to include an injury or illness that existed prior to service and was aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty, and extended FMLA military caregiver leave to family members of certain veterans with serious injuries or illnesses. Second, the amendments set forth the revised definition of ''spouse'' under the FMLA in light of the Department of Labor's February 25, 2015 Final Rule on the definition of spouse, and the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell, et al., v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015), which requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

Congress has not yet acted on the Board's request for approval of these 2016 amendments. However, on December 20, 2019, it enacted the FEPLA, which further amended the FMLA to allow most civilian federal employees, including eligible employees in the legislative branch, to substitute up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for unpaid FMLA leave granted in connection with the birth of an employee's son or daughter or for the placement of a son or daughter with an employee for adoption or foster care. Further modifications of the Board's substantive regulations are therefore necessary in order to bring existing legislative branch FMLA regulations (issued April 19, 1996) in line with these recent statutory changes.

Accordingly, on November 16, 2020, the OCWR Board issued a Notice of Proposed

Rulemaking and request for comments from interested parties, which concerns additional proposed amendments to the Board's substantive FMLA regulations to implement FEPLA. The Board also proposed to amend these regulations to update references to the OCWR's current administrative dispute resolution procedures, which were significantly amended by the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018. The comment period ended 30 days from the date of publication of the Board's notice in the Congressional Record, i.e., on December 17, 2020. The Board is currently reviewing the comments it received and is preparing its Notice of Adopted Rulemaking for publication in the Congressional Record. The Board's Notice of Adopted Rulemaking will also constitute the resubmission for congressional approval of its 2016 amendments to its substantive FMLA regulations discussed above. Congressional approval of the Board's adopted FMLA regulations when they are resubmitted will be critical to implementing these expanded family and medical leave protections in the legislative branch.

THE BOARD's USERRA REGULATIONS

On December 3, 2008, the OCWR Board of Directors adopted USERRA regulations to apply to the legislative branch. These regulations support our nation's veterans by requiring continuous health care insurance and job protections for the men and women of the armed services who have supported our country's freedoms. They signal a commitment to anti-discrimination, anti-retaliation, and job protections under USERRA.

Those regulations, transmitted to Congress over 10 years ago, have not yet been approved. As with the Board's FMLA regulations, however, it has become necessary to make additional amendments to these regulations to update references to the OCWR's current administrative dispute resolution procedures that were significantly amended by the CAA of 1995 Reform Act of 2018.

Approving the USERRA regulations when they are resubmitted for approval will assist servicemembers in attaining and retaining a job despite the call to duty. Approving USERRA regulations would signal congressional encouragement to veterans to seek work in the legislative branch where veteran employment levels have historically been well below the percentage in the executive branch, or even in the private sector, which is not under a mandate to provide a preference in hiring to veterans. Indeed, many reports have put the level of veteran employees on congressional staffs at 2–3 percent or less.

Congress has long focused on issues concerning the health, welfare, accessibility, and employment status of veterans on Capitol Hill. For example, the Veterans Congressional Fellowship Caucus, started in 2014, has supported efforts to bridge the gap between military service and legislative work. In addition, the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program exists in the office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives where Members can hire veteran Fellows for 2-year terms. In the Senate, the Armed Forces Internship Program exists to provide on-the-job training for returning veterans with disabilities. Further, Public Law No. 115–364, signed into law in 2018, makes clear that disabled veterans in the legislative branch are covered under the provisions of the Wounded Warrior Act. As such, they may receive wounded warrior leave during their first year in the workforce for treatment for their service-connected disabilities.

An extension of these laudable efforts in support of our veterans should include the long-delayed passage of the Board's adopted USERRA regulations, which implement protections for initial hiring and protect against discrimination based on military service. Congress can lead by example by applying the USERRA law encompassed in the CAA.

Approving the three sets of Board-adopted regulations outlined above would not only signify a continued congressional commitment to the laws of the CAA—which passed in 1995 with nearly unanimous bicameral and bipartisan support—but would ensure the effective implementation of the laws' workplace protections and benefits on behalf of the legislative branch workforce.

ENDNOTES

1. The Board has long advocated for legislation granting the OCWR General Counsel the authority to investigate and prosecute complaints of discrimination, harassment, and reprisal in order to assist victims and to improve the adjudicatory process under the CAA. On December 21, 2018, as we were in the process of finalizing the Section 102(b) Report for the 116th Congress, the CAA of 1995 Reform Act, S. 3749, was signed into law. As discussed in that Report, the Reform Act establishes new procedures that are also clearly intended to further these policy goals. Under these circumstances, the Board believes that the best course of action is to continue to evaluate the efficacy of the new Reform Act procedures before revisiting the issue of whether the OCWR General Counsel should be granted such investigatory and prosecutorial authority. Accordingly, this recommendation is not discussed further in this Report.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 76, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on the celebration of its 100th anniversary on February 19, 2021, and recognizing the vital contributions its members have made to the United States over the past 100 years.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 76) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 77, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 77) designating the week of February 22 through February 26, 2021, as ''Public Schools Week''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 77) was agreed to.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following the administration of the oath to swear in Sonceria Ann Berry as Secretary of the Senate and any leader remarks, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Cardona nomination; that at 5:30 p.m. the postcloture time on the nomination be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Senators should be prepared for two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. Those votes will be on confirmation of Miguel Cardona to be Secretary of Education, followed by a cloture vote on Gina Raimondo to be Secretary of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021, at 3 P.M.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:04 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 1, 2021, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 25, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANTHONY P. ANGELLO
COL. FRANK L. BRADFIELD III
COL. HOWARD TRAVIS CLARK III
COL. ROBERT W. CLAUDE
COL. LISA M. CRAIG
COL. MITCHELL A. HANSON
COL. JENNIE R. JOHNSON
COL. ANDREW J. LEONE
COL. JOHN D. MCKAYE
COL. CRAIG MCPIKE
COL. KEVIN J. ROETHE
COL. REGINA A. SABRIC
COL. MICHAEL T. SCHULTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN M. PAINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. BONNIE JOY BOSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. BATTLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MITCHEL NEUROCK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES E. RAINEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARIA R. GERVAIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD E. ANGLE
BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. BONNER
BRIG. GEN. MICHELE H. BREDENKAMP
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD R. COFFMAN
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES D. COSTANZA
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT L. EDMONSON II
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN S. EIFLER
BRIG. GEN. JAMES J. GALLIVAN
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY R. HALE
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM J. HARTMAN
BRIG. GEN. DONN H. HILL
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. HODNE
BRIG. GEN. HEIDI J. HOYLE
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT A. JACKSON
BRIG. GEN. MARK H. LANDES
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. LESPERANCE
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES R. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. MORRISSEY
BRIG. GEN. ALLAN M. PEPIN
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY W. POTTS
BRIG. GEN. WALTER T. RUGEN
BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS F. STITT
BRIG. GEN. DARREN L. WERNER

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS D. BELLICCHI AND ENDING WITH PAUL S. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOEL R. BISCHOFF AND ENDING WITH WAYNE T. SLETTEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN D. CALDWELL AND ENDING WITH MARION R. WENDALL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW C. GORDON AND ENDING WITH RICHARD G. WITTMEYER III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER O. KIRKPATRICK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMILA G. EVANS AND ENDING WITH DEVAN M. THOMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TERRA L. DAWES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RACHELE A. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH AARON G. YEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLIFTON C. KYLE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEWAYNE L. DEENER, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER L. HARDIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL S. DEWEY AND ENDING WITH PAUL M. HERRLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMEEL A. ALI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY M. LANDWERLEN AND ENDING WITH LONG N. VO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JASON M. DAVIS, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN L. FERWERDA AND ENDING WITH WEIGUO R. XU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN D. KASTNING AND ENDING WITH PAUL F. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID W. DIXON, JR. AND ENDING WITH THOMAS R. RICE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF AARON MORA, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIO J. ARELLANO AND ENDING WITH THOMAS B. WHITE, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY E. DAYTON AND ENDING WITH RICHARD L. RAINES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ISMAEL ALICEA AND ENDING WITH ALFREDO TOPETE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES L. BIGGERS, JR. AND ENDING WITH CARL M. ZIEGLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2021.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF MONDRE X. BARNES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSHUA D. KING, TO BE MAJOR.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Santa Cruz County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which recently celebrated sixteen years of service to our community since its founding in 2005.

After the terrible events of 9/11 and the anthrax attacks that followed soon after, MRC units were formed to organize, train, and equip local volunteers to assist public health agencies and the medical community in emergency preparedness and response to all-hazards incidents.

Santa Cruz County MRC volunteers have responded with vigor and effectiveness to numerous incidents, including disease outbreaks, catastrophic wildfires, floods, power outages, and today's COVID–19 pandemic. MRC volunteers have assisted with case investigations, contact tracing, infection prevention, sheltering of the homeless, the CZU fire evacuation and sheltering of those needing a place to live. As vaccine has become available, MRC volunteers have been on the frontlines of vaccinating disabled homebound elders and supporting mass vaccination clinics. The contributions of medical volunteers have helped public health build the community's resilience and its ability to respond to future disasters.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Santa Cruz County Medical Reserve Corps. They have strengthened our community and set an example for other volunteer organizations to emulate. I thank them and I ask my colleagues to do so also. Their work is exemplary and they are bright stars in the firmament of the 18th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING FENTRICE DRISKELL

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Fentrice Driskell. Originally from Lakeland, Fentrice graduated as valedictorian of Lake Gibson High School and was the governor of Florida's 50th session of Girls State. Fentrice earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard University and her law degree from Georgetown University. As an undergraduate, she was the first Black woman ever elected as Harvard's student government president.

After returning to Florida, Fentrice clerked for the Honorable Anne C. Conway of the U.S. District Court of the Middle District of Florida. She served as a leader in The Florida Bar, and is currently of counsel at the Tampa-based law firm, Carlton Fields. Fentrice is a past president of the George Edgecomb Bar Association, Tampa Bay's largest predominately African-American voluntary bar association.

In 2018, Fentrice was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where she serves as policy chair for the Democratic Caucus.

Representative Driskell is a trailblazer, a fierce and effective advocate for her Tampa constituents, and a source of tremendous pride for her fellow Floridians.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Fentrice Driskell.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANDREW JACKSON STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Andrew Jackson Statue Removal Act, which would remove the Andrew Jackson statue from Lafayette Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or a similar entity. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

The land that comprises Lafayette Park has been used as a racetrack, a showplace for caged animals, a graveyard, a slave market, an encampment for soldiers and for political protests and celebrations. Jackson was a Tennessee slaveholder and signed a law that forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River. During this forced expulsion by the federal government, roughly 4,000 Cherokee died in what is now known as the Trail of Tears.

The statue, the first in Lafayette Park, was dedicated on January 8, 1853, on the 38th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, which the statue depicts. This prominent location in the nation's capital, right outside of the White House, should never have honored a man who was an unabashed racist, owned slaves and authorized the genocide of Native Americans. Jackson's entire tenure is a shameful part of our history and should not be honored with a statue in Lafayette Park.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to ensure the removal of the statue from Lafayette Park and to donate the statue and marble base to a museum or similar entity so that it can be accompanied by the appropriate historical context, not be prominently displayed in the nation's capital. The next generation can learn from this painful chapter in our history without celebrating it.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF THE 14TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary service and sacrifice of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment of the United Slates Army Reserve during Operation Desert Storm. Thirty years ago, on February 25, 1991, an Iraqi-launched SCUD missile killed 28 soldiers and wounded 99 others. The 14th Quartermaster Detachment, based in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, lost 13 soldiers and 43 others were wounded, the greatest number of casualties of any allied unit during the conflict.

In January of 1991, these citizen soldiers from southwestern Pennsylvania deployed overseas and put their civilian lives on hold to defend Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Saddam Hussein's aggression. Following intense training, the 14th Quartermaster was selected for the critical task of supplying clean water for coalition forces in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. On February 19, 1991, the detachment arrived in Dhahran, and six days later, 28 of these brave Americans lost their lives, and many others suffered injuries that changed their lives forever. This attack was the deadliest assault on American servicemembers during Operation Desert Storm. Just one in four members of the 14th Quartermaster emerged without mortal or physical wounds from the attack.

Madam Speaker, the brave men and women of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment of the United States Army Reserve are truly exemplary Americans. Thirty years later, the legacy of their extraordinary service lives on in Pennsylvania and across our nation. We can never repay the debt we owe these servicemembers and their families, but we must ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CAROL COE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy but grateful heart that I rise today to

honor the life and legacy of a formidable force from the place I call home. On Sunday, February 14, 2021, Kansas City lost one of its fiercest warriors. A trailblazer, a local civil rights icon, and a leader of the highest caliber, Carol Coe dedicated her every breath to speaking the truth and serving her community.

Born in Houston, Texas in 1947, the same year Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Carol would spend her entire life shattering barriers of her own and inspiring generations of local Black leadership. After moving to Kansas City in the mid-1960s and gaining a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Law, she served as the City's first Black assistant city attorney. Carol brought an indisputable talent and unmistakable tenacity to the role, and her community noticed. She went on to serve in the Jackson County Legislature and eventually ran for, and won, a position on City Council in 1991.

While serving as Councilwoman for the 3rd District of Kansas City, Carol was appointed to the Finance Committee and the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. During her time on the Board, Coe was dedicated to the revitalization of Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine district, pushing funding initiatives and supporting the use of Black contractors for various projects in the area. However, Carol's dedication to 18th & Vine was more than an administrative project; it was a lifelong labor of love. One never had to walk far to feel her presence in that historic place, but in October of last year, Kansas City's City Council formally recognized her immense impact on the historic district, naming a bridge at East 19th and Vine the ''Carol Coe Bridge of Opportunity.''

Besides our shared devotion to 18th & Vine, Carol and I also had in common a passion for improving public housing. I vividly remember the time she invited her City Council colleagues to spend the night with her in an apartment in the T.B. Watkins public housing project. The move sought to showcase what were, at the time, dangerous and unsafe living conditions endured by Kansas City residents. While there is still much work to be done, Kansas City has made great strides in public housing since that time, in large part because of Carol's advocacy. And while her work—the work of justice—was constant and unremitting, Carol accomplished these feats while balancing her responsibility of being a loving and devoted mother to her two children.

Carol's career is a story not of chapters but of volumes. She was involved with Freedom, Inc., a political club in Kansas City that has spent decades ensuring that the voices of Kansas City's Black community are heard in the halls of government. She helped establish Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, a renowned local dance program. And then, of course, there is the Green Acres Urban Farm and Research Bio-Park, which she founded in 2010. Green Acres is an innovative aquaponics system, designed with a sustainable structure to address the impacts of climate change and local food insecurity. While urban farming may have seemed like an unlikely endeavor for Carol, the ambitious project was truly a perfect representation of who she had always been. Whether she was debating in the Jackson County Legislature, advocating for those she represented on the City Council, or building and operating an urban farm, Carol was committed to community-first, community-focused change. Embodying the spirit of servant leadership in all that she did, Carol Coe provided resources and opportunities to marginalized people to help improve their lives. With every vote she cast, Carol stood out as a servant of the people.

''The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, / and their tongues speak what is just. The law of their God is in their heart, / their feet do not slip,'' says the holy scripture in Psalm 37:30–31. Carol Coe was a fighter. She fought not for herself, not for power or influence, but for her community. In her seventy-four years, I would venture to guess that Carol never once said anything but what she meant and believed to be true. She pushed and challenged me when I was Mayor of Kansas City, and I am a better public servant because of it. Her candor laid bricks; her tenacity moved legislation; and her tireless work in Kansas City has left an indelible footprint that will outlast us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with Carol's family, friends, and community. Madam Speaker, please join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in recognizing and honoring Carol Coe's incredible life and the legacy that she leaves behind. The Kansas City community will forever remember Carol Coe as a vigorous and determined champion for those in need. Her righteous spirit brought wisdom to those who needed it, even when they did not want it. Her tongue lifted justice into being, even when the strongest of arms could not raise it. And never, not once, did her feet slip. Carol was Kansas City's anchor to the truth, and she held us in place for many, many years. I am heartened to know that she has now, at long last, found eternal rest. I hope she found peace in knowing that her fight for a more just community will continue through of the legions of righteous warriors she inspired. Madam Speaker, in our ongoing struggle for a better country and a better world, let us seek to emulate the example of Carol Coe. Let our feet not slip. Not for one second.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING JOSHUA SIMMONS

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Joshua Simmons. Joshua was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended high school in Virginia. He moved to Coral Springs in 2011 to raise his younger sister while their mother was deployed overseas with the U.S. Navy. Joshua was an active member of the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-Cultural Advisory and Customer Involved Government committees.

Joshua earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Florida Atlantic University and his master's degree in psychology from Kaplan University, after which he worked in the mental health and subsequently as a teacher in the Broward County Public School system. Currently, he works in the private sector as an Account Manager at Hotwire Communications, an internet and cable service provider.

In 2018, Joshua was elected to Coral Springs' City Commission, becoming the first Black elected official in the city's history. In 2020, Joshua became the first African-American man to serve as the city's Vice Mayor.

As both an educator and a public servant, Vice Mayor Simmons has brought new perspectives to the City of Coral Springs. He is a strong advocate for his community, working tirelessly to improve the lives of his constituents.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Joshua Simmons.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COVID–19 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH PROVIDER LOAN CONVERSION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the COVID–19 Hospital Loan Conversion Act to provide additional, vitally needed relief to hospitals and health care providers who are under water as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Our nation's hospitals have invested heavily to prepare for and care for us during the coronavirus pandemic. They canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help ensure adequate hospital capacity, preserve gear and equipment, and reduce the risk of unnecessary patient spread. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

While the $175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, more support is needed.

This legislation will convert Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments loans to grants to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need.

Loan conversion would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans converted would be obligated to abstain from balance or surprise billing any patient for COVID-related treatment.

The bill also outlines criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan conversion, including no executive compensation.

Hospitals across my district have shared that in the absence of more financial support, including this assistance, it is possible some hospitals will be forced to close or significantly scale back operations.

This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future. I thank my colleague, Representative BOB GIBBS, for his bipartisan work on this. We look to leadership and the Senate for further action on hospital loan conversion.

HONORING JAMES ''JIMMY'' MOLL FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, James Moll lived as the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution begins, ''for God and country.'' Mr. Moll embodied each of the Legion's value principles. A Veteran is a Veteran that obliges the Legion to help current and former members of the military transition into their community. How better to do this than by becoming Niagara County and Legion Post 264 Commander?

Jim offered his selfless service to the world and his country in the Army, and his American values and patriotism were always on display in his enlistment in the Army and subsequent membership in Chapter 77 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

''Jimmy's'' engagement with family and community shined in his devotion to his late wife and in his co-founding and board membership of the North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens. His three-decades-long career with the North Tonawanda Board of Education demonstrated his commitment to advancing the vision for new generations of Americans. Mr. Moll honored those who came before with his 45-year commitment to the Legion and lifelong devotion to God.

His service protected citizens, his leadership helped veterans, his work served students, and his appreciation for natural beauty preserved it for others. Truly, James Moll was a Veteran who strengthened America.

CONGRATULATING DIANA BRAMBLE

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Bramble on her selection as the new superintendent of South Carolina's Cowpens National Battlefield, located in Gaffney, South Carolina, and Kings Mountain National Military Park, located in Blacksburg, South Carolina. In her new role, Diana will also oversee the management of Overmountain Victory National historic Trail and Ninety Six National Historic Trail which she has managed on a temporary basis since September.

Diana has a tremendous reverence for the history of these sites and their place in the history of our Nation's founding. They form the National Park Service's Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Parks Group and are also part of the Liberty Trail, a path of preservation and interpretation across South Carolina telling the remarkable story of American victory in the Revolutionary War.

Many historians believe the Revolutionary War to have been decided in the swamps, fields, woods, and mountains of the South, won by the grit of Continental soldiers and Patriot militia. It is because of the important work of men and women like Diana that the history tied to this land will not only be preserved, but also interpreted and brought to life for the public.

Diana has served the National Park Service for the last decade. She began her career with the National Park Service in 2011 as the supervisory horticulturist for Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. Four years later, she became the chief of maintenance at the National Capital Parks-East. In 2019, Diana was awarded the honor of being the National Park Service National Capital Area Manager of the Year. Diana is also a graduate of the National Park Service Facility Manager Leaders Program and now serves as a program mentor to others.

Diana is both a team player and a tremendous leader. She is passionate about leadership and strives to mentor others to bring out their best attributes and support their aspirations. Throughout her tenure with the National Park Service, Diana has been able to combine her educational background in natural resources with her appreciation for storytelling into a successful career in public service.

I am grateful for the work of Diana and the National Park Service and all they do to care for our national parks and preserve our legacy. I am excited to welcome Diana to South Carolina's 5th District, and I wish her luck in her new role.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING LINDA HILL ANDERSON

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Linda Hill Anderson. Linda is a fourth-generation Hollywood, Florida native. She graduated from Hollywood Hills High School and Sheridan Vocational School and served in the Broward County Public School system for over 40 years.

Linda has been an active member of her community, serving as president of the Liberia Civic Association and on the African-American Advisory Council.

Linda was elected to Hollywood's city commission in 2020. She is the first Black woman ever to serve on the commission in Hollywood's 95-year history.

Commissioner Anderson is a trailblazer and an extraordinary public servant. She has dedicated her life to making her Hollywood community stronger and fairer. Every day, she works tirelessly to improve the lives of her fellow Floridians.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Linda Hill Anderson.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARK AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. Since 1921, this church has served as a cornerstone of Kansas City's African American religious community. Under the dedicated and passionate leadership of its numerous pastors, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has stood strong and prospered. This church has served as a center of support during Kansas City's most trying times and as a center of celebration during its best times. No matter the challenges Kansas City faced, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has remained steadfast for all the faithful who made the church their spiritual home.

Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was first established in February of 1921 by the late Rev. Thomas H. Ewing. Until the construction of the first house of worship, services were held in the homes of congregation members. Built at 19th Street & Highland Avenue, the original location helped spread the ''good news'' to Kansas City's Black population for thirty-four years. During this time, the church led parishioners through some of our nation's darkest periods. Through the hunger of the Great Depression, the grief of the Second World War, and the sorrows of the Korean War, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church stood strong and guided churchgoers through the trials, tribulations, and troubles that tested the resolve of our country.

In 1955, the congregation moved to a second location at 19th Street & Park Avenue. For the next sixteen years, Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church filled the pews and saved the souls at 19th & Park. Within this new house of God, the church continued delivering the word of God, just as it had done for nearly thirty-five years. As Black Americans across the country were being beaten and jailed for demanding equal citizenship, this church weathered the storm and provided a stable place of worship for Kansas City's African American community. In spite of all that the community faced, the ministry grew rapidly in size, bringing on six new ministers to the fellowship while expanding its program offerings. This remarkable growth in the church body served as a testament to the spiritual gifts of the congregation's dedicated leaders while laying the foundation for the meteoric growth that was soon to come.

Finally, in 1969, it became apparent that the congregation needed a new home. Thus, the church began construction on its third and final location at the intersection of Park and Jackson Avenue in the winter of 1970. For 51 years, Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has remained in this location, providing weekly services and invaluable spiritual guidance to the community which it serves. Since the first bricks of this final location were laid, the church has been led by Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson, Rev. Dr. Ervin, and Rev. Gregory Stevens, respectively.

Following the burning of the mortgage in 1972, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist

Church has seen incredible growth in congregation size, programming, and community outreach capacity. With this growth, the church has launched more than 25 different ministries, improved the church grounds and building in countless ways, and paved the path for further expansion in the community it serves. In Ephesians 4:16, the Apostle Paul writes that, ''from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.'' The Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church is a lesson in practice of what it means for a church to build itself up in love by leaning on its best parts. Through all the trials that its community has endured, time and again, the church has come out the other end stronger, and more unified.

For an entire century, the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has been a pillar of devotion in the Kansas City community. I am certain that this church will continue to lift up its community within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District for decades to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating and honoring Reverend Gregory Stevens and the congregants of the Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church for reaching this profound and momentous point in their history. Please also join me in wishing them continued prosperity and peace for the next 100 years to come.

BILL DOUGLAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William (Bill) Douglas of Boulder, Colorado who passed away on February 4, 2021.

Bill grew up outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended Drexel University before joining the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant in the Korean War. After the war, he entered graduate school at the University of Colorado. Upon graduation, he began a multi-faceted life and career as an author, historian, tennis coach, college administrator, foundation president, and business consultant. In 1959, his graduate thesis, A History of Dentistry in Colorado 1859–1959, was published as a book and widely read by dentists and Colorado historians.

Bill was known and admired for his passion for education and he held several administrative positions at the University of Colorado including dean of admissions, financial aid, and registrar. In 1972, Bill helped found the University's Presidents Leadership Class (PLC) to help prepare students to become ethical leaders for Colorado's future. The class became one of the first collegiate leadership programs in the United States. After leaving the University, Bill became assistant vice president of the Boettcher Foundation from 1980 to 1987 and then President from 1987 to 1996. As president, he oversaw numerous grants and scholarships that the Foundation awarded to individuals and organizations throughout the state.

After retiring from the Foundation, Bill served as the Colorado representative for Fiduciary Trust International for more than 12 years before retiring in 2013. In 2005, the University of Colorado and the Boettcher Foundation established the William A. Douglas Endowment Fund for the Presidents Leadership Class.

Bill was a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather. Bill is survived by his loving wife, Susan, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I appreciate and thank him for his lifetime of service to our community.

SENATOR JOE LIEBERMAN IS CORRECT AGAIN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Talia Kaplan of FOXBusiness reported Tuesday that Former Sen. Joe Lieberman . . . blasted the reported meetings between Biden administration officials and Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif during the Trump administration, calling it ''inappropriate.''

''A recent report from The Washington Times claimed that Biden administration officials, including John Kerry and Robert Malley, had meetings with Zarif during the Trump administration that were orchestrated to . . . 'devise a political strategy to undermine the Trump administration.'

'''I think this is a perilous time,'" Lieberman said. 'I think the previous administration carried out exactly the right policy toward Iran.'"

'''So I think that sends a bad signal to Iran . . . with all the uncertainty and instability in the world, the most serious enemy that could do us and our allies the most damage is the Islamic Republic of Iran.'"

It is sad any American ignores the Iranian chant of Death to Israel, Death to America. They mean it.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING JUDY MOUNT

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Judy Mount. Judy, a longtime resident of Jackson County, made history in 1995 when she became the first African-American woman elected official in the county and served as president of the Malone City Council. She continues to serve as Chairperson of the Jackson County Democratic Executive Committee.

Judy has faithfully and effectively served the Democratic Office in the Florida House of Representatives for 18 years. She is a member of the Democratic National Committee and has been a leader within the Florida Democratic Party in many different capacities.

In a series of firsts, Judy was the first African-American to be elected Vice-Chair of the Florida Democratic Party and, in 2017, she became the first African-American elected as the interim Chair of the Florida Democratic Party.

Throughout her life, Judy has worked tirelessly to make Florida—and our country—better, stronger, and more just. She is the epitome of civic engagement and public service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Judy Mount.

CHINA AND THE ELECTRIC CAR INDUSTRY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following article that appeared in the New York Times regarding China and the electric car industry.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 25, 2021]

IN CHINA, AN ELECTRIC CAR MAKER LOSES MONEY BUT THINKS BIG

(By Keith Bradsher)

NIO CAN TAP AN EXTENSIVE SUPPLY CHAIN THAT BEIJING HAS BUILT TO ACHIEVE ITS DREAM OF DOMINATING THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRIC CARS

Hefei, China—Walk around the sprawling auto factory in central China, and the wealth pouring into the country's electric car industry quickly becomes clear.

Rows of bright orange, 15-foot-tall robots—307 of them, mainly from Sweden—whir with activity. They glue lightweight aluminum panels to vehicle frames using aerospace-grade adhesives. In an industry in which speed can mean cost efficiency, the assembly line plods along at half the pace of many lines elsewhere.

Even by the standards of the $1.6 trillion global car industry, an operation like this doesn't come cheap. In fact, the Chinese operator of the factory, a company called Nio, loses thousands of dollars on every car it makes. State-run companies last year mustered a combined $2.7 billion to bail it out.

But Nio, or Chinese companies like it, could be the future of the global car industry. General Motors and other major names are increasingly betting that the next generation of rides will be powered by batteries alone, without a drop of gasoline or diesel. If so, China has invested so much money in the industry that it could hit the accelerator with ease.

An era of high-quality family electric cars that cost $25,000 or less is about to dawn, said William Li, Nio's chairman and chief executive, and Chinese automakers can provide them.

''I don't think it's difficult,'' Mr. Li said. ''It's not a big deal.''

Investors see promise in Nio, even though it has one factory, sold only about 7,200 cars last month and has never made a profit. Its $82 billion market capitalization exceeds G.M.'s and Ford's. Its New York-traded shares have soared as high as nearly 30-fold in the last year.

It is far from becoming China's top electric car maker. In fact, the two best-selling electric car brands in China have American ties:

Tesla, the maker of rides with price tags that can easily spill into six figures, and a joint venture among G.M. and two Chinese state companies that makes $5,000 microcars.

But Nio has the advantage of being able to tap into China's vast and well-funded supply chain for electric vehicles. As President Biden mulls how much the United States should invest in electric cars, China already has 14 years of sustained government investment in the sector. China has also used regulations for more than a decade to force multinational companies to transfer their best electric technologies to joint ventures with Chinese manufacturers as a condition of entry into its vast market.

China makes 70 to 80 percent of the world's battery chemicals, battery anodes and battery cells. China similarly controls most of the world's output of high-strength magnets for electric motors, as well as the assembly of those magnets into motors.

''China controls the cards in the battery supply chain,'' said Vivas Kumar, a former Tesla manager of battery materials.

Nio manufactures practically nothing for its cars by itself. While companies like Tesla make their own batteries and other crucial systems, Nio is able to order parts inexpensively from China's diverse array of electronics manufacturers and auto parts suppliers.

Nio has just 120 engineers to manage its assembly plant in Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province in central China. Nio then pays JAC, a state-controlled automaker also based in Hefei, to send 2,300 experienced assembly line workers to run the factory.

The approach has drawbacks. When demand surged last summer after China brought the coronavirus largely under control, Nio found some suppliers unprepared to increase output quickly. Buyers faced monthslong delays in getting cars delivered.

''We have very small, close to zero, inventory,'' said Victor Gu, general manager of the Nio factory. ''It is a big challenge for the factory, because you need a quick turnaround.''

Nio also offers costly customer inducements under its brand, like its Nio Houses. Essentially clubhouses for owners of its cars, they provide coffee shops, libraries and even free day care centers. They take up expensive real estate in 19 Chinese cities, including one at the base of East Asia's tallest building, the 128-story Shanghai Tower.

For a while, Nio also offered an extravagant perk: free recharging of any Nio car throughout a customer's life, as long as the customer keeps buying Nio cars and taking them to one of the company's 183 battery-swapping stations. While a customer sips a coffee, a technician swaps a depleted battery for a fully charged one.

''It only takes about five minutes and costs nothing,'' said Neo Fan, a 38-year-old Shanghai commercial banker who paid $83,000 for his Nio ES8 minivan and is entitled to free recharges for the rest of his life.

Extravagance and the pandemic slammed Nio's finances. The company lost $11,000 for each car sold in the July-through-September quarter.

Government firms stepped up to help. State-owned entities in Hefei joined a national state-owned investment fund last spring in paying $1 billion in cash to acquire a 24 percent stake in the company. Then, on July 10, the state-owned China Construction Bank led a consortium of banks in extending $1.6 billion in credit to Nio.

Nio's chairman, Mr. Li, defended his company, portraying it as a start-up and noting that Tesla required many years before it managed last summer to post a fourth consecutive quarter of profits. ''We're very happy for Tesla, but this only happened after 17 years,'' he said in an interview last autumn.

While Mr. Li envisions electric cars at $25,000 each sometime soon, Nio's cars are now almost as expensive as Tesla's. Nio's entry-level sedan, the ET7, has a starting price of $58,500 with a 70 kilowatt-hour battery, which can take the car 310 miles. Nio plans a new ET7 model late next year with a much better battery that will double that range.

The company emphasizes making its cars light, for better driving range. Nio estimates that replacing steel with costly aluminum saves 700 pounds for each car. Nio uses part of the weight savings to add other gear, like two electric motors in each car instead of one. That provides better vehicle handling, but it also adds complexity and cost.

Nio allows buyers to customize their cars, including six types of wheels, 11 colors and so many other options that the factory can go a month without building two identical cars. That forces workers to vary their routines constantly.

Mr. Gu, the factory's general manager, said his operation was designed to run at just 20 cars an hour. Many auto assembly lines run twice as fast.

Nio has had little problem finding money lately. It sold more shares in December in New York, raising $2.6 billion. That is enough money to build a whole row of factories—and Nio already plans to expand production considerably.

Government support for electric cars remains crucial, and Nio appears to be in good official graces.

One recent indication came in September, when a former top Communist Party official, Li Yuanchao, paid an unexpected visit to Nio's display at the Beijing auto show. Mr. Li was replaced as China's vice president in 2018 but remains prominent.

''It was my first time to talk with him,'' Mr. Li, Nio's chairman, said afterward. ''He actually offered many suggestions about battery technology, for how to swap batteries.''

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT TOMMY W. CUDD

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Sergeant Tommy W. Cudd, a faithful American hero from Union County who passed away on January 28, 2021.

Born on March 10, 1960, Tommy was raised by two lovely parents, the late H.C. and Myrtle Smith Cudd. As a child, he assisted his family on their cattle farm where he learned to work with animals and bail hay. Tommy's natural comfort outdoors gave rise to his love for hunting, fishing, camping, and riding tractors. He graduated as a charter student from Union Academy—the very school in which he built alongside his father and lifelong friend, Robert Brown.

Tommy spent 37 honorable years in law enforcement. He served as a Reserve Officer, Fireman, and Public Safety Officer with the City of Union before joining the Union County Sheriff's Office. Despite his lengthy and challenging battle with leukemia, Tommy persevered through all facets of his job and was awarded "Officer of the Year" on three separate occasions. A true veteran of his field, former colleagues assert that his enduring work ethic was rare to come by and will certainly be missed.

Gary was happily married to Beth Cudd and had two sons, Caleb and Tommy. His two beautiful granddaughters, Ella and Abby, were his utmost pride and joy. He wanted nothing more than to make them proud. In the words of Sheriff Jeff Bailey, "Tommy was a person who always put everyone first." He was a remarkable husband, father, and friend who chose to dedicate his life to serving a special community. There is no doubt in my mind that he has left an everlasting mark on Union County.

IN MEMORY OF THE PASSING OF COLONEL ÁNGEL LUIS FLORES-VELLIDO, DECORATED PUERTO RICAN VETERAN

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of the many brave Puerto Ricans who have served our nation in our Armed Forces, the late Colonel Ángel Luis Flores-Vellido.

For over a hundred years, the soldiers from Puerto Rico have proved themselves second to none in battle, side by side with their comrades from across the nation. Colonel Flores-Vellido distinguished himself in a long military career, among the hundreds of thousands of American citizens from Puerto Rico who stepped forward and served under the nation's flag, in defense of its security and national interest around the world, in wartime and in peacetime.

Ángel Flores-Vellido served the nation starting in the Puerto Rico National Guard in the late 1950s and then the Regular Army as an Artillery Officer and Foreign Area Officer, completing higher military studies at the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His service spanned from Vietnam to Central and South America, to the Joint Chiefs at the Pentagon and the CIA under President George H.W. Bush, with achievements that earned him numerous high awards, commendations and decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation and many others, before taking his well-earned retirement in 1993.

Throughout his career and in his retirement, he exemplified patriotism and the finest traditions and values of military service and personal honor.

Colonel Flores-Vellido passed away earlier this week and will be laid to rest in Dallas, Texas. He shall be remembered, with his comrades in arms from the past and from the present, for adding to the pages of our history and proving the worth of the Puerto Rican soldier.

We share the sorrow of his family and friends on his passing, at the same time as we celebrate a life of service and commitment.

Today we honor his memory and his service and reaffirm our commitment to do justice for our veterans and their families for all they have done for us.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING SHEVRIN JONES

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Shevrin Jones. Shevrin grew up in Carol City. He earned his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Florida A&M University and his master's degree in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University. Jones went on to found L.E.A.D. Nation, a South Florida nonprofit organization committed to youth leadership development and social entrepreneurship training. He is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University.

Shevrin was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012, where he served honorably for eight years. In 2020, he was elected to the Florida Senate, becoming the first openly LGBTQ member of any race to serve in that chamber.

Senator Jones is continuing his family's proud legacy of public service. His father, Eric Jones, served as Mayor of West Park for over 15 years.

Senator Jones has always had a passion for education. He taught A.P. Chemistry in the Broward County Public School district, serves as the Executive Director of Florida Reading Corps, and founded South Florida Youth Summit, the largest gathering of young people in South Florida.

Every day, Senator Jones is making a positive difference in his community and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Shevrin Jones.

SHARON RITZMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Leatrice (Karr) Ritzman of Golden, Colorado who passed away on February 8, 2021.

Sharon's childhood was spent in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating high school in Nebraska, Sharon went on to attend the University of Iowa. There she was an active member of Pi Beta Phi and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Shortly thereafter, Sharon married Vern Ritzman on August 28, 1965 in Omaha, NE. Following their wedding, Sharon accompanied Vern on his career path of family medicine, all the while holding a variety of meaningful positions herself. Sharon's accomplishments include chief operator for Northwestern Bell Telephone in Sioux City and Iowa City, Iowa; client advocate with the Colorado Job Corps; special assistant to the United States Air Force Red Horse Officer Corps at Osan Air Force Base in Korea ('68–'69 Pueblo Incident); healthcare quality assurance consultant for Northrop Corporation ('84 Saudi Arabia); office manager of Vern's practice, president of both the Clear Creek Valley and Colorado Medical Society Auxiliaries, and an advocate for child health issues through the American Medical Association.

Sharon became active in the community in which she and Vern raised their family—Wheat Ridge, Colo. She owned a ladies' boutique, Stepping Out, where her daughter helped to manage the store and created memories there together until Sharon's retirement in 2004. During retirement, Sharon and Vern traveled the world and enjoyed time with their family and friends.

Sharon was a devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother. Sharon is survived by her husband of fifty years Dr. Vern Ritzman; son Michael Ritzman of Breckenridge, Colo.; daughter Michelle (Matt) Spidell, of Glenwood Springs, Colo.; grandson Trevor Ritzman of Lakewood, Colo.; and furry granddaughters Daisy and Maya.

I appreciate and thank her for her lifetime of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROL ANN MARTINEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Ann Martinez, wife of Marine Corps Veteran SSGT Jose Martinez, and an avid volunteer to the American Legion Post 132. Carol passed away on January 29, 2021, during an emergency heart surgery.

Carol was born on March 6, 1960, and raised in Santa Ana, CA. She was a graduate of Santa Ana High School and worked for the Santa Ana Police Department early on in her career.

Being a proud military wife was a highlight for her. She was an Auxiliary member and was involved with the American Legion Post 132 alongside her husband. She assisted with the children and youth activities for the post and district levels. As well as being a historian for the post, she took pictures and documented activities. Carol also started events such as the ''Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Dinner'' and the ''Welcome Home Korean War Veterans Dinner''.

She assisted with a multitude of functions and fundraisers outside of the Legion as well like the Relay for Life. The Relay for Life was near and dear to her heart from losing so many family members to cancer.

Carol was incredibly giving, and losing her to heart complications affected so many people. We will all love her, miss her and remember her every single day.

She was laid to rest on February 22, 2021, at Riverside National Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, her daughter Jessica and her grandsons Aaron, Evan, Jayden and Roman.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Carol Ann Martinez. May her memory live on with her loved ones.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS LEE SINCLAIR

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Major General Thomas Lee Sinclair who passed away on February 17, 2021.

Born to the late John Albert Sinclair and Gladys Lee Sinclair on September 22, 1947, Thomas was raised in Union and graduated from Union High School. He pursued a Bachelor of Science at Clemson University and received both a Master's in Education and EdS degree at Winthrop University. Furthering his studies, Thomas attended the United States Army War College where he received a Master's in Strategic Studies. Thomas served his country as a decorated United States Army veteran of 38 years, retiring after earning the rank of Brigadier General for the South Carolina Army National Guard. While on active-duty, he amassed notable honors including the Legion of Merit, the Army Achievement and National Defense Service Medals, and the South Carolina Palmetto Cross for his dedicated efforts during Operation Hugo. Thomas spent half of his military career in command roles, leading his surrounding staff through significant assignments.

For 27 years, Thomas found a fulfilling career in the Union County School System as a high school teacher, junior high school principal, and assistant superintendent. He enjoyed mentoring students and retired as a Union County supervisor. A member of Grace United Methodist Church, Thomas remained faithful and humble through all facets of his life. Former Chairman of the Union Community Foundation and President of the Union Civitan Club, he was determined to leave a lasting mark on his hometown. Thomas was happily married to Kathryn Bowers Sinclair with three adult children, Libby, Kelly, and Tommy, and ten beautiful grandchildren. His presence will certainly be missed by those who knew him, but his legacy will shine on for years to come.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING ARTHENIA JOYNER

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as part of our national celebration of Black History Month, I am paying tribute to African-American leaders from Florida who have made outstanding contributions to our community and our country. These accomplished men and women have not always received the recognition they have earned.

Today I rise to honor Arthenia Joyner. Born in Lakeland and raised in Tampa, Ms. Joyner has been a champion for justice and equality from a young age, participating in her first civil rights demonstration as a high school junior in 1960. She studied political science at Florida A&M University, where she also earned her law degree.

Ms. Joyner served as a legal assistant to State Representative Joe Lang Kershaw, the first African-American state legislator in Florida since the Reconstruction era. After law firms refused to hire her, Ms. Joyner opened her own law practice in 1991. She was the first Black lawyer to practice in Polk County and the first Black woman to practice law in Hillsborough County.

Throughout her career, Ms. Joyner has worked to combat racial and gender inequality. In recognition of her efforts, she received multiple presidential appointments by President Bill Clinton, serving as a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1994 World Population Development Conference in Cairo and to the 1995 U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Ms. Joyner proudly participated in the ''Lawyers Against Apartheid Day'' at the South African Embassy in Washington, DC on January 8, 1985, where she was arrested alongside former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and others.

Ms. Joyner was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where she served from 2000 to 2006. She was then elected to the Florida Senate, serving until 2016. In 2014, she became the first Black woman chosen as Senate Majority Leader. Throughout her career as a legislator, Ms. Joyner distinguished herself for her skill, leadership, and commitment to her constituents.

Arthenia Joyner has spent a lifetime overcoming adversity, breaking barriers, and fighting for justice and equality.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Arthenia Joyner.

IN CELEBRATION OF WINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with abundant joy and everlasting hope to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Winnetonka High School, a member of the North Kansas City School District. For half a century, as an institution devoted to instilling the fundamental values of tradition, respect, unity, and excellence, Winnetonka High School has consistently proven itself to be far more than just a brick-and-mortar school.

1971 represented the first year that students were warmly welcomed to Winnetonka High School, a place that future alumni would call a ''home away from home.'' Beginning that year, Winnetonka embarked on an endeavor to simultaneously provide opportunities to its students and service to its community. When those first 600 students opened the doors of Winnetonka High School for the first time back on March 1, 1971, they began a tradition of excellence that has been carried on by thousands of students since. In that first year, the students and staff collaborated to create an environment where they could explore their possibilities, prioritize building positive relationships with others, and celebrate the unique purpose that inspires each student.

While many things have changed in our country and in the Kansas City community over the past fifty years, excellence and innovation have remained constant at Winnetonka. Committed to closing the opportunity gap, Winnetonka was the first high school in Missouri to be designated as a National Demonstration School for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. This designation was earned after years of helping students find success in both their school and their community through collaboration, inquiry, and relationship building. These principles have provided the bedrock of the many successful student organizations that generations of Winnetonka Griffins have helped create. Groups like the acclaimed student publication Griffin Rites, the Muslim Student Association, the Blacks Achieving Greatness organization, and the National Honors Society all work to create an inclusive, empowering, and exciting space where students can realize their full potential. Winnetonka students have relished these opportunities, with several becoming National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists and thousands more finding success in their careers after graduation. Dr. Eric Johnson, Winnetonka's principal, acknowledged after he was named the 2020 Missouri Principal of the Year that the accolades of the faculty and staff were only made possible by the good fortune of having one-of-a-kind students at a one-of-a-kind school. It is clear for all to see that Kansas City is a better place to live because of the impact that Winnetonka High School graduates have on our community every day.

In a letter to Booker T. Washington, Missouri-born scientist George Washington Carver wrote that ''Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.'' By attending Winnetonka High School, Kansas City students not only gain the freedom that comes with opportunity, but also the skills and abilities needed to achieve their version of the American Dream. As we look to the next fifty years, there are certainly a great many unanswered questions weighing heavily on our minds. However, one thing remains certain: Winnetonka High School will continue its everlasting endeavor to provide that most precious key to freedom to all students who pass through its doors.

Madam Speaker, colleagues, please join me in extending our warm congratulations and very best wishes to the administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students of Winnetonka High School as they commemorate fifty years of exceptional service to Kansas City, and further extend our best wishes for their continued success. Let us also embrace Winnetonka High School's mission in our own lives; let it inspire us to educate others responsively, embrace our duties fully, and prepare holistically the next generation of American leaders, so that we can fulfill our unique purposes and change our community, our country, and our world for the better.

OBSERVING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to call into remembrance of the hundreds of Azerbaijanis killed in Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992. Since the beginning of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the late 1980s, it is reported that the Khojaly tragedy was the single worst day in this conflict, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed.

A cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, but the conflict remains unresolved. In the wake of the 2020 fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh, it is my hope and prayer that the barriers to peace that have persisted for the last three decades can be resolved. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation are in the best interests of the entire region of the South Caucasus and the world.

The U.S. and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations in 1992, the same year as the Khojaly tragedy. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a key partner in the War on Terror, and the two nations share a Trade Relations Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

The anniversary of this tragedy is an appropriate time to remember the lives of all the men, women, and children who were killed, and to recommit to working together to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ROBERT DOYLE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, and Congressman RO KHANNA to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa County, Robert Doyle.

Robert began his career with the East Bay Regional Park District in 1973 as a Park Ranger. Through decades of hard work and devotion to the betterment of our community, Robert rose through the ranks of the Park District until being appointed as General Manager in 2010. His numerous professional accomplishments include increasing the Park District's public lands and trails by more than 61,000 acres and obtaining over $100 million in local, state, and federal grant funding for trail and land projects. Robert also established the Resources Enhancement Mitigation Program that funded millions of dollars in restoration projects for parks and open space.

Robert's work, however, went beyond the logistics of land acquisition and was focused around the idea that parks should be a haven for everyone in the community. As General Manager, Robert led efforts to diversify the Park District's user base to better embrace disadvantaged youth and other underserved populations. Civic engagement was supported by a Multicultural Advisory Committee and included programs such as the Adventure Crew/Richmond Rangers, Wellness Walks, and the school-based Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge. Additionally, the Healthy Parks Health People initiative sought to connect the health benefits of being outdoors with individuals at high risk for chronic illness. The inclusivity of the community outreach that Robert oversaw has created new links between our natural environment and community members. This increased engagement ensures that our parks

and open spaces will be taken care of and enjoyed by future generations. As a testament to his remarkable career, in March 2018, Robert received the President's Award for Advocacy and Advancing the Park Profession from the California Park and Recreation Society.

In addition to his work with the Park District, Robert was a founding board member of Save Mt. Diablo, Inc. and negotiated the acquisitions of 5,000 acres for Mt. Diablo State Park. He was also a founding member of Bay Area Open Space, which advocates for environmental conservation through legislation.

Robert is known by his colleagues as a dedicated and visionary leader who inspires others to also work for the betterment of our community. We have enjoyed working with Robert and the East Bay Regional Park District on many projects, including the former Concord Naval Weapons Station and Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. We thank Robert for his service with the East Bay Regional Park District and wish him great joy in retirement. Please join me, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, and Congressman RO KHANNA in honoring Robert for his many contributions to our community.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S873–S906

Measures Introduced: Fifty-one bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 439–489, S.J. Res. 9, S. Res. 76–77, and S. Con. Res. 6. **Pages S890–92**

Measures Passed:

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association 100th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 76, congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on the celebration of its 100th anniversary on February 19, 2021, and recognizing the vital contributions its members have made to the United States over the past 100 years. **Page S905**

Public Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, designating the week of February 22 through February 26, 2021, as "Public Schools Week". **Page S905**

OCWR Biennial Report—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Biennial Report from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the Record. **Pages S902–05**

Cardona Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education. **Pages S878–83**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 67), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S883**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, March 1, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, and that at 5:30 p.m., the post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S905**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 64 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 66), Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy. **Pages S877–78**

17 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

26 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S883–84**

Messages from the House: **Page S889**

Measures Referred: **Page S889**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S889**

Executive Communications: **Page S889**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S892**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S892–S902**

Additional Statements: **Pages S888–89**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S902**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—67) **Pages S877–78, S883**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:04 p.m., until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S905.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COVID–19 RESPONSE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense support

to the COVID–19 response, after receiving testimony from Stacy A. Cummings, performing the duties of Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, Robert G. Salesses, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense and Global Security, and General Gustave F. Perna, Chief Operating Officer, Federal COVID–19 Response for Vaccine and Therapeutics, all of the Department of Defense.

REBUILDING MAIN STREET

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the coronavirus crisis, focusing on next steps for rebuilding Main Street, after receiving testimony from Watchen Harris Bruce, Baltimore Community Lending, Baltimore, Maryland; Joe DeLoss, Hot Chicken Takeover, Columbus, Ohio; Jessica A. Milano, Small Business Majority, and Joel Griffith, The Heritage Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Dani Ritchie, Studio Alchemy, Harmony, Pennsylvania.

POVERTY WAGES

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine poverty wages at large profitable corporations, after receiving testimony from Cindy Brown Barnes, Managing Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Craig Jelinek, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Issaquah, Washington; Thea Mei Lee, Economic Policy Institute, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, both of Washington, D.C.; Carl Sobocinski, Table 301 Restaurant Group, Greenville, South Carolina; Jacob L. Vigdor, University of Washington, Seattle; Cynthia Murray, United for Respect, Hyattsville, Maryland; and Terrence Wise, Kansas City, Missouri.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation: Senators Sinema (Chair), Duckworth, Tester, Rosen, Hickenlooper, Warnock, Cruz, Thune, Blunt, Moran, Lee, and Capito.

Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband: Senators Luján (Chair), Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, Peters, Baldwin, Duckworth, Tester, Sinema, Rosen, Hickenlooper, Warnock, Thune, Blunt, Cruz, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Blackburn, Young, Lee, Johnson, Capito, Scott (FL), and Lummis.

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security: Senators Blumenthal (Chair), Klobuchar, Schatz, Markey, Baldwin, Luján, Blackburn, Thune, Blunt, Moran, Young, and Lee.

Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing: Senators Baldwin (Chair), Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, Peters, Luján, Sullivan, Cruz, Fischer, Blackburn, Young and Johnson.

Subcommittee on Space and Science: Senators Hickenlooper (Chair), Blumenthal, Peters, Sinema, Luján, Warnock, Lummis, Cruz, Fischer, Young, Lee, and Scott (FL).

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports: Senators Peters (Chair), Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, Baldwin, Duckworth, Tester, Warnock, Fischer, Thune, Blunt, Sullivan, Young, Johnson, Capito, Scott (FL), and Lummis.

Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion: Senator Rosen (Chair), Klobuchar, Duckworth, Tester, Sinema, Hickenlooper, Scott (FL), Thune, Blunt, Fischer, Moran, Young and Capito.

Senators Cantwell and Wicker are ex officio members on each subcommittee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee approved committee rules for the 117th Congress, designation of members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation, and designation of members to serve as Congressional Trade Advisors on Trade Policy and Negotiations.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Health Care: Senators Stabenow (Chair), Menendez, Carper, Cardin, Casey, Warner, Whitehouse, Cortez Masto, Hassan, Warren, Daines, Grassley, Thune, Burr, Toomey, Scott (SC), Cassidy, Lankford, Young, and Barrasso.

Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness: Senators Carper (Chair), Wyden, Stabenow, Menendez, Cardin, Brown, Bennet, Casey, Warner, Cortez Masto, Cornyn, Grassley, Thune, Portman, Toomey, Scott (SC), Daines, Young, Sasse, and Barrasso.

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy: Senators Brown (Chair), Wyden, Bennet, Casey, Hassan, Young, Portman, Cassidy, Lankford, and Sasse.

Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure: Senators Bennet (Chair), Carper, Warner, Whitehouse, Hassan, Lankford, Cornyn, Scott (SC), Barrasso, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight: Senators Whitehouse (Chair), Stabenow, Menendez, Cardin, Brown, Cortez Masto, Warren, Thune, Grassley, Cornyn, Burr, Portman, Toomey, and Sasse.

Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth: Senators Warren (Chair), Wyden, Cassidy, and Burr.

Senators Wyden and Crapo are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representatives Neal and Brady, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, who was introduced by Senator Casey, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 71 public bills, H.R. 1320–1390; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 27; H. Con. Res. 19; and H. Res. 163–165 were introduced. **Pages H725–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H732–33**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:17 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H629**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Greene (GA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 199 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 38. **Pages H632–33**

Equality Act: The House passed H.R. 5, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 39. Representative Cicilline moved to table the Kildee motion to reconsider the vote by a yea-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 40, and the Cicilline motion was agreed to. Subsequently, the bill was passed. **Pages H633–61**

H. Res. 147, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 803) and (H.R. 5) was agreed to yesterday, February 24th.

Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 803, to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, February 26th. **Pages H661–H702**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–6, shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H661–93**

H. Res. 147, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 803) and (H.R. 5) was agreed to yesterday, February 24th.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H632–33, H660, and H661.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE U.S. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTORS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Climate Change and the U.S. Agriculture and Forestry Sectors''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Office of Inspector General, Department of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Agriculture; and Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE AND HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS, SECURITY FAILURES HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing entitled "U.S. Capitol Police and House Sergeant at Arms, Security Failures on January 6". Testimony was heard from Timothy Blodgett, Acting Sergeant at Arms; U.S. House of Representatives; and Yogananda D. Pittman, Acting Chief of Police, U.S. Capitol Police.

STRATEGIES FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE INNOVATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled "Strategies for Energy and Climate Innovation". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Ethics: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its rules for the 117th Congress.

DOLLARS AGAINST DEMOCRACY: DOMESTIC TERRORIST FINANCING IN THE AFTERMATH OF INSURRECTION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled "Dollars Against Democracy: Domestic Terrorist Financing in the Aftermath of Insurrection". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: HELPING CORPORATE BOARDS AND INVESTORS MAKE DECISIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets held a hearing entitled "Climate Change and Social Responsibility: Helping Corporate Boards and Investors Make Decisions for a Sustainable World". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1157, the "Department of State Authorization Act of 2021"; H.R. 1251, the "Cyber Diplomacy Act"; H. Res. 124, supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime; H.R. 241, the "Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2021"; H.R. 567, the "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021"; H. Res. 130, condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; H. Res. 134, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties, and for other purposes; H.R. 1112, the "Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021"; H. Res. 137, reaffirming the importance of upholding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in United States foreign policy; H. Res. 136, emphasizing the importance and interdependence of diplomacy and international development to American interests and national security; H.R. 965, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1211, the "American Values and Security in International Athletics Act". H.R. 1251, H. Res. 124, H.R. 567, H.R. 1112, H.R. 965, and H.R. 1157 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 241, H. Res. 130, H. Res. 134, H. Res. 137, H.R. 1211, and H. Res. 136 were ordered reported, without amendment.

STRENGTHENING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Strengthening American Democracy". Testimony was heard from Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, Maine; Ricky Hatch, County Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, Utah; and public witnesses.

REVIVING COMPETITION, PART 1: PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS GATEKEEPER POWER AND LOWER BARRIERS TO ENTRY ONLINE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled "Reviving Competition, Part 1: Proposals to Address Gatekeeper Power and Lower Barriers to Entry Online". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING BACK THE U.S. RESEARCH ENTERPRISE: COVID IMPACTS AND RECOVERY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Building Back the U.S. Research Enterprise: COVID Impacts and Recovery". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee; and Full Committee of the House Committee on Homeland Security, joint hearing entitled ''Weathering the Storm: The Role of Private Tech in the SolarWinds Breach and the Ongoing Campaign'', 9 a.m., Webex.

Committee on rules, Full Committee, hearing on legislation on American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''The Path Forward on COVID–19 Immunizations'', 2 p.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

3 p.m., Monday, March 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: The President pro tempore will administer the oath of office to swear in Sonceria Ann Berry as Secretary of the Senate.

Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gina Marie Raimando, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Friday, February 26

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Complete consideration of H.R. 803—Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Aderholt, Robert B., Ala., E173
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E167, E169, E173
Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E172
DeSaulnier, Mark, Calif., E173
Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E167
González-Colón, Jenniffer, Puerto Rico, E171
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E169
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E168, E170
Murphy, Stephanie N., Fla., E167, E168, E169, E170, E172, E172
Norman, Ralph, S.C., E169, E171, E172
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E167
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E170, E172
Reschenthaler, Guy, Pa., E167
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E170

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at *www.govinfo.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.