United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021 No. 82

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 12, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUIS J. CORREA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 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.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the British statesman, Sir Winston Churchill, is credited with having stated that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. This is the reason why, in part, I will be introducing legislation for a slavery remembrance day. Currently, no such day exists in the United States.

National days of remembrance provide an effective means to honor those impacted by horrific events. They prevent the tragedy from fading from our memories by educating the generations to come, and they highlight the modern-day implications of such events.

My resolution would provide a day for slavery remembrance, and the language of the resolution would commemorate the lives of all enslaved people, while condemning the act and the perpetration as well as perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

The resolution would discuss the Middle Passage, the Underground Railroad, and the lives of Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, and John Brown. It would also make the 18 persons who were elected to Congress from the Reconstruction era as honorary cosponsors of the resolution in a posthumous way.

I am proud to do this, and I ask that all Members please consider becoming original cosponsors of the resolution.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, equal justice under the law is a cornerstone of our American democracy. At home in Pennsylvania and around our country, our communities are blessed with dedicated law enforcement officers who work daily to protect and to serve. During National Police Week, the American people honor and thank the law enforcement officers who keep us safe each and every day.

While no organization is perfect, our local police work hard to uphold the law and maintain peace in our communities. As Chambersburg Police Chief Ron Camacho told me just this week, good police forces are centered on protecting and learning how to protect better. He said that good police forces are constantly evolving and improving.

I wholeheartedly agree with my friend, the chief of police in Chambersburg, and Congress must do our part to support these heroes. Instead of talking about defunding the police, we should be working to better train and equip law enforcement officers to do the job that we have entrusted them to do.

As we move forward, the American people know that Republicans are leading commonsense, bipartisan solutions. For over a year, Senator TIM SCOTT and Congressman PETE STAUBER have led our efforts to improve transparency, accountability, and training. Rather than defund or dismantle the police, the Justice Act will enact bipartisan reforms to better equip these brave Americans who serve our communities. I was proud to cosponsor that legislation, and I encourage my colleagues on all sides of the political spectrum to join us in this commonsense approach.

Democrats say that they want to work together on police reform. Now is the chance. Getting this right today is critical for the future of policing in our Nation. We cannot allow the radical left to erode trust in the justice system and degrade the good name of the public servants for the sake of their own woke agenda. Right now, our law enforcement community is facing unprecedented attacks. Every day, the left threatens to abandon these heroes who protect us.

Chief Camacho leads an exemplary police force in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He and the vast majority of the law enforcement community go above and beyond to protect our communities.

As a nation, we must never turn our backs on the police. We must never defund the police. During National Police Week and throughout this year, it is my privilege to stand with the thin blue line, and I will always back the blue.

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OUR DEDICATED STAFF

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, staff are the backbone of this institution. In fact, the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, over the course of the last few weeks, has had hearings specifically related to how this institution can recruit, retain, and have more diverse staffs.

The staffs who work in Congress are dedicated public servants who are here because they want to do meaningful work for our country. Today, I want to rise to say thank you to some very talented and very special staffers who were instrumental to the success of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 116th Congress: Allie Neill, Jake Olson, Danielle Stewart, Mariah Harding, and SoRelle Gaynor.

As chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I was fortunate to have Ms. Neill and Mr. Olson at the helm leading our staff and guiding our members through an incredibly productive 2 years. Their dedication to our bipartisan mission along with their institutional expertise was critical to the committee's success. To their credit, when they came in to do the work of our committee, they weren't wearing red jerseys or blue jerseys. They were wearing jerseys that said: Let's try to make Congress work better for the American people.

On top of that, Ms. Stewart did an extraordinary job of amplifying the work of our committee and sharing it with the American people. Ms. Harding handled the critical behind-the-scenes work like a pro. Under Ms. Gaynor's direction the committee produced an outstanding final report for the 116th Congress.

These staffers exemplify public service at its finest, and I want to rise today to thank them for their contributions.

THE RACIST LEFT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, racism is the practice of according rights and privileges to an individual not based on equality under the law, but, rather, according to what race that person was born. It is antithetical to every principle our country was founded upon, from the promise of our Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal to the equal protection clause of our Constitution. It was a malignancy we fought a civil war to remove. For generations, it has been denounced by every American of goodwill for the evil that it is.

Yet, this dangerous social pathology is now rampant in this House. The Judiciary Committee recently adopted a measure on a party-line vote to establish a commission with the avowed purpose of enshrining racism into law under the guise of slavery reparations.

The biased composition of this commission—there is not a single Republican appointment—lays its intent bare for all to see. It is designed to reach into the dead past, revive its most malevolent conflicts, and reintroduce them into our age.

I cannot imagine a more divisive, polarizing, or unjust measure than one that would use government force to require people who never owned slaves to pay reparations to people who never were slaves—based not on anything they did, but solely because of what race they were born.

History offers us an inexhaustible supply of grievances and injustices that are powerful enough to stoke hatreds and resentments that can tear any society apart. That is what this movement is all about. It is evil in its effect, if not in its intent.

Lincoln often pointed out that our country was born into a world where slavery was an established institution. The American Founders reviled it, and they placed principles in our founding documents that they were confident would ultimately place that wicked institution upon the course of ultimate extinction and would lead to a republic where men and women of every race and background could, together, enjoy the blessings of liberty. Equal justice under law means a colorblind society where race simply becomes irrelevant, and until recently, we had made tremendous progress toward that vision as a nation.

Martin Luther King expressed the gold standard of racial harmony: that we should be judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin. It is the equal protection of the law and the vision of a colorblind society stretching from the American Founders to Lincoln and King that is now under attack by the racist left.

Yes, there are racists in our society. There are racists of all colors in every society; it is the baser side of human nature. But no nation has struggled harder to transcend that nature and isolate and marginalize its racists than have Americans.

Yes, extremely damaging and foolish policies have disproportionately impacted Black communities in recent decades. Union-dominated schools that have failed to educate our children in inner cities, welfare programs that have destroyed families, and the withdrawal of police protection from crime-plagued neighborhoods are certainly among them. But these policies devastate every community where they are practiced, regardless of race. The answer is to change those policies, not to excuse them because they are ideologically pleasing to the left.

The racist left is content to ignore all of these current ills. It, instead, attempts to set neighbor against neighbor and American against American on the basis of their race. They say this is healing. It is precisely the opposite. They know it. Indeed, they count on it.

I think all Americans of goodwill and of every race and creed have had enough of this. We are tired of seeing our children taught to hate themselves and to hate each other. We are tired of seeing our country demonized as racist by those whose first and solitary focus is on race. We are tired of the lie that our Nation is systemically racist when it has done more to produce a civil and tolerant multiracial society than any people in the history of civilization.

It is long past time that every American of every heritage denounces this evil for what it is and to extirpate from our civil discourse those race-baiters of every persuasion who have polluted our national dialogue and corrupted our national heritage.

PROTECT THE RAIZAL PEOPLE OF THE SAN ANDRES ARCHIPELAGO

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have very strong views about the national protest taking place across Colombia over the past 2 weeks and the absolutely brutal response against the demonstrators by the Colombian public security forces.

But today, I rise about a very different and specific human rights crisis in Colombia, one that receives little attention in the United States and from the international community. I am speaking about the plight of the Raizal people who have lived for centuries on the islands that make up the San Andres archipelago.

The Raizal are descendants of Pilgrim settlers, enslaved Africans, Amer-Indians, and British emigrants. They speak Creole English, and most are Protestants.

However, in a twist of fate characteristic of the history of colonization, the islands on which they live—San Andres, Ketlina, and Old Providence—are under the sovereignty of Colombia, whose population is Spanish speaking and largely Catholic. It has been that way since the 1800s.

□ 1015

For a long time, the Raizal were left largely to their own devices. They were self-governed with a self-sustaining economy.

But in the 1950s, the Colombian Government decided to strengthen control over the islands by promoting tourism and mass migration from the mainland. The result is that San Andres, the largest of the islands, is extremely overpopulated. The Raizal have been reduced to minority status on that island. And the development for tourism has so seriously damaged the pristine environment that UNESCO tried to protect it by declaring it a biosphere reserve in 2000.

But the smaller islands of Old Providence, accessible only by ferry or small plane, and Ketlina, connected by a bridge, largely escaped the fate of San Andres. The population of both is almost entirely Raizal, and their communities have successfully resisted efforts to bring in big development projects or build military installations there until now.

The islands were hit very hard by Hurricane Iota last November. On Old Providence, hundreds of houses were damaged and hundreds more destroyed completely.

Colombian President Ivan Duque promised to rebuild in 100 days. It has now been 6 months. The next hurricane season is on the horizon, and reconstruction is nowhere near complete.

The delay is partly due to the government's failure to properly consult with those most affected. But what the government did do was allow the Colombian Navy to take advantage of the crisis and build a new dock, a project the community had previously rejected due to the risk of environmental damage.

The navy has installed its dock near a fishermen's co-op whose own dock was destroyed by Iota, cutting off its members' access. In response, fishermen whose livelihoods are at risk have been protesting for 62 days.

There is a profound difference of vision between the islanders and the mainlanders. The Raizal fear that if the government continues to ignore them, their way of life in Old Providence and Ketlina will be overtaken by the mainland population, as has happened in San Andres. That would be a major violation of the human rights of the Raizal people.

In 2004, when the U.N. Special Rapporteur on racism visited the archipelago, the Raizal communities complained of political discrimination and marginalization from the decision-making processes that affected their territory. They also described cultural domination by the mainland, for example, the exclusive use of Spanish as the language of instruction and pressure to convert to Catholicism to be able to advance economically.

More than 15 years later, the Colombian Government persists with many of the same practices that led the Raizal to lodge those human rights complaints.

It is time to change course. It is time to prioritize the human rights of the Raizal people. It is time for the government to recognize the Raizal as legitimate interlocutors and respect their right to protect their ancestral lands.

I urge the Duque government to accelerate reconstruction so that the people have adequate shelter and medical facilities as soon as possible, certainly before the next hurricane season.

I urge the government to stop importing labor from the mainland and, instead, employ local Raizal workers.

I urge the government to remove the navy's new dock, rebuild the co-op's dock instead, and end further militarization of the islands.

I urge a thorough review of any U.S. Government resources used for post-Iota reconstruction to ensure that they were expended in full compliance with requirements of prior consultation.

And I encourage the United Nations and the Inter-American human rights bodies to immediately review the situation of the Raizal people and issue new recommendations to the Colombian Government to ensure that their rights are fully protected going forward.

CELEBRATING GEORGE MILLS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Mills, an extraordinary Alabamian I recently met in Decatur at a Kiwanis pancake breakfast. George is a former World War II prisoner of war and will celebrate his 100th birthday on May 23.

The youngest of eight children, George graduated from Decatur High School in 1939. While in high school, George worked for Western Union, delivering telegrams on his bicycle from 5 to 11 every night. After high school graduation, George sold pianos for Forbes Piano Company.

In 1942, at age 21, George Mills enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Company E, 109th Division under General Omar Bradley, making him a member of one of World War II's best-trained divisions.

Sergeant Mills arrived on Omaha Beach 25 days after D-day. For 7 months, he was in combat and engaged in four major battles, including the Battle of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, and the battle at the Hurtgen Forest.

After the Hurtgen Forest battle, George and his company were sent to the Germany-Luxembourg border, where, one morning, they were awakened by exploding rockets and artillery. His company was surrounded by 15,000 Axis forces. Despite overwhelming odds, they held their ground for several days.

Eventually, Axis forces blew a hole in the house Mills was sheltered in. Bazookas and flamethrowers followed, setting the entire house on fire. George was injured by shrapnel.

On December 18, 1944, after more than 2 years of service, George was captured by the Germans. After the fight, the Germans flattened the surrounding town, shooting civilians and the mayor.

The Germans interrogated the soldiers before taking them to a German POW camp, where they were fingerprinted, photographed, given dog tags, and registered as prisoners of war. They remained there for 2 days before the Germans segregated the soldiers, sending officers to concentration camps, forcing privates to work, and sending noncommissioned officers, including George, on a 5-month walk across Europe that broke their souls and their bodies.

George tells many vivid stories of the cold winter, lack of food and sleep, abhorrent treatment by their captors, and the good friends made along the way.

Thankfully, George was liberated on April 14, 1945.

In October 1945, George was discharged and returned to America. After a very long bus ride home, he arrived at his Alabama hometown, where his sister was so excited to see him that she forgot to unlatch the screen door and his faithful bulldog nearly broke down the door to get to him.

Four years later, George and his wife, Charlie, were married. They enjoyed 66 years of marriage before Charlie passed away in December 2015.

In 1983, George retired but stayed busy, traveling with his wife across America, Canada, and Europe, while looking up George's Army buddies along the way.

One of George's proudest moments came on November 16, 2006, when France's President named George Mills a Chevalier for his gallantry during the liberation of France.

Vigorous as ever, George is involved in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, The American Legion, the VFW, the Masonic Lodge, the Kiwanis Club, and several other community organizations.

He is a frequent speaker at several local high schools, community organizations, and church groups. A true southern gentleman, he is a beloved representative of America's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Speaker, George Mills' exemplary service to America and his local community is emblematic of what makes America a great nation.

I wish George Mills the very best as he and his family celebrate his 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS HESS

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my incredible friend, Tom Hess, a beloved resident of Northville, Michigan, who we lost last month after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 76.

Tom was born in Detroit in the summer of 1944 to Raymond and Jessie Hess.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1966, he joined the United States Army, where he attended Infantry Officer Candidate School. He went on to complete all the training necessary to become a Green Beret and proudly served his country as a first lieutenant during the Vietnam war. This was something that Tom was

deeply proud of, his service to the country.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, Tom returned to Detroit, where he graduated from Wayne State University Law School and was admitted to both the Michigan and Florida Bar Associations. He became the managing partner of a law firm in Daytona Beach and had many exciting real estate ventures in Florida before moving back to metro Detroit in 1990 to establish his own firm, where he practiced for another 18 years.

Tom married his exceptional wife, Janet, in 1991. Together, they opened their hearts and their home in Northville to members of our community on countless occasions.

This was the stuff that the Democrats of Western Wayne County are made of, and it is what raised me as a young candidate for Congress to propel me into office.

Their generosity was boundless and their ability to connect people endless. It is something that we will remember for all of time, in their home, in downtown Northville, that looked as if it was built in the 1800s but was actually built by Tom himself.

With his generous spirit and political acumen, Tom was a tireless advocate for the causes closest to his heart. He cared very deeply about the work being done in this Chamber, and he was focused on efforts to make our democracy more fair, strong, and inclusive for generations to come.

During my final visit to Mr. Hess, when I got the opportunity to say good-bye to him—because in classic Tom Hess fashion, he insisted, as he lay in hospice, on having an open, living wake—he looked me in the eye and said to me that his ultimate wish, his dying wish, was to see H.R. 1, the For the People Act, signed into law.

He was passionately committed to ensuring the success of our democracy, and he recognized the historic opportunity we have before us right now to bring our elections into the 21st century and to ensure that everyone has the right to vote. He looked me in the eye and said: I ask you to tell your colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but most penetratingly, the other side of the aisle, to join you in getting H.R. 1 done.

Now, we know we have taken the H.R. 1 vote in this Chamber, and it is going to the Senate. So I send the message from Northville, Michigan, as any good representative of their constituents would do: Pass H.R. 1 now. Send this to the President's desk for his signature.

Tom showed us a life well-lived. For if cleanliness and perfection of home is godliness, that was Tom and Janet.

The Wall Street Journal in August 2020, just last year, reflecting on the hobbies that people were taking up in the pandemic, shared stories about people building model trains in the bottom of their homes, and that was something that Tom already had in his home. He had this model train station that we would, during the pandemic, go down and look at. He disassembled it and gave it to a museum before he passed away. So, he beat the pandemic trend.

We know that Tom is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Janet Hess; his children, his son, Raymond, and his beloved granddaughter, Hazel; his in-laws; many nieces and nephews; and extended family members throughout Michigan and Indiana.

The family pays tribute to Angela Hospice, providers who I had the chance to meet when I was visiting with Tom, for their tireless work and dedication to the people in the most sacred time in their life, and, of course, the VA hospital in Ann Arbor, which Tom loved so dearly.

I thank my colleagues for joining me and recognizing my beloved constituent, Tom Hess.

□ 1030

HONORING MEN AND WOMEN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise during National Police Week to honor the men and women of the law enforcement community and to condemn the ongoing attacks of those members of our law enforcement community.

In particular, to Wisconsin's law enforcement community, I say: Thank you.

The past year has been particularly tough on our law enforcement officers. Just outside the State Capitol of Wisconsin in Madison is the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial.

Last year, this memorial was vandalized. A criminal took a sledgehammer to the granite, which is etched with the names of the men and women who died in the line of duty protecting our communities.

Last week, six more heroes had their names added to the law enforcement memorial, but the ceremony was interrupted by antipolice protestors. During the prayer, protestors yelled that the deaths of these officers, whose names were being etched into the memorial, were not a sacrifice.

Antipolice protestors held up signs with hateful words and disrupted a solemn ceremony with vile chants. It was disgusting to see the absolute lack of respect and the display of hatred and complete ignorance.

Contrary to the antipolice protestors at the ceremony, these officers are heroes. They died protecting us. They died protecting our communities.

Let me tell you about just one of them. Officer John Hetland was one of the names added to the Wisconsin memorial this year. He was a 24-year veteran of the Racine Police Department. Officer Hetland was a hero. He made a commitment to serve and protect our communities, whether on or off duty. When a local business was being robbed at gunpoint, Officer Hetland attempted to stop the suspect. Officer Hetland was murdered. He was shot in the chest by this criminal. He died protecting our community.

We have seen antipolice rhetoric go too far. After riots broke out in Kenosha, officers from Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Rock, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties and across the State of Wisconsin put their lives on the line to defend Kenosha and protect the people in our communities.

I will never forget hearing those same vulgar chants when criminals attacked officers in the streets of Kenosha. As fires were being set throughout the city, I remember watching officers duck as Molotov cocktails were being thrown at them, as water bottles filled with concrete were being thrown at them and hurled in their direction. Even as an officer was struck in the head by a brick and knocked unconscious, the criminals cheered. That is unbelievable. That is heartbreaking.

Violence towards our police officers is something our Nation cannot tolerate. We should collectively speak out against the attacks on our police and against the calls to defund the police. We should be supporting our men and women in law enforcement.

To the members of the law enforcement community, I want you to know this: The people of Wisconsin's First Congressional District say: Thank you; thank you for keeping us safe.

REJECT THE INSULAR CASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is holding a hearing on the insular cases, doctrines which hold the territories in a perpetual state of colonialism.

Earlier this year, I served as a House impeachment manager in the second trial of President Donald Trump. My presence on the floor of the U.S. Senate carried a great deal of meaning for me. It also said a lot about America.

Although I was making the case, I was unable to actually cast a vote in the House. My constituents in the Virgin Islands, U.S. citizens, remain unable to vote for President, lack any voice in the Senate, and have only a limited vote in the House.

The second-class treatment of the territories is not just unfair; it is unAmerican. More than 3.5 million Americans are denied the right to vote simply because of where they live, whether it is Puerto Rico; Guam; Northern Mariana Islands; American Samoa; or my home, the Virgin Islands of the United States. This number of people is equivalent to the population of the five smallest States combined, and each of the territories send more men and women to the military per capita than any State.

More than 98 percent of the territorial residents are racial or ethnic minorities like me, a fact that cannot be a mere coincidence in our continuing disenfranchisement, which extends well past the century mark.

Our Nation's Founders never intended our country to work this way. Alexander Hamilton, as a young man, arrived in New York after spending his formative years in my home on St. Croix. He and others risked their lives to reject colonialism. They wanted no part of it. They understood that governments derive their just powers from the consent of those governed.

America has, from its inception, included U.S. territories. The original understanding was that the Constitution provided a promise of full political participation to each resident of a territory through eventual statehood. Until that happened, the Constitution was understood to fully protect their rights.

That promise was broken after the United States began acquiring island territories in 1898. During that time, in a series of decisions known collectively as the insular cases, the Supreme Court invented an unprecedented new category of unincorporated territories whose residents were not on a path to statehood. Which territories the Court determined were unincorporated turned largely on the Justices at the time's view of the people who lived there—people they labeled in those court opinions as half-civilized, savages, alien races, ignorant, and lawless—people like Alexander Hamilton; Camille Pissarro, the founder of Impressionism; Edward Wilmot Blyden, the founder of Pan-Africanism; and me—lawless, savage.

While other racist Supreme Court decisions from that same era by those same Justices—such as Plessy v. Ferguson—have long been overturned, the insular cases remain. The last three administrations—Bush, Obama, Trump—have all upheld and fought for these same cases. Indeed, our own House Parliamentarian uses the insular cases to deny the people who live in the territories and their representatives full voting rights on this floor.

The ramifications go well beyond just voting. We do pay billions in Federal taxes, yet residents of the U.S. territories are denied and limited access to Federal programs and support. Otherwise, eligible citizens in the territories are denied SSI, leaving our most vulnerable seniors and disabled to fend for themselves. Federal programs like Medicaid, SNAP, child tax credit, and the earned income tax credit are capped or denied altogether.

The Supreme Court will soon tackle questions of Federal discrimination against citizens in the territories in United States v. Vaello-Madero, a case where the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit ruled unconstitutional the arbitrary denial of SSI benefits in Puerto Rico.

The Justice Department should not continue defending this case. The House should not continue to defend and utilize the insular cases to deny people living in the territories basic rights.

Making sure that 3.5 million U.S. citizens can vote is not a partisan issue. Of my four other colleagues in the territories, two are Democrats and two are Republicans. We are not a monolithic people.

Our country has been given a collective opportunity to ask what America is and who we are as a people. These questions extend to America's responsibilities to citizens living in the territories.

Please reject the insular cases.

SUMMER CAMPS SHOULD REOPEN WITHOUT MASKS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this year, due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines restricting outdoor activities, many children will be stuck inside when they should be outdoors in the sunlight playing, learning new skills, making friends, and enjoying their childhoods. This is not only important for their mental health but also their physical health and enhancing their immune system.

And it is even more critically important in those States which have still not reopened their schools fully to in-person learning, despite all scientific evidence to the contrary.

Yesterday, The New York Times reported that the CDC had hugely exaggerated their guidelines by saying that less than 10 percent of COVID–19 transmission occurs outdoors, and that the actual estimate of outdoor transmission is somewhere between 0.1 percent to 1 percent.

This misleading guidance from the CDC has led to confusion, increased hesitancy to view outdoor activities as safe, and many summer camps have been forced to close their doors again for yet another year.

We have known for quite some time that the risk of transmitting COVID–19 outdoors is exceedingly small. In Iowa, there was not a requirement to wear masks outdoors, even though physical separation and maintaining small group size was encouraged.

Due to shelter-at-home orders, the numbers of cases of youth depression, anxiety, attempted suicides, suicides, increased drug use, and hospitalizations have continued to increase, despite the overall decrease in new COVID cases, hospitalizations, and mortality rates.

A staggering report from the CDC found that from March to October of 2020, mental health emergency department visits from adolescents had increased 31 percent from the same time in 2019.

With the good news related to rapidly approaching community immunity from the pandemic and the relaxing of a number of protocols and controls, the CDC's newly released guidelines for summer camps is both overly cautious, rigid, and unscientific.

Many of us have fond memories of spending time with friends and family, including a week at summer camp. Summer camps are a staple of childhood and adolescence.

More than 6 million children attend the day and overnight summer camps in any given year. Denying children their ability to attend these camps and the opportunity to make a friend, learn independence, life skills, learn teamwork, build self-esteem, and continue their education beyond the school year is atrocious.

With over 12,000 summer camps across the country, there are plenty of opportunities for our children to grow, learn, and play.

Iowa is home to several great camps, including Forest Lake Baptist Camp in my home county; Hertko Hollow, a camp for children with diabetes; and Camp Courageous, a camp specifically for children with disabilities.

Summer camps also provide employment for over 1.5 million Americans every year. This represents a great opportunity for high school students and adults to have great experiences outdoors while earning an income.

As a doctor, former president of the Iowa Medical Society, and former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I have addressed the severity of COVID–19 and have been a strong and consistent advocate for all three of the safe and effective vaccines developed through Operation Warp Speed, and, in fact, just finished attending and administering vaccines at clinics in all 24 counties in my district.

Just a few days ago, the Pfizer vaccine was given emergency use authorization to be administered to children 12 to 15 years old. It has been well-documented that children are at exceedingly low levels of risk for serious illness and that they do not transmit the virus.

COVID–19 deaths were 277 through the end of April. To put this in perspective, the CDC estimates around 600 children died of influenza in the 2017–2018 season; 358 died during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic; and each year, more than 700 children die from drowning.

We can see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, and as the number of Americans who are vaccinated continues to grow, coupled with those who have natural immunity from having the disease, I expect to see a return to normalcy and a return to pre-pandemic life. A return to normal includes allowing our kids to be kids.

I am hopeful that we will be able to send our children to summer camp in the coming weeks so that they can have the experience and opportunities that they deserve.

Time is extraordinarily limited, and I implore the CDC to act now and allow summer camps to reopen to full activities without the wearing of masks.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to vote for the American Rescue Plan because I knew it was the transformational investment we needed to get the pandemic under control and our economy back on track.

Two months later, it is clear the investment has paid off. We have gotten more shots in arms, lifted families out of poverty, helped children get back to school, helped businesses stay open, and helped workers keep their jobs. And we are just getting started.

Much of the vital support for workers and families included in the American Rescue Plan is still underway. One of these measures is the expansion of the child tax credit, a historic investment in the future of our country.

It has become harder and harder to afford a college education, a home, and childcare.

□ 1045

As the cost of living continues to soar and wages continue to stagnate, the American Dream is slipping out of reach for many working families. We need to level the playing field so every child has the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

The child tax credit expansion means working-class families will get $300 per child under 6, and $250 per child for children aged 7–17. $300 a month helps put food on the table so kids do not go hungry. It helps pay for child care so parents can get back to work and build a better life for their families. And it helps cover healthcare expenses so children stay healthy.

This lifeline benefits a whopping 85 percent of the children in my district on the central coast of California. That means a stronger economic foundation for over 135,000 children in our community. For the 11,200 children in my community living in poverty, the child tax credit could make all the difference in their lives and their futures.

I come from a low-income family myself, a working-class family, so I know that $300 a month would have lifted a financial burden off my parents' shoulders, who already worked so hard to give me and my siblings a chance for a better life.

Advance monthly payments of the child tax credit will start to be sent out in July and last through December 2021. Families will get the remaining tax credit when they file their 2021 tax returns. Families can make sure they get an accurate payment quickly by filing their 2020 tax return as soon as possible.

Even individuals who lost their jobs during the pandemic or do not normally file taxes, should file this year to receive the credit. The IRS needs the information from the tax returns to calculate and issue the monthly child tax credit payments.

I will continue to fight for working families in Congress so they keep their hard-earned money in their pockets, and every child has the means to achieve the American Dream.

NYPD SERVES EVEN THROUGH TURMOIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to thank and show support for our police officers, particularly the New York Police Department, and also warn my colleagues of what happens when politicians think that they know how to do the job in the street better than our cops do because I have seen it happen in New York City. I have seen the quality of life deteriorate, I have seen crime skyrocket, and we must learn from what has happened here to not make this mistake and adopt those very policies on the Federal level.

This past weekend, we saw three innocent bystanders, one of whom was a 4-year-old child, shot in broad daylight in the middle of Times Square. Fortunately, NYPD Officer Alyssa Vogel was there. She sprinted into action to save these individuals' lives. That is what this mother was doing Mother's Day weekend, and we thank her for her heroic efforts.

Sadly, we also lost a police officer, Anastasios Tsakos, who was in Queens directing traffic in the middle of the night after there was a car accident, and he was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver who was under the influence and operating an unlicensed vehicle.

Sadly, this is what our police officers do each and every day, put their lives at risk, sometimes giving up their life to protect the rest of us.

All through the pandemic, we praised them as heroes for working the front line. COVID was the leading cause of death for our police officers in 2020. We lost eight NYPD officers, sadly. Also, as we approach the 20th anniversary of 9/11, let's not forget the sacrifices of our police officers, not only on that day, but in the days since. We continue to lose people to 9/11-related illnesses. In the NYPD's case, they lost seven since January 2020.

Mr. Speaker, in New York City, we have seen policies that have hurt our law enforcement officers. How did we get here? Well, decriminalizing quality-of-life crimes, which was something I warned in 2017 that would lead to crimes skyrocketing. The broken windows theory is real.

Then you add the State legislature's attempts to reform bail, the rush to close Rikers Island, emptying the jails, putting dangerous criminals with lengthy rap sheets back onto our streets.

The Governor's Parole Board has released over 16 cop killers and other murderers and rapists, once again putting people who are dangerous back on our streets; eliminated the NYPD plainclothes unit, tying the hands of our police; and then lastly, cutting $1 billion, one-sixth of the NYPD budget.

As I mentioned, the 4-year-old girl who was shot this weekend, she was just one of 43 individuals shot in the last week, 169 percent increase over the same period last year. There were nine murders last week in New York City, up 350 percent over the same period last year.

But the trend is not just starting now. It is not just the result of defunding the police. It is the other policies, as I have mentioned. Homicides in 2020 soared 45 percent, shootings doubled, with 1,868 people shot in 2020, up from 923 in 2019. This is a result of an abdication of responsibility from my colleagues on the city and State level.

Now they want to take away the qualified immunity from our police officers, something that many of you voted to do here for our Federal law enforcement officers, despite when they already give up their immunity if they are not operating within the NYPD guidelines, or if they violate someone's constitutional rights.

There is no question that the demoralization of law enforcement over the past year has contributed to a sharp rise in departures from the NYPD, which are up 75 percent compared to 2019, with the lowest number of NYPD officers in uniform in over a decade, when we have all this rising crime taking place across our city. It is absolutely disgraceful, Mr. Speaker, and it must end now.

City and State have a responsibility to keep the public safe. Quite frankly, if they are not going to do it, if my mayor and my Governor continue to tie the hands of our police officers and not allow them to do their job, then we need the Federal Government to step in. Send DOJ, ATF, FBI, DEA, and the U.S. Marshals, because we have a responsibility to the citizens of our city and Nation to keep them safe.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE DEDICATED HEROES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Police Week, it is important that we remember the innumerable sacrifices that are made every day by the men and women of law enforcement.

In communities across America, they serve as the gatekeepers of law and order. Even as the far left calls for defunding the police, these dedicated heroes will not hesitate when called upon to serve.

I believe that their hard work should be recognized every day because, without them, law and order would cease to exist and criminality would reign.

May God bless the proud women of law enforcement. Under your watch, the American people remain protected.

HONORING DON BURMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Director Don Burman for his nearly 10 years of service in the United States Air Force, and 8 years of service within the Department of Veterans Affairs, 6 of which was in Nebraska's Second District at the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. Don is retiring from Federal service.

Don is a Vietnam-era veteran. He served as a telecommunications center specialist, supporting the mission in Arkansas, Hawaii, also Fort Belvoir Army installation, and the Defense Nuclear Agency in Virginia. Don's healthcare career spans nearly 33 years, 25 of which were in private healthcare.

In Nebraska's Second District, Don has served since March of 2015 as the director of the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. During his tenure, he was instrumental in proposing a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of the private philanthropic community. His vision began a collaboration that produced the groundbreaking public law known as the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016. This law authorized the VA to carry out a pilot program under which it may accept donations from non-Federal entities.

The Nebraska philanthropic community provided a gift of $30 million to be used to construct a new 157,000-square-foot ambulatory care clinic located on the grounds of the Omaha VA Medical Center. Through Don's leadership, tenacity, and innovation, a second public-private partnership recently began. CHI Health and Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System opened a new 35-bed Community Living Center for veterans in a non-VA medical facility at the CHI Health Midlands healthcare facility.

Additionally, a new mental health pavilion and a new physical therapy and prosthetics building have started construction. Omaha's new 500-stall parking ramp opens in November, and all seven of the current community-based outpatient centers located around Nebraska and western Iowa have been rebuilt and/or refreshed in order to provide the most up-to-date healthcare facilities to veterans.

In August of 2020, Forbes named America's best employers by State, and the Veterans Administration was cited as the best employer. Among the 17 States mentioned, the Nebraska VA was identified. Bringing Don's private experience and innovation to the Veterans Administration has served our veterans well in Nebraska and western Iowa.

Don continues to use his personal and professional experience to aid him in understanding the needs of our veterans while solving complex issues associated with running a leading healthcare system for Nebraska and western Iowa.

Never forgetting the mission of service to our veterans, I want to offer my sincere appreciation to Don, who is my great friend, for his years of dedicated service to our great Nation and to Nebraska's Second Congressional District. Don's accomplishments in his military service, civil service, and his private career are credits to his dedication to the provision of world-class healthcare no matter the venue.

Don's retirement is well earned and deserved. I wish Don all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST EDISON WEST

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Ernie Edison West, who passed from this life on May 1. His fellow soldiers knew him as Private First Class West. His friends knew him as Ernie. Mr. West bravely served his country during the Korean War, and his heroic actions earned him our Nation's highest military honors, including both a Medal of Honor from President Eisenhower, and later a Purple Heart.

Although Mr. West lost one of his eyes while defending and saving the lives of several of his fellow soldiers in Korea, he never considered himself disabled. As a town mayor, coach, friend, and mentor to many, Mr. West was an unconditional friend to all he met, and lived a life of selfless service to his community. He worked all his life to help veterans and was buried in the very cemetery, the Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County, for which he, himself, worked to secure the land and the funding. Mr. West's efforts were also crucial to the establishment of the Greenup County War Memorial. This memorial honors hometown heroes on the main street of Mr. West's hometown in Wurtland, Kentucky.

Mr. West leaves behind his daughter, Amy West Hogsett and her husband, Randy; five granddaughters; and seven great-grandchildren. In the words of his niece, Marny Gilluly, Mr. West was ''larger than life, truly a hero to many, and personified the good in people.'' May this brave hero rest in peace.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO BOB BATTERSON

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to a well-loved member of the south Texas community, Captain Robert Batterson, whose friends call him Bob.

Bob has spent his life in service to a Nation that he loves. He served at Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor, where he worked on December 7, 1941. Shortly after witnessing the Pearl Harbor attack, Bob was accepted for Navy flight training. He was awarded his wings and assigned to Fighter Squadron 1.

Bob's life paints a picture of sacrifice and duty that we can all learn from. May it serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

After World War II, Bob did not stop his commitment to serving our great Nation. He transferred to the Navy Supply Corps, where he worked for 35 years until his retirement in 1974.

Bob raised five children, four of whom also served our Nation. And he is one of the USS Lexington Museum's first volunteers and can often be found in the aircraft carrier's Pearl Harbor exhibit.

Bob has a true passion for speaking with people of all ages about becoming personally involved in the United States' future, especially by contacting their elected Representatives.

Happy birthday to a true American hero and an inspiration to all of us, Captain Batterson.

□ 1100

CONGRESS MUST REGULARLY REVIEW MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bill I am introducing today. This bill is called the Preventing Endless Armed Conflicts and Engagement Act, otherwise known as the PEACE Act.

The Constitution makes it clear that the authority to declare war rests with Congress, and it is important that Members of Congress have the opportunity to carry out our duty to regularly review current military engagements. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

Today, less than a fifth of the current Members of Congress voted on the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force. This statistic ignores the many Members of Congress who have been elected and since left who never got a chance to weigh in on the Authorization for Use of Military Force.

It is critical that new Members of Congress with new constituencies do their duty and provide input into military operations. It is my hope that the PEACE Act can ensure regular oversight is being conducted on future military authorizations.

First, this bill would require each military authorization, called an AUMF, to sunset after 2 years. Now, why 2 years? Well, obviously, it would give each Member of Congress and, therefore, the people they represent the opportunity to review and weigh in on ongoing conflicts.

The President, of course, has the authority to deploy military forces in an emergency and respond to imminent threats, and that would continue under

this bill. Sustained military operations, however, need approval from Congress. This is a principle firmly rooted in the Constitution, which stipulates that funding for our military should not extend beyond 2 years.

The PEACE Act would also set the standards for new military authorizations. For instance, each authorization would need to set a geographical scope on where military force can be used. A clear objective would need to be established for each authorization so that we know when victory is achieved, and the countries and groups that the U.S. is authorized to fight must be listed.

Additionally, the Departments of Defense and State would be charged with publishing an annual report on existing military operations for congressional review. This report will include information such as whether the military is meeting defined objectives, the number of casualties, and total costs.

Finally, the DOD and State Department will be required to brief Members of Congress on the contents of this report every 6 months.

It is never easy to decide between risking the lives of our troops or jeopardizing our national security. However, this is a decision that Members of Congress are elected to do, in large part because we are the body in this Federal Government that is closest to the people.

Military deployments that are accountable to we the people are one thing that sets us apart as a nation to ensure that our fight is always for what is right. We owe it to our troops. We owe it to the American people.

REMEMBERING DONALD SCOTT OVERTON

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 with a heavy heart to remember and honor Donald Scott Overton of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on April 14 at the age of 89.

Scott served our country in the U.S. Army and trained to be a pilot toward the end of the Korean war, giving him a love for flying that he would have for the rest of his life.

Scott became an accomplished glider pilot and enjoyed building planes from a kit in his garage.

Everyone who knew Scott recognized his giving heart and love for adventure. With his wife and friends, Scott cruised to all the continents except Africa.

Professionally, Scott worked tirelessly as the president of the Arthur D. Crane Real Estate Development Company and owned numerous small water companies.

I am thankful for the immense impact that Scott had on our community, and I know his legacy will remain.

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

RECOGNIZING MICKEY STEPHENS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Georgia Representative Mickey Stephens for his remarkable career in the Georgia General Assembly.

Mr. Stephens is a native of Savannah and a proud graduate of Savannah State College.

Mickey served one term in 2002 and was reelected in 2014 to the Georgia House, representing the 165th District.

As an educator, he was a great asset to Savannah High School, Shuman Middle School, and John W. Hubert Middle School. Additionally, Mickey served on the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education and the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Stephens is known throughout Georgia for his civic service, including his commitment to the community and his efforts in supporting the education of youth and adults.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Stephens for all of his work to make Savannah a better place to live. Mr. Stephens is an inspiration to all of us about giving back to the community.

REMEMBERING JAMES ''JIMMY'' ALLEN PETREA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the former mayor of Thunderbolt, Jimmy Petrea, who passed away on April 24 at the age of 74.

Jimmy spent his entire life serving others.

After graduating high school, Jimmy enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve our country and went on to serve 3 years in Vietnam.

Jimmy was elected mayor of Thunderbolt in 1981 and was reelected for multiple terms until he resigned in 2005.

During his 24 years as mayor, Jimmy was highly regarded by his constituents as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication.

After a quarter-century of service to the town of Thunderbolt and the Coastal Empire, one cannot visit Georgia's First Congressional District without seeing the profound impacts Jimmy made for his community.

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

RECOGNIZING MARTIN BELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Martin Bell's remarkable career as general manager of the Okefenokee Swamp Park.

For the past 26 years, Martin Bell has welcomed guests from around the world to experience the wonders of the Okefenokee Swamp.

Known as an intensely creative and hardworking leader, Mr. Bell's accomplishments are impressive.

Under Mr. Bell's management, many projects were completed to support the park's growth and sustainable future. Some of Mr. Bell's more notable accomplishments include the establishment of the Okefenokee Railroad, the launch of the holiday light show, the construction of the Cypress Cove annex and greenhouse, and the reopening of a water trail that had been closed for 40 years.

Through his stewardship, Mr. Bell has exposed the beauty of the Okefenokee Swamp Park to visitors from across the globe and built the park into our State's most desirable ecotourism and educational destination.

Mr. Bell's passion and leadership for the park will be missed by all of those, like me, who appreciate his steadfast stewardship.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ACTS CONDUCTED BY HAMAS AGAINST ISRAEL

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the terrorist acts conducted by Hamas against the State of Israel.

These horrific scenes coming out of Jerusalem depict countless rockets being launched from Gaza with the intent to massacre innocent civilians. What we have seen of the Iron Dome's ability to intercept this high volume of rockets is truly remarkable. But unfortunately, some of these rockets are getting through, and that underscores Israel's security vulnerability. It reminds us why the United States must continue being an ally of Israel and why our commitment to Israel's sovereignty and independence is so crucial at a time of heightened regional hostility.

Quite frankly, I am surprised there haven't been more Members of this institution to extend their support for Israel. That is why, this week, I am introducing a resolution to not only condemn Hamas for these acts of terrorism but for Congress to signal its unwavering support to our strategic partner Israel and to the Jewish people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this resolution.

RECOGNIZING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the incredible lifesaving care provided by pregnancy resource centers across the country.

Thanks to the 2,700 pregnancy resource centers in the United States, mothers looking for help, hope, and healing have a safe place they can turn to.

In my own district, Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, we have 10 outstanding centers where lives are saved and mothers are given new hope.

To recognize the exceptional work they do, I have introduced a resolution designating the week of November 8 as

National Pregnancy Center Week, highlighting the vital role that pregnancy resource centers play in helping mothers and families.

As a result of their work, young lives will be given the opportunity to live, grow up, and work in our great Nation.

Despite there being over three times as many pregnancy resource centers as abortion centers in the United States, sadly, most Americans are more familiar with the anti-life groups like Planned Parenthood because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stumble over each other to throw taxpayer money in their direction.

Without pregnancy resource centers, millions more babies would be murdered by the scourge of radical anti-life groups under the guise of family planning.

To all those who selflessly serve in pregnancy resource centers, I thank you for your lifesaving work.

Mr. Speaker, no more fundamental right than the right to life exists in our country and in our world today, and there is no more fundamental responsibility of government than the responsibility to defend the most vulnerable among us, and that includes innocent, precious life in the womb.

Everyone knows abortion is wrong. The clear science shows us that it is the taking of innocent life in the womb. The only question is what priority we will give that unborn, precious life in the womb.

Thankfully, our country has an admirable history of correcting civil and social injustice. The glaring exception is the ultimate injustice of abortion.

I pray that we will soon correct this injustice, and I believe that history will rightly condemn those who stood on the wrong side on this issue. I pray that we will correct the injustice of abortion, which has tragically taken the lives of some 70 million unborn children.

HONORING DONALD KEITH STRICKLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Sergeant First Class Donald Keith Strickland, who recently passed away. Donald's favorite quote was: ''My proudest accomplishment was defending our great Nation.''

Sergeant First Class Donald Keith Strickland was born on May 31, 1934, to George and Ruth Strickland in Richmond, Indiana. The Stricklands moved out to California for a better life, as many did back in those days.

Young Donald grew up in the San Fernando Valley and had many different jobs, from working at his family's grocery store to doing a paper route on his horse called Star Baby.

While attending high school, Donald had a call to duty and joined the Navy on his 17th birthday. Donald's father had to sign papers in order to release him to enlist for the Korean war. While in Korea, he served on the famed aircraft carriers USS *Yorktown* and USS *Hornet*. After the Korean war and 3 years in the Navy, Donald decided to join the Army, where he spent the next 18 years of his life.

Donald did his basic training at Fort Bragg. During Donald's first jump after training, his parachute did not open until he almost hit the ground. As he tells the story: ''I was the last one out of the plane and the first one down.''

During Donald's time in the Army, he was stationed in West Germany, where he met the love of his life, Antonie, and they have been married for over 60 years.

Donald was sent off to the Vietnam war, where he served two tours of duty and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery in action during the Tet Offensive. Donald rose to the rank of sergeant first class.

After getting injured in the war, Donald became a drill sergeant at Fort Ord Army Base in Monterey, California. As his kids tell their friends, imagine having a drill sergeant for a dad.

In reminiscing with his children, Donald was always proud to be called a soldier for America. Donald considered the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

In 1973, Donald retired from the armed services and relocated to Simi Valley, California, where he worked for the police department.

Donald loved working with his hands and could fix anything. Donald never had a negative comment about anyone, and any person who knew him loved him for his hard work and his smile. Donald's commitment was resounding, as he did not retire until the age of 75.

Donald is survived by his wife, Antonie; his children, Gabriele, Rene, and Anthony; his grandchildren, Jacob, Samantha, Natasha, Alexandra, Ruby, and Anthony; and his great-grandchildren, Wyatt, Kayla, Sophia, and Bryce.

Donald had been a resident of Ventura County since 1973 and resided in Camarillo since 2000 with his wife for the remainder of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a tribute to Donald Strickland.

SFC DONALD KEITH STRICKLAND

May 31, 1934–April 29, 2021 (age 86)

TRIBUTE

''My proudest accomplishment was defending our great nation.''—Donald K. Strickland

Sergeant First Class, Donald Keith Strickland was born May 31, 1934 to George and Ruth Strickland in Richmond, Indiana. The Strickland's moved out to California for a better life like many did back in those days. Young Donald grew up in the San Fernando Valley and had many different jobs from working at his family's grocery store, to doing a paper route down Sepulveda Blvd on his horse ''Star Baby.''

While attending San Fernando Valley High School, Donald had a call to duty and joined the Navy on his 17th Birthday. His father had to sign papers in order to release him to enlist for the Korean War. While in Korea, Donald served on the famed aircraft carriers USS Yorktown and USS Hornet. After the Korean War and three years in the Navy, Donald decided to join the Army of which he spent the next 18 years of his life.

Donald did his basic training at Fort Brag, North Carolina and joined the legendary 82nd Airborne. During his first jump after training, Donald's parachute did not open until he almost hit ground. As he tells the story, ''I was the last one out of the plane and the first one down.'' Not discouraged, his commanding officer sent him right back up with no hesitation on Donald's part. He loved jumping out of airplanes.

During his time in the Army, Donald was stationed in West Germany where he met the love of his life, Antonie, and have been married over 60 years. Donald was then sent off to the Vietnam War where he served two tours of duty and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery in action during the Tet Offensive. Donald rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class as a non-commissioned officer and received many medals and awards.

After getting injured in the war, Donald became a drill sergeant at Fort Ord Army Base in Monterey, California. As his kids tell their friends, imagine having a drill sergeant for a dad. In reminiscing with his children; he always was proud to be called a soldier. He considered the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

In 1973, Donald retired from the armed services and relocated to Simi Valley, California. He briefly worked for the Simi Valley Police department and later went on to be facilities manager for a number of Convalescent and Hospital locations throughout Ventura County. He loved working with his hands and could fix anything. He never had a negative comment about anyone and any person who knew him loved him for his hard work and smile. His commitment was resounding as he did not retire until the age of 75,

He is survived by his wife, Antonie; his children, Gabriele, Rene and Anthony; his grandchildren, Jacob, Samantha, Natasha, Alexandra, Ruby and Anthony; and his great grandchildren, Wyatt, Kayla, Sophia and Bryce.

Donald has been a resident of Ventura County since 1973 and resided in Camarillo since 2000 with his wife for the remainder of his life.

A Funeral Service was held on Sat, May 8, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Chapel of the Hills at Conejo Mountain Memorial Park: 2052 Howard Rd, Camarillo, California 93012, with interment to follow, also at Conejo Mountain.

THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG

Verse:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory
We're the Army and proud of our name
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

Chorus:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Verse:

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,

San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,
And the Army went rolling along
Minutemen, from the start,
Always fighting from the heart,
And the Army keeps rolling along.

(Refrain)

Verse:

Men in rags, men who froze,
Still that Army met its foes,
And the Army went rolling along.
Faith in God, then we're right,
And we'll fight with all our might,
As the Army keeps rolling along.

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 15 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. DEGETTE) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, You have searched us and known us. You know when we sit down and when we rise up. You are aware of every action we take, when we pause from our labors, and when we get up again to tackle the day.

Even with this knowledge of our innermost being, O God, You deign to show us Your mercy. In Your ever-loving care, You continue to guide our paths. You keep us safe from harm from within and without.

Such knowledge, O God, is too wonderful for us to comprehend. In Your mercy, cause us to pause and reflect on the intimate relationship You have established with us. May we give thought to the words yet on our tongues, to the plans we organize, and to the decisions we contemplate, that all that we would say or do would reflect Your infinite love.

Search us again and again. Know our hearts. Test us and reveal our thoughts. If there is any wickedness in us, lead us, instead, to Your redeeming and everlasting way.

Aware of Your abiding presence, we pray that nothing we do this day would give shame to You.

It is in the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROSS 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 12, 2021, at 9:50 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 15.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 384

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Horsford.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Neguse.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Carter of Louisiana, to rank immediately after Ms. Bourdeaux.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Mr. Carter of Louisiana.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

PANDEMIC WORSENED ECONOMIC ISSUES

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, in March, the House passed and President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan. This bill expanded the child tax credit in an unprecedented way. Experts predict that this expansion will cut childhood poverty in this country by one half.

Thanks to the efforts of the American Rescue Plan and the Biden administration's rollout of the vaccine, we are finally starting to see light at the end of the tunnel for this pandemic. But vaccines alone will not be enough to end the economic crisis caused by this virus.

This pandemic exposed and worsened longstanding economic issues in our society, wages that are too low, childcare that is inaccessible, and a lack of paid leave to allow workers the ability to properly care for themselves and their families.

Policies like the expanded child tax credit are essential to our economic recovery to help working parents, especially mothers, reenter the workforce knowing their children are safe and cared for.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week and formally honor our men and women who have answered the notable call to serve in the law enforcement profession.

Every day, police officers patrol our streets, answer emergency calls, put away criminals, and sacrifice their own safety in order to protect members of their community. Law enforcement officers are our communities' most essential line of defense against those who seek violence or criminal activity.

This week is also an important time to pause and pay our respects to the police officers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. May their sacrifice not be in vain and their memory be a blessing.

May we continue to recognize the heroic efforts of all members in the police community and do all that we can to show our appreciation for their sacrifices.

I will always stand with our men and women in blue, and may God continue to keep them safe as they work tirelessly and with an unwavering commitment to put service above self.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING WILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public school in my district, less than 1 mile from my house, Wiley Elementary School.

For the second time in 5 years, Wiley has been named a top magnet elementary school in the Nation for its dedication to excellence.

It is both an international magnet and a true neighborhood school. A diverse and welcoming community, Wiley's teachers, faculty, parents, and staff go above and beyond to ensure that every student receives the best education possible.

Wiley offers the International Studies Magnet Program, which allows students to take as many as eight electives, including five foreign languages, in elementary school. Through this program, students are able to learn about cultures other than their own and experience diverse perspectives.

I believe the foundation to a quality education begins in elementary school, and I know that Wiley is setting students up for success.

I am honored to represent Wiley Elementary School in Congress, and I am awed by all that their children achieve.

CANCELING MOTHERS

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

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, this past weekend, we celebrated Mother's Day, a day for families across our great Nation to honor our mothers.

God has blessed me with a wife, the mother of our three beautiful children, including two daughters.

My own mother, Lala, has instilled in me the values I am proud to cherish today, including my faith and belief in family. My mother, who is almost 80 years old, fled Communist Cuba under the Castro regime and is now a proud American. Her love of country inspires me each day.

Mother's Day was founded by West Virginia native Anna Jarvis in 1908. But the radical left, including some Members of Congress, have begun referring to mothers as ''birthing people.''

NARAL, the pro-choice lobbying group, tweeted on May 6: ''When we talk about birthing people, we are being inclusive. It is that simple.''

The canceling of the term ''mother'' actually began here in the Congress when Speaker PELOSI changed the House Rules package and eliminated the words ''mother,'' ''father,'' ''son,'' and ''daughter,'' and replaced them with ''parent'' and ''child.''

It defies common sense that the cancel culture and some Members of Congress would seek to cancel the term ''mother.'' It is wrong that we cannot celebrate mothers on the House floor. All mothers play an important role.

ENSURING PAST INJUSTICES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, as we continue to grapple with the issues of race and justice in our country, I rise today to share a story of tragedy and progress from my own district.

More than a century ago, Charlie Hale, a young African-American male in Lawrenceville, Georgia, was abducted, brought into the city square, strung up, and shot simply because of the color of his skin. No arrests were ever made in his murder.

Decades passed. Charlie's name was forgotten, and in a cruel twist of irony, a Confederate monument was erected mere steps away from the site of his murder. And so it stood for decades, until now.

That Confederate monument stands no longer. It was removed following our country's long-overdue racial reckoning this past year. In its place will stand a memorial to the life and death of Charlie Hale.

I want to recognize the leadership of Marlene Taylor-Crawford and her work with the Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition Project, the Gwinnett Historical Restoration and Preservation Board, and all the activists who pushed for this change for years.

The dirt where his blood was spilled will be collected and displayed in perpetuity in Gwinnett County, as well as the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery.

I want to be clear: Even more than a century later, this does not make things right by Charlie Hale or those who loved him and lost him. But it does take an important step to ensure the injustices of the past are not forgotten.

GETTING AMERICA BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, at a time when the economy should be roaring back, we just witnessed one of the worst monthly job reports in history because of the Biden administration's socialist policies.

Despite States loosening restrictions on businesses, the unemployment rate has actually gone up. Why? Because the Democrats want to pay people to sit at home rather than actually go to work. Republicans in Congress warned about this, and, lo and behold, we were right.

While campaigning, candidate Biden promised to shut down the virus, not the economy. Well, the virus has been shut down because of Operation Warp Speed, yet now President Biden has shut down businesses because he pays people to stay at home.

My eastern North Carolina district is set to have a huge tourist season, but they can't find anybody to come to work, the same with boatbuilders, hotels, and other businesses. They cannot open up normally. They cannot open their doors because the administration's socialist policies want to pay people to stay at home.

America, despite your government, you need to get back to work.

EXPANDED CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I represent a working-class district in Chicago, and my community has been especially hard-hit by the pandemic.

I have one of the largest percentages of school-age children in my district, and my neighbors are worried about putting food on the table. I have seen the lines at food banks grow and grow.

But the expanded child tax credit in the American Rescue Plan changes that. Nearly 90 percent of the children in my district will benefit. And more than 40,000 households will get an average of $3,300, parents like Jaime in Logan Square, who will finally be able to send his son to college this year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign thanks to this tax credit.

This program is about helping their children thrive, and in my community, it is already working.

□ 1215

HONORING RALPH PUCKETT

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from my district, Colonel Ralph Puckett, a 94-year-old veteran who will soon receive the Nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor.

Colonel Puckett is a Georgia native and a graduate of West Point. Soon after graduating, he was deployed to fight in Korea in the 8th Army Ranger Company. In November of 1950, he heroically led his Ranger company on a freezing day at the Battle for Hill 205. His platoon was overcome by an onslaught of Chinese attackers and a barrage of artillery fire. Colonel Puckett sustained severe injuries during this attack.

Although his injuries incapacitated him, Colonel Puckett selflessly ordered Private First Class Billy G. Walls and Private First Class Davis L. Pollock to leave him on the battlefield. He could see the Chinese soldiers within yards of attacking his Rangers, but his comrades returned to carry him to safety, despite the danger.

Colonel Puckett went on to serve honorably in Colombia, Germany, and Vietnam until his retirement in 1971.

Though his Active Duty has ended, he continues to serve as Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and he still inspires young people in his community today.

Colonel Puckett was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame and received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Hill 205, in addition to two Silver Stars, five Purple Hearts, various awards from Vietnam and Colombia, and a Distinguished Graduate Award from West Point. His bravery is a testament to his strength and patriotism, and he is an inspiration to the people of the Third District of Georgia, as well as our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Puckett and extending our sincere appreciation to him and all of our men and women in uniform. As a nation, we are forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST CLASS OF GRADUATES FROM THE KIRK KERKORIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the historic first class of medical students to graduate from the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Four years ago, the 50 students of this inaugural class donned their white coats, pledged their formal oaths, and began their lifelong medical journeys.

But for southern Nevada, this was more than your average first day of school. Nevada has consistently ranked among the lowest rates in doctors per capita; and before this class, Las Vegas was the largest metro area in the Nation without a medical school capable of bestowing M.D. degrees.

These graduates are pioneers in providing for the health of our community, and their dedication to home is clear. Ninety-seven percent of this class hails from the Battle Born State, and well over one-third of the graduates will stay right here to continue their education.

We cannot thank them enough for their dedication to the health of our community, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

Congratulations to the UNLV Medical graduates.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize National Police Week.

Our police officers put their lives on the line every single day they go to work. They answer the call of duty on holidays, weekends, birthdays, and through the COVID–19 pandemic to selflessly protect our communities.

When I was chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I introduced a resolution to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Orange County because now, more than ever, we owe these brave officers our support and appreciation.

I am especially grateful for our Capitol Police officers who have been through so much this year with the devastating loss of multiple officers in the line of duty.

Thank you to all police officers for your continued bravery. I and so many others are proud to stand with you today and every day.

BENEFITS OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is the most transformative economic legislation for working families in a generation.

Our expansion of the child tax credit will literally cut child poverty in half. But unless we make the expansion permanent, we will find ourselves a year from now in the same dire straits that existed before the pandemic: A country where we accept that 11 million people live in poverty, nearly 15 percent of all children in this country; a country where we accept that 25 percent of Black children live in poverty.

I have been in Congress for 5 months and I am already tired of having to vote to reauthorize things that we know should be permanent. Expanding the child tax credit is a moral and economic imperative. It should not have an expiration date.

For the last year, we have talked about the impossible choices that families have been forced to make: childcare or healthcare; food or rent.

The reality is, these impossible choices existed for millions of families before the pandemic began, and they will continue to exist after the pandemic is over. Poverty is a choice that we make here in this Chamber, and we can choose to end it.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DONALD KEITH STRICKLAND

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Sergeant First Class Donald Keith Strickland. Donald passed away recently after a long life of service to his country, his fellow Americans, and his family.

Standing with me today is my good friend, Representative ALEX MOONEY of West Virginia. We are both dear friends of Donald's son, Tony Strickland, who I served in the legislature with and who has a long relationship with this great person here.

What you see in a legacy with a man like Donald, who was an Army staff sergeant, also known as a drill sergeant—which, by the way, the family home was known as ''strict land'' because it was very strict there due to that background. The legacy shows the great family that we know with Tony and his kids and all the wonderful grandchildren that Mr. Donald Strickland had.

He is survived by his wife, Antonie; his three children; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The legacy of how we are measured is truly in your family and what you leave behind as you touch your country.

For our dear friend Tony, our hearts are with you in the loss of your father, and God bless you all.

HONORING LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I recently toured my district to meet members of the community nominated by their fellow residents who served their fellow citizens extraordinarily during the pandemic.

During my tour, I had the honor of meeting Mena Police Chief Tommy Stueart and Bearden Police Chief Nathan Greeley. These men cared for their communities by delivering food and prescriptions and taking care of the sick and elderly, all while dealing with their own staff shortages.

When our local police officers go to work, they wear many hats. Of course, they are protectors, but they also play the role of nurse, comforter, teacher, caretaker, and confidant.

Ask any police officer and they will say it is just part of the job, but it is a grave mistake to take this for granted.

Madam Speaker, another grave mistake is the Democrats' move to defund police. This National Police Week, let's honor the heroism and the daily kindnesses shown by our law enforcement, and let's work to support those brave men and women who protect and serve.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of National Police Week, a week where we honor the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect and serve our neighborhoods.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great work from

law enforcement in my district who are helping to keep their communities safe.

First, there is West Lafayette Police Officer Brian Danosky who risked his own life to provide lifesaving care to a 22-year-old who had a gunshot wound.

In Frankfort, Indiana, Sergeant Chris Salaba was awarded Officer of the Year last year for helping his department overcome challenges from the COVID–19 pandemic.

In Putnam County, Sheriff Scott Stockton and his deputies kept deadly drugs off of our streets by seizing 225 pounds of meth.

These are just a few of the examples of police officers working to keep our neighborhoods safe.

I think it is important to highlight their work and remind citizens that most police officers are good people who want to protect their communities and serve the people within them.

RECOGNIZING THE RIVERHEADS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 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 Riverheads High School football team of Augusta County, Virginia, who recently won the Commonwealth's class 1 State football champion.

After a close first quarter, the Gladiators scored 34 points in the second quarter, propelling them to a resounding 65–29 victory or the Galax Maroon Tide.

Riverheads has now won a notable five consecutive State titles. Senior running back Zac Smiley, who led the team with 121 rushing yards, said: ''It almost feels normal, but it's not.''

The Riverheads' running game had been strong all season, which allowed the Gladiators to catch the Maroon Tide off guard with an impressive three passing touchdowns, culminating in an all-around unstoppable offense.

When asked what the pressure was like to win again, Head Coach Robert Casto said: ''We didn't get caught up in all of that stuff.'' He said their victory ''was just a byproduct of the hard work these kids have put in.''

Indeed, every State championship is earned, not given, and this squad certainly earned it.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, and staff on their remarkable accomplishment.

BUSINESSES NEED WORKERS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to be the voice for business owners in my district, who, again, have been kicked while they are down.

This majority and President Biden insist people need more unemployment benefits. They don't. There is a record number of open jobs, more than 8 million, of which only 266,000 of those jobs have been filled. That means that this administration is incentivizing people not to work.

For President Biden to suggest that we need to spend another $4 trillion on the backs of our children and grandchildren to get back to work is insane.

The jobs are there. The incentives to take the jobs are not.

This nationwide problem is impacting Michiganders. In fact, the biggest issue that I hear from business owners in my district is not about COVID or mask mandates or vaccines. They need workers.

I am calling on the Speaker to actually go out into her district and learn what businesses actually need. They don't need more money. They don't need more stimulus. They need more employees.

COLONIAL PIPELINE ATTACK

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

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, the energy crisis created by the Russian hack of the Colonial Pipeline is impacting my district in the worst possible way. Gas prices have skyrocketed. Lines are forming all across the great State of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I am here today to say what few politicians will, but what most of the Americans believe. We were attacked. We were attacked by a foreign entity, and the current administration has done nothing in response.

When our leadership is weak, our Nation suffers.

You don't believe me?

Take a look outside. Our border has dissolved into ruin, gas prices are skyrocketing, and the dollar is worth less and less each day. Israel is burning, China is rising, and Russia attacks our homeland.

All the while, the American people wonder when this administration will finally grow a backbone and stand firm against a growing wave of international tyranny. President Biden is weakening our defenses. The wolves are at the gates, and America's leader is asleep at the wheel.

But you know what?

Thank heavens we have a President who doesn't tweet mean things anymore.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNTAIN FIFES AND DRUMS OF TWIN PEAKS, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in proud recognition of the Mountain Fifes and Drums music program in my own district in Twin Peaks, California.

This program is dedicated to the patriotic mission of teaching young Americans, age 10 to 18, appreciation of and performance of 18th century military music.

They do this through instruction in classic musical instruments, such as the fife and the rope tension drum. I am extremely proud that the Mountain Fifes and Drums music program is performing today in Mt. Vernon, appropriately, the home of our first Commander in Chief, George Washington.

It warms my heart that programs like this exist to teach this patriotic art and appreciation of this unique period of American history to a new generation of Americans.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE CARLOS ROMERO BARCELO

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished past Member of this House, the Honorable Carlos Romero Barcelo, also former Governor of Puerto Rico, who passed away on May 2, 2021.

Congressman Romero Barcelo represented the people of Puerto Rico in this Congress from 1993 to 2001.

He was not only a dear friend, but also a mentor whose tireless, lifelong devotion for the equality of all island residents inspired me to follow his footsteps.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in his memory.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE STACY HINSHAW AND ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week to recognize the members of law enforcement who bravely serve to protect our communities across the Nation.

I would also like to give a special recognition to Detective Stacy Hinshaw from the Lawrence Police Department for being named detective of the year. During the year 2020, Detective Hinshaw worked over 119 cases, the vast majority involving complex child abuse and sexual assaults. Detective Hinshaw has developed an extensive network of support resources for victims in partnership with many community organizations and has been recognized by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office for her work.

Congratulations to Detective Stacy Hinshaw, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for all law enforcement officers.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of the Civil Air Patrol, otherwise known as CAP. I have had personal experience with Civil Air Patrol, as my son, Trey, was a member of the Civil Air Patrol while in high school. He gained valuable leadership skills that led him to graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy and now serving as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Civil Air Patrol protects our homeland by serving as the Air Force's official auxiliary. CAP is active in all 50 States.

Last year alone, the Civil Air Patrol saved 130 lives while responding to devastating natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. CAP also helped States distribute COVID–19 test kits, personal protective equipment, and other essential goods, making it their largest mobilization effort since World War II.

Greater funding for the force will allow the Civil Air Patrol to train more pilots, continue its cadet program, and purchase much-needed equipment. I want to thank the Civil Air Patrol national legislative coordinator, Dr. Gerald Marketos, for his strong leadership and compassionate commitment to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me and Representative MIKE THOMPSON to support Civil Air Patrol funding appropriation requests for fiscal year 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

PUPPIES ASSISTING WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS FOR VETERANS THERAPY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1448) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1448

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 ''Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act'' or the ''PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM ON DOG TRAINING THERAPY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence the conduct of a pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as ''PTSD'') as an element of a complementary and integrative health program for such veterans.

(b) DURATION; MEDICAL CENTERS.—

(1) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) for a five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(2) MEDICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such pilot program is carried out by not fewer than five medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in geographically diverse areas.

(c) AGREEMENTS WITH ENTITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into agreements with nongovernmental entities that the Secretary determines have the demonstrated ability to provide the canine training specified in subsection (a).

(d) REQUIRED CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall include in any agreement under subsection (c) conditions requiring that the nongovernmental entity seeking to enter into the agreement—

(1) submits to the Secretary certification that the entity is an accredited service dog training organization;

(2) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in the pilot program under subsection (a) receive training from certified service dog training instructors for a period of time determined appropriate by the entity;

(3) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in such pilot program are prohibited from having access to a dog under such pilot program at any time during such participation without the supervision of a certified service dog training instructor;

(4) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in such pilot program receive training in skills unique to the needs of the veteran to address or alleviate PTSD symptoms of the veteran;

(5) agrees not to use shock collars or prong collars as training tools and to use positive reinforcement training; and

(6) agrees to provide any follow-up training support specified in subsection (e)(2), as applicable.

(e) ADOPTION OF DOG.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A veteran who has participated in the pilot program under subsection (a) may adopt a dog that the veteran assisted in training during such pilot program if the veteran and the veteran's health provider (in consultation with the entity that provided the canine training with respect to the dog under such pilot program) determine that it is in the best interest of the veteran.

(2) FOLLOW-UP TRAINING SUPPORT.—If a veteran adopts a dog under paragraph (1), the entity that provided the canine training with respect to the dog under the pilot program shall provide follow-up training support for the life of the dog. Such support shall include the provision of a contact plan between the veteran and the entity that enables the veteran to seek and receive assistance from the entity to ensure the dog is being properly cared for.

(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER CARE AND TREATMENT.—Participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) may not preclude a veteran from receiving any other medical care or treatment for PTSD furnished by the Department, including therapy, for which the veteran is otherwise eligible.

(g) COLLECTION OF DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop metrics and other appropriate means to measure, with respect to veterans participating in the pilot program under subsection (a)—

(A) the number of such veterans participating;

(B) the satisfaction of such veterans with the pilot program;

(C) whether participation in the pilot program resulted in any clinically relevant improvements for such veterans, as determined by the health care provider or clinical team that referred the veteran to participate in the pilot program; and

(D) such other factors as the Secretary may determine appropriate; and

(2) establish processes to document and track the progress of such veterans under the pilot program with respect to health benefits and improvements.

(h) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than one year before the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) terminates, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the recommendations of the Secretary regarding—

(1) whether to extend or make permanent the pilot program; and

(2) the feasibility and advisability of expanding the pilot program to address mental health conditions other than PTSD.

(i) GAO BRIEFING AND STUDY.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the methodology established for the pilot program.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates, the Comptroller General shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (1) a report on the pilot program. Such report shall include an evaluation of the approach and methodology used for the pilot program with respect to—

(A) assisting veterans with PTSD; and

(B) measuring relevant metrics, such as reduction in scores under the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS), improvement in psychosocial function, and therapeutic compliance.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''accredited service dog training organization'' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that—

(A) provides service dogs to veterans with PTSD; and

(B) is accredited by an accrediting organization with demonstrated experience, national scope, and recognized leadership and expertise in the training of service dogs and education in the use of service dogs (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) The term ''eligible veteran'' means a veteran who—

(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system in the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) has been recommended for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) by a qualified mental health care provider or clinical team based on medical judgment that the veteran may benefit from such participation with respect to the diagnosed PTSD of the veteran.

(3) The term ''service dog training instructor'' means an instructor who provides the direct training of veterans with PTSD in the art and science of service dog training and handling.

SEC. 3. PROVISION OF SERVICE DOGS AND VETERINARY INSURANCE BENEFITS TO VETERANS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER WHO DO NOT HAVE CERTAIN IMPAIRMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1714 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(e) The Secretary may provide a service dog to a veteran under subsection (c)(3) regardless of whether the veteran has a mobility impairment.

''(f)(1) The Secretary shall provide to any veteran described in paragraph (2) a commercially available veterinary insurance policy for each dog provided to such veteran under subsection (b) or (c).

''(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who—

''(A) is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or a visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairment;

''(B) has received a dog under subsection (b) or (c) in connection with such disorder or impairment; and

''(C) meets such other requirements as the Secretary may prescribe.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1714(f) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a veteran provided a dog by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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. 1448, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased that we have reported Congressman STEVE STIVERS' bill, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, favorably out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and are bringing it to the floor today with the support of over 300 Members on both sides of the aisle.

I am especially pleased to have negotiated, with the help of Ranking Member BOST, a new bipartisan version of the bill in time for Congressman STIVERS to see it move before he leaves Congress.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been a leader in offering veterans with PTSD and other invisible wounds of war a wide spectrum of evidence-based treatment options and adjunctive approaches to promote their mental health and well-being. This bill ensures that veterans can participate in service dog training through pilot program partnerships between VA and accredited service dog training nonprofit organizations across the country.

Madam Speaker, the bill also removes current impediments to VA's ability to prescribe mental health service dogs for veterans with PTSD, and a newly added section ensures that VA's current veterinary insurance benefit is also extended to those veterans receiving mental health service dogs through VA.

I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1448, as amended, the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers, or the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. This bill will help connect veterans with PTSD with service dogs by establishing a service dog training pilot program, supporting service dog training organizations, and authorizing the VA to provide veterans with PTSD service dogs and veterinarian assistance for those service dogs.

The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act is sponsored by Congressman STEVE STIVERS from Ohio. Representative STIVERS is an Army veteran. He has spent much of his congressional career advocating for his brothers and sisters in arms and has been a champion of this bill for many years. I am grateful for his leadership and commitment.

The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act will further the lifesaving bond that exists between man's best friend and veterans in need, and it will continue our efforts to promote creative ways to support veterans who are struggling.

I am proud to be one of the 313 cosponsors of the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, and I am proud to vote in support of it today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), my good friend and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and original cosponsor of the bill.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. I am incredibly proud to be co-leading this bipartisan bill to connect veterans with service dogs in their communities through a new pilot program at the VA.

There are two organizations in Livingston County in my district that train dogs and place them with veterans in need: Veteran Service Dogs in Howell, and Blue Star Service Dogs in Pinckney, Michigan.

In 2019, I had the chance to visit Blue Star Service Dogs. It was incredible to see these dogs in action and to hear directly from the veterans about how these remarkable animals are helping them heal from depression, PTSD, and so many other invisible service-related wounds.

The bill sets up a pilot program through the VA to partner with local nonprofits, just like the ones in my district, to create work-therapy programs for veterans to train and potentially adopt service dogs.

The issue is extremely personal to me. I am an Army wife, married to a 30-year Army officer and Apache pilot. I have a stepdaughter currently on Active Duty and another stepdaughter who is a doctor at the VA. I am also the mom of two wonderful rescue dogs, Rocky and Boomer.

I have seen how big of an impact service dogs can have on people's lives when it comes to dealing with mental illness, and that is why I am so passionate about this pilot program.

When we make the decision to send men and women in to fight for our country, we make the decision to support them for the rest of their lives.

The PAWS for Veterans Service Therapy Act helps us honor the commitment and will have a real impact on the day-to-day well-being of our veterans.

I want to thank Representative STIVERS for his leadership on this issue, and wish him all the best as he departs Congress. He is a Republican, but much more concerning for me, he is from Ohio, and we have still managed to work closely together on this issue.

To my colleagues, if I can work with a graduate of Ohio State University, you can get on this darn bill. I urge both sides to join me in supporting the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS). He is an Army officer himself, and is the chief sponsor of this bill who has also served in this body and does a great job of that. He will be dearly missed.

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1448, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. As a Major General in the Ohio National Guard and a Congressman who represents 43,000 veterans in my district, I know the struggle of the invisible wounds of war.

I have met with a Vietnam veteran who was unable to leave his house for decades, a soldier who was deployed to Iraq who, when he returned, was addicted to heroin for 7 years, and another who was under my command in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His only goal was to take his fiancee out to dinner.

Unfortunately, these three stories are not unique, but these three have happy endings. By working with service dogs, these veterans got their lives back. Under the status quo, veterans aren't able to access this lifesaving treatment that these three veterans have gotten. We have a chance today to change that by passing this bill.

The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act would establish a pilot program. This is not even a permanent program; it is a pilot program at the VA to provide grants to local service dog training organizations so the veterans can benefit

from work-therapy by learning the art and science of training a dog for service. After graduation, the veteran can adopt their canine partner if the veteran and/or his VA health provider agree that that veteran will benefit from continuing courses of treatment from that therapy dog.

I have seen the peer-reviewed information from Kaiser-Permanente and Purdue University that shows that these programs work. They reduce the amount of psychotropic drugs that these veterans are on. They reduce suicide. They improve overall mental health.

Today, we lose 22 veteran and Active Duty members a day to suicide. We can't let that go on. This can help that effort. It is a small price to pay. We can't afford to wait any longer.

I am, today, calling for us to pass this bill today, take it to the Senate, get it hotlined and signed and on the President's desk by Memorial Day.

I do want to thank the bipartisan folks who have helped on this: Chairman TAKANO; Ranking Member BOST; Representative RICE, our lead cosponsor; now-Governor Tim Walz, who was the sponsor in the last Congress; the floor leader STENY HOYER; now-Governor DeSantis; Sheriff Rutherford; Dr. DUNN; Representative SLOTKIN; and Representative SHERRILL. They have all played a very important role.

I want to thank the staff on Mr. BOST's team, Samantha Gonzalez, Christine Hill, Maria Tripplaar; on Mr. TAKANO's staff, Matt Reel and Heather O'Beirne Kelly. Lastly, I want to thank my legislative director, Mimi Bair, for all her hard work, and my chief of staff, Nick, for his hard work on this as well.

I know this is asking for a parting gift, but I would ask you all vote ''yea'' on this bill. I look forward to seeing this signed soon. I want to thank my colleagues for their bipartisan effort on this and earnest work to help our veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I am delighted that the Veterans' Affairs Committee can, once again, unite America, including Michiganders and the Buckeye State.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), my good friend and former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and lead Democratic cosponsor.

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1448, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. No group in America is more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress and other mental health conditions than our veterans.

Tragically, as my friend Congressman STIVERS just said, this means that 22 veterans are dying every single day by suicide. This is a crisis. We cannot look the other way. We must make sure that our veterans have access to every available mental health resource out there.

The research on this issue is clear. Service dogs are proven to help people suffering from a wide array of mental health conditions, including PTSD. I have seen the evidence of this with my own eyes. Veterans have told me that they would not be here today if it weren't for their service dog. That is how much these dogs mean and that is why this bill is so critical.

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By creating a pilot program on dog training therapy at the VA and providing service dogs to veterans, this bill won't just improve lives; it will save them.

I am incredibly proud to co-lead this bipartisan bill, and I thank my friend, Representative STEVE STIVERS, who is a great American and a true gentleman, for introducing it.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill today. Madam Speaker, I also thank the great chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman TAKANO.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act or the PAWS Act.

Americans enjoy the blessings of hard-earned peace and liberty because of our warriors who answer the call to defend our country. Our men and women in uniform are a constant reminder of the true source of our Nation's greatness.

In middle Tennessee, we have a proud history of military service. Our veterans represent the very best of America, and they deserve our full support when it comes to ensuring that they have access to the resources they need to help them live a meaningful, productive post-service life.

It is widely acknowledged that the suicide rate for veterans is tragically high, as 20 veterans are lost to suicide every day. We need to address this problem.

No one can deny the emotional and psychological benefits of man's best friend, but for our service veterans, that connection has an even greater impact. Psychiatric service dogs paired with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder have been shown to provide hope, independence, security, and companionship.

As I travel my home State and speak with our Nation's heroes, I have heard how service dogs help improve their quality of life, and I have even heard that had it not been for their service dog, they wouldn't be with us today. The PAWS Act would pair more servicemembers with quality service dogs trained by reputable organizations.

Every veteran has earned a life after their military service free of post-traumatic stress disorder that too often leads to suicide. In that regard, we should do everything we can to ensure their well-being. In my view, passage of the PAWS Act is a minimum down payment on what we owe these brave Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in letting our veterans know that Congress stands with them on their path to healing.

I thank my colleague, Representative STIVERS, for his leadership on this bill and wish him success as he leaves the House next week.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1448, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act.

From a personal standpoint, this legislation would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to collaborate with nongovernmental entities and carry out a service dog pilot program to address post-deployment mental health and PTSD in our veterans.

I have a big community of more than 136,000 veterans in Puerto Rico, and well-trained service animals provide disabled veterans with PTSD numerous benefits. For example, they can be trained to wake up veterans from nightmares, interrupt flashbacks, and quite literally watch their backs.

There is growing evidence that service animal intervention really works. Veterans report that animal training can help mitigate the effects of intrusive memories while grounding them in the present moment. A growing body of research also shows that patients with service animals experience a better quality of life, lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and increased chances of sustaining meaningful employment.

As we all know, the Department of Veterans Affairs is a leader in healthcare and research for veterans, and this bill will provide an opportunity to support a growing standard of care for our veterans. As such, that is the reason I support the bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1448.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my great friend, for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act.

I am a proud original cosponsor on General STIVERS' bill. This bipartisan bill supports veterans who are suffering from TBI and PTSD, and it helps them to live better and more fulfilling lives. And it does this with the assistance of man's best friend.

Dog owners around the world will tell you of the special connection between humans and their canine companions. The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act harnesses that unique bond in a way to serve those who have suffered the invisible injuries of war.

Service dogs have already been established as a proven therapy for PTSD and other related challenges. Today's legislation not only would allow these veterans to adopt a service dog but also give them the opportunity to take part in the training of that dog.

Simply put, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act will save lives.

I have seen firsthand what a service dog can mean to a veteran struggling with PTSD. In northeast Florida, we are blessed to have a group called K9s for Warriors, which pairs trained service dogs with veterans.

During my visits to K9s for Warriors, I have often had the opportunity to speak with these veterans and listen to their personal testimonies of survival. Many have told me: But for that dog, I would be dead today.

Last Congress, we passed the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act out of the House, but we were not successful in getting it through the Senate. That means, with around 20 veterans taking their lives each day, we have since lost 7,300 veterans' lives since we passed it last year.

We cannot allow that to happen again. I call on the Senate to join the House and pass this bill and get it to the President's desk to become law.

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

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

Before I close, I thank Chairman TAKANO for working with Representative STIVERS and myself to find common ground. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Majority Leader HOYER for his assistance, scheduling, and consideration of this legislation before Representative STIVERS leaves the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I also thank my colleague, the ranking member, Congressman BOST from Illinois, for his bipartisanship.

I do believe that H.R. 1448 is now in a form that would be acceptable to the Senate, and I am hopeful that it will pass.

I wish our colleague from the State of Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) the best of luck on this new chapter in his life.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1448, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1448, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. STIVERS. 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROTECTING MOMS WHO SERVED ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 958) to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 958

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 ''Protecting Moms Who Served Act''.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR MATERNITY CARE COORDINATION.

(a) PROGRAM ON MATERNITY CARE COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out the maternity care coordination program described in Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1330.03, or any successor handbook.

(2) TRAINING AND SUPPORT.—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to community maternity care providers training and support with respect to the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans, particularly regarding mental and behavioral health conditions relating to the service of the veterans in the Armed Forces.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for the maternity care coordination program. Such amounts are authorized in addition to any other amounts authorized for such purpose.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''community maternity care providers'' means maternity care providers located at non-Department facilities who provide maternity care to veterans under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, or other provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The term ''non-Department facilities'' has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY AMONG PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM VETERANS.

(a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for veterans.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) To the extent practicable—

(A) the number of pregnant and postpartum veterans who have experienced a pregnancy-related death or pregnancy-associated death in the most recent 10 years of available data;

(B) the rate of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births for pregnant and postpartum veterans;

(C) the number of cases of severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans in the most recent year of available data;

(D) the racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates among pregnant and postpartum veterans;

(E) identification of the causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity that are unique to veterans, including posttraumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, and infertility or miscarriages that may be caused by such service;

(F) identification of the causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity that are unique to veterans from racial and ethnic minority groups and other at-risk populations as deemed appropriate;

(G) identification of any correlations between the former rank of veterans and their maternal health outcomes;

(H) the number of veterans who have been diagnosed with infertility by Veterans Health Administration providers each year in the most recent five years, disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and geographical location;

(I) the number of veterans who receive a clinical diagnosis of unexplained infertility by Veterans Health Administration providers each year in the most recent five years; and

(J) the extent to which the rate of incidence of clinically diagnosed infertility among veterans compare or differ to the rate of incidence of clinically diagnosed infertility among the civilian population.

(2) An assessment of the barriers to determining the information required under paragraph (1) and recommendations for improvements in tracking maternal health outcomes among pregnant and postpartum veterans—

(A) who have health care coverage through the Department;

(B) enrolled in the TRICARE program;

(C) who are eligible to use the Indian Health Service, Tribal health programs, or urban Indian health organizations;

(D) with employer-based or private insurance;

(E) enrolled in the Medicaid program; and

(F) who are uninsured.

(3) Recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to increase access to mental and behavioral health care for pregnant and postpartum veterans who screen positively for maternal mental or behavioral health conditions.

(4) Recommendations to address homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, and related issues among pregnant and postpartum veterans.

(5) Recommendations on how to effectively educate maternity care providers on best practices for providing maternity care services to veterans that addresses the unique maternal health care needs of the veteran population.

(6) Recommendations to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans and to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for each of the groups described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (2).

(7) Recommendations to improve coordination of care between the Department and non-Department facilities for pregnant and postpartum veterans, including recommendations to improve—

(A) health record interoperability; and

(B) training for the directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks, directors of medical facilities of the Department, chiefs of staff of such facilities, maternity care coordinators, and staff of relevant non-Department facilities.

(8) An assessment of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to access maternal health data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services and, if applicable, recommendations to increase such authority.

(9) To the extent applicable, an assessment of potential causes of or explanations for lower maternal mortality rates among veterans who have health coverage through the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to maternal mortality rates in the general United States population.

(10) Any other information the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to the reduction of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among pregnant and postpartum veterans and to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes for veterans.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The term ''maternal mortality'' means a death occurring during or within a one-year period after pregnancy, caused by pregnancy-related or childbirth complications, including a suicide, overdose, or other death resulting from a mental health or substance use disorder attributed to or aggravated by pregnancy-related or childbirth complications.

(2) POSTPARTUM AND POSTPARTUM PERIOD.—The terms ''postpartum'' and ''postpartum period'' refer to the 1-year period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy of an individual.

(3) PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED DEATH.—The term ''pregnancy-associated death'' means a death of a pregnant or postpartum individual, by any cause, that occurs during, or within 1 year following, the individual's pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, duration, or site of the pregnancy.

(4) PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH.—The term ''pregnancy-related death'' means a death of a pregnant or postpartum individual that occurs during, or within 1 year following, the individual's pregnancy, from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

(5) RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP.—The term ''racial and ethnic minority group'' has the meaning given such term in section 1707(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)(1)).

(6) SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY.—The term ''severe maternal morbidity'' means a health condition, including mental health conditions and substance use disorders, attributed to or aggravated by pregnancy or childbirth that results in significant short-term or long-term consequences to the health of the individual who was pregnant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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. 958.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the United States is the only industrialized nation where the maternal mortality rate is on the rise, and we have one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the developed world.

Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native moms die from complications from pregnancy at approximately three times the rate of White, Latina, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander women, regardless of income or education levels.

Today, women veterans are the fastest-growing cohort in the veteran population, and more than 40 percent of women veterans using VA for their healthcare are of reproductive age. Black women serve in high numbers and represent nearly one-third of women using VA for their healthcare.

The Protecting Moms Who Served Act, introduced by Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD, would codify maternity care coordination in law and provide additional resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that veterans receive the best prenatal and postpartum care possible.

Madam Speaker, we do not yet know if pregnant veterans have better, worse, or equal rates of maternal mortality compared to nonveterans. This bill would address this knowledge gap by requiring the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive study on maternal mortality and morbidity among veterans.

This study would not only examine racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity but also would seek to capture data from Federal programs besides VA, including TRICARE and Medicaid as well as the Indian Health Service, private insurance, and the uninsured.

While there is not yet enough data to make an authoritative conclusion, there is some evidence that veterans who use VA have lower maternal mortality rates than nonveterans. The study mandated by this bill would identify what best practices VA has implemented that result in better maternal health outcomes.

Madam Speaker, last year, approximately 6,000 veterans using VA became new moms. Moms who have served our Nation exemplify strength and resilience. Supporting moms means ensuring gender equity, and that begins with health equity. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protecting Moms Who Served Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 958, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act.

Just 3 days ago, we celebrated Mother's Day, so it is particularly fitting to be here to discuss a bill to improve the care that is provided to veteran mothers.

Women are volunteering to serve in uniform at a rapid rate, and when they become veterans, they seek VA healthcare at a rapid rate as well.

I am committed to making sure the VA is equipped to provide them with the high-quality care that they have earned.

The Protecting Moms Who Served Act will strengthen VA's maternity care coordination program. It will expand training on the physical and mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans. It will also require a GAO assessment of maternal health outcomes among women veterans.

I am grateful to the bill's sponsor and my fellow Illinoisan, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, for introducing this bipartisan bill. I am pleased to support it this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend and chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, and also the cosponsor of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 958, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, which I was proud to co-lead with Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and Congressman FITZPATRICK.

Madam Speaker, this bill will ensure that veterans get the high-quality maternal care they have earned by codifying the Maternity Care Coordination Program. Additionally, this bill will require the GAO to report on maternal mortality and morbidity among veterans.

I thank the chairman for his support on this issue, and I am proud that this bill passed the committee with broad bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, as you may know, among developed countries, the United States has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with an average rate of 17.2 deaths per 100,000 live births.

For women of color, the rates are even higher. For Black women, the maternal mortality rate is 41.7 deaths per 100,000. And for American Indian and Alaska Native women, it is 28.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. More than 50 percent of pregnancy-related deaths happen after delivery.

Today, there are 2 million women veterans living in the United States, and women comprise the fastest growing subpopulation of both the military and veteran populations, yet many of their health needs go unaddressed in a VA system that has not evolved to equitably serve a rapidly changing population.

As the chairwoman of the Women Veterans Task Force and chair of House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I am proud to join Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, who has truly,

truly been a champion—she is the founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus—in fighting to end disparities in maternal care for women veterans. Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. It is past time that we address this inequity.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our women veterans and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 958.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BOST and Chairman TAKANO for their leadership. This bill is very important.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, which I co-lead with my colleague and friend, LAUREN UNDERWOOD. I also thank Representative UNDERWOOD for her efforts on this bill to help ensure that all female veterans have access to the maternal healthcare and support they need and deserve.

Our Nation's heroes deserve the best possible care, and this legislation gets us one step closer to achieving that goal. Women are currently the fastest growing group within the veteran population, creating the greatest demand for maternity care ever faced by the VA.

I have heard from my local VA medical centers about the growing challenges they face in providing maternity coordination for female veterans. The demand on this maternity coordination process has significantly increased over the past few years, from an average of 50 patients per year to now around 140, featuring a generally higher risk patient population than the private sector.

My local veterans medical centers said that the additional program support and additional maternity care coordinators would be crucial in meeting the growing demand, which this bill will provide.

The bill will also provide community maternity care providers with training and support with respect to the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans, particularly regarding mental and behavioral health conditions in relation to the service of the veterans in the Armed Forces—very important.

Madam Speaker, these veterans honorably served our country. It is only right that we provide the quality maternity care and support they deserve.

Madam Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), my good friend and author of this bill, and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 958, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, my bipartisan bill to address maternal mortality among veterans that I proudly introduced with Representative GUS BILIRAKIS and JULIA BROWNLEY and BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

Madam Speaker, the United States is currently confronting a maternal health crisis. We have the highest maternal mortality rate in the developed world and significant racial and ethnic disparities in maternity health outcomes.

Some of the drivers of maternal mortality and morbidity can even be more common in women who serve. For example, one in three women veterans report that they experience military sexual trauma, which is linked with risk factors for pregnancy-related complications. With unacceptable maternal mortality rates for all U.S. mothers and unique risks for veterans, we must ensure that the VA is providing the highest quality maternal healthcare and support to moms who serve.

My bipartisan Protecting Moms Who Served Act would codify VA's maternity healthcare and coordination programs, which offers screenings and treatments to pregnant veterans with mental health conditions and include measures to strengthen community partnerships with organizations that support new parents.

The VA's maternity care coordination programs have been successful in ensuring that veterans can receive high-quality, culturally appropriate care and robust support throughout pregnancy, during labor and delivery, and for the full yearlong postpartum period and beyond. By codifying and strengthening these programs, veterans will continue to receive the world-class care and support that they have earned.

The Protecting Moms Who Served Act would also invest in trainings for community maternity care providers so that nurses, midwives, and physicians caring for pregnant and postpartum veterans understand the unique needs of veteran patients, particularly related to mental and behavioral health conditions that might have been caused or exacerbated by military service or the transition back to civilian life. These trainings will ensure that veterans receive care that is responsive to the lingering physical and psychological impacts of their service.

Finally, my bill will commission the first-ever comprehensive study of maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial and ethnic disparities for veterans. By having a complete understanding of the ways in which our Nation's maternity health crisis extends to our veteran population, we can develop evidence-based solutions to improve outcomes and save veterans' lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Protecting Moms Who Served Act. I thank the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Chairman TAKANO, for his leadership to advance this critically important bipartisan legislation—the first bill in our Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to be considered here in the House.

As a cofounder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, I am committed to advancing each bill in the Momnibus to save moms' lives and support families.

Madam Speaker, finally, I would also really like to thank—truly, it has been a pleasure to work with—Representative BILIRAKIS, Representative BROWNLEY, Representative FITZPATRICK, and Ranking Member BOST. Thank you for co-leading this bill with me.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am delighted that we are taking this significant step in addressing the terrible mortality rates that we are facing among our Nation's moms, especially our moms of color. And to the extent that we can shed light on this issue through this very important legislation being brought forward by Ms. UNDERWOOD and Ms. BROWNLEY, I think that this is truly, truly a tremendous step forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 958.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 297) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the establishment of, and the potential land that could be included in, a unit of the National Forest System in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 297

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

SECTION 1. HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term ''study area'' means the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai in the State of Hawaii.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study—

(A) to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Forest System in the study area; and

(B) to identify available land within the study area that could be included in the unit described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) coordinate with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

(B) consult with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and other interested governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, and any interested individuals.

(3) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consider unique vegetation types that occur in the study area and that should be targeted for inclusion in the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A);

(B) evaluate the ability of the Secretary—

(i) to improve and protect forest areas within the study area; and

(ii) to secure favorable water flows within the study area;

(C) determine whether the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A) would expand, enhance, or duplicate—

(i) resource protection; and

(ii) visitor-use opportunities;

(D) consider parcels of an appropriate size or location to be capable of economical administration as part of the National Forest System separately or jointly with the other land identified under paragraph (1)(B);

(E) evaluate the willingness of landowners to sell or transfer land in the study area to the Secretary;

(F) evaluate the suitability of land in the study area for potential selection and designation as a research natural area or an experimental forest;

(G) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance that would be needed to establish the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(H) consider other alternatives for the conservation, protection, and use of areas within the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land owned by the United States or not owned by the United States.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 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 that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 297, sponsored by my Committee on Natural Resources' colleague, Representative ED CASE of Hawaii.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would require the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, to conduct a study to identify lands in the State of Hawaii that merit inclusion in the National Forest System.

Hawaii is one of the most ecologically diverse places in the world, home to 10 of the 13 world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from the deserts to tropics, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. The study would consider how a Hawaii national forest could contribute to the conservation of this biodiversity not found elsewhere in the National Forest System.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 297 provides the first step in establishing a national forest in Hawaii and a basis for bringing together local stakeholders to move forward the conversation on how to responsibly establish a national forest in Hawaii that benefits both Hawaii's island communities as well as the National Forest Service.

Madam Speaker, as we continue to work towards the Biden administration's effort to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, and identify solutions to our climate and biodiversity crises, I hope we can all see the value in taking this step towards protecting Hawaii's unique forest resources and its native species.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1315

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 297, offered by our Natural Resources Committee colleague, Congressman CASE from Hawaii. This bill is the first step toward the creation of Hawaii's first national forest.

This bill requires a study to identify potential parcels of land that could later be incorporated into a national forest that would help fulfill the National Forest System's mission.

Hawaii is one of the few States without a national forest and the only State that has tropical rainforests. Hawaii's rainforests are among the wettest places on Earth. This bill would help inventory how best to conserve and expand Hawaii's unique forests and lay the groundwork for the establishment of a national forest.

While I question my friends from Hawaii on why they would be interested in potentially giving the Federal Government jurisdiction over any land in Hawaii, especially considering the unfortunate state of our national forests on the mainland, I do urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his positive comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 297, the bill that I have co-introduced with my colleague from Hawaii, Representative KAIALI'I KAHELE.

As Mr. SOTO and the ranking member have noted, this legislation would require the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the State of Hawaii, to conduct a study to identify lands in the State of Hawaii that merit inclusion in the National Forest System. This would be the first step in potentially establishing a national forest in one of the few parts of our country with no such system.

As my friend and colleague, Mr. SOTO, has noted, Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the most ecologically diverse places in our world. Within our borders, we have 10 of the 13 world climate zones, ecosystems that range from the deserts to the tropics, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else.

A 2014 survey identified 9,975 endemic species in Hawaii, many of which are reliant on Hawaii's fragile ecosystem, including our forests, to survive. However, since the onset of human arrival just centuries ago, Hawaii has lost almost half of its unique native forest cover and countless fauna and flora species.

Despite these threats to our unique biodiversity, Hawaii remains one of eight States that does not have a national forest or grassland. The study authorized by the bill would take steps to correct this oversight. It would consider how a Hawaii national forest could contribute to the conservation of this biodiversity not found elsewhere in our National Forest System while supporting the research mission of the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

It would help inventory where Hawaii's native koa, ohi'a, and sandalwood forests can be conserved and expanded for cultural and commercial practices. It would help identify where cultural sites could be better conserved and access expanded to the public and practitioners. And it would help provide the basis to bring together local stakeholders to advance the conservation of how to responsibly establish a national forest in Hawaii in a manner that will benefit both our island communities and the National Forest Service.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the Hawaii congressional delegation for their support. I thank the Committee on Natural Resources and Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands chairs, ranking members, members, and staff for their support and assistance in bringing this bill to the floor.

I take my ranking member's comments to heart. I certainly hope that this study will not only evaluate and investigate how we can create a national forest in Hawaii but how we can make that a model for how national forests can and should be administered throughout our country. I endorse his concerns as to the administration of our national forests and, certainly, would look forward to working with him in our subcommittee and committee.

As we continue to identify solutions to our climate and biodiversity crises, I hope we can all see the value in taking this step toward protecting our unique forest resources and their native species, along with providing important opportunities.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas, for his positive comments and bipartisan spirit, and I thank Mr. CASE.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 297.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 49) to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 49

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, is designated as the ''National Pulse Memorial''.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The national memorial designated by this section is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation of the National Pulse Memorial shall not require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to that national memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise, along with Representative DEMINGS and Representative MURPHY from central Florida, in strong support of our bill, H.R. 49.

Nearly 5 years ago, 49 angels lost their lives and 53 others were injured when a deranged gunman opened fire at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

You can see here photos of those who we lost, lives cut short.

This horrific act of hate and terror against our LGBTQ and Latino community, African-American community, and Anglo community could have divided us, but we came together stronger than ever before.

Orlando swore as a community to never forget those we lost that night. Their stories, their images, their memories, and their spirits must live on in our hearts.

We were all there for vigils in Orlando, where the bell rang 49 times for those angels we lost, and I am honored to say, across this Nation and all 50 States, and many countries, we saw vigils also recognizing it, which is why it is so critical that this is a national memorial, because it was truly a national and international tragedy.

To honor the fallen and survivors of this tragedy, I join my colleagues to introduce landmark legislation to designate the Pulse nightclub as a federally recognized national memorial site. This designation as a nonaffiliated National Park Service national memorial would not require Federal funds, but it would honor the 49 lives taken on June 12, 2016, as well as the survivors, the first responders who so heroically came to the rescue of so many others, and the entire central Florida community.

Together, we will open minds and hearts. We will make the Pulse Memorial a national symbol of hope, love, and change.

I would like to, again, thank my amazing colleagues, Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS and Congresswoman STEPHANIE MURPHY, for joining me in leading this important legislation, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 49, offered by my colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Nearly 5 years ago, on June 12, 2016, a senseless and horrific mass shooting was perpetrated by an ISIS-inspired coward at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. In the attack, 49 innocent people were killed and 53 were wounded.

This bill, and the number H.R. 49, is a thoughtful tribute to the 49 individuals killed in the attack. In the aftermath of the unspeakable tragedy at Pulse, the owner of the club established a nonprofit called the onePULSE Foundation to memorialize those who died in the mass murder, known as the 49.

The foundation worked quickly to establish an interim memorial in Orlando and has been working to build a permanent Pulse memorial and museum, which will be completed in coming years.

This bill would redesignate the Pulse Memorial in Orlando, Florida, as the ''National Pulse Memorial.'' The bill makes clear that this memorial will not be a unit of the National Park System and that designation as a national memorial does not require any Federal funds to be expended.

The House's action on this bill today complements the United States Senate resolution passed on June 11, 2020, honoring the victims of this tragedy, as well as the State of Florida's designation of June 12 as Pulse Remembrance Day.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas, for his bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 49 to finally designate the Pulse nightclub as a national memorial in honor and remembrance of the 49 people who lost their lives on this tragic night 5 years ago.

''Orlando Strong'' is more than just a slogan. It is a promise to support each other and to never forget those we lost and those who were injured on that tragic night. By establishing Pulse as a national memorial, we will honor their memories and remind ourselves of that promise.

My bishop once called the Pulse nightclub a place for late-night fellowship, a place for fun, laughter, family, and friendship. These are such fundamental things. We know this now more than ever. After the pandemic, we see just how precious these things truly are.

Madam Speaker, I thank the House for moving forward with this legislation. I thank my constituents. I thank the cosponsors, Congresswoman MURPHY and Congressman SOTO, for their work to make this day a reality.

As we pass this legislation, I know that the memories of those who died will live on in our hearts. They will not be defined by their tragic deaths through gun violence but by the lives they lived, the people they touched, and the love they gave.

Paraphrasing Dr. King: So I decided as an individual to stick with love because, yes, hate is too great of a burden to bear, and it has been on me, my community, my city, and my Nation for too long.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining us in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 49 to designate the Pulse nightclub as a national memorial site and to honor those whose lives were taken by a gunman with hate in his heart.

□ 1330

I thank the gentleman for his leadership and his response with H.R. 49 along with Congresswoman MURPHY. I visited with Mr. SOTO in Florida near Orlando and actually toured the Pulse nightclub site, and what a poignant visitation that was.

Almost 5 years ago, the Nation awoke to the heartbreaking news of a mass shooting that unfolded at a nightclub in Orlando. Forty-nine lives were taken, and 53 others were injured. It was another devastating loss to the LGBTQ-plus community and our Nation.

The gunman had targeted Pulse nightclub, a nightclub frequented by Orlando's Latino and LGBTQ-plus communities. This was a safe place for many of the people who were there that night. The shooter violated a safe space where LGBTQ people, and, in this case, LGBTQ-plus people of color were able to be themselves and to live and dance freely without fear or judgment.

Our community—that is, the LGBTQ-plus community—is still healing from this attack, and families and friends are still mourning the loss of their loved ones. I will never forget waking up in my Washington, D.C. apartment as I was scrolling through the news, and I was just in disbelief that another shooting had occurred. Since then, we have had so many other senseless shootings.

By designating the Pulse nightclub as a national memorial site, we can always remember the vibrant lives of those we lost. This memorial will serve as a reminder that we cannot stop fighting for equality.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 49.

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, Chair TAKANO, for taking the pilgrimage to the Pulse Memorial, along with me and others and listening and paying respects. So I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Five years ago, 49 people were murdered in a violent, hate-filled, mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in Orlando, the Pulse nightclub. I thank Congressman SOTO for his leadership and our colleagues, Congresswoman MURPHY and Congresswoman DEMINGS. I, too, had the opportunity to go to the site and to read the beautiful notes written about the young lives that were taken that night, and the very special place that Pulse was.

I was, in fact, in Florida this weekend with Barbara Poma, the owner of the Pulse nightclub, who was leading an effort to turn this site into not only a sacred place, but a museum. I shared with her what for young LGBTQ people nightclubs were and still are, a place of sanctuary, a safe place where people can be themselves where they go to dance, to be with friends, and to share a sense of community. That was all shattered by the brutality of the events of the evening in which this occurred.

This shooting was an act of terror and an act of hate. It left the Nation really grasping for answers. In the days that followed, we heard stories of incredible courage, bravery, and resolve. But mostly, there was unspeakable pain for those who lost someone in this attack.

Although I pray that the passage of 5 years has brought some measure of relief, the truth is that their pain will never fully go away. It is critical to designate this memorial today so that our country never forgets those who were lost. Congressman SOTO will remember we had on the steps of the Capitol a beautiful remembrance with full-sized photographs of each of these young people who had so much to give and so much to offer whose lives were taken that night.

But in addition to remembering, it is also important that we take action to do everything we can to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again. Individuals who are convicted of hate crimes should never own a gun, and that is why I plan to reintroduce the Disarm Hate Act to do just that, because we know if you commit a hate crime, it often escalates and those crimes become increasingly violent as time goes on. No American family should have to suffer because of the loophole that currently exists today. Let's disarm hate once and for all.

Today, we remember the 49 young lives lost at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Let's be sure that we designate this memorial officially, so that everyone will know the story of what happened to these young people who were killed because they were in a place of sanctuary, and safety, and community, but because they were members of the LGBTQ community, our allies.

Madam Speaker, I thank again the gentleman for yielding and for his incredible leadership on this issue, and I urge all my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for making the pilgrimage and paying his respects at the memorial.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I have no further requests for time, and I would inquire whether my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. WESTERMAN. In closing, Madam Speaker, again, I urge adoption of H.R. 49, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and our colleagues across the aisle for their bipartisan support of this really important bill for our Nation. I thank also Representatives DEMINGS, MURPHY, CICILLINE, and TAKANO for their support here today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 49.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACKWATER TRADING POST LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 478) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 478

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 ''Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BLACKWATER TRADING POST LAND.—The term ''Blackwater Trading Post Land'' means the approximately 55.3 acres of land as depicted on the map that—

(A) is located in Pinal County, Arizona, and bordered by Community land to the east, west, and north and State Highway 87 to the south; and

(B) is owned by the Community.

(2) COMMUNITY.—The term ''Community'' means the Gila River Indian Community of the Reservation.

(3) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Results of Survey, Ellis Property, A Portion of the West ½ of Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 7 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona'' and dated October 15, 2012.

(4) RESERVATION.—The term ''Reservation'' means the land located within the exterior boundaries of the reservation created under sections 3 and 4 of the Act of February 28, 1859 (11 Stat. 401, chapter LXVI), and Executive orders of August 31, 1876, June 14, 1879, May 5, 1882, November 15, 1883, July 31, 1911, June 2, 1913, August 27, 1914, and July 19, 1915, and any other lands placed in trust for the benefit of the Community.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take the Blackwater Trading Post land into trust for the benefit of the Community, after the Community—

(1) conveys to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the Community in and to the Blackwater Trading Post Land;

(2) submits to the Secretary a request to take the Blackwater Trading Post Land into trust for the benefit of the Community;

(3) conducts a survey (to the satisfaction of the Secretary) to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land, if the Secretary determines a survey is necessary; and

(4) pays all costs of any survey conducted under paragraph (3).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—Not later than 180 days after the Blackwater Trading Post Land is taken into trust under subsection (a), the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Secretary.

(c) LANDS TAKEN INTO TRUST PART OF RESERVATION.—After the date on which the Blackwater Trading Post Land is taken into trust under subsection (a), the land shall be treated as part of the Reservation.

(d) GAMING.—Class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) shall not be allowed at any time on the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

(e) DESCRIPTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall cause the full metes-and-bounds description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land to be published in the Federal Register. The description shall, on publication, constitute the official description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 478, introduced by our colleague, Representative TOM O'HALLERAN from Arizona, authorizes the United States to place 55.3 acres of historically and culturally significant land into trust on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community of Arizona.

This parcel of land is commonly referred to as the Blackwater Trading Post Land, because it once contained the Ellis family's Blackwater Trading Post which sold goods to members of the Gila River Indian Community since the 1930s.

After purchasing the trading post in 2010, the community found around 1,000 cultural artifacts on the property, including 126 Akimel O'odham baskets. Following this discovery, the community decided to apply to take the parcel of land into trust.

However, legislation is required for this exchange, as the community's 2004 water settlement explicitly requires that any lands located outside of the community's reservation boundaries be taken into trust through congressional action.

Passage of H.R. 478 will ultimately allow the community to preserve a piece of their heritage by incorporating this contiguous parcel of land into its reservation land base.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative O'HALLERAN for his work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 478, the Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act. This bill will place approximately 55 acres of land in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the Gila River Indian Community. According to the Tribe, these lands and the former Blackwater Trading Post have a historical connection to the Tribe, as the trading post served many Tribal members since at least the 1930s. In 2010, the Tribe purchased the Blackwater Trading Post and surrounding lands after the former owners retired.

Pursuant to the 2004 Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act, the Gila River Tribe cannot acquire off-reservation lands into trust absent an act of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. In closing, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation for the Gila River Community of Arizona, as corrected. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) who knows the State very well.

I urge support of the Gila River Indian Community of Arizona's incorporation of this additional land. I thank Representative O'HALLERAN for his leadership and the bipartisan support of the ranking member, Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 478.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 810) to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 810

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(xx) CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, which follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal, and approximately 550 miles from Ponca City, Oklahoma, through Omaha, Nebraska, to Niobrara, Nebraska, which follows the return route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 810, introduced by Representative FORTENBERRY from Nebraska, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

The proposed trail would extend approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, tracing the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal and their return to Nebraska.

The trail would commemorate and elevate the story of Chief Standing Bear, including the trial and historic 1879 court case where he became the first Native American to be recognized as a person in a Federal court.

The trail would memorialize the courage, honor, and fortitude of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people as they struggled to return to their homeland to bury the son of Chief Standing Bear—serving as a reminder of their fight to achieve justice, freedom, and equality.

I would like to thank Representative FORTENBERRY for championing this important legislation and for his efforts to bring about a greater understanding of our U.S. history and Tribal sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the majority for the bipartisan support on this good piece of legislation.

H.R. 810, authored by our colleague from Nebraska, Congressman FORTENBERRY, directs the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca Tribe is one of Nebraska's most important historical figures and is honored here in the Capitol as one of Nebraska's contributions to the National Statuary Hall Collection.

Chief Standing Bear led his people through a crisis that began with its displacement by droves of westward-bound settlers. The Ponca Tribe moved twice in search of new land but had no success. Finally, in 1877, the U.S. Government forced their relocation.

By 1878, when they reached their destination in Oklahoma's Indian Territory, starvation and disease had claimed almost a third of the Tribe. Among the dead was Bear Shield, the first son of Standing Bear.

Standing Bear's desire to honor his son's wish that he be buried in his Nebraska birthplace, at a time when Native Americans could not legally leave their reservations without government permission, led to the trial for which he is best remembered today. The case established that Native Americans were persons under the law and are entitled to the same rights as anyone else in the Nation. During that case, the words of Chief Standing Bear, pleading on behalf of his Tribe, moved the Nation.

The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Nebraska to Oklahoma, follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal. If supported by the study, any designation of the trail would require additional action from the Natural Resources Committee and the Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank my friends and colleagues, Mr. SOTO from Florida and Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas, for shepherding this important measure.

Madam Speaker, right outside this door, in Statuary Hall, there is a very large statue with the person's hand extended like that, as if to say welcome, welcome all of America to this institution. That statue is of Chief Standing Bear. And today, I am so proud that we are considering a bill to honor his courage and sacrifice.

As we have heard, here is a bit of his story. Chief Standing Bear and his Ponca people were relocated from their ancestral homeland in Niobrara, Nebraska, to what was called Indian Territory in Oklahoma. As we learned, Chief Standing Bear's son fell ill, and he made his son a promise that he would bury him back in his ancestral homeland. When that happened, Standing Bear took that harrowing journey one cold winter back home, and for that, he was arrested for leaving the reservation.

During his trial, Chief Standing Bear raised his hand and said: ''I am a man. The same God made us both.'' The judge was so moved by his testimony that he declared that Native Americans were to be considered persons for consideration under the law. That wasn't until 1879.

Madam Speaker, Chief Standing Bear didn't seek to be a civil rights leader, but he changed the course of history in that moment, all for the sake of human dignity and human rights. I am proud to offer this bill today in his honor and for the good of all America.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I wholly support this bill, and I thank the leadership of Mr. FORTENBERRY from Nebraska and the ranking member, Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas.

This is a fitting honor for human rights and Tribal sovereignty. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 810.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes 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.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1688) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1688

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 ''Native American Child Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3202 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) By amending section 403(3)(A) (25 U.S.C. 3202(3)(A)) to read as follows:

''(A) in any case in which—

''(i)(I) a child is dead or exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling; and

''(II) such condition is not justifiably explained or may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; or

''(ii) a child is subjected to sexual assault, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, or prostitution;''.

(2) In section 409 (25 U.S.C. 3208)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking ''The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Service and in cooperation with the Bureau'' and inserting ''The Service, in cooperation with the Bureau''; and

(ii) by striking ''sexual abuse'' and inserting ''abuse or neglect'';

(B) in subsection (b) through the end of the section, by striking ''Secretary of Health and Human Services'' each place it appears and inserting ''Service'';

(C) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting after ''Any Indian tribe or intertribal consortium'' the following: '', on its own or in partnership with an urban Indian organization,'';

(D) in subsections (b)(2)(B) and (d), by striking ''such Secretary'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Service'';

(E) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE TREATMENT.—In awarding grants under this section, the Service shall encourage the use of culturally appropriate treatment services and programs that respond to the unique cultural values, customs, and traditions of applicant Indian Tribes.'';

(F) in subsection (d)(2), by striking ''the Secretary'' and inserting ''the Service'';

(G) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(H) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Service shall submit a report to Congress on the award of grants under this section. The report shall contain—

''(1) a description of treatment and services for which grantees have used funds awarded under this section; and

''(2) any other information that the Service requires.''; and

(I) by amending subsection (f) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (G) of this paragraph), to read as follows:

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027.''.

(3) In section 410 (25 U.S.C. 3209)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by inserting ''**NATIONAL**'' before ''**INDIAN**''; and

(ii) by striking ''**CENTERS**'' and inserting ''**CENTER**'';

(B) by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary shall establish a National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center.

''(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall submit a report to Congress on the status of the National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center.'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking ''Each'' and inserting ''The''; and

(ii) by striking ''multidisciplinary'';

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in the text before paragraph (1), by striking ''Each'' and inserting ''The'';

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and inter-tribal consortia'' and inserting ''inter-tribal consortia, and urban Indian organizations'';

(iii) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''urban Indian organizations,'' after ''tribal organizations,'';

(iv) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by inserting ''and technical assistance'' after training; and

(II) by striking ''and to tribal organizations'' and inserting '', Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations'';

(v) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by inserting '', State,'' after ''Federal''; and

(II) by striking ''and tribal'' and inserting ''Tribal, and urban Indian''; and

(vi) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

''(5) develop model intergovernmental agreements between Tribes and States, and other materials that provide examples of how Federal, State, and Tribal governments can develop effective relationships and provide for maximum cooperation in the furtherance of prevention, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of incidents of family violence and child abuse and child neglect involving Indian children and families.''; and

(E) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM'' and inserting ''TEAM'';

(ii) in the text before paragraph (1), by striking ''Each multidisciplinary'' and inserting ''The''; and

(F) by amending subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

''(f) CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory board to advise and assist the National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center in carrying out its activities under this section. The advisory board shall consist of 12 members appointed by the Secretary from Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations with expertise in child abuse and child neglect. Members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses while carrying out the duties of the board. The advisory board shall assist the Center in coordinating programs, identifying training and technical assistance materials, and developing intergovernmental agreements relating to family violence, child abuse, and child neglect.

''(g) APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT TO THE CENTER.—The National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center shall be subject to the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act. The Secretary may also contract for the operation of the Center with a nonprofit Indian organization governed by an Indian-controlled board of directors that have substantial experience in child abuse, child neglect, and family violence involving Indian children and families.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027.''.

(4) In section 411 (25 U.S.C. 3210)—

(A) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''abuse and child neglect'' and inserting ''abuse, neglect, or both'';

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

''(D) development of agreements between Tribes, States, or private agencies on the coordination of child abuse and neglect prevention, investigation, and treatment services;

''(E) child protective services operational costs including transportation, risk and protective factors assessments, family engagement and kinship navigator services, and relative searches, criminal background checks for prospective placements, and home studies; and

''(F) development of a Tribal child protection or multidisciplinary team to assist in the prevention and investigation of child abuse and neglect;'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''in culturally appropriate ways'' after ''incidents of family violence''; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''that may include culturally appropriate programs'' after ''training programs''; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and neglect'' after ''abuse''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''cases, to the extent practicable,'' and inserting ''and neglect cases'';

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''develop, in consultation with Indian tribes, appropriate caseload standards and staffing requirements which are comparable to standards developed by the National Association of Social Work, the Child Welfare League of America and other professional associations in the field of social work and child welfare'' and inserting ''develop, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, in consultation with Indian Tribes, appropriate caseload standards and staffing requirements'';

(ii) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking ''sexual abuse'' and inserting ''abuse and neglect, high incidence of family violence'';

(iii) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) The formula established pursuant to this subsection shall provide funding necessary to support not less than one child protective services or family violence caseworker, including fringe benefits and support costs, for each Indian Tribe.''; and

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking ''tribes'' and inserting ''Indian Tribes'';

(C) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall submit a report to Congress on the award of grants under this section. The report shall contain—

''(1) a description of treatment and services for which grantees have used funds awarded under this section; and

''(2) any other information that the Secretary of the Interior requires.''; and

(D) by amending subsection (i) to read as follows:

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1688, introduced by Representative RUBEN GALLEGO from Arizona, our outgoing subcommittee chairman—and I appreciate his leadership on that—amends and reauthorizes several programs within the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act in order to improve the prevention, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect involving Native American children and families.

There is an enormous need for family violence prevention and treatment resources in Tribal communities. Native children experience child abuse and neglect at an elevated rate, which leads many to require special education services, to be more likely to be involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and to have long-term mental health needs.

Passage of H.R. 1688 will create technical assistance programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, allow for urban Indian organizations to partner with

Tribal governments, and ensure culturally competent care.

I thank Representative GALLEGO for introducing and championing this vitally important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1688.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1688 amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to reauthorize three programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Interior that are intended to prevent cases within Indian communities where child abuse, neglect, family violence, and trauma may occur and to provide treatment for victims of Indian child sexual abuse.

The authorization for appropriations for the three programs expired in 1997. The bill also makes several technical changes to the underlying statute, requiring agencies to report on grant awards.

Advocates cite the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act as the only federally dedicated child abuse prevention and victim treatment funding for Tribal governments, but Congress has only appropriated approximately $5 million for this program.

I appreciate the sponsor bringing attention to this important issue as abuse, neglect, and violence have no place in any community.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1688, the Native American Child Protection Act.

I first want to thank my friend and the dean of the House, Congressman DON YOUNG, for working with me on this bill to ensure Native American and Alaska Native Tribes have the resources they need to keep Native children safe from abuse and neglect.

Last week, I joined my colleagues in recognizing the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

When I was chairman of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States last Congress, I held the first-ever House committee hearing on MMIW, which paved the way for critical bills like the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act.

At that hearing, we learned that, in addition to experiencing incredibly high murder rates, one in three Native women experience domestic violence in their lives. That statistic is even more horrifying when we recognize that, in 49 to 70 percent of cases, men who abuse their partners also abuse their children.

Despite this fact, Tribes have never received the resources they need to address child abuse and neglect in their communities. My bill changes that.

My bill will improve the prevention, treatment, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect in Indian Country by ensuring Tribes have the resources they need to take care of Native children in culturally competent ways. It does so by modernizing and reauthorizing three programs originally passed as part of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act became law in 1990, after being authored by the late Arizona Senator John McCain in response to widespread reports that Native children were being physically and sexually abused in BIA-run boarding schools in the 1980s.

The original purpose of the law was to identify the scope of the underreported child abuse in Indian Country, fill gaps in Tribal child welfare services, improve coordination between child welfare and domestic violence programs, and provide funds for treatment in Indian Country.

But the horrible truth is that the grant programs created by this law in 1990 were never funded, never enacted, and were allowed to expire in 1997. My bill revives the three grant programs from the original act that are still sorely needed in Indian Country because the problems identified by Congress in 1990 still exist today.

Specifically, my bill does: one, provides Tribes with more funding for culturally competent child abuse treatment; two, allows Tribes to choose to partner with urban Indian organizations or Tribal consortiums to identify and treat victims of abuse; three, creates a national child resource and family services center to provide technical assistance and support to Tribes in maintaining child welfare programs; four, authorizes enough funds for every Tribe to hire at least one child welfare case manager to help investigate and prosecute instances of abuse; and, five, authorizes the only Tribal-specific grant program aimed at preventing child abuse in Indian Country.

A core part of the Federal Government's trust responsibility is protecting the most vulnerable members of indigenous communities, Native children. Right now, we are failing in that responsibility.

Passing this bill today allows us to take an important step forward in protecting Native children and upholding our trust responsibility to Tribes.

I am proud of the strong bipartisan support this legislation received in the Natural Resources Committee last year when it passed and when it passed by a voice vote in the House. I urge all of my colleagues in the House to join me once again in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House and a true expert on Tribal issues.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the compliment. I have been called a lot of things on this floor, including dean.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. I thank my friend, Representative GALLEGO, for introducing it.

This is a good bill. It improves a bill which I passed 30 years ago, and it is long overdue to make sure that it is running right.

As has been said, it establishes a new National Indian Resource Services Center, which was created over 30 years ago. We are reauthorizing these programs, making sure they work.

It is badly needed because of actions across the country with indigenous people. We hope the victims will have better service than they have in the past.

I congratulate the author of the legislation. I am a sponsor of the legislation also. This is a good bill, and I urge the passage of this bill.

All of my colleagues who understand, let's do the job we were told to do when we became trustees of the indigenous people of this great Nation of ours.

Again, I thank the chairman, the author of the legislation, and the ranking member for all the work they have done.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

We had extensive hearings on these issues in the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, and it became clear we needed resources and technical assistance to protect Native American children and families in addition to what they are getting now.

I thank our outgoing chair, Mr. GALLEGO, for his leadership on this; the dean of the House, Representative DON YOUNG, for his amazing leadership in working together; former Member COOK, who participated in these meetings extensively; as well as now-Secretary Deb Haaland, one of the first Native American women to serve in the Congress. I thank Ranking Member WESTERMAN for helping us get this done in a bipartisan fashion.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1688.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO AND ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBES OF TEXAS EQUAL AND FAIR OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2208) to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2208

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 ''Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act (Public Law 100–89; 101 Stat. 666) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

''Nothing in this Act shall be construed to preclude or limit the applicability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2208, introduced by Representative VERONICA ESCOBAR from Texas, amends the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act of 1987 to clarify that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act applies to both the Pueblo and the Tribe.

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas was federally terminated in 1954. This wrong was followed in 1968 by termination of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, also known as the Tigua Tribe. Congress rightfully restored both the Pueblo and the Tribe by enacting the aforementioned Restoration Act of 1987.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was enacted just one year later, in 1988. The framework that it created should have applied to both the Pueblo and the Tribe, just as it did to every other Tribe.

However, since the Restoration Act was passed at a time when Indian gaming was just emerging and Federal regulations had not yet been implemented, it contains a section regarding gaming.

We know from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the intent of this section of the Restoration Act was to clarify Indian gaming policy at the time, not to completely prohibit gaming on these lands in perpetuity.

But that is what is occurring. The language in the Restoration Act has been used by the State of Texas to repeatedly stymie the Pueblo's and the Tribe's ability to engage in class II gaming, much to the detriment of the economic health and well-being of both the Pueblo and the Tribe.

Additionally, the only other federally recognized Tribe in Texas, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe, is allowed to operate a class II gaming facility, as they were restored by Congress in 1983, without any type of gaming restrictions.

H.R. 2208 remedies this inequality by clarifying that the Pueblo and the Tribe, like the Kickapoo, have the same rights and responsibilities under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act as virtually every other federally recognized Tribe in the United States.

This legislation confers no new or special rights to the Pueblo or the Tribe, nor does it in any way limit the existing rights of the State of Texas. This is simply a matter of parity and fairness, and I urge adoption of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2208, sponsored by my colleague from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR), would amend the act of Congress that restored the Federal recognition of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas.

The amendment would override a gaming limitation imposed by Congress on the Tribes, thereby authorizing the Tribes to operate casinos regulated not under Texas law, as Federal law currently provides, but under the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

The question of whether Texas law or the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act applies to the two Tribes is no longer under serious dispute. Federal courts have settled the question, and the result of the litigation is that the two Tribes may not conduct gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, unless Congress enacts a measure to allow them to do so.

The bill enjoys significant local support in the communities around the reservations of the two Tribes, and the members who represent the Tribes strongly support enactment of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to support H.R. 2208, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Act.

On March 26 of this year, I introduced this important bipartisan bill with my colleague, Representative TONY GONZALES from the Texas 23rd Congressional District, to ensure that Native American Tribes are covered by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Specifically, this bipartisan bill aims to correct a problem of exclusion that has been affecting only two Tribes in the entire United States—the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas—since 1987, when Congress passed the Restoration Act and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The passage of these 1987 laws inadvertently created uncertainty about which law these Tribes were covered under and what gaming activities they were allowed to offer on their reservations.

Passed in this Chamber during the 116th Congress, this bill offers a commonsense solution that will ensure that the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes are covered by the Indiana Gaming Regulatory Act, which would provide these Native American communities with a critical economic lifeline and an opportunity to recover from the harmful inequity that they have faced.

Simply put, this bill would provide fairness for these two Tribes, like the only other federally recognized Tribe in our State, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting our Native American Tribes' sovereignty and ensuring that they have the ability to engage in the same way other Tribes are able to.

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone, but the economic and health crisis has been devastating to our Tribes, and this bill offers an opportunity for them to safely rebuild their economies. The reason our Tribes have suffered so disproportionately is because of long-term disinvestment and generational lack of adequate access to healthcare and economic assistance.

Communities around the country are eager to repair their economies following the impact of COVID–19, and our Tribes are no different. But they need the clarity this bill would provide so that they can better control their economic future.

The parity this bill would create for these Tribes would also create long overdue opportunities for them to succeed by supporting job creation and their ability to generate revenue that would fund new housing, educational programs, and medical facilities for their people and the surrounding communities, among so many other things.

Now, more than ever, more must be done to protect other Native American Tribes, their families, businesses, and their economic prosperity.

By passing this bill, Congress would finally grant the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribes the rights, opportunities, and stability they have long been denied.

Therefore, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this important piece of legislation, and I am grateful to the leaders in the committee for their support.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, chairman, and the sponsor for this legislation.

It is a strange thing. If you hang around here long enough, you keep seeing the other end of your tail. We introduced these bills, and there was never any intention to exclude these two Tribes, never.

When Mo Udall and I started the gaming law, everybody thought we were nuts. It has worked. But never were these two Tribes to be excluded. In fact, this legislation rectifies that problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be a sponsor of the legislation, who worked with you to try to get this done. This will be justice served to all.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank both Representative ESCOBAR and Representative GONZALES for their leadership to right this wrong, this injustice.

I thank the dean of the House, Representative YOUNG, for his very informative history lesson on the legislation. I also thank Ranking Member WESTERMAN for his bipartisan support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2208.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2547, COMPREHENSIVE DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1065, PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 380 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 380

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2547) to expand and enhance consumer, student, servicemember, and small business protections with respect to debt collection practices, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1065) to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. (a) At any time through the legislative day of Friday, May 14, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV with respect to multiple measures described in subsection (b), and the Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion.

(b) A measure referred to in subsection (a) includes any measure that was the object of a motion to suspend the rules on the legislative day of May 11, 2021, or May 12, 2021, in the form as so offered, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX.

(c) Upon the offering of a motion pursuant to subsection (a) concerning multiple measures, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

SEC. 7. House Resolution 379 is hereby adopted.

□ 1415

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee met yesterday and reported a rule, House Resolution 380, providing for consideration of H.R. 2547, the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act, under a structured rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services or their designees. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairwoman WATERS, makes in order 14 amendments, provides en bloc authority for Chairwoman WATERS or her designee and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, under a closed rule, which provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee

on Education and Labor or their designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule deems as passed H. Res. 379, a resolution to dismiss the election contest in Illinois' 14th Congressional District.

Finally, the rule provides the majority leader or his designee the ability to en bloc requested roll call votes on suspension bills considered on May 11 or May 12. This authority lasts through May 14.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we are here today to provide consideration of two important bills to protect and support our constituents. First is the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act, which will create protections for servicemembers, small businesses, students, and other consumers against mistreatment by debt collectors. Debt collection is consistently one of the top complaints made to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the pandemic has further exposed weaknesses in current consumer protection laws.

In March, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, which I chair, held a hearing on protecting consumers during the pandemic. We heard expert witnesses discuss how many debt collectors have seen record profits in the pandemic, despite many families and individuals continuing to struggle.

H.R. 2547 is comprehensive legislation to update consumer protections in debt collection across many different issues. For example, the bill codifies and expands protections for small and minority-owned businesses and prohibits debt collectors from threatening a servicemember with reduction in rank or other military disciplinary actions. Additionally, it protects private student loan borrowers with disabilities, would prohibit entities from collecting medical debt or reporting it to a credit reporting agency without giving the consumer notice about his or her rights, and clarifies that entities in nonjudicial foreclosure proceedings are covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

This legislation is sponsored by Financial Services Committee Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS and incorporates bills from committee members, Representatives NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, MADELEINE DEAN, RASHIDA TLAIB, AYANNA PRESSLEY, EMANUEL CLEAVER, GREG MEEKS, and JAKE AUCHINCLOSS. The bill is supported by many consumer and civil rights organizations, including Americans for Financial Reform, Center for Responsible Lending, Color of Change, Consumer Federation of America, National Consumer Law Center, Public Citizen, U.S. PIRG, and others.

This legislation will update and improve debt collection consumer protection laws, and make sure that small businesses, families, and individuals are treated fairly as we all work to come out of this pandemic stronger.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. Claims of pregnancy discrimination have been on the rise for two decades and affect all industries and regions across the country. This bipartisan bill will strengthen workplace protections and promote the well-being of pregnant workers by creating a new right to pregnancy accommodation in the workplace.

Temporary modifications at work, like regular breaks, a stool to sit on, or an exemption from heavy lifting, can be the difference between a healthy pregnancy and pregnancy complications. When pregnant workers are denied reasonable workplace accommodations, they are often left to choose between their financial stability and a healthy pregnancy.

Currently, only 30 States require employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers, including, thankfully, my home State of Colorado. But this has created a confusing patchwork of local, State, and Federal laws, leaving many pregnant workers with few protections.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act enjoys support from both worker advocates and business groups because it is good for families, it is good for business, and it is good for the economy. The House passed this bill last Congress in a broad, bipartisan vote of 329–73, and I hope more of my colleagues join us in passing the bill this year.

I urge all my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the distinguished gentleman, my good friend from Colorado, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

The rule before us today provides for consideration of two pieces of legislation. The first bill, H.R. 1065, would create a stand-alone law requiring employers to provide accommodations to known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Republicans have long supported antidiscrimination legislation, including protections for pregnant workers. We agree pregnant workers should be protected and accommodated in the workplace. However, it is disappointing that the Education and Labor Democrats absolutely refuse to work with committee Republicans to include a longstanding provision protecting religious organizations from being forced to make employment decisions that conflict with their faith. I really hope that moving forward, my colleagues across the aisle will actually work with Republicans and help protect religious liberty.

The rule also makes in order H.R. 2547, the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act, a collection of eight Financial Services bills that claim to address the debt collection practices and the problems thereof in the U.S. economy. But in reality, this measure is just the latest step in House Democrats' socialist takeover of our country's financial system.

Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, consumers are already protected from harmful debt collection practices. While Democrats claim H.R. 2547 is necessary due to the economic effects of COVID–19, several of these partisan bills were introduced last Congress prior to the pandemic.

It is absolutely clear that my colleagues across the aisle are using the COVID–19 pandemic as an excuse to dismantle our free market system and force their radical, progressive agenda on the American people.

Instead of actually helping consumers, H.R. 2547 will increase healthcare costs and make credit more expensive for borrowers. In fact, under this legislation, the lowest income borrowers may be pushed out of the system entirely.

Further, H.R. 2547 will make it harder for small businesses, many of which have been devastated by this pandemic. It will make it harder for those small businesses to receive payments for services rendered.

Finally, H.R. 2547 undermines the CFPB's October 2020 final rule, intended to modernize debt collection practices. This rule was the result of more than 7 years of research and set forth guidelines for both consumers and debt collectors on acceptable communications.

During committee consideration of this bill, Ranking Member MCHENRY offered a substitute amendment to address bipartisan concerns with the current financial framework. This commonsense proposal included provisions to prevent debt collection harassment of servicemembers, provide protection for cosigners in cases of death or permanent disability, and prohibited the use of Social Security numbers by consumer reporting agencies.

The majority, however, refused to work with Republicans. This refusal is just the latest in the Democrats' disturbing ''my way or the highway'' approach on issues where there is actually room for bipartisan solutions.

House Republicans will continue to support policies that provide Americans with access to affordable credit, while ensuring that our financial system remains safe and sound.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this rule. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I include in the RECORD a letter dated May 10, 2021, from about 85 different public interest and financial organizations supporting H.R. 2547.

MAY 10, 2021.

Re H.R. 2547, the ''Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act'' (Waters), which includes:

HR 2540, the ''Small Business Fairness Lending Act'' (Velázquez).

HR 1491, the ''Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act'' (Dean).

HR 2498, the ''Private Loan Disability Discharge Act'' (Dean).

HR 2537, the ''Consumer Protection for Medical Debt Collections Act'' (Tlaib).

HR 1657, the ''Ending Debt Collection Harassment Act'' (Pressley).

HR 2572, the ''Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act'' (Cleaver).

HR 2628, the ''Debt Collection Practices Harmonization Act'' (Meeks).

HR 2458, the ''Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act'' (Auchincloss).

Representative NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The 85 undersigned public interest, legal services, consumer, labor, and civil rights organizations write in support of HR 2547 and urge you to support this legislation when it comes up for a vote on May 13th.

Prior to the pandemic, the Urban Institute reported that more than 68 million adults in the U.S. had one or more debts in collection on their credit report, and consumer debt has continued to grow during the pandemic, reaching $14.56 trillion at the end of 2020.

Debt in collection can wreak havoc on consumers, subjecting them to harassing debt collection calls and potential lawsuits. Despite the enactment of the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (''FDCPA'') in 1977, debt collection remains a frequent source of complaints to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, and other state and federal agencies.

Data from the Urban Institute also show racial disparities in debt collection, with 39 percent of residents in communities of color with debt in collection compared to 24 percent of residents in white communities. These statistics highlight the fact that consumer protections for consumers with alleged debts in collection are also a racial justice issue.

Additionally, other groups may be particularly vulnerable to abusive debt collection practices including servicemembers, older consumers, and consumers with limited English proficiency.

To better protect vulnerable consumers, this bill would enact a wide variety of critical reforms, including:

Prohibiting the use of confessions of judgment as an unfair credit practice that eliminate notice and the right to be heard;

Prohibiting certain abusive collection practices directed at servicemembers, including threats to reduce rank or revoke security clearance;

Requiring discharge of private student loans due to total and permanent disability;

Prohibiting collection of medical debt for the first two years and credit reporting of debt arising from any medically necessary procedures;

Requiring debt collectors to obtain consent before using electronic communications and provide written validation notices;

Amending the FDCPA to expand and clarify coverage, including extending coverage for all federal, state, and local debts collected by debt collectors;

Adjusting statutory damages in the FDCPA for inflation and indexing them to index for inflation in the future; and

Clarifying FDCPA coverage for non-judicial foreclosures.

Enactment of H.R. 2547 will protect vulnerable consumers from abusive debt collection practices, and we thank the House of Representatives for considering legislation to address these important issues.

Please feel free to contact April Kuehnhoff at the National Consumer Law Center, regarding this legislation.

Very truly yours,

Alaska PIRG; Americans for Financial Reform; Arizona PIRG; California Low-Income Consumer Coalition (CLICC); CALPIRG; Center for Economic Integrity; Center for Responsible Lending; Color of Change; Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice; ConnPIRG; Consumer Action; Consumer Federation of America; Consumer Reports; CoPIRG.

Demos; Equal Justice Under Law; Every Texan; Fines and Fees Justice Center; Florida PIRG; Friendship of Women, Inc.; Georgia PIRG; Georgia Watch; GLOBAL GREEN INITIATIVE; Housing and Family Services of Greater New York; HPPCARES; Illinois PIRG; Insight Center for Community Economic Development; Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection; Iowa PIRG; Kentucky Resources Council; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area; Legal Action Chicago; Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.; Legal Aid Justice Center; Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc.; Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School; Long Island Housing Services, Inc.; Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition; Maryland PIRG; MASSPIRG.

Michigan League for Public Policy; Mississippi Center for Justice; Missouri Faith Voices; MontPIRG; MoPIRG; Mountain State Justice; National Association of Consumer Advocates; National Center for Access to Justice; National Center for Law and Economic Justice; National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients); National Fair Housing Alliance; NCPIRG; New Jersey Citizen Action; New York Taxi Workers Alliance; NHPIRG; NJPIRG; NMPIRG; Ohio PIRG; Ohio Poverty Law Center; Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG).

PennPIRG; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; PIRG in Michigan (PIRGIM); Public Citizen; Public Counsel; Public Good Law Center; Public Justice; Public Justice Center; Public Law Center; RIPIRG; South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center; Student Borrower Protection Center; Texas Appleseed; TexPIRG; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Tzedek DC; U.S. PIRG; United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley; Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Washoe Legal Services; WASHPIRG; Western Center on Law and Poverty; WISPIRG; Woodstock Institute; WV Citizen Action.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I appreciate my friend from Pennsylvania's comments, but, apparently, consumer protection is not high on the list of priorities for the other side of the aisle.

I would just say, this particular piece of legislation, H.R. 2547, has many good aspects, a number of which are bipartisan in nature:

It codifies the protections that currently exist under the FTC regulation for consumer loans prohibiting the use of confessions of judgment that waive due process protections, and extends those protections to commercial loans to protect small and minority-owned businesses.

It prohibits debt collectors from threatening a servicemember with reduction in their rank and revoking their security clearance or prosecuting them under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and requires a GAO study on the impact of debt collection on servicemembers.

It requires discharge of private student loans for both the borrower and cosigner in the case of permanent disability of the borrower, extending protections that currently exist for Federal student loans. So it assists people with serious disabilities.

It requires private lenders who are notified the Federal Government has discharged the Federal student loans of a borrower to discharge the private student loans of that same borrower.

It bars entities from collecting medical debt or reporting it to a consumer reporting agency without giving the consumer a notice about their rights.

These are so simple, and you would expect that there would be universal acceptance of this, but apparently not.

It provides a minimum 1-year delay from adverse information reported and a 2-year delay before collection attempts are made on these medical bills.

□ 1430

We heard last night in committee even Dr. BURGESS talking about the normal practices of medical professionals allowing people to have time to pay their bills, especially when we are in the middle of a pandemic or as we are coming out of a pandemic.

It bans the reporting of medical debts arising from medically necessary procedures. This was something that Ralph Hall, a Republican, championed for years.

It prohibits a debt collector from contacting a consumer by email or text message without a consumer's consent to be contacted electronically.

It requires the CFPB to analyze and annually report on the impact of electronic communications utilized by debt collectors.

The provisions of this bill are simple, consumer-oriented efforts to provide information to the consumer debtor and to take into consideration that we are in a pandemic and medical bills have piled up for so many people.

This is a very simple bill. It has bipartisan provisions in it. It should be passed, as should the rule.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE).

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1065.

There is language that I find many Democrats use in a lot of Democrats' bills. It is called pregnancy rights. Pregnancy rights means abortion to them, and I really don't understand that because that is not pregnancy. Abortion is killing a baby in the womb. That is not pregnancy rights. That is one issue we have there.

Democrats are once again using identity politics—this identity is a pregnant woman—to overregulate businesses. Rather than giving mothers greater access to paid family leave or making healthcare affordable, Democrats want to double down on a government mandate that punishes businesses and religious organizations and provides more access to abortion. That is killing the baby in the womb. That is not pregnancy rights.

Passing this bill means a small business or religious organization could be forced to provide paid time off to an employee to have an abortion even if that violates the religious beliefs of the organization. On top of that, these groups can be sued for damages for not taking every step to accommodate pregnant workers. That means churches and small businesses, the backbone of America, will be tied up in court for years seeking to comply with a one-size-fits-all government agenda from Washington.

The solution to this problem is to reopen America, reduce government regulations on small businesses, and keep Trump tax cuts that allow companies to keep more of their money to pass on to employees.

I cannot support a bill that allows more abortion.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, as to H.R. 1065, there are at least 20, if not more, Republican cosponsors of that piece of legislation. I want the RECORD to reflect that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS), a member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, debt collectors often operate with impunity, threatening servicepeople, denying small business owners due process, and harassing customers and homeowners with repeated calls, texts, and emails.

Harassment by debt collectors negatively affects students' career decisions, small business growth, homeownership, and families' financial stability. It hurts the economy and amplifies racial, gender, and socioeconomic inequities across the Nation.

For example, rates of student loan distress are especially concentrated among low-income borrowers, borrowers in rural areas, and borrowers of color. Debt collectors incessantly contacting borrowers without consent adds another layer of loan distress, particularly during this pandemic.

This is why I introduced an amendment to this bill that requires a GAO investigation of communications by debt collectors, including specific recommendations for Congress to reduce the harassment and abuse of individuals with debt.

The Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act is critical to protecting students, servicemembers, small business owners, and consumers with debt from predatory practices.

I urge my colleagues to support this entire legislation. It is important for the dignity of the average borrower in this country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, you wouldn't know it from the Democrats' floor schedule, but Sunday marked the beginning of National Police Week.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as Police Week.

Throughout this week, our Nation honors and pays tribute to law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country and our communities safe.

When Republicans controlled the House, we marked this week by moving legislation to support our police officers and help them keep our communities safe. In stark contrast, this liberal, progressive majority is not moving a single bill to support law enforcement during this year's Police Week.

Instead, Democrats are choosing to ignore Police Week, even though 2020 was the deadliest year on record for police officers in 50 years; even though, barely 1 month ago, Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans, a father of two, was killed defending this very building in which we stand; and even though more police officers have been shot and killed in the first 4½ months of 2021 than in all of 2020 and 2019.

I guess that is not surprising coming from the party that has openly attacked our law enforcement officers and called for defunding, dismantling, and abolishing the police.

Don't believe me? Just take their word for it.

Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB tweeted: ''Policing in our country is inherently and intentionally racist.'' The Congresswoman then went on and said: ''No more policing, incarceration, and militarization.''

Congresswoman CORI BUSH called St. Louis' decision to eliminate $4 million from the city's police budget a ''historic'' move that ''marks a new future for our city.''

Then there is Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, who tweeted, and I read the tweet verbatim: ''Police reform is not enough. Getting rid of serial, racist, ignorant, and stupid cops must be a top priority. Let's call them out.''

Not only is this disrespectful to the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities, but it is actually dangerous. The stats speak for themselves. In Democrat-run cities that defunded the police, they have seen increases in crime. Let's look at some of the numbers.

Austin, Texas: They cut funding for police by $150 million. In return, they saw a 50 percent spike in homicides.

Los Angeles: L.A. defunded the police by $175 million. They, too, experienced an increase in crime, an 11.6 percent rise in homicides.

Then, there is New York City. New York City cut police funding by $1 billion, that is billion with a B. In return, New York City saw a 97 percent rise in shootings and a 45 percent increase in homicides. Let me repeat that for you because the stats are so alarming: a 97 percent increase in shootings and a 45 percent increase in homicides.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans support law enforcement officers and want to help them do their jobs safely, effectively, and professionally. That is why if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to consider Congressman DON BACON's Back the Blue Act, Congressman JOHN RUTHERFORD's Protect and Serve Act, and Congressmen MCCAUL, CUELLAR, and CHABOT's Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act. Let's talk about each one of those bills.

The Back the Blue Act would protect our police officers by making it a Federal crime to kill or assault a Federal law enforcement officer.

The Protect and Serve Act would create enhanced penalties for anyone who targets law enforcement officers and purposefully harms them.

The Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation, would ensure individuals who harm or attempt to harm U.S. Federal officers or employees serving abroad can be brought to justice and prosecuted here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS). He is here to explain this amendment. He is my good friend and a former law enforcement officer.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Back the Blue Act, the Serve and Protect Act, and the Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act. Mr. Speaker, all of these are necessary and commonsense protections for our brave law enforcement officers.

The hateful anti-law-enforcement rhetoric over the past 12 months has led to violence and division in Democrat-controlled cities across our country. We saw it in Seattle, Minneapolis, and Portland, city blocks burned, businesses destroyed, lives ruined.

Our local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers have been subjected to violence like we have never seen in this country, ambush shootings taking officers' lives, violent riots, police precincts burned to the ground—yes, burned to the ground.

Now more than ever, we need to send a loud and clear message to would-be criminals targeting our brave law enforcement officers: If you attack or harm law enforcement in any way, you will pay. We back the blue in this country.

To the radicals chanting to defund and abolish law enforcement, who are you going to call if an armed criminal breaks into your home? It is certainly not going to be a social worker.

We are a nation of laws and law and order. Without law enforcement, our country would cease to exist. Keep that in mind when you hear anti-law-enforcement zealots chanting to abolish police. What they are really advocating for is abolishing the United States of America.

The hatred, vitriol, and violence against law enforcement have to stop. We need to stand and support our law enforcement officers. That is why I urge my colleagues to support the Back the Blue Act, the Serve and Protect Act, and the Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Law Enforcement Protection Act.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to remind my friends on the Republican side of the aisle that we passed a bill about 2 months ago called the American Rescue Plan. Not one Republican voted for that. That had money to support law enforcement and local governments and cities and States that saw their tax revenues fall off a cliff.

Mr. Speaker, when my friend, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, says, oh, a billion dollars was cut from the funding here, or $150 million cut from there, he forgot to talk about the fact that tax revenues across the country for local governments and State governments were cut to the bone because of the pandemic.

If my friends really wanted to put their money where their mouths are, then they would have supported the American Rescue Plan because it provided $350 billion to State and local governments so that they could increase funding to the police, to law enforcement, to social services, to a whole variety of agencies and needs. But, apparently, they chose not to. Instead, they choose to bring claims that Democrats want to defund the police, which couldn't be further from the truth.

We put our money where our mouths are, and we said we support law enforcement. We support local government employees. We support State government employees. We provided in the American Rescue Plan, which not a single Republican voted for, hazard pay because it has been so difficult for law enforcement and for so many others to conduct their services, to be out in the community during this particular pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I just would suggest to my friends, next time they get an opportunity to actually provide funding to law enforcement, they vote for it and not just say they are supportive of it. Let's put their moneys where their mouths are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

□ 1445

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, give me a break. Since when is having babies a liberal activity?

In fact, I believe that police women have babies, too. And let me tell you about a couple of other women.

Erica was working at a warehouse lifting heavy boxes. She had been working there for years. And when she was denied her request to pick up lighter boxes, she lost her pregnancy.

Hannah gave 5 years of her life to a healthcare company, was consistently promoted; but when she disclosed her pregnancy to her employer, she was fired.

And Sara, who spent 7 years building a tech startup from the ground up and truly loved her job and had been promised a promotion when she came back from maternity leave, had it revoked.

These are all true stories of women who have faced the real-world consequence of discrimination against pregnant workers in America. So right now, if a woman becomes pregnant, she can be denied, for example, an extra bathroom break, a place to sit, a lighter lifting, or fired for asking for simple accommodations or even just disclosing that she is pregnant.

This leaves many women having to choose between the health of their pregnancy and putting foods on their family's table. We are putting women in danger every single day while we hold off on this action. They are real-world implications for women like Erica and Sara and Hannah, especially in light of how women have really suffered the brunt of the job loss during the pandemic and as we see a rise in maternal mortality rates for women of color.

Mr. Speaker, so these stories are not unique. Pregnancy should not prevent a woman from putting food on the table, for paying her bills.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everybody to pass this good and needed bill, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Colorado was talking about money in the American Rescue Plan and money going to States and how that is being used. Let's be clear about something.

California was actually running a surplus in their budget, yet that didn't stop them from taking the money from the American Rescue Plan and giving that not to the police, but to illegal immigrants.

And there is this myth out there that Democrats really don't want to defund the police. I would say that it is not a myth. They actually do want to defund and dismantle the police. But don't take my words for it. We can take the words of my liberal colleagues, the Democrats.

Representative ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, when reacting to Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to cut one-sixth of New York City's Police Department budget, she actually deemed that as insufficient. And I will quote my colleague: ''Defunding the police means defunding police. It doesn't mean budget tricks or funny math.''

Again, that was my colleague from New York, a Democrat. Her words, not mine.

Representative CORI BUSH, when celebrating St. Louis defunding their police force, despite consistently ranking as one of the most dangerous cities in the United States, to that my colleague said: ''Today's decision to defund the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department is historic. It marks a new future for our city.''

Well, my colleague might be half correct because it was historic. It did usher in a new future for that city, and that is the fact that you have crime rates rising to historic levels.

My colleague from Missouri continued and she also said: ''If we remove that''—meaning the funding from the police, if we cut police funding—''and take that money and put it into our education system, put it into making sure our unhoused community members are sheltered, putting it into mental health resources, that is what we are saying because that is what is going to make our communities safer.''

So please stop the myth that Democrats actually don't want to defund the police. They absolutely do. They have said it over and over again, and their policies have proven it in many cities.

And what do the American people get?

Increased crime rates.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), my good friend and a former sheriff.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge defeat of the previous question so that we can immediately consider the Protect and Serve Act, my bipartisan bill to increase penalties for individuals who deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence.

Throughout my 40 years of law enforcement, including 12 as sheriff, I have seen firsthand the dangerous situations our men and women in law enforcement face every day. In Jacksonville, in fact, our memorial wall is filled with the names of many good police officers who laid down their lives in service to their community.

This Police Week, we are honoring the memory of the 394 officers our Nation lost last year. We pause to remember their sacrifice and pledge to support policies that keep our officers

safe. These policies should include harsh penalties for violence targeted against our men and women in blue.

When I first introduced the Protect and Serve Act in 2018, it was overwhelmingly passed by the House 382–35.

Police Week has always been a unifying time to honor those lost, but now, now the majority will barely acknowledge it.

What is going on?

I think the answer is simple. Supporting our police has become unpopular in the Democratic Party. Pressure from online radicals, political pundits who have never worn a badge, never been on a ride-along, they are dictating what policies the House majority will support.

To make matters worse, House Democrats are pushing a police reform bill right now that eliminates qualified immunity, the lifeblood of law enforcement. Mr. Speaker, without qualified immunity, the entire profession would end as we know it today.

It makes you wonder if that is their goal: End local law enforcement and replace it with a national police force similar to almost every socialist country in the world.

Regardless, the growing antipolice rhetoric and widespread efforts to defund police departments are leaving officers increasingly at risk to attacks in communities less safe.

As mentioned earlier, we are not even halfway through 2021 and we have already seen more police officers shot this year than all of last year. Meanwhile, as mentioned earlier, American cities are experiencing a spike in violent crime. The U.S. surpassed 20,000 murders last year for the first time since 1995. And just this year, shootings in Chicago, up 43 percent; New York City, Los Angeles, up 36 percent; Washington, D.C., homicide up 63 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it turns out if you demoralize, defund, and delegitimize the police, crime goes up. I know many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do support law enforcement. I know that. In fact, I know that a particular few even have backgrounds in law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, so this is what I would like to impart to my Democrat colleagues: Here is your chance to say during Police Week that you support our law enforcement officers. Vote for my bill, the Protect and Serve Act, just like you did in 2018, and show your constituent police officers that you have their backs.

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two Statements of Administration Policy. One on H.R. 2547, and the other one on H.R. 1065, both in support of the bills that are under consideration.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2547—COMPREHENSIVE DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT—REP. WATERS, D–CA, AND SEVEN COSPONSORS

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 2547, the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act. This legislation would expand necessary safeguards to ensure working families and small businesses are protected from predatory debt collection practices.

As our Nation works to recover from the worst economic and public health crises of our lifetimes, many families and small businesses are dealing with outstanding debts. In addition to providing robust relief, the government must also protect Americans from abusive and predatory practices.

H.R. 2547 would extend existing consumer protections against predatory lending arrangements to small businesses, prohibit debt collectors from threatening service members with a reduction in rank, prosecution or loss of security clearance, and restrict contact to consumers by email or text messages. The legislation would require discharge of private student loans for both the borrower and cosigners in the case of permanent disability for the borrower, establishing greater parity in protections for private and Federal student loan borrowers. The bill also clarifies protections for consumers in the case of non-judicial foreclosure proceedings.

The Administration applauds these steps to strengthen consumer protections for hard-working Americans and their families, and we look forward to working with the Congress further on the details of this legislation.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1065—PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT—REP. NADLER, D–NY, AND 228 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. Pregnant workers are too often unable to access simple changes to their working conditions that would allow them to keep doing their jobs and do so safely. This can create risks to their health as well as economic consequences. No worker should be forced to choose between a paycheck and a healthy pregnancy.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would provide basic, long overdue protections to ensure that pregnant workers and job applicants are not fired or otherwise discriminated against, or denied reasonable accommodations that allow them to work. Such protections promote family economic security by helping women stay in the workforce, including for those, often women of color, who are the sole or primary breadwinners in their families. Approximately two million women have left the workforce due to the COVID–19 pandemic, eroding more than 30 years of progress in women's labor force participation, and this Administration is committed to ensuring that women can both care for and support themselves and their families.

H.R. 1065 is a bipartisan bill that requires certain employers to make reasonable accommodations for qualified employees and job applicants with known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition. These accommodations might include simple modifications, such as modifying a no-food-or-drink policy, providing additional break time to use the bathroom, or helping avoid the lifting of heavy objects, depending on the circumstances. The bill would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified pregnant workers unless doing so would pose an undue hardship to the employer. It would also provide for an interactive process, where necessary, between employers and pregnant workers to determine appropriate and effective reasonable accommodations, and would protect pregnant workers from being denied employment opportunities, or from retaliation or interference, because they request or use an accommodation.

The Administration encourages the House to pass this bipartisan, commonsense legislation and looks forward to working with the Congress to protect pregnant workers across the country.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friends on the other side of the aisle trying to find a subject to talk about, since apparently they don't really have too many objections to either of the bills that are being discussed in the rule today.

Obviously, it doesn't seem like there is much conversation about H.R. 1065, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. And there isn't much discussion about the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act. Because those things are commonsense. They should be passed by this House. We thank so many Republicans for being cosponsors of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in my opening remarks, a number of the provisions in the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act are really bipartisan, including the one Mr. Hall used to champion when he was a Member here in the Congress.

So you want to go off and talk about something else. I wonder where the outrage for brutality against our police was when a rightwing mob stormed this Capitol. And the only one of the people that really is speaking of the truth today in the Republican Caucus—Ms. CHENEY from Wyoming—was ousted from her leadership position because she talked about the truth and the fact there was a mob, and our police were beaten by a rightwing mob.

Mr. Speaker, so I would just say to my friends on the other side of the aisle: Take a look in the mirror, and let's support our police across the board. Because I certainly support the law enforcement in Colorado. I support our Capitol Police, our FBI—particularly, the FBI.

President Trump would always undercut the FBI.

So I would suggest to my friends: Take a look in the mirror. Let's all support our law enforcement because they are important members of our community.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Colorado is asking why we are talking about the police. Well, the Democrats have been doing a lot of talking about police themselves—lots of talking about police.

Representative ILHAN OMAR, in talking about the Minneapolis Police Department following the death of George Floyd, said: ''You can't really reform a department that is rotten to the root.''

So, again, we are talking about police because police are heroes. We have always stood with the police, as Republicans. I wish my Democrat colleagues could say the same. But they have said repeatedly throughout the summer, in the past, atrocious things about the police.

Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, in response to the death of Rayshard Brooks, who tried to shoot officers with their own tasers during an attempted DUI arrest, said: ''Police reform is not enough. Getting rid of serial racist, ignorant, and stupid cops must be a top priority. Let's call them out. Police protective unions, you have got to go, too.''

The attacks go on and on, on our law enforcement. After the death of Daunte Wright, following a physical struggle where an officer fired their service weapon instead of the intended taser, Representative RASHIDA TLAIB said: ''Policing in our country is inherently and intentionally racist.''

□ 1500

Representative TLAIB has also said: ''No more policing, incarceration, and militarization. It can't be reformed.''

Again, this is what Democrats say about police.

And I know my colleague from Colorado said he supports police, but in response to riots across the country surrounding the death of George Floyd, my good friend from Colorado said: ''Supporting Representative PRESSLEY's resolution to condemn all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive use of force is the first step, but an important step, in affecting change and working to end these injustices.''

That sounds very benign, and understandably so. But if you look at the support for what the resolution actually said, let's read what the resolution said.

''The system of policing in America and its systemic targeting of and use of deadly and brutal force against people of color, particularly Black people, stems from the long legacy of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, and the war on drugs in the United States.''

So, in essence, supporting that resolution is really linking modern police to the horrors of slavery and Jim Crow. It is absolutely unacceptable.

Again, it was a Democrat, it was JFK in 1962, who declared this week Police Week. I just wish the current Democratic Party could stand with the Republicans and honor police, especially memorialize police who have died defending our communities and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON), my good friend the former general.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge defeat of the previous question so that we can immediately consider my bill to ensure that those who risk their lives to protect all of us are afforded greater protections as well.

I introduced the Back the Blue Act of 2021 with Senator CORNYN in the Senate and my two original cosponsors in the House, Representatives STIVERS and JOHNSON, during Police Week because this bill is needed now more than ever.

There have been more officers shot and killed in the last 4½ months of 2021 than all of 2020 and all of 2019. In 4½ months, we have had more fatalities, more murders of policemen than in the whole year of 2020 and the whole year of 2019. It is clear that we need to enforce greater protections for those who protect us, and that is why my colleagues and I introduced the Back the Blue Act.

The numbers are alarming. In 2018, 83 police officers were shot and 26 were killed. In 2019, 86 were shot and 18 were killed. And 2020, 89 were shot and 18 killed. This year, in 2021, as of April 30th, there have been 91 officers shot so far, and 19 of them killed by gunfire.

Our police are being targeted. We need to defend our law enforcement and public safety officers, and our bill does just that.

Specifically, the Back the Blue Act creates new criminal provisions to Federal law enforcement officers; U.S. judges; and federally funded public safety officers, such as firefighters, chaplains, and members of a rescue squad or ambulance crew.

The Back the Blue Act creates a new Federal crime for killing, attempting to kill, or conspiring to kill a Federal judge, Federal law enforcement officer or a federally funded public safety officer. The offender would be subject to the death penalty and a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years if death results. The offender would otherwise face a minimum sentence of 10 years.

The bill creates a new Federal crime for assaulting a federally funded law enforcement officer with escalating penalties, including mandatory minimums based on the extent of any injury and the use of a dangerous weapon. However, no prosecution can be commenced absent certification by the Attorney General that prosecution is appropriate.

Now, I want to respond to my friend, who I respect, from Colorado. I condemned the behavior and the riot that occurred on January 6. Over one hundred of our policemen were injured. This bill provides extra protections for Capitol Hill law enforcement. Those who injured our Capitol Police on January 6 would be under greater punishment or penalties, if convicted.

Our bill also creates a new Federal crime for interstate flight from justice to avoid prosecution for killing, attempting to kill or conspiring to kill a Federal judge, Federal law enforcement officer or federally funded public safety officer. The offender would be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years for this offense.

Lastly, the Back the Blue Act creates a specific aggravating factor for the Federal death penalty prosecutions. It expands self-defense and Second Amendment rights for law enforcement officers. It opens up grant funding to strengthen relationships between police and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our law enforcement personally. I was a victim of crime twice, and both times I was deployed when I was assigned to the Air Force. My house was robbed once when I was a captain deployed to Bahrain. Another time, someone assumed a false identity when I was a lieutenant colonel during the invasion of Iraq when I was flying combat operations. Thankfully, one of the times the police captured one of the perpetrators and arrested him and he was charged for a crime.

I deployed to go to the battle. Every day our police walk out their front door, after kissing their spouse goodbye, wondering if they are going to encounter a violent criminal. We cannot thank our police officers enough.

During Police Week, I urge my colleagues to support our first responders by immediately considering and supporting the Back the Blue Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend my friend from Nebraska for condemning—finally, somebody condemning the riot and the attack that occurred against all of us and against our police, the Capitol Police, on January 6. I would also like to see more members of the Republican Party stand up and do exactly that same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to see them do what Ms. CHENEY did, and condemn the ex-President, Donald Trump, for his role in inciting that whole mob action on January 6, and then we could start getting things back together.

Instead, my friend from Pennsylvania, reading a resolution that condemns racist policing that may have existed for a very long time, and I can't believe that he supports policing that is delivered in some kind of racist fashion. We have had too many people killed across this country. I know that is not what he meant.

So I just would urge us to focus on the bills that are at hand, which is the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, because those are important pieces of legislation that should be considered immediately by this House. And when we pass this rule, they will be considered.

So I oppose the gentleman's suggestions that we move to a different previous question. I appreciate Mr. BACON's comments about his bill. There are provisions in there that are really outstanding, but we are here to deal with debt collections and we are here to deal with pregnant workers' fairness.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask how much time each side has remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 2¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 10½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is relevant, these three police bills, because, as I said

when I opened, if we defeat this previous question, I will bring forth the amendment personally to bring up these three bills that actually honor our police officers.

Again, it is a historical norm in this body, in this Chamber, that during Police Week we focus on bills to help police officers. That is why this is relevant today. And the fact that my Democrat colleagues refuse to talk about the police raises a lot of questions. We need to help the police.

Let me just give you one example of the heroic acts of the police. After a suicidal man drove off a bridge into an ocean, San Diego Police Department K–9 officer, Jonathan Wiese, sprung into action, scaling down the side of a cliff to rescue twin 2-year-old sisters who were caught inside the vehicle.

When asked about this decision to throw himself over a cliff, Officer Wiese explained: ''I didn't do this job to be liked every day. I didn't do it to become rich. I did it because I wanted to be out there making a difference and helping people.''

That is the mentality of the men and women who are in our law enforcement. That is why this week they deserve our attention, and that is why my colleagues should be afforded the right to bring up their three bills through an amendment.

Mr. Speaker, while the rest of the Nation recognizes National Police Week and shows gratitude for the men and women keeping our communities safe, House Democrats are prioritizing two pieces of legislation that do absolutely nothing, nothing to help law enforcement officers.

Instead, they are jamming through a socialist takeover of our country's financial system that will actually hurt consumers and our Nation's small businesses. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question, and I urge ''no'' on the underlying measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, during this week, applaud our law enforcement and our first responders, but particularly law enforcement right now for their valor, for their protection of our communities. I appreciate the gentleman for bringing up that subject at this time.

But we are here on a rule dealing with the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. The treatment of consumers in the collection of debts and businesses and military personnel is a very important subject, especially during this time of COVID when so many families are struggling.

We have thousands and thousands of people who were laid off. In fact, where millions of people are still out of work a year and a half after COVID started. And, as a consequence, a lot of folks need assistance and need help, and they don't need to be hounded in improper ways as they go through this struggle.

So the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act is very important for the financial health of our consumers and people across the country. The provisions in the bill are bipartisan ideas to protect consumers from abusive debt collection practices. They also ensure pregnant women can receive reasonable workplace accommodations to ensure that they can stay in the workforce.

According to the CFPB 2021 Annual Report, more than one in four Americans have a third-party debt collection item attached to their credit report. And, last year, the CFPB received 82,700 consumer complaints about debt collection. It is time for Congress to act.

And based on the gentleman from Pennsylvania's argument, which has nothing to do with that particular bill or the facts as we have seen them develop during this pandemic, that should be an easy vote for everybody, whether they are Democrat or Republican.

The Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act provides important consumer protections to stop abusive debt collection practices, and it ensures that small businesses, families, and individuals are treated fairly.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is necessary to support the more than 80 percent of women who will give birth to a child at some point during their working years. These women deserve to have reasonable accommodations, which oftentimes cost businesses little to no money to implement. So we can help pregnant women stay in the workforce. This bill passed on broad bipartisan vote last Congress, and I hope it passes with even more support again this week.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the previous question.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 380

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 3079) to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 9. Immediately after disposition of H.R. 3079, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 3080) to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC 10. Immediately after disposition of H.R. 3080, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 2137) to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 11. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3079, H.R. 3080, and H.R. 2137.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 206, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 135]

YEAS—212

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
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
Carter (LA)
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)
Davidson
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
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
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
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
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
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—206

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
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
Letlow
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
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
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)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—12

Auchincloss
Dunn
Golden
Greene (GA)
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Kinzinger
LaMalfa
Murphy (FL)
Omar
Sherrill
Webster (FL)

□ 1548

Messrs. KATKO, VALADAO, FEENSTRA, and PERRY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. SPEIER changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Stevens)
Cárdenas (Gallego)
Crenshaw (Pfluger)
Eshoo (Thompson (CA))
Fallon (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Connolly)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Napolitano (Correa)
Owens (Stewart)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Ruppersberger (Raskin)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Strickland (DelBene)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. 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 214, nays 210, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 136]

YEAS—214

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
Carter (LA)
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
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
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
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)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
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
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—210

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
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)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
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
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
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	Wenstrup	Womack
Walberg	Westerman	Young
Walorski	Williams (TX)	Zeldin
Waltz	Wilson (SC)	
Weber (TX)	Wittman	

NOT VOTING—6

Deutch	Golden	Sherrill
Dunn	Murphy (FL)	Webster (FL)

□ 1619

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Stevens)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Owens (Stewart)
Cárdenas (Gallego)	Lieu (Beyer)	Payne (Pallone)
Crenshaw (Pfluger)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Porter (Wexton)
Eshoo (Thompson (CA))	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Fallon (Joyce (OH))	McEachin (Wexton)	Ruppersberger (Raskin)
Grijalva (García (IL))	Meng (Clark (MA))	Rush (Underwood)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)	Mfume (Connolly)	Sewell (DelBene)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Moore (WI) (Beyer)	Strickland (DelBene)
	Napolitano (Correa)	Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7 of House Resolution 380, House Resolution 379 is hereby adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 379

Resolved, That the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Illinois is dismissed.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS CERTAIN BILLS

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 6 of House Resolution 380, I move to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 297, H.R. 433, H.R. 478, H.R. 586, H.R. 721, H.R. 768, H.R. 810, H.R. 1205, H.R. 1260, H.R. 1324, H.R. 1448, H.R. 1475, H.R. 1480, H.R. 2862, H.R. 2955, and H.R. 2981.

The other suspension bills, either a vote was not requested or, alternatively, one bill, for which a problem has arisen, we have pulled that. Hopefully, we will consider that tomorrow under suspension.

The Clerk read the title of the bills.

The text of the bills are as follows:

HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY

H.R. 297

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

SECTION 1. HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term ''study area'' means the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai in the State of Hawaii.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study—

(A) to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Forest System in the study area; and

(B) to identify available land within the study area that could be included in the unit described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) coordinate with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

(B) consult with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and other interested governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, and any interested individuals.

(3) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consider unique vegetation types that occur in the study area and that should be targeted for inclusion in the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A);

(B) evaluate the ability of the Secretary—

(i) to improve and protect forest areas within the study area; and

(ii) to secure favorable water flows within the study area;

(C) determine whether the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A) would expand, enhance, or duplicate—

(i) resource protection; and

(ii) visitor-use opportunities;

(D) consider parcels of an appropriate size or location to be capable of economical administration as part of the National Forest System separately or jointly with the other land identified under paragraph (1)(B);

(E) evaluate the willingness of landowners to sell or transfer land in the study area to the Secretary;

(F) evaluate the suitability of land in the study area for potential selection and designation as a research natural area or an experimental forest;

(G) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance that would be needed to establish the unit of the National Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(H) consider other alternatives for the conservation, protection, and use of areas within the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land owned by the United States or not owned by the United States.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 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 that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADDICTION ACT OF 2021

H.R. 433

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 ''Family Support Services for Addiction Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 553. FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'family community organization' means an independent nonprofit organization that—

''(A) mobilizes resources within and outside of the community of families with individuals living with addiction, to provide a support network, education, and evidence-informed tools for families and loved ones of individuals struggling with substance use disorders; and

''(B) is governed by experts in the field of addiction, which may include—

''(i) experts in evidence-informed interventions for family members;

''(ii) experts in the impact of addiction on family systems;

''(iii) families who have experience with substance use disorders and addiction; and

''(iv) other experts in the field of addiction; and

''(2) the term 'family support services' means resources or programs that support families that include an individual with substance use disorder.

''(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to family community organizations to enable such organizations to develop, expand, and enhance evidence-informed family support services.

''(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of a program funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 85 percent.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under subsection (b)—

''(1) shall be used to develop, expand, and enhance community and statewide evidence-informed family support services; and

''(2) may be used to—

''(A) build connections between family support networks, including providing technical assistance between family community organizations and peer support networks, and with other family support services, focused on enhancing knowledge of evidence-informed interventions for family members and loved ones of individuals living with substance use disorders and reducing harm by educating service providers on current evidence regarding addiction and the family, including—

''(i) behavioral health providers, including such providers focused specifically on family and couples therapy in the context of addiction;

''(ii) primary care providers;

''(iii) providers of foster care services or support services for grandparents, guardians, and other extended family impacted by addiction; and

''(iv) other family support services that connect to community resources for individuals with substance use disorders, including non-clinical community services;

''(B) reduce stigma associated with the family of individuals with substance use disorders by improving knowledge about addiction and its treatment, providing compassionate support, and dispelling myths that perpetuate such stigma;

''(C) conduct outreach on issues relating to substance use disorders and family support, which may include education, training, and resources with respect to—

''(i) building a resilience- and strengths-based approach to prevention of, and living with, addiction in the family;

''(ii) identifying the signs of substance use disorder;

''(iii) adopting an approach that minimizes harm to all family members; and

''(iv) families of individuals with a substance use disorder, including with respect to—

''(I) navigating the treatment and recovery systems;

''(II) paying for addiction treatment;

''(III) education about substance use disorder; and

''(IV) avoiding predatory treatment programs; and

''(D) connect families to evidence-informed peer support programs.

''(e) DATA REPORTING AND PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.—With respect to a grant awarded under subsection (a), not later than 90 days after the end of the first year of the grant period, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant period, the entity shall submit data, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, to the Secretary regarding—

''(1) the programs and activities funded by the grant;

''(2) health outcomes of the population of individuals with a substance use disorder who received services through programs supported by the grant, as evaluated by an independent program evaluator through the use of outcomes measures, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(3) any other information that the secretary may require for the purpose of ensuring that the grant recipient is complying with all the requirements of the grant.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

BLACKWATER TRADING POST LAND TRANSFER ACT

H.R. 478

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 ''Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BLACKWATER TRADING POST LAND.—The term ''Blackwater Trading Post Land'' means the approximately 55.3 acres of land as depicted on the map that—

(A) is located in Pinal County, Arizona, and bordered by Community land to the east, west, and north and State Highway 87 to the south; and

(B) is owned by the Community.

(2) COMMUNITY.—The term ''Community'' means the Gila River Indian Community of the Reservation.

(3) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Results of Survey, Ellis Property, A Portion of the West ½ of Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 7 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona'' and dated October 15, 2012.

(4) RESERVATION.—The term ''Reservation'' means the land located within the exterior boundaries of the reservation created under sections 3 and 4 of the Act of February 28, 1859 (11 Stat. 401, chapter LXVI), and Executive orders of August 31, 1876, June 14, 1879, May 5, 1882, November 15, 1883, July 31, 1911, June 2, 1913, August 27, 1914, and July 19, 1915, and any other lands placed in trust for the benefit of the Community.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take the Blackwater Trading Post land into trust for the benefit of the Community, after the Community—

(1) conveys to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the Community in and to the Blackwater Trading Post Land;

(2) submits to the Secretary a request to take the Blackwater Trading Post Land into trust for the benefit of the Community;

(3) conducts a survey (to the satisfaction of the Secretary) to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land, if the Secretary determines a survey is necessary; and

(4) pays all costs of any survey conducted under paragraph (3).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—Not later than 180 days after the Blackwater Trading Post Land is taken into trust under subsection (a), the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Secretary.

(c) LANDS TAKEN INTO TRUST PART OF RESERVATION.—After the date on which the Blackwater Trading Post Land is taken into trust under subsection (a), the land shall be treated as part of the Reservation.

(d) GAMING.—Class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) shall not be allowed at any time on the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

(e) DESCRIPTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall cause the full metes-and-bounds description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land to be published in the Federal Register. The description shall, on publication, constitute the official description of the Blackwater Trading Post Land.

SUICIDE TRAINING AND AWARENESS NATIONALLY DELIVERED FOR UNIVERSAL PREVENTION ACT OF 2021

H.R. 586

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 ''Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2021'' or the ''STANDUP Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 520A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–32) the following:

''SEC. 520B. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING POLICIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of funds under section 520A, each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives such funds, directly or through a State or Indian Tribe, for activities to be performed within secondary schools, including the Project AWARE State Education Agency Grant Program, shall—

''(1) establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy;

''(2) consult with stakeholders (including principals, teachers, parents, local Tribal officials, and other school leaders) in the development of the policy under subsection (a)(1); and

''(3) collect and report information in accordance with subsection (c).

''(b) SCHOOL-BASED STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING POLICY.—A school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy implemented pursuant to subsection (a)—

''(1) shall be evidence-based;

''(2) shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate;

''(3) shall provide evidence-based training to students in grades 6 through 12, in coordination with school-based mental health service providers as defined in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, if applicable, regarding—

''(A) suicide education and awareness, including warning signs of self-harm or suicidal ideation;

''(B) methods that students can use to seek help for themselves and others; and

''(C) student resources for suicide awareness and prevention;

''(4) shall provide for retraining of such students every school year;

''(5) may last for such period as the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency involved determines to be appropriate;

''(6) may be implemented through any delivery method, including in-person trainings, digital trainings, or train-the-trainer models; and

''(7) may include discussion of comorbidities or risk factors for suicidal ideation or self-harm, including substance misuse, sexual or physical abuse, mental illness, or other evidence-based comorbidities and risk factors.

''(c) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.—Each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives funds under section 520A shall, with respect to each school served by the agency, collect and report to the Secretary the following information:

''(1) The number of student trainings conducted.

''(2) The number of students trained, disaggregated by age and grade level.

''(3) The number of help-seeking reports made by students after implementation of such policy.

''(d) EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LISTING.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall coordinate with the Secretary of Education to make publicly available the policies established by State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies pursuant to this section and the training that is available to students and teams pursuant to such policies, including identification of whether such training is available to trainees at no cost.

''(e) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency shall establish and begin implementation of the policies required by subsection (a)(1) not later than the beginning of the third fiscal year following the date of enactment of this section for which the agency receives funds under section 520A.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and section 520B–1:

''(1) The term 'evidence-based' has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(2) The term 'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(3) The term 'State educational agency' has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''(4) The term 'Tribal educational agency' has the meaning given to the term 'tribal educational agency' in section 6132 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

''SEC. 520B–1. BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.

''The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education, shall—

''(1) publish best practices for school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training, pursuant to section 520B, that are based on—

''(A) evidence-based practices; and

''(B) input from relevant Federal agencies, national organizations, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and related stakeholders;

''(2) publish guidance, based on the best practices under paragraph (1), to provide State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies with information on student suicide awareness and prevention best practices;

''(3) disseminate such best practices to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies; and

''(4) provide technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies.''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall only apply with respect to applications for assistance under section 520A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–32) that are submitted after the date of enactment of this Act.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ACT OF 2021

H.R. 721

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 ''Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The second part G (relating to services provided through religious organizations) of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290kk et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating such part as part J; and

(2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584 as sections 596 through 596C, respectively.

(b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILDREN.—Section 581 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh) (relating to children and violence) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 581. SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH; CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded to eligible entities described in subsection (c), provide comprehensive school-based mental health services and supports to assist children in local communities and schools (including schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education) dealing with traumatic experiences, grief, bereavement, risk of suicide, and violence. Such services and supports shall be—

''(1) developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate;

''(2) trauma-informed; and

''(3) incorporate positive behavioral interventions and supports.

''(b) ACTIVITIES.—Grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded under subsection (a), shall, as appropriate, be used for—

''(1) implementation of school and community-based mental health programs that—

''(A) build awareness of individual trauma and the intergenerational, continuum of impacts of trauma on populations;

''(B) train appropriate staff to identify, and screen for, signs of trauma exposure, mental health disorders, or risk of suicide; and

''(C) incorporate positive behavioral interventions, family engagement, student treatment, and multigenerational supports to foster the health and development of children, prevent mental health disorders, and ameliorate the impact of trauma;

''(2) technical assistance to local communities with respect to the development of programs described in paragraph (1);

''(3) facilitating community partnerships among families, students, law enforcement agencies, education agencies, mental health and substance use disorder service systems, family-based mental health service systems, child welfare agencies, health care providers (including primary care physicians, mental health professionals, and other professionals who specialize in children's mental health such as child and adolescent psychiatrists), institutions of higher education, faith-based programs, trauma networks, and other community-based systems to address child and adolescent trauma, mental health issues, and violence; and

''(4) establishing mechanisms for children and adolescents to report incidents of violence or plans by other children, adolescents, or adults to commit violence.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), an entity shall be a partnership that includes—

''(A) a State educational agency, as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, in coordination with one or more local educational agencies, as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or a consortium of any entities described in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 8101(30) of such Act; and

''(B) at least 1 community-based mental health provider, including a public or private mental health entity, health care entity, family-based mental health entity, trauma network, or other community-based entity, as determined by the Secretary (and which may include additional entities such as a human services agency, law enforcement or juvenile justice entity, child welfare agency, agency, an institution of higher education, or another entity, as determined by the Secretary).

''(2) COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA.—Any patient records developed by covered entities through activities under the grant shall meet the regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

''(3) COMPLIANCE WITH FERPA.—Section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the 'Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974') shall apply to any entity that is a member of the partnership in the same manner that such section applies to an educational agency or institution (as that term is defined in such section).

''(d) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under subsection (a) will be distributed equitably among the regions of the country and among urban and rural areas.

''(e) DURATION OF AWARDS.—With respect to a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), the period during which payments under such an award will be made to the recipient shall be 5 years, with options for renewal.

''(f) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

''(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall develop a fiscally appropriate process for evaluating activities carried out under this section. Such process shall include—

''(A) the development of guidelines for the submission of program data by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement recipients;

''(B) the development of measures of outcomes (in accordance with paragraph (2)) to be applied by such recipients in evaluating programs carried out under this section; and

''(C) the submission of annual reports by such recipients concerning the effectiveness of programs carried out under this section.

''(2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Assistant Secretary shall develop measures of outcomes to be applied by recipients of assistance under this section to evaluate the effectiveness of programs carried out under this section, including outcomes related to the student, family, and local educational systems supported by this Act.

''(3) SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL DATA.—An eligible entity described in subsection (c) that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section shall annually submit to the Assistant Secretary a report that includes data to evaluate the success of the program carried out by the entity based on whether such program is achieving the purposes of the program. Such reports shall utilize the measures of outcomes under paragraph (2) in a reasonable manner to demonstrate the progress of the program in achieving such purposes.

''(4) EVALUATION BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Based on the data submitted under paragraph (3), the Assistant Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report concerning the results and effectiveness of the programs carried out with assistance received under this section.

''(5) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity shall use not more than 20 percent of amounts received under a grant under this section to carry out evaluation activities under this subsection.

''(g) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate best practices based on the findings of the knowledge development and application under this section.

''(h) AMOUNT OF GRANTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant under this section shall be in an amount that is not more than $2,000,000 for each of the first 5 fiscal years following the date of enactment of the Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2021. The Secretary shall determine the amount of each such grant based on the population of children up to age 21 of the area to be served under the grant.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $130,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part G of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh et seq.), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by striking the part designation and heading and inserting the following:

''PART G—SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH''.

BLOCK, REPORT, AND SUSPEND SUSPICIOUS SHIPMENTS ACT OF 2021

H.R. 768

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 ''Block, Report, And Suspend Suspicious Shipments Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF PROCESS FOR REGISTRANTS TO EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE UPON DISCOVERING A SUSPICIOUS ORDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 312(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 832(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) upon discovering a suspicious order or series of orders—

''(A) exercise due diligence;

''(B) establish and maintain (for not less than a period to be determined by the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration) a record of the due diligence that was performed;

''(C) decline to fill the order or series of orders if the due diligence fails to resolve all of the indicators that gave rise to the suspicion that filling the order or series of orders would cause a violation of this title by the registrant or the prospective purchaser; and

''(D) notify the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Special Agent in Charge of the Division Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration for the area in which the registrant is located or conducts business of—

''(i) each suspicious order or series of orders discovered by the registrant; and

''(ii) the indicators giving rise to the suspicion that filling the order or series of orders would cause a violation of this title by the registrant or the prospective purchaser.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of section 312(a)(3) of the Controlled Substances Act, as amended by subsection (a), the Attorney General of the United States shall promulgate a final regulation specifying the indicators that give rise to a suspicion that filling an order or series of orders would cause a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) by a registrant or a prospective purchaser.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 312(a)(3) of the Controlled Substances Act, as amended by subsection (a), shall apply beginning on the day that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. Until such day, section 312(a)(3) of the Controlled Substances Act shall apply as such section 312(a)(3) was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

H.R. 810

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(xx) CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, which follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal, and approximately 550 miles from Ponca City, Oklahoma, through Omaha, Nebraska, to Niobrara, Nebraska, which follows the return route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people.''.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS FROM THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1205

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 ''Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SECURING APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-ON CARE FOR ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AFTER AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTER.

The Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 520J of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31) the following new section:

''SEC. 520J–1. SECURING APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-ON CARE FOR ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AFTER AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTER.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants on a competitive basis to qualifying health providers to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department.

''(b) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In this section, the term 'qualifying health provider' means a health care facility licensed under applicable law that—

''(1) has an emergency department;

''(2) is staffed by medical personnel (such as emergency physicians, psychiatrists, psychiatric registered nurses, mental health technicians, clinical social workers, psychologists, and therapists) capable of providing treatment focused on stabilizing acute mental health conditions and assisting patients to access resources to continue treatment in the least restrictive appropriate setting; and

''(3) has arrangements in place with other providers of care that can provide a full range of medically appropriate, evidence-based services for the treatment of acute mental health episodes.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualifying health provider receiving funds under this section shall use such funds to create, support, or expand programs or projects intended to assist individuals who are treated at the provider's emergency department for acute mental health episodes and to expeditiously transition such individuals to an appropriate facility or setting for follow-on care. Such use of funds may support the following:

''(1) Expediting placement in appropriate facilities through activities such as expanded coordination with regional service providers, assessment, peer navigators, bed availability tracking and management, transfer protocol development, networking infrastructure development, and transportation services.

''(2) Increasing the supply of inpatient psychiatric beds and alternative care settings such as regional emergency psychiatric facilities.

''(3) Use of alternative approaches to providing psychiatric care in the emergency department setting, including through telepsychiatric support and other remote psychiatric consultation, implementation of peak period crisis clinics, or creation of psychiatric emergency service units.

''(4) Use of approaches that include proactive followup such as telephone check-ins, telemedicine, or other technology-based outreach to individuals during the period of transition.

''(5) Such other activities as are determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, consistent with subsection (a).

''(d) APPLICATION.—A qualifying health provider desiring a grant under this section shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, the application shall include the following:

''(1) A description of identified need for acute mental health services in the provider's service area.

''(2) A description of the existing efforts of the provider to meet the need for acute mental health services in the service area, and identified gaps in the provision of such services.

''(3) A description of the proposed use of funds to meet the need and gaps identified pursuant to paragraph (2).

''(4) A description of how the provider will coordinate efforts with Federal, State, local, and private entities within the service area.

''(5) A description of program objectives, how the objectives are proposed to be met, and how the provider will evaluate outcomes relative to objectives.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO CYCLICAL VIOLENCE ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1260

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 ''Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORTING TRAUMA CENTER VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 399V–7. GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORTING TRAUMA CENTER VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

''(a) AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to establish or expand violence intervention or prevention programs for services and research designed to reduce the incidence of reinjury and reincarceration caused by intentional violent trauma, excluding intimate partner violence.

''(2) FIRST AWARD.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall make the first award under paragraph (1).

''(3) GRANT DURATION.—Each grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of three years.

''(4) GRANT AMOUNT.—The total amount of each grant awarded under paragraph (1) for the 3-year grant period shall be not less than $250,000 and not more than $500,000.

''(5) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—A grant awarded under paragraph (1) to an eligible entity with an existing program described in paragraph (1) shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other funds provided to such entity for such program.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a)(1), an entity shall—

''(1) either be—

''(A) a State-designated trauma center, or a trauma center verified by the American College of Surgeons, that conducts or seeks to conduct a violence intervention or violence prevention program; or

''(B) a nonprofit entity that conducts or seeks to conduct a program described in subparagraph (A) in cooperation with a trauma center described in such subparagraph;

''(2) serve a community in which at least 100 incidents of intentional violent trauma occur annually; and

''(3) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

''(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In selecting grant recipients under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall ensure that collectively grantees represent a diversity of geographic areas.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall prioritize applicants that serve one or more communities with high absolute numbers or high rates of intentional violent trauma.

''(3) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.—

''(A) ENCOURAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall encourage entities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) that are located in or serve a health professional shortage area to apply for grants under subsection (a)(1).

''(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term 'health professional shortage area' means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332.

''(d) REPORTS.—

''(1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(1) shall submit reports on the use of the grant funds to the Secretary, including progress reports, as required by the Secretary. Such reports shall include—

''(i) any findings of the program established, or expanded, by the entity through the grant; and

''(ii) if applicable, the manner in which the entity has incorporated such findings in the violence intervention or violence prevention program conducted by such entity.

''(B) OPTION FOR JOINT REPORT.—To the extent feasible and appropriate, an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(1) may elect to coordinate with one or more other entities that have received such a grant to submit a joint report that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

''(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2021, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report—

''(A) on any findings resulting from reports submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1);

''(B) on best practices developed by the Secretary under subsection (e); and

''(C) with recommendations for legislative action relating to intentional violent trauma prevention that the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(e) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2021, the Secretary shall—

''(1) develop, and post on a public website of the Department of Health and Human Services, best practices for intentional violent trauma prevention, based on any findings reported to the Secretary under subsection (d)(1); and

''(2) disseminate such best practices to stakeholders, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.''.

EFFECTIVE SUICIDE SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1324

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 ''Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE CARE PROVIDED TO PATIENTS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WHO ARE AT RISK OF SUICIDE.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 399V–7. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE CARE PROVIDED TO PATIENTS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WHO ARE AT RISK OF SUICIDE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program (in this Act referred to as the 'Program') to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in emergency departments who are at risk for suicide, including by—

''(1) developing policies and procedures for identifying and assessing individuals who are at risk of suicide; and

''(2) enhancing the coordination of care for such individuals after discharge.

''(b) GRANT ESTABLISHMENT AND PARTICIPATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to not more than 40 eligible health care sites described in paragraph (2).

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a health care site shall—

''(A) submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may specify;

''(B) be a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act);

''(C) have an emergency department; and

''(D) deploy onsite health care or social service professionals to help connect and integrate patients who are at risk of suicide with treatment and mental health support services.

''(3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary may give preference to eligible health care sites described in paragraph (2) that meet at least one of the following criteria:

''(A) The eligible health care site is a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act).

''(B) The eligible health care site is a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of the Social Security Act).

''(C) The eligible health care site is operated by the Indian Health Service, by an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), or by an urban Indian organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act).

''(D) The eligible health care site is located in a geographic area with a suicide rate that is higher than the national rate, as determined by the Secretary based on the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(c) PERIOD OF GRANT.—A grant awarded to an eligible health care site under this section shall be for a period of at least 2 years.

''(d) GRANT USES.—

''(1) REQUIRED USES.—A grant awarded under this section to an eligible health care site shall be used for the following purposes:

''(A) To train emergency department health care professionals to identify, assess, and treat patients who are at risk of suicide.

''(B) To establish and implement policies and procedures for emergency departments to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of individuals who are at risk of suicide.

''(C) To establish and implement policies and procedures with respect to care coordination, integrated care models, or referral to evidence-based treatment to be used upon the discharge from the emergency department of patients who are at risk of suicide.

''(2) ADDITIONAL PERMISSIBLE USES.—In addition to the required uses listed in paragraph (1), a grant awarded under this section to an eligible health care site may be used for any of the following purposes:

''(A) To hire emergency department psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, counselors, therapists, or other licensed health care and behavioral health professionals specializing in the treatment of individuals at risk of suicide.

''(B) To develop and implement best practices for the follow-up care and long-term treatment of individuals who are at risk of suicide.

''(C) To increase the availability of, and access to, evidence-based treatment for individuals who are at risk of suicide, including through telehealth services and strategies to reduce the boarding of these patients in emergency departments.

''(D) To offer consultation with and referral to other supportive services that provide evidence-based treatment and recovery for individuals who are at risk of suicide.

''(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) REPORTS BY GRANTEES.—Each eligible health care site receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an annual report for each year for which the grant is received on the progress of the program funded through the grant. Each such report shall include information on—

''(A) the number of individuals screened in the site's emergency department for being at risk of suicide;

''(B) the number of individuals identified in the site's emergency department as being—

''(i) survivors of an attempted suicide; or

''(ii) are at risk of suicide;

''(C) the number of individuals who are identified in the site's emergency department as being at risk of suicide by a health care or behavioral health professional hired pursuant to subsection (d)(2)(A);

''(D) the number of individuals referred by the site's emergency department to other treatment facilities, the types of such other facilities, and the number of such individuals admitted to such other facilities pursuant to such referrals;

''(E) the effectiveness of programs and activities funded through the grant in preventing suicides and suicide attempts; and

''(F) any other relevant additional data regarding the programs and activities funded through the grant.

''(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2026, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

''(A) findings on the Program;

''(B) overall patient outcomes achieved through the Program;

''(C) an evaluation of the effectiveness of having a trained health care or behavioral health professional onsite to identify, assess, and treat patients who are at risk of suicide; and

''(D) a compilation of policies, procedures, and best practices established, developed, or implemented by grantees under this section.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

PUPPIES ASSISTING WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS FOR VETERANS THERAPY ACT

H.R. 1448

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 ''Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act'' or the ''PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM ON DOG TRAINING THERAPY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence the conduct of a pilot program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as ''PTSD'') as an element of a complementary and integrative health program for such veterans.

(b) DURATION; MEDICAL CENTERS.—

(1) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) for a five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(2) MEDICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such pilot program is carried out by not fewer than five medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in geographically diverse areas.

(c) AGREEMENTS WITH ENTITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into agreements with nongovernmental entities that the Secretary determines have the demonstrated ability to provide the canine training specified in subsection (a).

(d) REQUIRED CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall include in any agreement under subsection (c) conditions requiring that the nongovernmental entity seeking to enter into the agreement—

(1) submits to the Secretary certification that the entity is an accredited service dog training organization;

(2) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in the pilot program under subsection (a) receive training from certified service dog training instructors for a period of time determined appropriate by the entity;

(3) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in such pilot program are prohibited from having access to a dog under such pilot program at any time during such participation without the supervision of a certified service dog training instructor;

(4) agrees to ensure that veterans participating in such pilot program receive training in skills unique to the needs of the veteran to address or alleviate PTSD symptoms of the veteran;

(5) agrees not to use shock collars or prong collars as training tools and to use positive reinforcement training; and

(6) agrees to provide any follow-up training support specified in subsection (e)(2), as applicable.

(e) ADOPTION OF DOG.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A veteran who has participated in the pilot program under subsection (a) may adopt a dog that the veteran assisted in training during such pilot program if the veteran and the veteran's health provider (in consultation with the entity that provided the canine training with respect to the dog under such pilot program) determine that it is in the best interest of the veteran.

(2) FOLLOW-UP TRAINING SUPPORT.—If a veteran adopts a dog under paragraph (1), the entity that provided the canine training with respect to the dog under the pilot program shall provide follow-up training support for the life of the dog. Such support shall include the provision of a contact plan between the veteran and the entity that enables the veteran to seek and receive assistance from the entity to ensure the dog is being properly cared for.

(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER CARE AND TREATMENT.—Participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) may not preclude a veteran from receiving any other medical care or treatment for PTSD furnished by the Department, including therapy, for which the veteran is otherwise eligible.

(g) COLLECTION OF DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop metrics and other appropriate means to measure, with respect to veterans participating in the pilot program under subsection (a)—

(A) the number of such veterans participating;

(B) the satisfaction of such veterans with the pilot program;

(C) whether participation in the pilot program resulted in any clinically relevant improvements for such veterans, as determined by the health care provider or clinical team that referred the veteran to participate in the pilot program; and

(D) such other factors as the Secretary may determine appropriate; and

(2) establish processes to document and track the progress of such veterans under the pilot program with respect to health benefits and improvements.

(h) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than one year before the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) terminates, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the recommendations of the Secretary regarding—

(1) whether to extend or make permanent the pilot program; and

(2) the feasibility and advisability of expanding the pilot program to address mental health conditions other than PTSD.

(i) GAO BRIEFING AND STUDY.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the methodology established for the pilot program.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates, the Comptroller General shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (1) a report on the pilot program. Such report shall include an evaluation of the approach and methodology used for the pilot program with respect to—

(A) assisting veterans with PTSD; and

(B) measuring relevant metrics, such as reduction in scores under the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS), improvement in psychosocial function, and therapeutic compliance.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''accredited service dog training organization'' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that—

(A) provides service dogs to veterans with PTSD; and

(B) is accredited by an accrediting organization with demonstrated experience, national scope, and recognized leadership and expertise in the training of service dogs and education in the use of service dogs (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) The term ''eligible veteran'' means a veteran who—

(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system in the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) has been recommended for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) by a qualified mental health care provider or clinical team based on medical judgment that the veteran may benefit from such participation with respect to the diagnosed PTSD of the veteran.

(3) The term ''service dog training instructor'' means an instructor who provides the direct training of veterans with PTSD in the art and science of service dog training and handling.

SEC. 3. PROVISION OF SERVICE DOGS AND VETERINARY INSURANCE BENEFITS TO VETERANS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER WHO DO NOT HAVE CERTAIN IMPAIRMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1714 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(e) The Secretary may provide a service dog to a veteran under subsection (c)(3) regardless of whether the veteran has a mobility impairment.

''(f)(1) The Secretary shall provide to any veteran described in paragraph (2) a commercially available veterinary insurance policy for each dog provided to such veteran under subsection (b) or (c).

''(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who—

''(A) is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or a visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairment;

''(B) has received a dog under subsection (b) or (c) in connection with such disorder or impairment; and

''(C) meets such other requirements as the Secretary may prescribe.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1714(f) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a veteran provided a dog by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

PURSUING EQUITY IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT

H.R. 1475

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 ''Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

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Sec. 105. Additional funds for National Institutes of Health.
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TITLE II—OTHER PROVISIONS

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TITLE I—HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 101. INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 553 of such Act (as redesignated and moved by section 203 of this Act) the following:

"SEC. 554. INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE TEAMS FOR PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS.

''(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing interprofessional health care teams that provide behavioral health care.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be a Federally qualified health center (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act), rural health clinic, or behavioral health program, serving a high proportion of individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g)).

''(c) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED.—Integrated health care funded through this section shall be scientifically based, taking into consideration the results of the most recent peer-reviewed research available.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 for each of the first 5 fiscal years following the date of enactment of the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act.''.

SEC. 102. ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH GAPS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (or, if the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine decline to enter into such an arrangement, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, or another appropriate entity)—

(1) to conduct a study with respect to mental health disparities in racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g))); and

(2) to submit to the Congress a report on the results of such study, including—

(A) a compilation of information on the dynamics of mental disorders in such racial and ethnic minority groups; and

(B) a compilation of information on the impact of exposure to community violence, adverse childhood experiences, structural racism, and other psychological traumas on mental disorders in such racial and minority groups.

SEC. 103. HEALTH PROFESSIONS COMPETENCIES TO ADDRESS RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may award grants to qualified national organizations for the purposes of—

(1) developing, and disseminating to health professional educational programs best practices or core competencies addressing mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups for use in the training of students in the professions of social work, psychology, psychiatry, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, and substance misuse counseling; and

(2) certifying community health workers and peer wellness specialists with respect to such best practices and core competencies and integrating and expanding the use of such workers and specialists into health care to address mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups.

(b) BEST PRACTICES; CORE COMPETENCIES.—Organizations receiving funds under subsection (a) may use the funds to engage in the following activities related to the development and dissemination of best practices or core competencies described in subsection (a)(1):

(1) Formation of committees or working groups comprised of experts from accredited health professions schools to identify best practices and core competencies relating to mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups.

(2) Planning of workshops in national fora to allow for public input into the educational needs associated with mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups.

(3) Dissemination and promotion of the use of best practices or core competencies in undergraduate and graduate health professions training programs nationwide.

(4) Establishing external stakeholder advisory boards to provide meaningful input into policy and program development and best practices to reduce mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) QUALIFIED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''qualified national organization'' means a national organization that focuses on the education of students in one or more of the professions of social work, psychology, psychiatry, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, and substance misuse counseling.

(2) RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP.—The term ''racial and ethnic minority group'' has the meaning given to such term in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)).

SEC. 104. RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.

Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 554 of such Act, as added by section 101 of this Act, the following:

"SEC. 555. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with advocacy and behavioral and mental health organizations serving racial and ethnic minority groups, develop and implement an outreach and education strategy to promote behavioral and mental health and reduce stigma associated with mental health conditions and substance abuse among racial and ethnic minority groups. Such strategy shall—

''(1) be designed to—

''(A) meet the diverse cultural and language needs of the various racial and ethnic minority groups; and

''(B) be developmentally and age-appropriate;

''(2) increase awareness of symptoms of mental illnesses common among such groups, taking into account differences within at-risk subgroups;

''(3) provide information on evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate and adapted interventions and treatments;

''(4) ensure full participation of, and engage, both consumers and community members in the development and implementation of materials; and

''(5) seek to broaden the perspective among both individuals in these groups and stakeholders serving these groups to use a comprehensive public health approach to promoting behavioral health that addresses a holistic view of health by focusing on the intersection between behavioral and physical health.

''(b) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report on the extent to which the strategy developed and implemented under subsection (a) increased behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with mental health conditions and substance abuse among racial and ethnic minority groups.

''(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'racial and ethnic minority group' has the meaning given to that term in section 1707(g).

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 105. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the National Institutes of Health, there is authorized to be appropriated to such Institutes $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to build relations with communities and conduct or support clinical research, including clinical research on racial or ethnic disparities in physical and mental health.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''clinical research'' has the meaning given to such term in section 409 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284d).

SEC. 106. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES.

In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, there is authorized to be appropriated to such Institute $650,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

TITLE II—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. REAUTHORIZATION OF MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 597(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297ll(c)) is amended by striking ''$12,669,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022'' and inserting ''$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026''.

SEC. 202. STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF SMARTPHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE ON ADOLESCENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct or support research on—

(1) smartphone and social media use by adolescents; and

(2) the effects of such use on—

(A) emotional, behavioral, and physical health and development; and

(B) disparities in minority and underserved populations.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress, and make publicly available, a report on the findings of research described in this section.

SEC. 203. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 550 (42 U.S.C. 290ee–10) (relating to Sobriety Treatment And Recovery Teams) as section 553; and

(2) by moving such section, as so redesignated, so as to appear after section 552 (42 U.S.C. 290ee–7).

HELPING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS OVERCOME ACT

H.R. 1480

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 ''Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act'' or the ''HERO Act''.

SEC. 2. DATA SYSTEM TO CAPTURE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER SUICIDE INCIDENCE.

The Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting before section 318 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 247c) the following:

''SEC. 317V. DATA SYSTEM TO CAPTURE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER SUICIDE INCIDENCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, may—

''(1) develop and maintain a data system, to be known as the Public Safety Officer Suicide Reporting System, for the purposes of—

''(A) collecting data on the suicide incidence among public safety officers; and

''(B) facilitating the study of successful interventions to reduce suicide among public safety officers; and

''(2) integrate such system into the National Violent Death Reporting System, so long as the Secretary determines such integration to be consistent with the purposes described in paragraph (1).

''(b) DATA COLLECTION.—In collecting data for the Public Safety Officer Suicide Reporting System, the Secretary shall, at a minimum, collect the following information:

''(1) The total number of suicides in the United States among all public safety officers in a given calendar year.

''(2) Suicide rates for public safety officers in a given calendar year, disaggregated by—

''(A) age and gender of the public safety officer;

''(B) State;

''(C) occupation; including both the individual's role in their public safety agency and their primary occupation in the case of volunteer public safety officers;

''(D) where available, the status of the public safety officer as volunteer, paid-on-call, or career; and

''(E) status of the public safety officer as active or retired.

''(c) CONSULTATION DURING DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the Public Safety Officer Suicide Reporting System, the Secretary shall consult with non-Federal experts to determine the best means to collect data regarding suicide incidence in a safe, sensitive, anonymous, and effective manner. Such non-Federal experts shall include, as appropriate, the following:

''(1) Public health experts with experience in developing and maintaining suicide registries.

''(2) Organizations that track suicide among public safety officers.

''(3) Mental health experts with experience in studying suicide and other profession-related traumatic stress.

''(4) Clinicians with experience in diagnosing and treating mental health issues.

''(5) Active and retired volunteer, paid-on-call, and career public safety officers.

''(6) Relevant national police, and fire and emergency medical services, organizations.

''(d) DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY.—In developing and maintaining the Public Safety Officer Suicide Reporting System, the Secretary shall ensure that all applicable Federal privacy and security protections are followed to ensure that—

''(1) the confidentiality and anonymity of suicide victims and their families are protected, including so as to ensure that data cannot be used to deny benefits; and

''(2) data is sufficiently secure to prevent unauthorized access.

''(e) REPORTING.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress on the suicide incidence among public safety officers. Each such report shall—

''(A) include the number and rate of such suicide incidence, disaggregated by age, gender, and State of employment;

''(B) identify characteristics and contributing circumstances for suicide among public safety officers;

''(C) disaggregate rates of suicide by—

''(i) occupation;

''(ii) status as volunteer, paid-on-call, or career; and

''(iii) status as active or retired;

''(D) include recommendations for further study regarding the suicide incidence among public safety officers;

''(E) specify in detail, if found, any obstacles in collecting suicide rates for volunteers and include recommended improvements to overcome such obstacles;

''(F) identify options for interventions to reduce suicide among public safety officers; and

''(G) describe procedures to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of suicide victims and their families, as described in subsection (d)(1).

''(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Upon the submission of each report to the Congress under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make the full report publicly available on the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'public safety officer' means—

''(1) a public safety officer as defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; or

''(2) a public safety telecommunicator as described in detailed occupation 43–5031 in the Standard Occupational Classification Manual of the Office of Management and Budget (2018).

''(g) PROHIBITED USE OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an individual is identified as deceased based on information contained in the Public Safety Officer Suicide Reporting System, such information may not be used to deny or rescind life insurance payments or other benefits to a survivor of the deceased individual.''.

SEC. 3. PEER-SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS WITHIN FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 320C. PEER-SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS WITHIN FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing or enhancing peer-support behavioral health and wellness programs within fire departments and emergency medical services agencies.

''(b) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—A peer-support behavioral health and wellness program funded under this section shall—

''(1) use career and volunteer members of fire departments or emergency medical services agencies to serve as peer counselors;

''(2) provide training to members of career, volunteer, and combination fire departments or emergency medical service agencies to serve as such peer counselors;

''(3) purchase materials to be used exclusively to provide such training; and

''(4) disseminate such information and materials as are necessary to conduct the program.

''(c) DEFINITION.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'eligible entity' means a nonprofit organization with expertise and experience with respect to the health and life safety of members of fire and emergency medical services agencies.

''(2) The term 'member'—

''(A) with respect to an emergency medical services agency, means an employee, regardless of rank or whether the employee receives compensation (as defined in section 1204(7) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968); and

''(B) with respect to a fire department, means any employee, regardless of rank or whether the employee receives compensation, of a Federal, State, Tribal, or local fire department who is responsible for responding to calls for emergency service.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Effective as if included in the enactment of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–310), the amendment instruction in section 1603 of such Act is amended by striking ''Part B of the Public Health Service Act'' and inserting ''Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act''.

SEC. 4. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS.

Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.), as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 320D. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing or enhancing behavioral health and wellness programs for health care providers.

''(b) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—A behavioral health and wellness program funded under this section shall—

''(1) provide confidential support services for health care providers to help handle stressful or traumatic patient-related events, including counseling services and wellness seminars;

''(2) provide training to health care providers to serve as peer counselors to other health care providers;

''(3) purchase materials to be used exclusively to provide such training; and

''(4) disseminate such information and materials as are necessary to conduct such training and provide such peer counseling.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means a hospital, including a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act) or a disproportionate share hospital (as defined under section 1923(a)(1)(A) of such Act), a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of such Act), or any other health care facility.''.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES FOR EDUCATING MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT TREATING FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop and make publicly available resources that may be

used by the Federal Government and other entities to educate mental health professionals about—

(1) the culture of Federal, State, Tribal, and local career, volunteer, and combination fire departments and emergency medical services agencies;

(2) the different stressors experienced by firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, supervisory firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, and chief officers of fire departments and emergency medical services agencies;

(3) challenges encountered by retired firefighters and emergency medical services personnel; and

(4) evidence-based therapies for mental health issues common to firefighters and emergency medical services personnel within such departments and agencies.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing resources under subsection (a), the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with national fire and emergency medical services organizations.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''firefighter'' means any employee, regardless of rank or whether the employee receives compensation, of a Federal, State, Tribal, or local fire department who is responsible for responding to calls for emergency service.

(2) The term ''emergency medical services personnel'' means any employee, regardless of rank or whether the employee receives compensation, as defined in section 1204(7) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284(7)).

(3) The term ''chief officer'' means any individual who is responsible for the overall operation of a fire department or an emergency medical services agency, irrespective of whether such individual also serves as a firefighter or emergency medical services personnel.

SEC. 6. BEST PRACTICES AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR ADDRESSING POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT; UPDATES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) develop and assemble evidence-based best practices and other resources to identify, prevent, and treat posttraumatic stress disorder and co-occurring disorders in public safety officers; and

(2) reassess and update, as the Secretary determines necessary, such best practices and resources, including based upon the options for interventions to reduce suicide among public safety officers identified in the annual reports required by section 317W(e)(1)(F) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing, assembling, and updating the best practices and resources under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Public health experts.

(2) Mental health experts with experience in studying suicide and other profession-related traumatic stress.

(3) Clinicians with experience in diagnosing and treating mental health issues.

(4) Relevant national police, fire, and emergency medical services organizations.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make the best practices and resources under subsection (a) available to Federal, State, and local fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services agencies.

(d) FEDERAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall work with Federal departments and agencies, including the United States Fire Administration, to incorporate education and training on the best practices and resources under subsection (a) into Federal training and development programs for public safety officers.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''public safety officer'' means—

(1) a public safety officer as defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284); or

(2) a public safety telecommunicator as described in detailed occupation 43–5031 in the Standard Occupational Classification Manual of the Office of Management and Budget (2018).

CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT

H.R. 2862

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 ''Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE.

Section 520E–3(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c(b)(2)) is amended by inserting after ''suicide prevention hotline'' the following: '', under the universal telephone number designated under Section 251(e)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934,''.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

(a) NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (referred to in this section as the ''Assistant Secretary'') and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section as the ''Director''), shall conduct a national suicide prevention media campaign (referred to in this section as the ''national media campaign''), in accordance with the requirements of this section, for purposes of—

(A) preventing suicide in the United States;

(B) educating families, friends, and communities on how to address suicide and suicidal thoughts, including when to encourage individuals with suicidal risk to seek help; and

(C) increasing awareness of suicide prevention resources of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (including the suicide prevention hotline maintained under section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c)), any suicide prevention mobile application of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, and other support resources determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION.—In addition to consulting with the Assistant Secretary and the Director under this section, the Secretary shall consult with, as appropriate, State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments, primary health care providers, hospitals with emergency departments, mental and behavioral health services providers, crisis response services providers, first responders, suicide prevention and mental health professionals, patient advocacy groups, survivors of suicide attempts, and representatives of television and social media platforms in planning the national media campaign to be conducted under paragraph (1).

(b) TARGET AUDIENCES.—

(1) TAILORING ADVERTISEMENTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.—In conducting the national media campaign under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may tailor culturally competent advertisements and other communications of the campaign across all available media for a target audience (such as a particular geographic location or demographic) across the lifespan.

(2) TARGETING CERTAIN LOCAL AREAS.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use amounts made available under subsection (f) for media that targets certain local areas or populations at disproportionate risk for suicide.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REQUIRED USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, if reasonably feasible with the funds made available under subsection (f), carry out the following, with respect to the national media campaign:

(i) Testing and evaluation of advertising.

(ii) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the national media campaign.

(iii) Operational and management expenses.

(iv) The creation of an educational toolkit for television and social media platforms to use in discussing suicide and raising awareness about how to prevent suicide.

(B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) TESTING AND EVALUATION OF ADVERTISING.—In testing and evaluating advertising under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall test all advertisements after use in the national media campaign to evaluate the extent to which such advertisements have been effective in carrying out the purposes of the national media campaign.

(ii) EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—In evaluating the effectiveness of the national media campaign under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall take into account—

(I) the number of unique calls that are made to the suicide prevention hotline maintained under section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) and assess whether there are any State and regional variations with respect to the capacity to answer such calls;

(II) the number of unique encounters with suicide prevention and support resources of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and assess engagement with such suicide prevention and support resources;

(III) whether the national media campaign has contributed to increased awareness that suicidal individuals should be engaged, rather than ignored; and

(IV) such other measures of evaluation as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

(2) OPTIONAL USES.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under subsection (f) for the following, with respect to the national media campaign:

(A) Partnerships with professional and civic groups, community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, and Government or Tribal organizations that the Secretary determines have experience in suicide prevention, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(B) Entertainment industry outreach, interactive outreach, media projects and activities, public information, news media outreach, outreach through television programs, and corporate sponsorship and participation.

(d) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the amounts made available under subsection (f) may be

obligated or expended for any of the following:

(1) To supplant current suicide prevention campaigns.

(2) For partisan political purposes, or to express advocacy in support of or to defeat any clearly identified candidate, clearly identified ballot initiative, or clearly identified legislative or regulatory proposal.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after implementation of the national media campaign has begun, the Secretary, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary and the Director, shall, with respect to the first year of the national media campaign, submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) the strategy of the national media campaign and whether specific objectives of such campaign were accomplished, including whether such campaign impacted the number of calls made to lifeline crisis centers and the capacity of such centers to manage such calls;

(2) steps taken to ensure that the national media campaign operates in an effective and efficient manner consistent with the overall strategy and focus of the national media campaign;

(3) plans to purchase advertising time and space;

(4) policies and practices implemented to ensure that Federal funds are used responsibly to purchase advertising time and space and eliminate the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(5) all contracts entered into with a corporation, a partnership, or an individual working on behalf of the national media campaign.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT

H.R. 2955

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 ''Suicide Prevention Act''.

SEC. 2. SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE OF SELF-HARM BEHAVIORS PROGRAM.

Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 317U of such Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–23) the following:

''SEC. 317V. SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE OF SELF-HARM BEHAVIORS PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for the expansion of surveillance of self-harm.

''(b) DATA SHARING BY GRANTEES.—As a condition of receipt of such grant under subsection (a), each grantee shall agree to share with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in real time, to the extent feasible and as specified in the grant agreement, data on suicides and self-harm for purposes of—

''(1) tracking and monitoring self-harm to inform response activities to suicide clusters;

''(2) informing prevention programming for identified at-risk populations; and

''(3) conducting or supporting research.

''(c) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—The Secretary shall provide for the data collected through surveillance of self-harm under subsection (b) to be disaggregated by the following categories:

''(1) Nonfatal self-harm data of any intent.

''(2) Data on suicidal ideation.

''(3) Data on self-harm where there is no evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.

''(4) Data on self-harm where there is evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.

''(5) Data on self-harm where suicidal intent is unclear based on the available evidence.

''(d) PRIORITY.—In making awards under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that are—

''(1) located in a State with an age-adjusted rate of nonfatal suicidal behavior that is above the national rate of nonfatal suicidal behavior, as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

''(2) serving an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act) with an age-adjusted rate of nonfatal suicidal behavior that is above the national rate of nonfatal suicidal behavior, as determined through appropriate mechanisms determined by the Secretary in consultation with Indian Tribes; or

''(3) located in a State with a high rate of coverage of statewide (or Tribal) emergency department visits, as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(e) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall make an effort to ensure geographic distribution, taking into account the unique needs of rural communities, including—

''(1) communities with an incidence of individuals with serious mental illness, demonstrated suicidal ideation or behavior, or suicide rates that are above the national average, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use;

''(2) communities with a shortage of prevention and treatment services, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; and

''(3) other appropriate community-level factors and social determinants of health such as income, employment, and education.

''(f) PERIOD OF PARTICIPATION.—To be selected as a grant recipient under this section, a State, local, Tribal, or territorial public health department shall agree to participate in the program for a period of not less than 4 years.

''(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance and training to grantees for collecting and sharing the data under subsection (b).

''(h) DATA SHARING BY HHS.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall, with respect to data on self-harm that is collected pursuant to this section, share and integrate such data through—

''(1) the National Syndromic Surveillance Program's Early Notification of Community Epidemics (ESSENCE) platform (or any successor platform);

''(2) the National Violent Death Reporting System, as appropriate; or

''(3) another appropriate surveillance program, including such a program that collects data on suicides and self-harm among special populations, such as members of the military and veterans.

''(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING APPLICABILITY OF PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or alter the application of Federal or State law relating to the privacy of information to data or information that is collected or created under this section.

''(j) REPORT.—

''(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall evaluate the suicide and self-harm syndromic surveillance systems at the Federal, State, and local levels and submit a report to Congress on the data collected under subsections (b) and (c) in a manner that prevents the disclosure of individually identifiable information, at a minimum, consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

''(2) CONTENTS.—In addition to the data collected under subsections (b) and (c), the report under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) challenges and gaps in data collection and reporting;

''(B) recommendations to address such gaps and challenges; and

''(C) a description of any public health responses initiated at the Federal, State, or local level in response to the data collected.

''(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PROVIDE SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES.

Part B of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 520N. GRANTS TO PROVIDE SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to hospital emergency departments to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services.

''(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A hospital emergency department awarded a grant under subsection (a) shall use amounts under the grant to implement a program or protocol to better prevent suicide attempts among hospital patients after discharge, which may include—

''(A) screening patients for self-harm and suicide in accordance with the standards of practice described in subsection (e)(1) and standards of care established by appropriate medical and advocacy organizations;

''(B) providing patients short-term self-harm and suicide prevention services in accordance with the results of the screenings described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) referring patients, as appropriate, to a health care facility or provider for purposes of receiving long-term self-harm and suicide prevention services, and providing any additional follow up services and care identified as appropriate as a result of the screenings and short-term self-harm and suicide prevention services described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

''(2) USE OF FUNDS TO HIRE AND TRAIN STAFF.—Amounts awarded under subsection (a) may be used to hire clinical social workers, mental and behavioral health care professionals, and support staff as appropriate, and to train existing staff and newly hired staff to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1).

''(c) GRANT TERMS.—A grant awarded under subsection (a)—

''(1) shall be for a period of 3 years; and

''(2) may be renewed subject to the requirements of this section.

''(d) APPLICATIONS.—A hospital emergency department seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

''(e) STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop standards of practice for screening patients for self-harm and suicide for purposes of carrying out subsection (b)(1)(C).

''(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall develop the standards of practice described in paragraph (1) in consultation with individuals and entities with expertise in self-harm and suicide prevention, including public, private, and non-profit entities.

''(f) REPORTING.—

''(1) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A hospital emergency department awarded a grant under subsection (a) shall, at least quarterly for the duration of the grant, submit to the Secretary a report evaluating the activities supported by the grant.

''(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) the number of patients receiving—

''(I) screenings carried out at the hospital emergency department;

''(II) short-term self-harm and suicide prevention services at the hospital emergency department; and

''(III) referrals to health care facilities for the purposes of receiving long-term self-harm and suicide prevention;

''(ii) information on the adherence of the hospital emergency department to the standards of practice described in subsection (f)(1); and

''(iii) other information as the Secretary determines appropriate to evaluate the use of grant funds.

''(2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Suicide Prevention Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the grant program under this section, including—

''(A) a summary of reports received by the Secretary under paragraph (1); and

''(B) an evaluation of the program by the Secretary.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

H.R. 2981

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 ''Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE.

(a) PLAN.—Section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e); and

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

''(c) PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of maintaining the suicide prevention hotline under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall develop and implement a plan to ensure the provision of high-quality service.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Quality assurance provisions, including—

''(i) clearly defined and measurable performance indicators and objectives to improve the responsiveness and performance of the hotline, including at backup call centers; and

''(ii) quantifiable timeframes to track the progress of the hotline in meeting such performance indicators and objectives.

''(B) Standards that crisis centers and backup centers must meet—

''(i) to participate in the network under subsection (b)(1); and

''(ii) to ensure that each telephone call, online chat message, and other communication received by the hotline, including at backup call centers, is answered in a timely manner by a person, consistent with the guidance established by the American Association of Suicidology or other guidance determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

''(C) Guidelines for crisis centers and backup centers to implement evidence-based practices including with respect to followup and referral to other health and social services resources.

''(D) Guidelines to ensure that resources are available and distributed to individuals using the hotline who are not personally in a time of crisis but know of someone who is.

''(E) Guidelines to carry out periodic testing of the hotline, including at crisis centers and backup centers, during each fiscal year to identify and correct any problems in a timely manner.

''(F) Guidelines to operate in consultation with the State department of health, local governments, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations.

''(3) INITIAL PLAN; UPDATES.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2021, complete development of the initial version of the plan required by paragraph (1), begin implementation of such plan, and make such plan publicly available; and

''(B) periodically thereafter, update such plan and make the updated plan publicly available.''.

(b) TRANSMISSION OF DATA TO CDC.—Section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) of such section, as added by subsection (a) of this section, the following:

''(d) TRANSMISSION OF DATA TO CDC.—The Secretary shall formalize and strengthen agreements between the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to transmit any necessary epidemiological data from the program to the Centers, including local call center data, to assist the Centers in suicide prevention efforts.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (e) of section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

''(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024, at least 80 percent shall be made available to crisis centers.''.

SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall carry out a pilot program to research, analyze, and employ various technologies and platforms of communication (including social media platforms, texting platforms, and email platforms) for suicide prevention in addition to the telephone and online chat service provided by the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall submit to the Congress a report on the pilot program. With respect to each platform of communication employed pursuant to the pilot program, the report shall include—

(1) a full description of the program;

(2) the number of individuals served by the program;

(3) the average wait time for each individual to receive a response;

(4) the cost of the program, including the cost per individual served; and

(5) any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 4. HHS STUDY AND REPORT.

Not later than 24 months after the Secretary of Health and Human Services begins implementation of the plan required by section 520E–3(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2(a)(2) of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a study on—

(A) the implementation of such plan, including the progress towards meeting the objectives identified pursuant to paragraph (2)(A)(i) of such section 520E–3(c) by the timeframes identified pursuant to paragraph (2)(A)(ii) of such section 520E–3(c); and

(B) in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, options to expand data gathering from calls to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline in order to better track aspects of usage such as repeat calls, consistent with applicable Federal and State privacy laws; and

(2) submit a report to the Congress on the results of such study, including recommendations on whether additional legislation or appropriations are needed.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24 months after the Secretary of Health and Human Services begins implementation of the plan required by section 520E–3(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2(a)(2) of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) complete a study on the Suicide Prevention Lifeline; and

(2) submit a report to the Congress on the results of such study.

(b) ISSUES TO BE STUDIED.—The study required by subsection (a) shall address—

(1) the feasibility of geolocating callers to direct calls to the nearest crisis center;

(2) operation shortcomings of the Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

(3) geographic coverage of each crisis call center;

(4) the call answer rate of each crisis call center;

(5) the call wait time of each crisis call center;

(6) the hours of operation of each crisis call center;

(7) funding avenues of each crisis call center;

(8) the implementation of the plan under section 520E–3(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2(a) of this Act, including the progress towards meeting the objectives identified pursuant to paragraph (2)(A)(i) of such section 520E–3(c) by the timeframes identified pursuant to paragraph (2)(A)(ii) of such section 520E–3(c); and

(9) service to individuals requesting a foreign language speaker, including—

(A) the number of calls or chats the Lifeline receives from individuals speaking a foreign language;

(B) the capacity of the Lifeline to handle these calls or chats; and

(C) the number of crisis centers with the capacity to serve foreign language speakers, in house.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include recommendations for improving the Suicide

Prevention Lifeline, including recommendations for legislative and administrative actions.

SEC. 6. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''Suicide Prevention Lifeline'' means the suicide prevention hotline maintained pursuant to section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 380, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bills.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. 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 349, nays 74, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 137]

YEAS—349

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Strickland
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—74

Aderholt
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Banks
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brooks
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Cammack
Carter (TX)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crawford
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Foxx
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Huizenga
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lesko
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Moore (AL)
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Steube
Taylor
Tiffany
Weber (TX)
Williams (TX)

NOT VOTING—7

Dunn
Golden
Murphy (FL)
Sherrill
Smith (NJ)
Suozzi
Webster (FL)

□ 1657

Mr. BANKS changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bills were passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Stevens)
Cárdenas (Gallego)
Crenshaw (Pfluger)
Eshoo (Thompson (CA))
Fallon (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Connolly)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Napolitano (Correa)
Owens (Stewart)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Ruppersberger (Raskin)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Strickland (DelBene)
Torres (CA) (Barragán)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

HONORING CORPORAL KEITH HEACOOK OF THE DELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Corporal Keith Heacook, a police officer whose funeral I attended on Monday. He was tragically killed in a violent assault while responding to an early morning domestic disturbance call. As a member of the Delmar Police Department, a police force that straddles the Maryland-Delaware border, Corporal Heacook honorably and selflessly served not just my district, but also the constituents of southern Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, it was appropriate that a man who laid down his life in service to his community was given such a fitting funeral with over 1,000 law enforcement officers paying their final respects.

Coincidentally, this week, we honor the courage and sacrifice of all our men and women in blue nationwide—men and women who literally put their lives on the line every day so that we can live safely in our homes and in our communities. Corporal Heacook leaves behind a widow and a young son.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in praying for his family during this challenging time and for all the families of all the brave men and women who have laid down their lives to protect us.

HONORING OUR HEROES—NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, who are we if we cannot honor and celebrate those who have given their ultimate in the National Police Week?

I want to say to my hometown law enforcement that we mourn Jason Michael Knox, Harold Lloyd Preston, Lemuel Bruce, and Mark C. Brown.

We mourn Christopher Brown, and we mourn Johnny Ramos Sanchez. We mourn Juan Menchaca, we mourn Raymond Scholwinski, and we mourn Ernest Leal.

We thank them. They are our family members, our brothers and sisters. We honor them and express our appreciation for their laying down their lives to save children and to take families out of burning buildings.

We acknowledge Houston law enforcement officers who are now memorialized on the wall of honor, which I intend to introduce into this body's RECORD.

Then I want to acknowledge the legislation that I hope my colleagues will sign, and that is, to honor those who stood tall and fought for us on January 6. This resolution will tell us their story, and that is why I stand today to tell the story of those who have sacrificed for us in this week. They are our family. We honor them, and we mourn them.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I know well the service and sacrifice of our neighbors in law enforcement, both in my hometown of Houston, Texas and here in the Capitol.

I would like to take this minute to honor those fallen heroes in the City of Houston over the last year, and would like to reiterate our support for our polices officers across the nation and here at the capitol for their duty and sacrifice in the defense of ourselves and our communities.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

Among those fallen Texans are:

Sergeant Harold Lloyd Preston of the Houston Police Department with 41 years on the force whose watch ended on October 20, 2020, when he was fired upon while responding to a call for assistance involving a domestic disturbance.

Officer Jason Michael Knox of the Houston Police Department, whose watch ended on May 2, 2020, when his aircraft experienced operation control issues and crashed into an unoccupied building during a search mission.

Investigator Lemuel Bruce of the Houston Fire Marshal's Office, whose watch ended on October 16, 2020, due to an ambush while conducting surveillance as part of an ongoing arson investigation.

And those officers who risked exposure to the COVID–19 pandemic in their tireless pursuit for justice and against violence, who contracted the virus in the course of their duties, and who eventually succumbed to the deadly virus:

Investigator Mark C. Brown of the Harris County Constable's Office, whose watch ended on July 26, 2020;

Deputy Sheriff Johnny Tunches of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, whose watch ended November 2, 2020;

Deputy Juan Menchaca, Jr. of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, whose watch ended June 13, 2020;

Sergeant Raymond Scholwinski of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, whose watch ended May 6, 2020; and

Senior Officer Ernest Leal of the Houston Police Department, whose watch ended on November 27, 2020.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the Nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

Carved on its walls are the names of 22,611 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Added to the Wall this year will be the names of 295 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2020.

2020 was one of the deadliest years for law enforcement officers in history.

Mr. Speaker, enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor also are the names of 2,052 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 116 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 800,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever.

About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Every 58 hours, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States.

There are also 58,627 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 16,667 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, on January 6, 2021, the then-President of the United States encouraged his followers to "fight like hell" to disrupt and derail the constitutionally required Joint Meeting of Congress to open, count, and publicly confirm the vote tally of the Presidential electors and announce the persons who had been elected President and Vice President of the United States.

What followed was thousands of domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, and rioters charging the Capitol Building, the bastion of American democracy, with metal pipes, chemical irritants, and other weapons.

In their way the officers of the United States Capitol Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, DC, and other uniformed law enforcement officers stood their ground in defense of American democracy.

There is no finer example of the selfless devotion to duty and love of country, than these officers' valiant, heroic, and courageous response to the assault on the Capitol Building.

At least 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department, and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington DC, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of whom required hospitalization.

The seven hours between the urgent call for help from the Capitol Police to the Metropolitan Police Department and the resumption of work by both Houses of Congress will be indelibly etched in the memories of every law enforcement officer who was on the scene, as it is in the minds of the Senators, Representatives, congressional and support staff, and members of the media corps who were forced to seek safety behind locked doors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 295 fallen heroes who will be joining the 22,611 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the 295 officers whose names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. TIMOTHY SCOTT ABERNETHY, End of Watch: December 7, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. CHARLES H BAKER, End of Watch: August 16, 1979, Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. JOHNNY TERRELL BAMSCH, End of Watch: January 30, 1975, Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. CLAUDE R BECK, End of Watch: December 10, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. JACK B BEETS, End of Watch: March 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. TROY A BLANDO, End of Watch: May 19, 1999, Houston, Texas, P.D.
7. JAMES CHARLES BOSWELL, End of Watch: December 9, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C E BRANON, End of Watch: March 20, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. JOHN M CAIN, End of Watch: August 3, 1911, Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. RICHARD H CALHOUN, End of Watch: October 10, 1975, Houston Texas Police Department.
11. DIONICIO M CAMACHO, End of Watch: October 23, 2009, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. HENRY CANALES, End of Watch: June 23, 2009, Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. FRANK MANUEL CANTU JR, End of Watch: March 25, 2004, Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E C CHAVEZ, End of Watch: September 17, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. CHARLES ROY CLARK, End of Watch: April 3, 2003, Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. CHARLES ROBERT COATES II, End of Watch: February 23, 1983, Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. PETE CORRALES, End of Watch: January 25, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. RUFUS E DANIELS, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. JOHNNIE DAVIDSON, End of Watch: February 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. WORTH DAVIS, End of Watch: June 17, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. KEITH ALAN DEES, End of Watch: March 7, 2002, Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. REUBEN BECERRA DELEON JR, End of Watch: October 26, 2005, Houston, Texas, P.D.
23. WILLIAM EDWIN DELEON, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. FLOYD T DELOACH JR, End of Watch: June 30, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. GEORGE D EDWARDS, End of Watch: June 30, 1939, Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. DAWN SUZANNE ERICKSON, End of Watch: December 24, 1995, Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J C ETHERIDGE, End of Watch: August 23, 1924 Houston, Texas, P.D.
28. JAMES E FENN, End of Watch: March 14, 1891, Houston, Texas, P.D.
29. E D FITZGERALD, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
30. C EDWARD FOLEY, End of Watch: March 10, 1860, Houston, Texas, P.D.

31. JOSEPH ROBERT FREE, End of Watch: October 18, 1912, Houston, Texas, P.D.
32. GUY P GADDIS, End of Watch: January 31, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
33. JAMES T GAMBILL, End of Watch: December 1, 1936, Houston, Texas, P.D.
34. FLORENTINO M GARCIA JR, End of Watch: November 10, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
35. BEN EDDIE GERHART, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
36. G Q GONZALEZ, End of Watch: February 28, 1960, Houston, Texas, P.D.
37. CHARLES R GOUGENHEIM, End of Watch: April 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
38. CARL GREENE, End of Watch: March 14, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
39. LEON GRIGGS, End of Watch: January 31, 1970, Houston, Texas, P.D.
40. MARIA MICHELLE GROVES, End of Watch: April 10, 1987, Houston, Texas, P.D.
41. GARY ALLEN GRYDER, End of Watch: June 29, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
42. ANTONIO GUZMAN JF, End of Watch: January 9, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
43. HOWARD B HAMMOND, End of Watch: August 18, 1946, Houston, Texas, P.D.
44. JAMES DONALD HARRIS, End of Watch: July 13, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
45. DAVID MICHAEL HEALY, End of Watch: November 12, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
46. TIMOTHY A HEARN, End of Watch: June 8, 1978, Houston, Texas, P.D.
47. OSCAR HOPE, End of Watch: June 22, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
48. ELSTON M HOWARD, End of Watch: July 20, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.
49. DAVID HUERTA, End of Watch: September 19, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.
50. JAMES BRUCE IRBY, End of Watch: June 27, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.
51. BOBBY L JAMES, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.
52. JOHN C JAMES, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.
53. RODNEY JOSEPH JOHNSON, End of Watch: September 21, 2006, Houston, Texas, P.D.
54. ED JONES, End of Watch: September 13, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.
55. P P JONES, End of Watch: January 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.
56. FRANKL KELLOGG, End of Watch: November 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
57. S A BUSTER KENT, End of Watch: January 12, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
58. JAMES F KILTY, End of Watch: April 8, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.
59. KENT DEAN KINCAID, End of Watch: May 23, 1998, Houston, Texas, P.D.
60. LOUIS R KUBA, End of Watch: May 17, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.
61. J D LANDRY, End of Watch: December 3, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
62. ROBERT WAYNE LEE, End of Watch: January 31, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
63. FRED MADDOX JR, End of Watch: February 24, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.
64. EYDELMEN MANI, End of Watch: May 19, 2010 Houston, Texas, P.D.
65. A P MARSHALL, End of Watch: November 8, 1937 Houston, Texas, P.D.
66. CHARLES R MCDANIEL, End of Watch: August 4, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.
67. E G MEINKE, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
68. HARRY MERENESS, End of Watch: October 18, 1933, Houston, Texas, P.D.
69. NOEL R MILLER, End of Watch: June 6, 1958, Houston, Texas, P.D.
70. KENNETH L MOODY, End of Watch: November 26, 1969, Houston, Texas, P.D.
71. HORACE MOODY, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
72. WILLIAM MOSS, End of Watch: September 12, 1983, Houston Airport Police, Texas.
73. DAVE MURDOCK, End of Watch: June 27, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
74. WILLIAM E MURPHY, End of Watch: April 1, 1910 Houston, Texas, P.D.
75. DAVID FRANKLIN NOEL, End of Watch: June 17, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.
76. M E PALMER, End of Watch: March 24, 1938, Houston, Texas, P.D.
77. ISAAC PARSON, End of Watch: May 24, 1914, Houston, Texas, P.D.
78. ROSS PATTON, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
79. STEPHEN ALBERT PEREZ, End of Watch: August 27, 2017, Houston, Texas, P.D.
80. W B PHARES, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
81. HERBERT N PLANER, End of Watch: February 18, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
82. IRA RANEY, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
83. WINSTON J RAWLINGS, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
84. JERRY LAWRENCE RILEY, End of Watch: June 18, 1974, Houston, Texas, P.D.
85. JOHN CHARLES RISLEY, End of Watch: October 23, 2000, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
86. SANDRA ANN ROBBINS, End of Watch: March 17, 1991, South Houston, Texas, P.D.
87. GEORGE G ROJAS, End of Watch: January 28, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.
88. MICHAEL P ROMAN, End of Watch: January 6, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.
89. JOHN ANTHONY SALVAGGIO, End of Watch: November 25, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.
90. LOUIS L SANDER, End of Watch: January 21, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.
91. JEFFERY SCOTT SANFORD, End of Watch: September 14, 1991, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
92. KATHLEEN C SCHAEFER, End of Watch: August 18, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
93. ROBERT SCHULTEA, End of Watch: August 25, 1956, Houston, Texas, P.D.
94. DARYL WAYNE SHIRLEY, End of Watch: April 28, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
95. RICHARD SNOW, End of Watch: March 17, 1882, Houston, Texas, P.D.
96. BRUNO DAVID SOBOLESKI, End of Watch: April 12, 1991, Houston, Texas, P.D.
97. JERRY LEON SPRUILL, End of Watch: October 27, 1972, Houston, Texas, P.D.
98. R H SULLIVAN, End of Watch: March 9, 1935, Houston, Texas, P.D.
99. JOHN W SUTTLE, End of Watch: August 3, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
100. CUONG HUY TRINH, End of Watch: April 6, 1997, Houston, Texas, P.D.
101. ALBERTO VASQUEZ, End of Watch: May 22, 2001, Houston, Texas, P.D.
102. JAMES T WALKER, End of Watch: March 8, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.
103. VICTOR R WELLS III, End of Watch: October 2, 1980, Houston, Texas, P.D.
104. R O WELLS, End of Watch: July 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.
105. ALBERT CHARLES WILKINS, End of Watch: January 6, 1978, Harris County, Texas, C.O.
106. KEVIN SCOTT WILL, End of Watch: May 29, 2011, Houston, Texas, P.D.
107. HENRY WILLIAMS, End of Watch: February 8, 1886 Houston, Texas, P.D.
108. WILLIAM C WILLIAMS JR, End of Watch: April 16, 1930, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
109. ED D WILLIAMS, End of Watch: January 12, 1974, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
110. JAMES FRANKLIN WILLIS, End of Watch: July 1, 1964, Houston, Texas, P.D.
111. MARVIN ALTON WINTER, End of Watch: December 4, 1937, Harris County, Texas, C.O., Pct. 4.
112. ANDREW WINZER, End of Watch: February 18, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.
113. JETER YOUNG, End of Watch: June 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
114. HERMAN YOUNGST, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.
115. JOE A ZAMARRON, 60–W: 2, End of Watch: April 18, 1981, Houston, Texas, P.D.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. This Police Week, we want to thank the more than 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers for their service, and we want to thank their families.

During Police Week, we also remember the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers. Since 1786, when the first police death was recorded in the U.S., more than 22,000 officers have been killed in the line of duty.

In my home State of New Mexico, 160 police officers have died in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and let our police officers know how much we appreciate them and their service to our communities, our State, and our Nation. We just want to celebrate this Police Week with them and wish them Godspeed and say a prayer to keep them out of harm's way.

VOTING RIGHTS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, the sacred right to vote is under attack for Black and Hispanic people in the State of Texas.

Dangerous Jim Crow 2.0 voter suppression laws are rapidly advancing across the country and in the Lone Star State right now.

During the 2020 elections, we saw 17 million Texans go out there and risk their lives, especially during the primary when there was still a lot of uncertainty about COVID to go out there so they could cast their ballot. Now only mere months later, Texas leaders in the State legislature are silencing the voices of these very voters by pushing some of the most restrictive voting measures in the entire country. This legislation will do everything from prohibiting local officials from sending out mail-in ballot applications to empowering poll watchers to actually be able to harass people with cell phones and video.

It is crazy, Mr. Speaker, what is going on. It is completely backwards, it is embarrassing, and for me as a Black American, it is embarrassing, because the big lie is being perpetuated by historic racist tropes that Black people are cheating and stealing at the polls.

It is uncalled for, it is unnecessary, it is racist, and it must end. I implore Texas leaders to stop this nonsense and get back to the business of helping

families deal with the pandemic and help our State to keep growing.

GAS LINES

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

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because as of this morning at 9 a.m., 78 percent of the gas stations in my district in Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina, are out of gas. My constituents are calling my office hundreds at a time requesting relief.

What has happened with the Colonial Pipeline is a cybersecurity attack. It is an attack likely from eastern Europe. A group that calls themselves DarkSide is seriously impacting the lives of my constituents.

This Congress has waited far too long to address our weak cybersecurity in the overall U.S. economy. We must take steps as a country and as a Congress to increase our cybersecurity to protect our country from future attacks.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft legislation to make sure that what is going on right now in the Southeast does not happen again.

ENDING CHILD POVERTY

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expanded child tax credit and in support of making it permanent.

I was so proud to fight for the expanded tax credit to be included in the American Rescue Plan and to have made so much progress on ending childhood poverty in my first 4 months in Congress.

Across the country we will lift 5 million kids out of poverty this year. In my district alone, that is 12,000 kids who will no longer live in poverty, and it is more than 44,000 families and more than 148,000 kids who will be helped.

But our work isn't done. It is unacceptable that we would let the child tax credit expire and allow even a single kid to fall back into poverty. We have the opportunity to make investments now that will impact a generation of Americans. So let's expand the child tax credit permanently. Let's invest in parents and families, and let's build a better future for all of our kids.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, today it is with overwhelming pride that I rise to congratulate the 2021 NCAA Men's Volleyball National Champions of the University of Hawaii.

In Columbus, Ohio this past Saturday, the Rainbow Warriors dominated Brigham Young University in a three-set sweep showcasing to the Nation the qualities of a team hungry for a national championship only made possible through years of hard work, perseverance, grit, mental fortitude, and sportsmanship.

As a former Rainbow Warriors men's volleyball player and proud alumnus, I know how much this victory means to the program and all of Hawaii.

So congratulations to the head coach, Charlie Wade, the coaching staff, UH athletics programs, the players, and, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, the best collegiate volleyball fans, supporters, boosters, and Aunty's on the planet.

Hawaii is so proud of them. No Ka 'Oi, and go Bows.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week of May 15 as National Police Week. Established in 1962 by a joint resolution of this body, National Police Week pays special recognition to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

My home State of Florida, during 2020, lost 19 law enforcement officers, and we gather today to honor their memory and to thank them for their service. We thank all law enforcement officers across the Nation who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and we remember those who are out there patrolling our communities to keep us all safe.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining us today to give honor to whom honor is due. Mr. Speaker, many have given much, but these men and women—our law enforcement officers—have given all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN), who is a former law enforcement officer.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise today to join my colleagues to honor National Police Week. I became a police officer when I was very young—20 years old. Many of the calls I responded to still stand in sharp relief in my memory.

Today, as we honor the many who have fallen while serving our communities, I first want to talk about a couple of friends of mine, Sergeant James Severin and Patrolman Tony Rizzato. They were my friends and colleagues who were killed by snipers as they were participating in a walk and talk program, an exercise designed to help police better get to know the communities they serve.

I think of my dear friend, Erwin Jackson, a patrolman, who just months before Severin and Rizzato had passed away, had saved my life while we were arresting a man wanted for murder. Erwin was killed in the line of duty while his partner attempted to disarm an offender with a gun. Their losses have left indelible marks on me.

Now as a Representative for Arizona's First District, I have known the pain of losing the hardworking men and women serving our State. Just before I started my first term in Washington, Show Low Officer Darrin Reed was killed in a hostage altercation attempting to save the life of a 15-year-old girl from her captor.

□ 1715

His loss shook an entire Arizona community and is a testament to his service and his kindness. I remember talking to his family at his memorial.

In February of last year, we lost White Mountain Apache Officer David Kellywood in the line of duty. On the day we laid him to rest, blue and black ribbons and American flags lined our State highways.

The loss of too many good officers working on the front lines this past year has left unbearable empty chairs at kitchen tables across our States and families that are suffering.

The officers I work with in Arizona's First District are kind, honest men and women who were drawn to service for the sake of others. At the end of the day, their names are too great to count and the sacrifices they have made too many.

As we honor this week, we also recognize the changes that must be made to our policing system to ensure that those who have sworn to protect and serve are held to the highest standards, and we, as Congress, must help with that.

We must rebuild broken trust between police and our communities and work in bipartisan ways to do so.

That is the type of police I worked with, many of us have, and we want to see that those officers who are participating in that type of community continue to work.

As a former officer, a member of the bipartisan Law Enforcement Caucus, and the sponsor of several bills to reform policing and better keep our communities and our officers safe, this week is not one I take lightly.

We must continue to honor the good, honest officers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. We must also work toward equal rights, justice, and treatment for all Americans in our criminal justice system. Those goals can go hand in hand if we put aside our differences and work together.

Above all, today, we mourn and remember all those we have lost and hope that our words will offer comfort to their families.

As we keep close in our hearts the loved ones of our fallen officers, we also think of the families across our Nation who have lost loved ones to senseless violence.

Mrs. DEMINGS. We are able to be here today, Mr. Speaker, to conduct the people's business because of the good men and women who protect us in the U.S. Capitol, the men and women who wear the uniform and the badge every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we stand and speak on behalf of the law enforcement community of our country. As the former chief of the Orlando Police just said, it is because of them that we have law and order.

Democracy cannot survive without law and order. So, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for leading this Special Order hour and for so many Democrats and Republicans participating. She is, as so many Americans now know, not only an outstanding Member of the Congress but also a former chief of police for the city of Orlando, Florida, and, I might say, a serious candidate considered by President Biden for Vice President of the United States.

She is not the only one in our Caucus who has worked in law enforcement or overseen police departments as mayor, but certainly one of the most experienced.

As we observe National Police Week this year, we do so at a time when we are engaged in a critical national conversation about justice in policing. Tonight, we want to make it clear: This important dialogue does not detract one iota from the deep and abiding respect that all of us—Democrats, Republicans, independents, Americans—have for the men and women who dedicate their careers in law enforcement to protecting their communities, their neighbors, their friends.

I do not believe, I want to make it clear, in defunding police. That is neither my view nor my party's platform. Indeed, we honor law enforcement.

Over the years, I have been proud to join my Democratic colleagues as a strong supporter of law enforcement and to raise awareness of the very serious dangers that police officers face while doing their jobs.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, in 1998, were slain, one in my office and one outside the door of my office. They were brave and good people who lost their lives defending the Capitol of the United States.

In my State of Maryland and the Fifth District, I have worked closely with police chiefs, sheriffs, and departments to ensure that their needs are being met. Together, we have worked to make certain that the families of those who fell in the line of duty received the benefits, help, compassion, and appreciation they deserve.

Every year—until it became virtual, and now I do it virtually—I have gone down to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. 22,611 Americans, law enforcement officers, have lost their lives keeping the peace.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, America lost 295 police officers in the line of duty. It is a dangerous duty, but it is a critical duty.

Here in the Capitol, we will remember those who have given their lives to protect this institution, including Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson, Officer Howard Liebengood, Officer William Evans, and, of course, Officer Brian Sicknick.

The actions just laid out are ones that Congress, House Democrats, believe are important to protecting those who keep us safe every day. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is equally essential for the efficacy and safety of law enforcement to take positive and proactive steps to ensure accountability and rebuild trust in our departments.

That is true of our institution, Mr. Speaker. When we hold accountable one of our Members, as we have done, it does not besmirch the rest of our Members. No one ought to simplify that one is like all.

To do that, we must continue the important national conversations about justice in policing and rooting out racial bias that corrodes effective police work.

The majority, Mr. Speaker, of principled police officers are among those most concerned about ensuring that those who cannot properly and responsibly carry out their work of policing are held accountable. That is why we passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

Congress has a responsibility to deal with this challenge not only for the sake of justice and public safety but also in order to help police departments better carry out their missions and to raise the respect and support they receive from the American public.

Such a policy is not designed to defund police or to lessen the impact of the vital function that law enforcement officers perform.

So, as we join in observing Police Week this year, let us remember all those 22,000-plus, those 295, the brave men and women protecting us and the peacefulness of our communities. Let us continue to support law enforcement by striving to help police officers and departments face this moment head-on and emerge stronger, safer, more trusted, and better equipped to keep all Americans safe.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON), a former law enforcement officer.

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, the Representative who we affectionately call Chief DEMINGS, for organizing this Special Order hour. You don't get many friends like Congresswoman DEMINGS. She is a true leader; she is thoughtful; and she is a true public servant.

I join her, Mr. Speaker, this National Police Week to honor and remember the officers who lost their lives last year in the line of duty.

I can remember, years ago, traveling with my colleagues from the Indiana State Excise Police to honor my colleague's dad, who passed away in a high-speed pursuit on State Road 231. He was the sheriff, Sheriff Jim Baugh of Putnam County, and we came out here years ago to honor Mr. Baugh.

Though nothing can bring back the lives that have been lost or ease the collective grief we feel, we take comfort in knowing that we will never forget them or the sacrifices they have made.

We pledge, Mr. Speaker, to keep their legacy alive through our efforts to improve policing for every community, for all Americans.

As a former law enforcement officer, this priority is deeply personal. I want to pay special tribute to all the law enforcement officers in my district who are working to keep our city safe and build greater trust with the neighborhoods they serve.

I also want to honor the Hoosier officers statewide who have lost their lives. One such officer I would like to recognize is Officer Breann Leath, an Indianapolis Metro Police Department officer who was shot and killed last April while responding to a domestic disturbance.

She was 24 years old, Mr. Speaker, a veteran of the National Guard, the mother of a young son, and part of a family and a proud legacy of law enforcement. She had her whole life and a great career ahead of her, only to have it tragically cut short.

Today and every day, Mr. Speaker, we honor her and those like her who have been killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to recognize the countless Americans who we have lost to police brutality.

In Indianapolis alone, and in communities across our country, the list grows longer each day. We must honor their memory and commit to enacting reforms that save lives in the future.

Now, let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. We are not advocating for these reforms in order to punish police or to make their jobs harder. We also want to improve their lives as well. We want to provide police with better training and the right resources. We want to help police build stronger and healthier relationships with the communities they serve.

We also want police to be able to focus on keeping the peace and relieve them of their many other duties that they are expected to do even when they are not trained or equipped to carry out these additional duties.

As a former law enforcement officer and as a Black man who has been the victim of police excess and misconduct, it is clear to me that these changes are desperately needed.

We can improve policing and save lives by passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The House has done its work and passed it twice, last year and this year. Now, the Senate must be bold and pass it as soon as possible so President Biden can sign it into law.

Thank you again to all the law enforcement officers who risk their lives to keep Americans safe, and a special thanks to those we have lost.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS), who comes from a law enforcement family.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEMINGS for putting this together. We are grateful to her.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Police Week. I stand here today with my heart full of gratitude, gratitude for the brave police officers who saved our lives, who saved the lives of the staff who were here on January 6, who saved our Nation from suffering further harm at the hands of those who would see our democracy destroyed.

It was January 6, and many of us stood on this floor. I was with many of the people here today that afternoon when the armed mob broke into our Nation's Capitol and threatened us, targeted us, hunted us.

The moment they reached that door right there, the one just a few rows back, and began to shatter the glass on that door, there was just a handful of police officers who bravely stood in their way.

It was in that moment that my thoughts were as a mother, as a daughter, as a citizen. Thoughts of legislation and budgets and parliamentary rules were not on my mind.

□ 1730

What I wanted to do that day, and those of us who were on the floor that day, we just wanted to live. But it was our Capitol Police officers who stood up, stepped up, and fought back that mob. They protected all of us that day. They put their lives on the line. One even made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us and to keep our democracy safe.

It wasn't until after those terrifying moments, when we reached a secure room, that I saw a text from my husband, who is the sheriff of Rock Island County, where we live and have lived for 30-plus years. He reminded me that the Capitol Police were there to protect us, and to listen to them. He could not have been more right.

Shortly after that day, after we returned to the Chamber where our lives had been in jeopardy, I shared my experiences. Here is what I wrote: ''I feel sure that the Capitol Police saved countless lives. I don't think that America yet fully comprehends just how close we came to seeing Members of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate kidnapped, held hostage, or perhaps even murdered. That mob had lethal intent.''

But it is because of our Capitol Police, because they risked their lives, because Brian Sicknick gave his life, that I could walk through that door and stand here on this floor today and speak to you. I speak with gratitude.

Earlier this year, I was proud to vote to pass a bill awarding the Capitol Police a Congressional Gold Medal. It is my hope that the Senate will pass this legislation soon. But, today, I am so proud to be able to stand here to recognize National Police Week, a week to say thank you and to recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

This year, 394 names were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Thank you to those 394 officers. Thank you to the nine Illinois police officers whose lives were part of that list. And as the wife of a sheriff, let me say that 394 is too many, and 9 is too many.

Thank you to my husband of—35 years?

I am sorry; I think that is right, Gerry, if you are watching.

Thank you to my husband. He has been in law enforcement for 38 years. I do know that number. Thank you for his service to our community and his career in law enforcement.

Thank you to the men and women in law enforcement who sacrifice and serve and protect others every single day.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, because they are willing to risk their lives without hesitation, my colleagues and I honor them today.

To continue the tribute, it is now my honor to yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), who is also from a law enforcement family.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice and have fallen in the line of duty.

My husband, Detective Milford Hayes, has been on the job for 25 years. I know all too well the risk officers accept when they take this role. I have lived the anxiety of not knowing if my loved one would return home from a shift. I have watched my husband put on his dress blues and attend the funerals of fallen officers and mourn in the weeks and years after that. Over the past year, I have borne witness to the difficulty caused by growing mistrust between police departments and the communities they serve.

In addition to honoring officers this week, we must commit to rebuilding that trust and to providing them with the necessary funding they need to safely and equitably protect themselves and our community.

This is not a binary choice. Yes, we have systemic racial and social injustices that must be addressed. Yes, accountability needs to be addressed.

But on this day, in these remarks, during National Police Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in committing to supporting all of the good officers that are out there, to ensuring officers have clear national guidelines regarding use of force, to providing access to diversity training, and to ensuring departments have necessary supports to serve communities with underlying social challenges.

This will protect both police officers and the communities they serve from unnecessary violence. This will also attract new officers to the profession.

I ask that we honor fallen officers by committing to action. We must provide the necessary guidelines, training, and social services required to support our communities and to guarantee the safety of law enforcement.

We must ensure that my husband and every officer makes it home to their families safely.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman DEMINGS for her leadership and for leading this tribute to all of our police officers across this country during National Police Week.

I would like to take this moment to recognize our Nevada officers who have fallen. In particular, I want to honor two officers who we lost in this past year alone.

We remember Lieutenant Erik Lloyd, a 30-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Every day during this pandemic, our men and women have stepped up to serve in the line of duty, no matter the danger. We honor their commitment in a time of uncertainty.

And we mourn the loss of Lieutenant Lloyd, who contracted COVID–19 while on the job. Lieutenant Lloyd was the definition of selfless. He went to work every single day to protect his community. And on top of that, he went above and beyond, becoming the president of the Injured Police Officers Fund. In that role, Lloyd raised funds for the care of countless officers, including Metro Officer Shay Mikalonis, who was left paralyzed after being shot this summer during a demonstration on the Las Vegas Strip.

We also take this time to recognize Sergeant Benjamin Michael Jenkins, a military veteran, firefighter, and EMT officer with the Nevada Highway Patrol. Sergeant Jenkins was dedicated to reducing impaired driving and fatal crashes. In 2011, he was honored with the Department of Public Safety's highest honor, the Gold Medal of Valor, after he came under fire during a domestic-related shooting in Wells, Nevada.

His life, unfortunately, was cut short when he was shot and killed while checking on a driver pulled over on a remote stretch of U.S. Highway 93, just north of Ely.

Their service to Nevada is incomparable.

To their friends, families, and fellow officers, I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers. Nevada stands with you. I express my extreme gratitude for the safety and dedication to service that Lieutenant Lloyd and Sergeant Jenkins, along with all other officers, have brought to our communities.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), a former Federal law enforcement officer.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week.

Each May, our Nation comes together to recognize the service and profound commitment of our police officers, to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and to recommit ourselves to the ideals and laws of our Nation that these fine men and women in uniform are tasked to uphold.

But the dedication and sacrifices of our brave officers deserves to be respected and honored, not just in one week out of the year, but every single day, both in this Chamber and across our country.

Time and time again, officers across our Nation are met with the greatest threats of danger, and they face them with the greatest displays of courage, honor, and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, my great-uncle, Philip Fitzpatrick, was a proud patrolman with the NYPD. He was also a poet, often writing about the world he knew as—what he referred to—a soldier of peace.

As I have taken time to reflect during this police week, I found myself thinking of him and a line from one of his poems: ''When he kisses his wife and children good-bye, there's a chance he will see them no more.''

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these words were true for my family and for so many families in our Nation.

This month marks 74 years since my great-uncle Phil was shot while attempting to disarm a robber at a Manhattan bar, a fatal injury he succumbed to days later.

While the times have changed, the dangers faced by our law enforcement community remain present every time they go to work.

Bucks County and my community is home to some of the finest law enforcement officers in our great Nation. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we have lost too many.

I would like to take a moment to honor our valiant fallen officers: Police Officer James K. Armstrong; Deputy Sheriff Thomas A. Bateman; Ranger Thomas Booz; Ranger Stanley E. Flynn; Police Officer Brian S. Gregg; Police Officer Joseph E. Hanusey, III; Detective Christopher C. Jones; Constable Henry A. Kolbe; Sheriff Abraham Kulp; Police Chief Eli M. Myers; Police Sergeant George M. Stuckey; Deputy Sheriff George M. Warta, Jr.; and Police Officer Robert Yezzi.

Mr. Speaker, these 13 individuals laid their lives on the line to protect our community, the community that I grew up in, the community that I love, and they paid the ultimate price. We will never forget them and their extraordinary service to our community. We owe them and their families and all of the honorable police officers and public servants who have given their lives in the line of duty a debt of gratitude and appreciation, one that can only be paid back through our love and support for them here on this floor and across our Nation.

Our Nation, indeed, our world, is in the midst of unprecedented times. Now, more than ever, our courageous and honorable law enforcement officers need our support. I encourage everyone to take a minute this week to thank a police officer and reflect on the sacrifices so many of them have made.

To our hero law enforcement officers in every town, in every city, and in every State across America: We thank you, we are grateful for you, and we love you.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative DEMINGS, for holding this Special Order hour in honor of fallen law enforcement officers.

It is National Police Week, a time to recognize and honor the men and women who have answered the call to protect and serve our community. Their service puts them in harm's way every single day, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to sacrifice for us.

Last November, it was my privilege to speak in this Chamber in honor of Caleb Starr, a Michigan State Police Trooper from my district, who was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call. I spoke about the community of Mason, Michigan, where he was born and raised, coming together to support the Starr family.

Tonight, I am proud to recognize an organization in my district that has continuously provided support to the loved ones of our fallen officers.

The 100 Club of Greater Lansing was founded in 1984, after the death of Officer James Johnson of the East Lansing Police Department. Every year, Members of the 100 Club contribute dues of $100 to provide immediate assistance, as well as long-term support, to surviving families of those who have died in the line of duty.

In the nearly 40 years the 100 Club has been doing its work, it has helped the family of Officer Johnson, as well as the families of Officer Dean Whitehead of the Lansing Police Department; Officer Julie Engelhardt of the Lansing Parks Police Department; Sergeant Paul Cole of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office; Deputy Grant Whitaker of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office; and so many others.

In addition, the 100 Club keeps the spirit of those heroes alive by establishing a scholarship fund for qualified survivors, providing an annual honor award to officers, and funding an annual scholarship for a student enrolled at the Mid-Michigan Police Academy at Lansing Community College, where I visited just a couple of months ago.

During National Police Week, we honor fallen heroes who have given their lives while on duty. To them we owe so much. As long as we keep their memory alive, they remain with us. With these words, they will remain in the permanent RECORD of the people's House so that their contributions can live on.

I am grateful for their selfless courage and for my colleagues tonight who have served. Thank you for taking the time to honor, respect, and remember them.

□ 1745

Mrs. DEMINGS. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), also from a law enforcement family.

Mr. SWALWELL. Thank you, Chief Demings. Law enforcement families know the prayer from Matthew, chapter 5, verse 9, ''Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.''

And blessed are the California police officers who lost their lives in 2020: Oscar Walter Rocha from my district in Alameda County, Daniel Lopez Mendoza, III; Andy Ornelas, Efren Coronel, Jose Cruz Mora, Jr., Angel De La Fuente, Larry D. Crom, Donald Keith Sumner, Virgil Lynn Thomas, Harry M. Cohen, Terrell Don Young, Daniel Gene Walters, Damon Christopher Gutzwiller, and MaryLou Hernandez Armer, as well as Pat Underwood of the Federal Protective Services.

As a member of a law enforcement family, when we say good-bye to each other on the phone, we always say, ''I love you,'' but we also say, ''Be safe,'' because we know what our law enforcement officers encounter when they go into a domestic violence call or make a police stop in an area where there have been robberies, gang violence, drugs.

In Oakland, California, four officers were killed in a matter of minutes after a police stop, when I was a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's office. We know the risk they face.

I have a family member who has been shot at and was told that from such a point blank nature he is lucky to be alive.

We are grateful for the sacrifices of law enforcement. We also recognize that the best way to protect the best cops is to make sure that we put in place reforms to take care of those who

do not meet the standards that we expect from law enforcement.

We are committed in this Chamber to work to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to make sure that we protect our cops on the streets and we protect those in the community who they also promise and swear an oath to protect.

This police week, let me also just urge my colleagues across the aisle, who I know are sincere when they want to stand up for police officers, to recognize that the police officers who walk the beat in these halls are hurting, and they are grieving, and what happened on January 6 has not just passed, and when they hear colleagues in this Chamber say, as one said today that January 6 looked like any other normal tourist visit to the Capitol, that really hurts them. That hurts their families. It is an insult to their service, and we must do better, because backing the blue doesn't just mean backing the blue who back you, it means backing the blue who protect this Chamber and protect our democracy.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON).

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor the life U.S. Capitol Police Officer Howie Liebengood. Howie served as a Capitol police officer for 15 years and before that as a Senate page. He continued a 50-year family legacy of service to the Senate, following in the footsteps of his father, a former Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Howie died by suicide on January 9, after working around the clock in the days following the January 6 insurrection, defending our Capitol and the Members, staff, workers, journalists, and others inside of it. There is no doubt that Howie would still be with us today but for the events on and immediately following January 6.

And yet, the leaders Howie served under at the Capitol Police still refuse to acknowledge his tragic loss as a line-of-duty death, despite his heroic sacrifice on that day and in the days that followed. Howie's widow, Serena, and his family deserve better.

Our Capitol Police deserve better, too. The PTSD and trauma of January 6 and April 2 are still prevalent for U.S. Capitol police officers. The reluctance many officers feel asking for help is real as well. Leadership is failing these officers when they refuse to validate the pain of that trauma and the tragic consequences it can lead to.

That is why we must provide U.S. Capitol police officers with the resources they need to take care of themselves and to fight the stigma not only for them, but for law enforcement officers around the country to know that it is okay to ask for help.

According to a report from the nonprofit Blue H.E.L.P., the number of officers who died by suicide in recent years has outpaced those killed in the line of duty.

It is incumbent on us as lawmakers to end the stigma around law enforcement mental health and to give these officers the support they need in times of crisis. We must thank them not just with our words, but with our actions.

I have been working with my colleagues and with the Liebengood family to honor Howie's legacy of service to our Capitol community. To Serena, his family, and all those who knew and loved Howie, I hope it brings you some solace to know that Howie's life and sacrifice will never be forgotten by those of us here who he gave his life to protect.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Thank you so much for that tribute. I now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus. We are so grateful for the work that he is doing.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual for Congresswoman DEMINGS to lead and bring us together. I want to congratulate and thank her for her service in the past and now.

Mr. Speaker, during this devastating pandemic, our Nation's law enforcement officers have stood heroically on the front lines, keeping communities across America safe. Our police have risked their lives and the lives of their families every day they go to work. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have lost over 464 officers, including 298 to COVID–19. In New Jersey, 15 officers have perished, including 13 to the virus.

In my own district, we lost Paterson police officer, Frank Scorpo, who was only 34 years old and left behind a wife and two young sons.

We lost Detective Anthony Lucanto, a 24-year veteran of the Paterson Police Department, who died of cancer tied to his heroic efforts at Ground Zero. Anthony leaves behind his wife and three children.

Our hearts bleed for all of our fallen officers and their families.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I was proud to champion legislation signed into law to ensure those families of officers fallen to COVID–19 are guaranteed public safety officer benefits. But more must be done to support families of officers who make the ultimate sacrifice.

Earlier this month, we introduced the bipartisan Protecting America's First Responders Act. Our bill will guarantee first responders and their families get their owed benefits without delay or red tape. I hope it gets passed.

I wish I could say support of law enforcement is fully bipartisan, but I can't. Incredibly, when we passed the latest Capitol Police budget, 50 of our colleagues on the other side voted ''no.'' Thank God for those who did vote ''yes.''

When we voted to certify the Presidential election, hours after terrorists attacked the Capitol, 138 Members on the other side voted to throw out the election. 138. These votes are a slur on the Capitol Police and the officers across America who have given their lives.

This last year has been a difficult one for all communities, but unbearable for our men and women in uniform. They have protected us at our lowest moment. The least we can do is protect the benefits they have earned and stand by them.

Let us move what was started almost 20 years ago, community policing, so we protect our police and we encourage trust in them day in and day out. God bless our country.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Thank you again to the chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our brave and selfless law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty in south Texas this past year: Jorge Cabrera, Ismael Chavez, Edelmiro Garza, Jr. Let us not forget those who stood guard at our border and kept us safe: Carlos Mendoza, Juan Ollervidez, Christopher Carney, Roel De La Fuente, and Enrique Rositas.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a brief moment of silence to pay my respects to those law enforcement officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our community safe.

My community and I owe a deep amount of gratitude to these officers who sought to keep us safe. I thank them, and may God bless and watch over our law enforcement officers, their families, and the United States of America.

Mrs. DEMINGS. I thank the gentleman from Texas for that tribute to our law enforcement officers. I now yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding and for organizing this important Special Order hour.

As a Gold Star son who lost his father in the Vietnam War, I empathize with and salute the honorable men and women who don a uniform and risk their lives and too often lose their lives protecting our country and our communities, oftentimes without the appreciation or support that they need and that they deserve.

So I rise today to express gratitude to the over 11,000 police officers who serve and protect the residents of my home State of Minnesota, an overwhelming majority of whom are compassionate and principled public servants.

I am proud of the law enforcement agencies that serve Hennepin and Carver counties in Minnesota's Third District, innovative and well-led police departments committed to building cultures and communities in which everyone, and I repeat everyone, feels safe.

People like Dawanna Witt, whose remarkable life story of perseverance embodies the very best of our law enforcement community. Ms. Witt grew up surrounded by alcoholism and drug addiction, was subject to sexual abuse, had her first baby at age 15, and lived with her newborn in a homeless shelter.

But she finished high school with honors, then received her bachelor's degree and then her master's. And today she is known as Major Witt, a grandmother of two, supervisor of 500 employees at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and a rising star in Minnesota law enforcement.

Major Witt will be the first to tell you that we do need police reform, that systemic racism does exist, and that racial profiling is a real thing. She will also tell you that we need to do more to protect officers' safety.

So, today I invite my colleagues and our entire country to join me in celebrating Major Witt and the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement professionals just like her who have committed their entire professional lives to helping America become a more safe, equitable, just, and perfect union.

Mrs. DEMINGS. We thank the gentleman from Minnesota for that tribute. I now yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

□ 1800

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this week, May 9 to May 15, is National Police Week. I stand today to join with my colleagues in carrying forth a tradition that started 59 years ago.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed, and Congress ratified, May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls is National Police Week.

During this time, we pause to recognize those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Those of us here in Congress know well the bravery and dedication of law enforcement officers, for we saw it firsthand on January 6 when they protected this citadel of democracy and the public servants who were discharging their duty.

Some of those brave souls paid with their lives, such as Officer Brian Sicknick. We also lost Officer Howard Liebengood and Officer Jeffrey Smith, who died by suicide in the immediate aftermath of that tragic day. Many more police officers who were on duty that day are still hurting.

Of course, all across our Nation, and in Ohio particularly, our police officers and their families have sacrificed themselves for their communities. I have done ride-alongs with these officers and watched them deal with the overdose issues and the opiate epidemic in Ohio.

We watch them risk their lives. We pray for their families who worry every time they put on their boots and go to work.

In short, Mr. Speaker, they show up. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund compiles the names of those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty in this past year and all those who have died in previous years but whose stories of sacrifice have been lost to history until now. This year, nearly 400 new names were added to this list. I stand today to honor all those lives that were lost, including the following five officers from Ohio.

We honor James Michael Skernivitz from Cleveland, Adam McMillan from Hamilton County, Kaia Lafay Grant from Springdale, Anthony Hussein Dia from Toledo, and, finally, Rex Faux from Summit County, who died in 1933 but whose name had not previously been added to this list of fallen officers.

We also honor all the men and women in law enforcement who show up for all of us every day.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his tribute. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. No one can be a better spokeswoman for this issue than Mrs. DEMINGS, who proudly represents her district in Florida and served as the police leader in her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the police officers who have fallen in the line of duty, it is with great sadness that I must add another name to that list.

Officer Jimmy Inn of the Stockton Police Department was killed yesterday while responding to a domestic violence call.

Just 30 years old, Officer Inn joined the force in 2015 and was a member of the Honor Guard. He was a husband and a father who leaves behind a 7-month-old son, a stepson, a stepdaughter, and a wife, who also serves as a Stockton police officer.

Officer Inn is remembered as a kind-hearted, selfless, and positive person. His commanding officer, Stockton Police Chief Eric Jones, said that he was the epitome of what a police officer should be.

Officer Inn's last act was to help a woman and child in grave danger. Officer Inn sacrificed his life in service to others, and I ask everyone to join me in honoring his life, his service, and his memory.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and we join him in grieving the death of the officer just yesterday.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DEMINGS for yielding.

Today, I am honored to pay tribute to law enforcement officers and their families. Every day, law enforcement officers put their lives at risk in order to keep us and our communities safe. Most of the time, they return safely home to their families. But that is not always the case, and we should never lose sight of that.

In that spirit, I want to express profound gratitude to Deputy Ryan Thompson from Kittitas County, Washington, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty in 2019.

Ryan has since been recognized for this sacrifice on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, D.C. Thank you to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund for honoring and remembering Deputy Thompson's service.

I also express my appreciation for the families of law enforcement officers who live with an undercurrent of worry every day while their loved one is on duty.

And a very special thank-you to our very own Capitol Police, who stood up to a violent mob in order to protect us from danger. Several Capitol Police officers have lost their lives. Please know that we mourn with their families.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). The gentlewoman has 5 minutes and 45 seconds remaining.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEMINGS for hosting this Special Order hour in honor of our brave law enforcement officers. I am proud to serve with her as a member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus co-chaired by our dear friend and colleague BILL PASCRELL.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to commemorate Police Week and to honor all the brave law enforcement officers in New Jersey and across the country who put their lives on the line every single day to protect our communities.

We especially honor the more than 124 police officers who have died in the line of duty across the United States this year, including 64 who we lost to COVID–19. We will never forget their bravery, sacrifice, and service.

Mr. Speaker, police officers are our heroes, and I am deeply grateful to all law enforcement—Federal, State, and local—for what they do day in and day out. They never fail to get our backs, and we have a responsibility to get theirs.

That is why, in Congress, I am committed to fighting for all of our sworn officers and first responders by making sure they have the resources, equipment, and training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

Our police departments have been tested and challenged during the pandemic over the year, but they have risen to the occasion, continuing to help our State and our people recover. I was very proud to lead the New Jersey delegation in requesting critical

support for PPE and staffing at the very start of the pandemic, and I fought hard for and ensured a presumption for Public Safety Officers' Benefits for those on the front lines of COVID.

I thank all of my colleagues for working across the aisle for those who have served and having the backs of our first responders every day. Most of all, I thank every law enforcement officer for their solemn commitment to protect and to serve. God bless.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his tribute.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who served 27 years in law enforcement, who had the honor of serving as the chief of police, one thing I know for sure is that the police are the community, and the community is the police. The police and the community are one. We are one.

I do believe that when we come together, we can do anything, that we can have some of the safest communities that America has to offer, that we can truly be, in America, what we were created to be.

We honor the men and women who put on the badge and the uniform every day, Mr. Speaker, and go to work not knowing whether they will ever make it back to their homes, to their families, to their loved ones.

I am honored to stand once again—I have done it for a lot of years now—to honor National Police Week and recognize the men and women who have paid it all. Many have given much, but the men and women in law enforcement who have laid down their lives to keep us safe have given their all.

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Police Week, and the brave, dedicated, and selfless heroes who work tireless long hours to keep the public safe in communities across this country.

This is deeply personal to me, as someone whose own loved ones wear a badge, and as someone who worked for nearly 18 years as a 9–1–1 dispatcher for the Los Angeles Police Department.

So I want to take this moment to say thank you, not just to the men and women in uniform on our streets, but also to their counterparts in service who answer the call whenever someone dials 911.

Dispatchers have a unique vantage on police work—they know how harrowing the situations police officers face are; how important police work is to people in their most vulnerable moments; and how committed officers are to serving the public.

After all, dispatchers are the ones who answer those calls for help in the first place.

But dispatchers also play a key role in keeping our officers safe. They gather situational awareness, so our officers know what to expect when they approach a scene; they send backup when more support is needed; and they send medical help if the unthinkable happens and an officer is hurt.

So as we honor those who serve, let's also honor the people who keep them safe every step of the way.

Public safety workers of all types are under new stresses right now as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic, and the uptick in gun violence that is tragically endemic to the United States.

So as we honor this valiant profession and acknowledge the harrowing circumstances they face, we must also take time to make sure they have the support they need, from PPE to mental health reources and everything in between.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize National Police Week and the men and women who keep us safe at great personal sacrifice, and at great sacrifice to their own families.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PHILLIPS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, during our time tonight, my colleagues and I will recognize the great men and women of law enforcement and the critical role they play in keeping our local communities safe.

National Police Week is particularly important this year. Of course, we observe it annually, but we all know, over the last year, law enforcement has been under constant attack by the political left in this country. Everyone can see it with their own eyes. The left has demanded to defund police departments. Some Democrats, even elected officials, have even gone as far as to call for abolishing the police.

Yet, in the face of that madness, police officers, nevertheless, continue to put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities, our families, and all of us. It is such a critical part of who we are as Americans.

As has been noted, we have lost many more officers in the line of duty over the past year, and we mourn those tragic losses. Despite the sacrificial service and the bravery of law enforcement, there are some Democrats even in this body, Mr. Speaker, who continue to push the false and outrageous narrative that police are actually somehow to be regarded as enemies of the communities they serve and that we don't need them.

Well, tonight, my Republican colleagues and I are here to tell you that they are wrong. We need police officers, and we need law and order. Nothing makes this more apparent than the spike in violent crime and homicides we have seen in Democrat-led cities that have defunded their police departments.

Specifically, there are a few examples here. In Austin, Texas, they have seen a 50 percent rise in homicides. In Los Angeles, they saw an 11.6 percent rise, and in New York City, 45 percent. By the way, in New York City, they have a 97 percent rise in shootings.

Defunding the police is a terrible idea, and anyone who looks objectively at this issue obviously knows that.

So, what should we do about it? We should support our police officers and those in law enforcement. We should encourage them to continue building strong relationships in all aspects of our communities. We should give law enforcement the tools and training they need to maintain law and order. Lastly, as a Nation, we must back the blue. We would argue it may have never been as important to do that as it is right now.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of colleagues who will speak to this issue, and I will begin by yielding to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), my dear friend, who was not only a professional hockey player, most people know that, but a lot of people may not realize he is also a retired police lieutenant. So, he is, obviously, qualified to speak on this issue.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JOHNSON for holding this incredibly important Special Order this evening.

For 23 years, I had the privilege of serving my hometown of Duluth, Minnesota, as a police officer. I know firsthand the sacrifices law enforcement officers make for the safety and security of their communities.

Policing is a noble profession and often a dangerous one. Ninety-one officers have been shot so far in 2021.

Despite this danger, countless men and women still put on the uniform, leave their loved ones behind, and put their own lives on the line every day.

During National Police Week, we celebrate and honor these heroes, but they deserve our respect for more than just 1 week. They deserve it year-round and so do their families.

This past year has been especially challenging for our law enforcement officers. There are some in the media and some in this very Chamber who choose to vilify our police officers for the actions of a few bad apples. Some have even called to defund the police. This reckless and dangerous message has had a chilling effect on our society.

Low morale is causing some officers to retire early. New officer recruitment is strained, and crime is on the rise in many cities.

This irresponsible rhetoric must change, and I call on all of my colleagues to help.

We must all honor the noble profession of policing, which has provided every one of us here in this Chamber with safety and security. We must all encourage the American people to respect the rule of law and those who are entrusted to enforce it.

I, for one, am proud to stand here today, to publicly send my thanks to our dedicated police officers and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

To all my brothers and sisters in the blue and brown, please know that you are appreciated, needed, and valued. God bless, and may He protect you all.

□ 1815

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words straight from the heart, and he speaks, as we said, with great authority on it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), my neighboring State, who will speak with equal passion on the issue.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this very important series regarding law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to honor the men and women in blue. They have devoted their lives to keeping our communities and families safe—unflinching in this mission, even when faced with growing hostility and danger. These guardians stand on the front lines, regardless of the peril to themselves, not for praise or glory, but to protect and serve the citizens and uphold law and order. And no matter the situation, they answer the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak, Officer Tyler Franks of the Prairie Grove Arkansas Police Department is recovering, having been shot in the line of duty just a few days ago. Officer Franks has undergone multiple surgeries. He will endure more, and, indeed, has a long road ahead. Please pray for Officer Franks.

Let us also pay tribute to our fallen heroes. We honor the memory of Fayetteville Police Officer Stephen Carr, who, in December of 2019, was assassinated while sitting in his patrol unit behind the police department because of his uniform. We recognize the quick action of Corporal Seay Floyd and Officer Natalie Eucce, who immediately acted and captured the assassin.

We also remember Sebastian County Deputy Bill Cooper and Corporal Terry Wayne Johnson, both of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of the real sacrifices and dangers faced by our brave officers every day. I am eternally grateful for those who wear the badge and keep the Third District safe.

This National Police Week, I thank every noble law enforcement officer in Arkansas and across our Nation for their dedicated service. We salute them.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arkansas. We do join him in those prayers for Officer Franks and the others around the country who are recovering from this violence that so many law enforcement officers have had to endure over the past year.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield next to another gentleman in our conference, who speaks with great authority on the issue, particularly on Police Week. Mr. TROY NEHLS of Texas 22 was the former sheriff of Fort Bend County, Texas, and he knows of which he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year law enforcement veteran, the rhetoric and hatred I have seen towards police these last 12 months is disgusting.

Rather than recognize the over 800,000 law enforcement officers in this country who do their job honorably each and every day, the far left has sought to demonize and defund our law enforcement based off the actions of the few—the few who fail to uphold their oaths.

Every year in our country, there are more than 10 million arrests. Most Americans never hear a word about the millions of arrests that happen without incident.

Why is that?

Because it doesn't sell headlines. It doesn't fit the anti-law enforcement narrative.

The hateful anti-law enforcement rhetoric has led to violence and destruction in cities across our country. We see it in Seattle, Minneapolis, Portland—city blocks burned, businesses destroyed, and lives ruined forever. But we are not here today to focus on the anti-law enforcement zealots.

This is National Police Week. We are here today to honor the 22,000 brave law enforcement officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

In 2021, the names of 394 officers killed in the line of duty were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Fifty-nine of those brave men and women were from my home State of Texas. One of them, I knew.

Fort Bend County Precinct 4 Constable Deputy Caleb Rule of Needville, Texas, tragically lost his life in a friendly fire incident involving one of my own sheriff's deputies on May 29, 2020. It is a day I will never forget.

Caleb is survived by his wife, Eden; and four children, Annie, Rosalan, Mark and Lizzie. May God bless them.

It is stories like Caleb's and the hundreds of other brave law enforcement officers who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty every year, who remind us just how dangerous serving in law enforcement is. The focus not only this week but every week should be on their bravery, service, and sacrifice. They damn well deserve our respect and support today and every day.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sheriff for his service and that passion. It is appropriate tonight, of course.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Kansas' big First District. The district, I think, has 63 counties. It is one of the largest in the country. He has got a lot of work to do. And they know him well because he also happened to have been the 50th Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Police Week.

I recognize the dedication of law enforcement officers on the thin blue line, and condemn calls to disband, dismantle, defund, or abolish the police.

No one dislikes bad police officers more than good police officers. Too often, we are quick to share the negative examples of law enforcement while failing to recognize excellent examples in our communities.

Today, I will share a story about an officer in my district and one of the finest law enforcement officers in Kansas: Michael Utz.

Chief Utz began his career with the Garden City Police Department in 1984. Over the next 36 years, he tirelessly served as a detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and ultimately chief of police.

As police chief, Chief Utz led the department through the implementation of a citywide strategic plan, including the development of the Law Enforcement Explorer Program for students interested in pursuing law enforcement as a career; the Police Chaplain Program for hurting families; the PEER Support Program for police officers experiencing traumatic events; the Finney County Opioid Task Force; and the Ethnic Empowerment Network.

Also during his tenure, Chief Utz encouraged authentic relationships, and he especially worked to build two-way relationships with racial and ethnic minorities. These relationships proved to be vital after the 2016 terrorist bomb plot targeting a Garden City apartment complex.

When the FBI reached out to Chief Utz about the bomb plot, he knew just what to do. He worked with the president of the East African Community Center to convene a meeting with people in the community to discuss the incident before it even hit the news. Once the news broke about the foiled attack, Chief Utz made it his personal mission to work alongside impacted families and protect them from further danger.

In March, Mike retired with more than 36 years in law enforcement, and Courtney Prewitt was sworn in as the Garden City chief of police.

I am honored to recognize Chief Utz and his family for their service to our local communities, and to congratulate Courtney on his new role, and to celebrate good law enforcement officers across the First District of Kansas and around the country who put on a uniform every day and promise to protect and serve.

In their honor, I cosponsored several pieces of pro-law enforcement legislation, including a resolution condemning calls to defund the police; the

Protect and Serve Act, which enhances penalties to anyone targeting and attacking law enforcement officers; the David Dorn Back the Blue Act, which supports State and local police departments; and a resolution designating this week as National Police Week.

America must stand with and stand for our law enforcement officers. Happy National Police Week.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those important words.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to a gentleman from Utah, a freshman who has made a big mark here in the First District of Utah. He is also a former officer of the U.S. Foreign Service.

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a simple point in support of the women and men serving in uniform across America. We must reject the myopic narrative that the actions of a dishonorable very few should dominate how we view, appreciate, and honor our police force.

Prior to Congress, I worked as a consultant with professionals in many industries. I never met anyone in any field who wasn't interested in improving their performance, and our police force is no different. However, if we continue to criticize and demonize our officers as a whole, we may find ourselves in a position where good, honorable men and women, professionals like fallen Officer Nathan Lyday from Ogden, Utah, who was killed almost one year ago in the line of duty, are no longer willing to wear the badge.

I am so grateful for our Nation's police force. They need our backing now, more than ever, and it is our duty to support them as we learn and move forward from recent tragic events.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and I appreciate his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, from Utah, we will move over to one of our favorite representatives from the great State of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), a freshman who also made a big mark here and who came from the Florida House of Representatives.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to cut to the chase this evening. It is a story I don't really tell much, but when I was 16 years old, I was held up at gunpoint. I was coming home from basketball practice, and it was dark. Frankly, they just came right out of a bodega on the corner.

When I got home, the first thing my mother did—well, first, she tried to stop me from going back after the people who robbed me because I was very upset. I was 16 and I was robbed and I was angry. But then she called the police, and they came promptly and they did everything they could to try to find the people who assaulted me.

You see, in community after community across our country, the police are the ones who stand in the gap between law-abiding citizens and those, frankly, who are criminalized, who were assaulted, where some damage is caused to that person.

The police are the ones in our communities. They patrol the streets. They try to keep our neighborhoods safe. They are the ones who put their lives on the line every single day, who may not go home. They are the ones who are the pillars of every community in our great country.

So on National Police Week, the number one thing we need to learn not just on this specific week, but in every week, is that we need to show them the necessary honor and respect that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the videos that get thrown in front of us. We have seen the handful of acts that all Americans find distasteful. But the uniform, that badge, the officers that serve every day, they serve our communities with honor and with distinction. So it is really my pleasure and my honor to honor all those officers, including the ones in this very Capitol, who protect us every single day.

All Americans need to remember that, that when times get tough, and you really need help, 911 is right there, and our officers show up and they are always ready to protect and serve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, from there, I am delighted to go north a bit. We will go to my friend GT THOMPSON, who is the ranking member on the House Committee on Agriculture, and who happens to represent the largest geographical district in the State of Pennsylvania, in terms of congressional districts.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and I appreciate his leadership on this Special Order of standing with those who stand for us each and every night.

These are folks, members of our law enforcement, who, because of what they do, because of their courage, because of their commitment, we can sleep without concern and fear and we can make our way throughout the day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this National Police Week to honor these men and women in blue. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week plays a special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and the protection of others.

National Police Week is sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and supported by a variety of organizations to honor the law enforcement community. The mission of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is to tell the story of American law enforcement, honor the fallen, and make it safer for those who serve.

Over the past year, our law enforcement officers have been in the spotlight. Bad actors must be held accountable, but it is dangerous to villainize all police officers, and it is even more dangerous to seek to defund the police.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the National Police Week resolution, which honors by name the 384 officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2020.

This resolution underscores the steadfast support and appreciation for law enforcement. As we honor National Police Week, it is important to take a moment to remember the sacrifices many officers, as well as their families, have made.

□ 1830

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), another important voice to this Special Order tonight, my friend and colleague and classmate. We mentioned earlier how important New York is in this whole issue, particularly this year with the rapid rise in New York City, in particular, of their homicide rate and violent crime. I know she has a lot to say on the issue.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON so much for holding this very important evening of Special Orders to honor National Police Week. I am so honored to be here on behalf of our men and women in blue, who do such a great job supporting us.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to put out a few facts on this that I thought would be interesting to our listeners. There are over 800,000 law enforcement officers across the United States serving and protecting our communities, and I commend them as they serve at great personal risk.

These public servants intervene daily in dangerous and life-threatening situations to deescalate tensions, to provide emergency care, to apprehend criminals, to defend the most vulnerable, and to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Over the past year, law enforcement officers have faced unprecedented challenges in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic and rising violent crime. In 2020, 264 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty. In my community alone, we have tragically lost friends in law enforcement, over a dozen in just my community who were killed in the line of duty. That is just way too many.

In 2021, across the Nation, 49 law enforcement officers have died, making it the deadliest period for law enforcement in decades.

Amidst these unparalleled challenges, unfortunately, politicians in Washington and around the country have perpetuated this idea that law enforcement officers are the enemy. If any of you watched or saw the wonderful law enforcement officer, who is also the mother of a young child, saving that toddler shot in Times Square, carrying this young child to safety, it would warm anyone's heart.

We know how hard they work and how much they care for their communities.

But, unfortunately, some have gone so far as to create a dangerous movement, known as defund the police, that demonizes the police, imperils our public safety, and needlessly divides our communities.

My priorities in Congress are to support law enforcement and bring our communities back together. We must move beyond the divisive and damaging rhetoric, mend the relationships between police and the communities they serve, and give our police officers the legal protections and tools they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

We have done some of this in our community, and I want to highlight just one chief of police, Mark Williams, from the city of Utica, who has worked extensively in community policing programs, which has tremendously brought down the crime rate in terms of interactions with police. We still have challenges out there, but he is working hard to try to invest in community policing programs.

We need money and resources to do that, and we would not be successful if we actually defunded the police and didn't give them the opportunity to work with these communities to recruit people, people in the neighborhoods who want to protect their own communities and who actually care.

Toward these objectives, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We have to solve these problems. It is essential to our safety. It is an essential role of government to keep us safe. Our constituents are depending on us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for doing this. I really appreciate the effort.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and appreciate those remarks. That is an important perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), a gentleman who also knows quite a bit about sacrificial service to the country and our communities.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to show my support for our men and women in law enforcement.

Unfortunately, there is a growing movement across this country that is trying to defund police departments and disparage the character of all of our police officers. This movement is having deadly consequences on our communities.

We are starting to see what happens when we defund the police. For the first time in decades, violent crime is rising in the United States. Major American cities saw a 33 percent increase in homicides in 2020. Many of these cities took the advice from radicals and slashed their police departments, with the ultimate goal of defunding them.

These reckless decisions didn't make our communities safer. Instead, it only empowered criminals and put those most vulnerable in harm's way.

All Americans want bad police officers to be held accountable, but all Americans also want to be safe in their own communities. Police officers risk their lives every day to try to make that a reality. Congress should focus on making sure our police departments have the resources they need to keep criminals off the street while implementing the needed reforms to hold accountable bad officers.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BAIRD. I appreciate those comments.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order tonight.

As we celebrate National Police Week, I would like to also add my voice to recognizing the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe across California's 39th District and beyond. We also honor those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

I am proud to support our law enforcement and their important hard work that they do each and every day. From Captain Steven Tousey and Deputy Louis Denver with the Walnut Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station in Los Angeles County, who I rode along with, by the way, last week, to Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes and their hardworking team, I am always talking to our law enforcement across Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties about how I can help make sure that they have the support and resources needed to perform their demanding jobs and to learn how I, in Congress, can support our police officers.

I would also like to recognize the men and women of our Capitol Police here in Congress who put their lives on the line to protect not only the Members of Congress but our staffs and all the House staff behind the scenes who make this place run. We are so grateful for you and appreciate each and every one of you.

This National Police Week, I encourage all of us to take the time to thank a police officer in your area. It is because of our police officers that we can live our daily lives each and every day knowing that we are kept safe.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be standing here and back the blue.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. KIM. You are so right that we need to back the blue, and I am so grateful to be joined by so many colleagues that share that sentiment.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), another freshman who has made a real mark here on Capitol Hill and who is very passionate about this issue as well.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me on this important Special Order on National Police Week.

Mr. Speaker, it is National Police Week, and I rise today to join my colleagues in support of the men and women of law enforcement.

We ask law enforcement to do an impossible job, and they do it with professionalism, compassion, and grace. Their days are spent putting themselves in harm's way to keep us safe, and they are always on call. For that alone, they deserve our gratitude.

But the men and women of law enforcement do so much more, and I want them to know that there are many of us who are not afraid to stand up and say that we support you. We see the sacrifices you make and the good that you do. We see the time that you spend away from your family and the emotional toll the job takes on you.

I think of my many friends and family who are police officers and the hard work that they do. They will always have a special place in my heart.

Even as the profession faces unprecedented scrutiny, the men and women of law enforcement still do their jobs with pride because, for them, it is about more than just a paycheck. It is about serving their neighbors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting, not defunding, law enforcement. Let's take care of those who take care of us. Together, let's work on making our communities better.

To the men and women of law enforcement in Minnesota and around the country, thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. FISCHBACH. That is an important perspective from the great State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate National Police Week. After the year our police officers have endured, where radical activists sought to defund them, even with asinine proposals to abolish them, it has never been more important to show our appreciation to them.

For months, we have heard anti-American activists, and even some of our colleagues, tell us that the act of policing is inherently evil and unfixable. But, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

Last year alone, 264 police officers from across this country gave their lives while protecting their communities. Throughout it all, the overwhelming majority of police officers are good men and women who have stepped up for their communities and built mutual trust that is vital to them doing their jobs.

Sure, there are bad apples out there. I am a physician. We have bad apples in medicine, but we don't seek to abolish doctors or the practice of medicine.

Nobody dislikes bad officers more than good officers because they give the good officers a bad reputation. Ninety-nine percent of police officers do their jobs with fairness, integrity,

and honor and should not be lumped in with the few officers that disgrace their profession.

On the whole, police officers have done the best they can to defend their communities over this past year. For their thanks, 23 American cities have cut their budgets. Unsurprisingly, this has contributed to the biggest crime wave of the 21st century, making their jobs even harder and destroying decades of progress.

For instance, New York defunded their police by $1 billion. The result is a 97 percent increase in shootings and a 45 percent increase in homicides, especially crime in minority communities.

Make no mistake, these horrifying statistics can be traced directly back to defunding the police. If it can happen to this legendary police department in the country, the NYPD, it can happen anywhere, in your neighborhood also.

In reality, we should be investing more in our police. The job of a police officer is an incredibly difficult one. They are often asked to make split-second decisions, which have enormous consequences. This is why we should be providing them with more resources and training rather than demonizing them.

I, along with my fellow Republican colleagues, will continue to stand by the men and women in blue who faithfully and sacrificially serve their communities and keep our families safe.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for those important words. You are exactly right. They need to be better funded and given greater resources and greater training, and we support that because we back the blue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), a dear friend who certainly shares that sentiment.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, service to our Nation comes in many forms, but none is more foundational to upholding our laws and protecting our communities than the service of America's men and women in blue.

On the surface, celebrating National Police Week means taking a moment to thank police officers for their service.

Looking deeper, National Police Week gives each of us a chance to reflect on the critical role that law enforcement plays in our society and to reaffirm our commitment to their important work.

Respect for law and order is necessary to build a strong community. Our vision forward increases funding for law enforcement to improve education and ensure police have the tools to keep themselves and their communities safe.

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Now more than ever, we must stand united in our fight against Washington Democrats' radical calls to defund our police. This rhetoric is dangerous and has real consequences on the safety of officers everywhere.

Tragically, more officers have been killed in 2021 than in the past 2 years combined. Every officer who puts on that uniform does so at great risk to themselves. They run toward dangerous situations and, by their courage, ensure the protection of those whom they serve. Many make the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

For these reasons, and so many more, our Nation owes these heroes a debt of gratitude. This National Police Week, know that we salute police officers, not just today but every day. We are with them, and we are grateful for all they do to keep us safe.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 23 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the First District of the great State of Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this year's National Police Week to recognize the brave men and women in law enforcement all over the country, as well as honoring the many police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. While some folks around this country and across the aisle are calling for defunding and debanding the police department, I am proud to be a strong supporter of our law enforcement, and I will always back the blue.

Nothing was more obvious than this last week and a half when I was with the Border Patrol. We have got to put more money into our law enforcement. We are choking them down. We have got to get them more resources. Now more than ever, police officers are in need of increasing resources as well as increasing support from our communities that they serve.

Police officers are willing. They choose an incredible and tough job with long hours and not enough pay, so it is critical for us to give them support and the respect that they deserve. I will continue doing all I can do to support law enforcement in south Alabama and all over the country. I encourage all my colleagues to support and fully fund the police.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of Alabama for his remarks. Indeed, these are concerns that we share from coast to coast. We will go back up to the great State of New York and hear from my friend who is a legislator and former Secretary of State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of New York (Mr. JACOBS).

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and gratitude for the members of law enforcement bravely serving my home in western New York and around the Nation.

This National Police Week gives us all a chance to pause and appreciate the dangerous, selfless, and, unfortunately, sometimes thankless job our police officers do. But we should not only honor them 1 week every year, we must continually show our support by resisting any and all attempts to defund our police.

Every day, our police officers wake up, put on a uniform, and go out into the communities that they serve to protect us not knowing if they will return home to their families that evening. They continually put their lives on the line.

I recently was humbled to honor numerous officers in my home of Orchard Park, New York, and Lancaster, New York, who rescued residents from burning buildings and brush fires while they were off duty.

We need police, and we need more young people to seek out a career serving their communities in law enforcement. Unfortunately, the recent stereotyping of police over the last year has been a severe deterrent to new members joining and also caused massive retirements of existing law enforcement, making all our communities less safe.

The assault from the left on our police must come to an end. It is imperative that we properly fund, equip, and support law enforcement on the local, State, and Federal level.

To conclude, our police are heroes and deserve to be honored as such. I join my colleagues in thanking them this week for their bravery and their service.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his perspective from New York. We will go from coast to coast out West back to California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Eighth District of California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my colleague from Louisiana, for yielding.

I am honored to join in helping to celebrate National Police Week where we take a moment out of our lives to honor the commitment and the sacrifice of the men in blue and the men and women in uniform who help keep our communities safe.

I represent one of the largest districts in the United States, and, certainly, the largest district in California. It is very challenging to police, and my constituents rely on the abilities of the police to uphold the rule of law and to keep them safe in a very rural setting.

Our law enforcement agencies in California's Eighth District have done a tremendous job of this. Just this year, the San Bernardino County Police Department and Sheriff's Department have seized over 100 pounds of fentanyl. That is over half a million pills that they have kept off the street.

They have also helped, just this year, 19 adults and four children escape the evil scourge of human trafficking.

In Inyo County, the Inyo County Sheriff's Department recently held an event in which they reclaimed almost 200 pounds of unused prescription medication, keeping those toxic substances out of our landfill and out of our water supply.

In Mono County, the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently implemented a 911 text to 911 system that will help the residents of Inyo County reach law enforcement services when they need it. If you know that county, Mr. Speaker, then you know how rural it is and how much those community constituents depend on a responsive police force.

I know there has been a lot of discussion in this body and in legislatures across the country about police reform this year. What I wish that all of our constituents knew is that there is broad, bipartisan agreement on 90 percent of that legislation. We can solve this problem in a way that implements police reform, but at the same time, respecting the role that our law enforcement members fill in serving our community that provides them the training and the resources that they need to do their jobs, and that honors the role that they play in protecting our communities.

So happy National Police Week, and I thank our men and women in uniform.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for those comments.

Mrs. LESKO is another good friend and colleague. We trust her voice on so many things. Nothing highlights the need for law and order more than the current crisis at the border created by the Biden administration. She has seen this firsthand as she represents Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for yielding.

For the past year, we have heard dangerous calls to disband, defund, and dismantle the police.

Guess what?

Since then, dangerous crimes have skyrocketed.

Is it any wonder?

We have also seen a rising number of police officers killed or wounded in the line of duty. This is totally unacceptable, and the effort to vilify the police is to blame.

Our Nation's police officers are brave and hardworking men and women who put themselves on the front line each and every day to protect us and my constituents. These officers deserve to go home to their families at the end of the day.

I am grateful for the sacrifices of our law enforcement officers in Arizona and throughout the entire Nation. Both, during the National Police Week and every single day, I will support our law enforcement and defend the police.

The vilification of our police officers is having a terrible effect in our communities. I have talked to police chiefs who are having a difficult time even hiring police officers, and this push in some of the legislation that we passed here in this very own House to take away qualified immunity from the police so that anybody can sue them personally is wrong.

I will continue to stand up for the police, I will continue to stand up for the public, and I will continue to stand up for public safety.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for her remarks. We will stand up for the police.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard many comments and similar sentiments here tonight. It has been echoed over and over.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to one more of my colleagues who is from the Sixth District of the great State of Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor our policemen and -women on National Police Week. Few things in this job are more illuminating than doing a ride-along with local law enforcement, and I strongly suggest to those people out there who think we have to change the laws to harm the police, contact their local police or sheriff's department, do a ride-along, and find out what their job is really like.

The week should be uncontroversial except for recently ambitious politicians have decided to get reelected by tearing down the police. Black Lives Matter, an organization founded by a Marxist, attacks the police for racism. I ran across a local schoolteacher educating his students that police are racists. The Democratic Party passed a bill out of this House making it easier to sue a police officer.

This is one of the strange situations in which the crisis politicians talking about is actually going in the opposite direction. I picked some statistics I could find at random. In 1971, 50 years ago, New York had 93 people killed by the police. Up until 1996, it was rarely under 20 people a year. Now it is rarely over 10 people a year who are killed by the police. There are reports on a study of people who died in the 30 largest cities in the United States. There has been a 37 percent reduction in police shootings leading to deaths.

Harvard economist Roland Fryer reports police are 47 percent less likely to discharge a weapon when attacked by a Black man, and Heather Mac Donald in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reports that if there is a bias in police shootings after crime rates are taken into account, it is against White civilians.

The wholesale antipolice hysteria has dramatically increased homicides in Milwaukee and other big cities as the police become more passive. Wake up, America. Familiarize yourself with the statistics, and stand up to the politicians who are riding antipolice hatred to reelection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Those are strong words, and they are accurate. People have politicized this issue, and it is turning them against law enforcement, and it is a terrible, terrible situation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Sixth District of the great State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the incredibly brave patriots who keep America safe. This National Police Week, I want to share my profound appreciation to members of our law enforcement community, our officers, deputies, and troopers, and especially those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

America is the land of opportunity because we are a nation of laws. For our Nation to remain strong, we must have law and order.

Low morale is permeating police departments across our Nation as rioters and lawbreakers repeatedly vilify, demonize, and verbally attack the thin blue line. I will tell you here today: any violence against law enforcement must end, and it must end now.

Fair treatment in the justice system is critical, but it will not be achieved by the defund the police movement and cop-free zones. Lawlessness without police equals crime and the destruction of our Republic.

In my State, Tennesseans know that the men and women who serve in law enforcement are some of the best people in our communities. They run towards danger, never away, and they risk their lives to protect us and our families. Those who serve in law enforcement deserve the respect of every citizen every day.

I thank our law enforcement officers for what they do every day, and this National Police Week we respect, honor, and remember those we have lost.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from the Third District of the great State of Texas (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

I often brag to my congressional colleagues that I hope one day America could be like the Third District of Texas. It is a truly magnificent county, Collin County. One of the many factors that has led to the success of our community is the hardworking police officers who undoubtedly have played a significant role.

This National Police Week, we remember those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

I am proud to recognize the Collin County police officers who risk their own lives and well-being to make our

communities some of the very safest in the Nation. In fact, the cities of Frisco, McKinney, and Plano, all located in Collin County, were named three of the top 10 safest cities in America.

This is a true testament to how well members of our community, families, neighbors, small business owners, nonprofits, and local officials collaborate with police departments to ensure Collin County remains one of the very best places in America to live, work, and raise a family.

Let this National Police Week serve as a reminder that, in times of disaster or crisis, police officers are the ones who run toward the danger. Our brave officers go above and beyond to protect our communities, and I can never thank them enough.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for those great words.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), a very important voice and someone who has been on the front lines of community service, a first responder, a fire chief, which is my favorite previous job of his, although he has been a mayor as well.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, we honor our incredible law enforcement officers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. At a moment when some Americans have lost confidence in our country's institutions, we must come together to forge a new path of unity and purpose by addressing every injustice while acknowledging the positive actions of our police officers.

This week, I cosponsored the JUSTICE Act to provide needed police reform to help ensure positive, fair policing. This legislation helps ensure law enforcement agencies and officers are kept safe.

I know firsthand the importance of body cameras, not only for accountability, but also for the safety of every law enforcement officer. As mayor of Miami-Dade County, I was one of the first in the country to implement a program putting body cameras on our police officers. This legislation will help replicate what we did in Miami-Dade County across the country by providing $500 million for State and local law enforcement agencies to equip officers with body cameras.

Police officers deserve to know we have their backs. Their commitment to their communities, their willingness to put their lives on the line to keep our children and grandchildren safe, must be commended and not attacked. It is time to step up and give our police officers the support they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman for that voice of authority on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to be joined on the floor by so many colleagues from around the country tonight to honor our law enforcement officers this National Police Week.

I was sitting here as I was listening to the speeches tonight, and I was reminded, as we always are as we sit on this floor of the people's House, of the words that are inscribed right above your head there, our Nation's great motto, In God We Trust.

We are a Nation under God, as we know, and millions of Americans find daily inspiration in the Word of God. On National Police Week, it is appropriate to note that we find there a useful reminder about the noble calling of those who serve our communities so bravely. Indeed, it is a divine calling, and I think those who are calling for the defunding and the disrespect of our police need to remember that it was God himself who ordained that authority.

In the 13th chapter of the book of Romans, it is subtitled Submission to Governing Authorities. I just want to read that in closing tonight, Mr. Speaker. It begins in verse 1 of Chapter 13:

> Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God himself has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.
>
> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
>
> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.
>
> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.
>
> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.
>
> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants who give their full time to governing.
>
> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude tonight with that admonition, that we give honor where honor is due. That is what National Police Week is about.

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

EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE HURTING MAIN STREET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am a small business man. We own a small business, my wife and I. I know many small business owners across America are struggling to reopen and rebuild after COVID–19 shutdowns. They simply can't find workers to fill the job openings.

Why? Because the Federal Government is disincentivizing people from working. Many people are making more money off unemployment insurance than they would if they were back at work, and that is having a crippling impact on Main Streets across America, including in my district.

People in Washington need to hear these stories. Southern Illinois is home to Belleville Boot Company, a military boot manufacturer founded in 1904. A year ago, they employed nearly 240 workers in Belleville. But after each round of stimulus checks, as good as they may be, they had fewer and fewer workers showing up. Now, their workforce has dropped to 26 percent, and they can't find enough workers to fill the openings.

In Alton, the Kreative Kids Learning Center has helped educate local children for 51 years. The owner, Keith, says that they currently have 21 employees but are desperate for more. He runs ads in the newspaper, online, and on social media, offering a good wage, yet he received zero applications—zero.

He has even had to turn children away because he is so short of staff.

In Carbondale, Illinois, Mary Lou's Grill has been a local staple since 1962, serving up the most famous biscuits and gravy in town. On a telephone town hall last night, Marilynn, the owner of Mary Lou's, shared that her food suppliers are unable to hire enough people to run their facilities. That potentially means food shortages and skyrocketing prices for restaurants and customers.

Before COVID–19, the Broadway Grille in Sparta, Illinois, had more applicants than they had positions to fill. But now, Justin, the owner, says that some former employees have told him they will not seek a job as long as they are getting unemployment benefits.

He is so short-staffed that he doesn't have enough people to answer the phone most nights. If he can't find workers soon, he isn't sure what he will do.

This is not just a southern Illinois issue. It touches every community across this country. That is why I have invited several of my colleagues to highlight how their districts have been impacted.

I will start, first off, by yielding to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support. She has many stories I am sure she can tell.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for hosting this critical Special Order to discuss the ongoing impact of enhanced unemployment benefits on Main Street businesses, the American workforce, and our economic recovery.

Like many of my colleagues, I have seen ''help wanted'' signs all over my district. I have heard from local job creators about the difficulties they face in hiring workers they need just to stay open. Many have told me they can't even get people to show up for an interview.

Enhanced Federal unemployment benefits made sense last year as a way to keep those who lost a job and to reduce the economic impact of government-imposed business closures and stay-at-home orders. But now, we are facing a much different situation today.

Safe and effective vaccines are bringing us closer to defeating COVID–19. Employers have updated their facilities and operations so workers can safely return back to work. Businesses are fully operating.

Now is the time to reconnect unemployed workers with their jobs, but enhanced jobless benefits are discouraging Americans from returning to work, making it impossible for businesses to hire.

The Democrats' partisan $1.9 trillion spending bill extended supplemental unemployment benefits of $300 per week until September 6. At this level, nearly 40 percent of jobless Americans can make more on unemployment than they can by returning to work.

Main Street businesses shouldn't have to compete with the Federal Government for workers. In fact, they can't compete with the Federal Government for workers. The labor shortage currently is crushing small businesses, which are fighting to keep their businesses alive while coming out of a pandemic.

In late March, I hosted a virtual roundtable and heard from a Hoosier who owns a small insulation company. He told me: It has been quite the burden to have all these tools on hand and all these trucks in the driveway and to put people in the seats to get them to be able to drive to homes to provide insulation when nobody wants to come to work.

Just last week, we saw the undeniable impact of these misguided policies when the monthly jobs report showed hiring slowing to a crawl in April in this country, despite millions of job openings.

My biggest fear is that we will see permanent job loss across our economy as small businesses close their doors because they can't hire workers that they need.

But it is not too late to avoid this outcome. I recently joined Ways and Means Republican leader KEVIN BRADY in introducing the Reopening America by Supporting Workers and Businesses Act. Our bill would turn extra unemployment benefits into a back-to-work bonus that would incentivize these workers to come back to work instead of staying on unemployment. The legislation would also reinstate the Federal requirement that those receiving unemployment benefits be engaged in actively searching for a job.

The American people have faced unprecedented challenges since last spring. Now, safe and effective vaccines have given us renewed hope that we can defeat COVID–19, rebuild our economy, and return to normal life.

Let's not put our recovery at risk by pushing workers to the sidelines of this economy. Let's get Americans back to work, Main Street businesses back on their feet, and the American Dream back on track for every single American.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my concerns about the current state of the economy and the worker shortages that employers face due to the Democrats' extended unemployment benefits.

As a small business owner for 51 years, I have seen a lot. I know firsthand how challenging a year of government-mandated shutdowns have been for business owners.

The enhanced unemployment benefits in last year's CARES Act were meant to be temporary and targeted to the effects of this COVID–19 pandemic. Now, over a year later, and thanks to the success of Operation Warp Speed and the Trump administration's focus on vaccine development, the economy is ready to fully open. Yet, millions of Americans who can return to work are choosing a government paycheck over earning an income.

Unemployment was never meant to be a full-time job. We are telling people it is a career, for crying out loud, and living off the government for more than 26 weeks while you are capable of working will only delay our economic recovery.

In Texas' 25th Congressional District, hundreds of small businesses are feeling the effects. They simply cannot operate their businesses if employees refuse to return to work. States need to enforce unemployment laws. If employees are offered a job and they refuse it, unemployment benefits should immediately expire.

Enhanced weekly payments will continue to eliminate the incentive to return to work. Under no circumstances should they continue past September.

Vaccines are widely available if people so choose, but there are no longer excuses to remain on the sidelines.

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Before the pandemic, we had the greatest economy in modern history. Certainly the best I have seen in 51 years. For all the right reasons, and with thanks to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by President Trump and Republicans, we had more jobs than people.

However, under President Biden and House Democrats, we have more jobs than people, because what they ultimately want is to make Americans reliant on the government. It is simply called socialism. It is victims versus patriots.

In God we trust.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the former speaker because of his experience in small business and running a business for a majority of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share stories of employers across the country who are struggling to find and hire employees.

According to April's disastrous jobs report, there are 8.1 million job openings in the United States. Employers can't fill them and, as a result, can't operate their businesses effectively.

The extended unemployment handouts my colleagues across the aisle keep reauthorizing incentivize workers to stay at home and collect unemployment rather than go to work.

I have talked with countless small business owners who cannot compete with these handouts and are facing a grave workforce shortage.

I recently visited with manufacturers in Minnesota. They have had to reduce their output on medical device orders by 20 percent because workers, who they pay between $14 and $16 an hour, are making more on unemployment and choosing to stay at home.

Paying people not to work won't help us recover from COVID–19. We must encourage people to get back into the workforce and not stay on the sidelines.

The opportunity to work hard and get ahead is a pillar of the American Dream. Pursuing a career, providing for a family, and supporting our communities, these are the things we should encourage and celebrate.

We have got the vaccines. Now it is time to get back to work.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, for the last eight years, Charleston, South Carolina, has been named the number one city to travel to. Even despite the COVID–19 pandemic, we have seen thousands of folks come and visit our beautiful, historic city.

In the next 10 days, Charleston is going to welcome a PGA Tournament in Kiawah, South Carolina. There is opportunity everywhere. Our airports are full. We are seeing a record number of travelers this month and this year alone. People are on the roads driving to our beautiful city. Yet with all of this great tourism that we are having, we are having a massive labor shortage.

Take, for example, one of my friends, Wade Boals, who owns Saltwater Cowboys in Mt. Pleasant, a beautiful waterfront restaurant where you can enjoy sunsets and a great cocktail or adult beverage of your choice. Rather than be excited about all this tourism, he is desperate to find help, desperate to find workers and staff to work his restaurant. So imagine a restaurant that once had 20 employees now has

three, and the demand on those staff who see no end in sight right now.

But he is not alone. In the State of South Carolina, there are 85,000 jobs available in the last 30 days, and we have 116,000 people on unemployment today. If you want a job, you can have a job. And Wade is offering great benefits, great salary, right on the waterfront. There is no better place to work than Mt. Pleasant, right on the water.

The $1.9 trillion COVID relief package, meant as a short-term financial solution to help those most in need, has really turned into an entitlement. We are making people dependent on the Federal Government for their day-to-day life, when opportunity is all around them every day, even in the middle of the pandemic.

It turns out, when you pay people to stay at home and not go to work, they actually do that; they stay at home.

Wade is just one example. There are examples everywhere. Literally everyone in every industry that I talk to, businesses large and small, are having the same problem. Employers are desperate to find employees.

Everywhere, even in the supply chain—you look at what is happening this week with our supply chain. Truck driver shortages, a shortage of CDL drivers. Many of those folks are on unemployment right now, rather than go back to work. We have enormous needs in every industry across the country today.

The reality is that no business, large or small, could ever waste as much money as our Federal Government does. When I look around us here today, I see a House of Representatives that has the slimmest majority in a generation, and I see a U.S. Senate that is evenly split 50/50, yet we are chasing radicalism. This is not a referendum on socialism or radical policy. This year should be a referendum on both Chambers working together, in a bipartisan way, to get our kids back in school and our people back to work and through COVID–19 successfully.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES). I know that he has many comments that are vitally important to this issue.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman MIKE BOST, for hosting this very important Special Order hour.

Today, we are more than a year out from the beginning of the COVID–19 pandemic, and we are also 5 months out from when the first dose of vaccine was administered. Defeating the virus through a safe and effective vaccine has been critical in reopening our country and our schools and getting Americans back to work. But the recent partisan policies of the left discourage work and create an employment gap in the country.

I hear about this regularly in my district in Kansas. Small businesses, who were hit hard by the pandemic, were forced to shut down, had stay-at-home orders, and are now struggling to find workers to get back reopened.

One of those small business owners, Jessie Sterling, shared with me her experience of struggling to have full employment while she raises her young children, something that was much more difficult when the schools were closed.

While her business has seen customers return, many of her employees have not. Unfortunately, most of Jessie's employees opted to stay home and collect expanded unemployment benefits rather than return to the workforce. The additional $300 means that most of the part-time employees are now making more on unemployment than they were making at their job. While Jessie is responsible for the education and care of her children, she now has the additional stress of picking up extra shifts to cover for the employees who aren't coming back.

But it doesn't have to be this way. We need to shift our focus from the early days of the pandemic, when it made sense to expand these unemployment programs, to encouraging a return to work.

Just yesterday, our neighboring State of Missouri opted out of the enhanced unemployment benefits, a move that will help encourage work and a return to normalcy. Today, my colleagues, Congressmen TRACEY MANN and JAKE LATURNER, called on Kansas Governor Kelly to do the same thing.

Our American spirit is built on resilience, hard work, and ingenuity. We have had many struggles over the past year, but our history has shown us that we will overcome, not through a heavy reliance on a big Federal Government, but a reliance on faith, on families, and our own work ethic. We need to encourage all Americans to pursue these ideals and get our economy back to work.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), a person who really does understand small business and farming, who understands what it is like to employ people and how important those employees are.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, these are trying times for our country, specifically for small business owners and their families who, in some cases, are watching their livelihoods literally disappear right before their eyes.

The jobs report that was released on Friday was cited as the ''largest miss'' compared to economists' expectations since 1998. The United States filled only 266,000 jobs of the estimated 1.3 million that were predicted to be filled. That is more than one million jobs less than expected. The unemployment rate actually rose for the first time during this recovery.

For over a year, our businesses have been shuttered and our schools closed, making it impossible for parents to return to work and for hardworking individuals to earn an honest living.

To make matters worse, many of our local businesses simply cannot find the labor they need because Federal unemployment benefits discourage workers from returning to the workplace, further hindering the recovery of our local economies.

President Biden dismissed these figures as merely a snapshot in time, refusing to see that they represent the very real struggles our small businesses and communities are facing.

Just this weekend, I hosted our annual job fair in central Washington, and the changes that I saw were stark. Dozens of employers, who represented everything from the agricultural industry to law enforcement offices, restaurants, distribution centers, to government contractors handling nuclear cleanup, were all looking to hire hundreds of people.

And guess what?

Less than 100 applicants showed up.

Two years ago, we had 500 attendees competing for many of the same kinds of jobs.

Now, I know that our small businesses are the economic engine of our economy, and we must ensure that we can get that engine restarted as quickly and as safely as possible. It is time we reopen our economy, get our kids back into the classrooms, empower the entrepreneurs who are the backbone of our economy, and allow America to recover.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN).

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for holding this Special Order. It is really a very important issue all across the country. And it really doesn't matter which district a Member of Congress represents; you are going to have these same problems.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the better part of last 2 weeks, during our district work period, traveling southern Minnesota, meeting with all sorts of businesses, meeting with labor, talking to the chambers of commerce. I can tell you that, under normal circumstances, it is tough enough to run a business and it is tough enough to be productive and successful in small business. But when you have bad government policies—and that is what we have here—it makes it extra tough. In many cases it is limiting production.

We are seeing companies, like United Commercial Upholstery in New Ulm, having to turn away work. They actually could do three times more work right now if they could find another 50 employees. But it is impossible.

It really doesn't matter if it is skilled work or unskilled work; it is just across the board.

I was up in Lonsdale, Minnesota, in Rice County, and talked to their chamber of commerce, talked to the packaging company, which is the biggest employer in town. They have production disruptions across the board. They just can't find the employees.

Recently, in Rochester, I was at Crenlo Industries, where they make these high-end cabs for heavy production equipment—Caterpillar, John

Deere, those types of things. They have line employees, and they want to get those cabs worked through the line.

Guess what happens?

Employees don't show up. They can't fill the jobs. They have lots of disruption.

We are seeing these supply chain disruptions all across the country, skyrocketing costs for materials and others. A lot of this is tied to these bad policies.

What I do appreciate is some of the Governors across the country who have taken it upon themselves to say: You know what we are going to do? If you don't look for qualified work, if you don't accept work, you are going to lose your unemployment compensation benefits.

Unfortunately, in Minnesota and some other States, you have Governors that want to hang onto emergency powers and still not make those requirements.

I think at the Federal level, in my Small Business Committee and other committees represented here, we should look at how we can tie those benefits to make sure that there are those strings attached and we do everything possible to get folks back in the workforce. It is time. And I know that that is always best for folks to have good, high-paying jobs, and be upwardly mobile and self-sufficient.

□ 1930

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. The inflation report came out this morning, 4.2 percent increase in inflation. You have got to ask yourself what happened and how did it happen so fast?

Well, one of the key things we are seeing in this economy is very clear. What we are seeing is that the pool of workers is actually quite small compared to the demand for product from people who, frankly, have been locked down for over a year who are ready to go out and spend a lot of money that they have saved, get back to normal life, but there aren't the necessary workforce in order to produce the level of goods that the economy is demanding. So then, of course, the price of every individual unit is now going up because you have a scarcity of supply.

How did this happen? Well, when this body passed a coronavirus spending bill, or the American Rescue Plan or however you want to call it, when we put in an additional payment of direct checks to individuals, not to mention extended unemployment benefits that are 100 percent to what their wages were before the pandemic, and you let that run through the later part of this year, you are going to see exactly what we have seen all across America.

You have seen too many workers not filling their shifts. I will give you an example. I was at a McDonald's drive-through, 24-hour drive-through in my district about 12:30 in the morning. I was hungry. The first drive-through I went through, there was nobody there working. They cordoned off the drive-through. Has anybody in America ever seen a McDonald's 24-hour drive-through closed? It was closed because nobody was there.

The second McDonald's I went to, there was one worker in the shop. He said, ''It is going to take me 30 minutes to fill your order because nobody else is here, and I am making breakfast for the morning shifts.''

We have to pull back some of these benefits. We have to, because the way you miss a jobs report by 750,000 jobs is by paying people to stay home. That is not working for our economy. It is not working for our small businesses, and we are starting to see the effects in inflation, and it is only going to get worse unless we act swiftly here in the Nation's Capitol.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I want to thank all of my colleagues who joined me and joined us here tonight. Thank you to my friend Representative JACKIE WALORSKI for cohosting this Special Order.

We all agree that it was necessary for Congress to step up and act quickly to help hardworking Americans laid off or out of work during the widespread pandemic shutdowns. But here we are, three vaccines later, the States are loosening restrictions. We need to refocus on where we are going, on what we are doing, on making sure children go back to school and people go back to work.

I am proud to support Ranking Member BRADY's Reopening America by Supporting Workers and Businesses Act. Instead of paying people to stay home, it will allow States to provide back-to-work bonuses and increased funding for reemployment services.

In April's dismal jobs report, which was mentioned earlier, it is an indication we have a long way to go. It is a time that we need to get our economy back on track and our people back to work. Every time we go down the street, if you listen to the people who spoke here tonight, jobs, help wanted, help wanted, help wanted, and no help to be found. Why? Because as good as an intention as we had when we passed the unemployment extensions, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is we are prolonging this situation where we can actually get back to work. We can take these things off, we can actually be safe going to work. We are being vaccinated. Things are gearing back up.

Let's not go down the path of government entrapment. Let's go back to what America is about: People seeking employment when jobs are there, to bettering their family when jobs are there. Not through government programs, but through the opportunity of actually working every day to provide for their families and to provide their children and grandchildren with opportunities.

We are going to have to do that because we have spent a lot of money this last year, quite often in making sure that our American citizens were taken care of. And rightfully so. But now it is time to go back to work.

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

OUR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL ARE UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MAST. I am joined by my colleague here, Mr. ROY. There will be some colloquy going between us as we each feel the need to discuss what is going on in Israel right now, the response by the world, the response by the United States of America.

Mr. ROY, I don't know if you have any opening comments that you would like to begin with, but we can certainly start with that.

Mr. ROY. I would just say how much I appreciate the gentleman, I appreciate his service, I appreciate his understanding about how important Israel is to us as an ally and how important it is for our country to stand united right now as we watch our friends under attack. I look forward to engaging with him.

Mr. MAST. Let's start with what my friend just said, our friends under attack. That first word, ''under attack'' is the most important part to realize here. I want to quote one of our other colleagues in a statement, Ms. OMAR, in one of her statements about these very events. She said, ''Israel airstrikes killing civilians in Gaza is an act of terrorism. Palestinians deserve protection. Unlike Israel, missile defense programs such as Iron Dome don't exist to protect Palestinian civilians. It is unconscionable to not condemn these attacks.''

That is absolutely right. Palestinians don't receive support like Iron Dome. That would be akin to giving al-Qaida or ISIS or the Taliban U.S. bomb technicians and military personnel to help them out. That would be the apples-to-apples comparison of giving the attackers, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic jihad, others, that would be the equivalent of giving them those kind of assets.

Hamas purposefully makes their civilians the shields to their offensive points. That is not hyperbole. Think about that, what they do to their population. I don't want to just speak about this in platitudes.

If the gentleman has anything to add, by all means, I will just yield to him as that time arises.

I want to speak about these by specific incident to say exactly how much Israel is being attacked and let the American people judge who is the aggressor here. We will go over both rocket attacks, which are acts of terrorism, and suicide bombings.

You might think I am reading every one of them in history, but I am not.

They are all serious, but I am reading what largely became the most serious of them. We will start just now with the rocket attacks.

I am not going to read for today because the totals aren't in, but as of yesterday, over 600 rockets were launched into Israel. When I say 600 rockets, I don't want people to think they are small, the size of this table or my cane. We are talking about Fajr-5 rockets. They are made by Iran. They are 21 feet long. That is basically a little bit longer than a Chevy Suburban. The warheads on these rockets are about 90 kilograms, or 200 pounds of explosives. To put that into perspective, what detonated underneath my feet when I lost my legs was probably somewhere around 5 to 10 pounds. So each of these warheads being fired in, somewhere around 200 pounds of explosives.

So just yesterday, 600 rockets; May 9, six rockets; April 25, five rockets; April 24, two rockets; April 23, 36 rockets; April 15, one rocket; January 20, one rocket; January 18, two rockets.

Going back into 2020, December 26, two rockets; November 21, one rocket; November 14, two rockets; October 22, two rockets; October 16, one rocket; September 15, 13 rockets; August 21, 12 rockets; August 16, two rockets; August 2, one rocket; July 5, three rockets; June 26, two rockets; June 15, one rocket; February 23 and 24, 90 rockets over the course of that Sunday and Monday.

Moving into 2019, November 12, 190 rockets launched by Palestinian Islamic jihad; May 5, 200 rockets; May 4, 250 rockets; March 25, one rocket; March 14, two rockets.

Going back into 2018, November 12, one mortar; November 11, 17 rockets; August 8, eight rockets; July 26, 11 rockets; July 14, 174 rockets, barrage, Israel.

And we are talking about—let's put into this perspective as well—a country roughly the size of the State of New Jersey, not the breadth of the United States of America.

Mr. ROY. Has the gentleman traveled to Israel?

Mr. MAST. Many times.

Mr. ROY. Is the gentleman aware that even when it is the size of New Jersey, really the population center is really in an area pretty much the size of probably about a quarter of New Jersey or half of New Jersey, right?

In Lebanon, for example, at all times, there is about 150,000 rockets sitting there pointing at this space between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in the northern part of Israel, where virtually all of the population lives, of all walks of faith, by the way. They are under constant threat, and without Iron Dome would be in grave danger, as they are taking this rocket fire from the Gaza Strip today.

Mr. MAST. You are exactly right. We have both had the honor of spending time there. I have had the honor in my life of wearing two military uniforms, for a dozen years in the U.S. Army and also for a period wearing the uniform of the Israel Defense Forces.

One of the things that I learned so well in my time spent serving there was what I feel the same way about as a father of four. When you go over there and you get to the weekend and the time for Shabbat dinner, each family over there, because everybody serves, as they get their family together for that Shabbat meal, every family is waiting for a son, a daughter, a grandson, a granddaughter to come home from that weekend from that service that everybody is mandated to perform and that in all likelihood, sometime during their service, they will probably have to wield their weapon in defense of Israel, given the percentages of the times that they find themselves under attack.

Mr. ROY. As we have been watching over the last several weeks with our friends in Israel under attack, particularly this week with the amount of missiles that are going in, there has been wide success, obviously, with Iron Dome, but obviously that puts a continued stress on Iron Dome. Is the gentleman as concerned as I am that we have this country standing alongside Israel to ensure that they have got the resources they need, that they can continue to have a strong Iron Dome, continue to be able to push back on the rockets that are being fired into Israel from Gaza Strip by Hamas?

Mr. MAST. I could not agree more, and to put into perspective why, a great American word, Alamo. Israel is really, it is an Alamo in the Middle East, of freedom, democracy, human rights for all people. That is what they are in that region, and if we don't stand for them, for that friend, that great ally in this region, who do we stand for?

Mr. ROY. I am a proud Representative of San Antonio, Texas, where our Alamo stands, so I appreciate that reference. Is the gentleman aware that there has been numerous casualties, numerous deaths as a result of this rocket fire, very specifically including non-Israeli citizens? In fact, I saw some social media yesterday of a young Indian woman from the country of India who was killed while visiting Israel, and that there have been numerous others, children, and others that have lost their lives, and, also, thousands upon thousands of Israeli farmland that has been torched and burned, livelihoods that have been put into disarray as a result of this rocket fire. Does the gentleman agree with that?

Mr. MAST. I totally agree. Let's make a perspective on that as well.

Mr. ROY. Please.

Mr. MAST. I just went over a tremendous list of years of rocket attacks. Now, when Israel goes and flies over the Gaza Strip and puts a piece of ordnance on a target, it is because that location is where they were firing rockets from. They are defending themselves. That is very specific. It is the definition of defense.

All of those rockets and mortars being lobbed into Israel, those are fired entirely indiscriminately beyond, say, they are trying to send them in an area. They are not trying to send those rockets in to land and take down a date tree or some other kind of farm field or something like that. Their specific intent is to indiscriminately hit the largest centers of population and anybody or any piece of infrastructure, whether it is related to military, civilians, restaurants, you name it, they don't care. It is the definition of indiscriminate killing.

□ 1945

Mr. ROY. Is the gentleman aware that there have been numerous people who have thrown out the phrase that Israel—many of our friends, by the way—that Israel has a right to defend itself. I mean, we hear this regularly.

Would the gentleman agree that Israel has more than a right to defend itself, but rather a duty and, in fact, a responsibility to defend itself, defend the people of Israel, and to stand strong as what you just described, the greatest democracy in the Middle East with a plurality of individuals in that country who respect freedom and democracy in a multiethnic population even as we are, as a result, I believe, of the previous administration, experiencing a renaissance in the Middle East, potential peace. We are seeing the response to that here, if the gentleman would agree.

Mr. MAST. I would respond to the gentleman by saying what greater calling for any government, what greater responsibility for any government, than to protect its people.

You speak at length about the protection that the United States of America owes to its people on the southern border. It is one of the things that you address so regularly. That carries over to what we are speaking about right here.

I would add on this point simply to that: When I go back in time and say what brought about me going over to put on the uniform of the IDF, I was a student in Boston. At that time, a recent Gaza war was going on, back in 2014. What I witnessed there, aside from people who were protesting Israel—again, for going out there and defending herself—were people also seeing U.S. servicemembers like myself. They were out there to protest Israel, but they started harassing people like me and my family because they could see I was a U.S. servicemember. So, that goes to the jump that they make when they layer the United States and Israel next to one another.

But what I said to myself after those experiences was this makes absolutely no sense. This is total hypocrisy. If any one of our neighbors—Mexico, some Caribbean country, Canada—started lobbing rockets or lobbing mortars into the United States of America, my friends in the service would go and eliminate those enemies. Everybody in

the United States of America would be grateful to them for doing so. How we do not afford that same right to Israel—or some of our colleagues do not—is absolutely beyond me.

Mr. ROY. Would the gentleman be surprised if I told him that on my first trip to Israel in 2014 May, I believe, that we were able to take a helicopter tour of the north end of Israel, as I described earlier, where the bulk of the population is, and fly up the Jordan River and go up to the northern part of Israel, and that we would have been able to experience visiting a hospital in Israel where Israeli doctors, Jewish doctors, were caring for at the time—the gentleman will remember in 2014 what was going on in Syria and the devastating toll that the Syrian regime was having on its own people—and that there were children and women and those who were being attacked in their own country in Syria who were receiving the best, top-notch medical care in the world in Israeli hospitals? Then, Israelis were secreting them back to Syria and not making it public so that there would be no reprisal taken against the Syrians because they had gone to get care in Israel.

Would the gentleman be surprised by that, based on his experience and his service in Israeli Defense Forces?

Mr. MAST. Not surprised in the slightest. We have seen this not just go on for those who were wounded in Syria and other places. We can see it right here in our own area of the world, where Israel responded to the earthquake in Haiti and other natural disasters around the globe. They are often among the first on the ground to go out there and respond.

The gentleman has spoken about his time in Israel, and we have spoken about some of these rocket attacks. Again, I don't want to live in the ambiguous here. I want to speak to exactly what has gone on in history. I am now going to move at this point to some of the suicide bombings that have taken place in the State of Israel and go through some of those.

In 2016, a bus bombing, 20 injured; Hamas takes credit.

Now, before I continue with just saying ''Hamas takes credit'' or ''Palestinian Islamic jihad,'' it is important to have perspective on that, as well. In 2006, Hamas is not just a terrorist organization. In 2006, they became the majority-elected government for the Palestinian Authority. So, when people talk about a two-state solution, you are talking about Hamas, which I am going to speak about in length here being the government entity that would be that second state.

Let's continue on. We will go to 2006 here. Rosh Ha'ir Restaurant bombing, 11 killed, Palestinian Islamic jihad.

HaSharon Mall, December 2005, five killed, Palestinian Islamic jihad.

Market bombing, October 26, seven killed, Palestinian Islamic jihad.

Mall bombing, July 12, 2005, five killed, Palestinian Islamic jihad.

Club bombing, February 25 in Tel Aviv, al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, Hezbollah involvement.

Bus bombing, January 29, 2004, Jerusalem, 11 killed, Hamas.

Liberty Bell Park bus bombing, February 22, eight killed, al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades.

Ashdod Port massacre, March 14, 2004, 10 killed in a double suicide bombing carried out by, again, Hamas.

Beersheba bus bombing, August 31, 2004, 16 killed, Hamas claims responsibility.

Again, I am reading to you just a small portion of all the attacks that I could read to you.

Haifa bus 37 suicide bombing, March 5, 2003, 17 killed.

Bus station massacre, January 5, 2003, in Tel Aviv, 23 killed, Palestinian Islamic jihad and Hamas.

Mike's Place suicide bombing, a pub, April 30, 2003, three killed, Hamas.

Gross Square attack, May 17, 2003, two killed, Hamas.

Jerusalem, bus number six bombing, seven killed, Hamas claims responsibility.

Davidka Square bus bombing, June 1, 2003, 17 killed, Hamas claims responsibility.

The list could go on. I don't know if you would care to comment on any of this as I could continue year after year with these suicide attacks, the stabbings, the bombings, the vehicular manslaughter, the rocket attacks. It goes on and on.

Mr. ROY. I would say to the gentleman that my response is that I could go through a similar list, and the gentleman has done that perfectly well.

What I was struck by in my time in Israel, and that was particularly in the summer of 2019 as I already described and May 2014, the extent to which the people of Israel were so grateful, one, for the United States' support in working with them on Iron Dome in order to have the technology, and not just Iron Dome, David's Sling and all the various different technologies that they are using to be able to live, to be able to live in less fear, and their ability, by the way, to build a fence, to build an infrastructure and border in order to prevent traffic and people coming in that might wish to do them harm, and the extent to which they would tell stories about loved ones that each and every one of them had lost in one of these suicide bombings or some other attack.

How gratified they were that many of these things were things they were talking about in the past and that Israel was moving forward and being able to live in peace and to be able to live without fear of those kinds of attacks as much.

I would just question whether the gentleman would agree that—I don't necessarily always believe in coincidences when we have an administration who refuses to even call Prime Minister Netanyahu for the first 40 or 50 days of the administration. We have an administration that was more interested in sitting down with Iran than sitting down with our friends in Israel, so that we might see that some of our enemies, our mutual enemies, are emboldened to engage in this kind of attack.

Mr. MAST. I could not agree more with the gentleman. It is important that we acknowledge the truth. Who are our friends, who are our enemies, who those are that are posing a threat, what are the threats that they are posing, we make that known.

That has an effect on the saber-rattling, and we should take the saber-rattling that is going on, whether it is in Iran or whether it is in a Palestinian-controlled territory or Syria or anywhere else, we need to take that seriously.

To your point about that pride that you saw and that friendship between the U.S. and Israel, on a separate experience, again, in Israel, I believe this was in 2017 for myself, I am with my wife. We are down on the Sea of Galilee with other Members of Congress, literally inside of a restaurant filled simply with patrons of that area. The patrons in that restaurant stood up and to us, who were Members of Congress, the United States House of Representatives, bipartisan, they sang ''God Bless America.''

I would challenge anybody that we could find many places across the globe where we would find a group of restaurant patrons who would stand and sing twice, in my experience, ''God bless America.''

Mr. ROY. Well, the gentleman recounts something that I experienced, as well, and, more than that, a heartfelt description of the reasons that the Israelis were so thankful for our friendship and our support and their belief, I believe rightfully so, that the United States' relationship with Israel is a significant part of their ability to exist as a nation, particularly under the intense scrutiny and attack that they find themselves.

Here we are, I think this Friday will be the 73rd anniversary of Israeli independence. I think I am right about that. I pulled it out of my head. That almost now 75 years is, I think, in direct connection to America's support. Of course, it has ebbed and flowed over the years, but that support and that particularly strong support with President Trump moving the Embassy to Jerusalem, I believe that the people of Israel rightfully recognize that support is key to their security and safety, if the gentleman agrees.

Mr. MAST. I totally agree. But it didn't stop with moving the Embassy to Jerusalem. It had to do with acknowledging if Iran is a friend or an enemy and reversing what had gone on with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, moving away from Iran, moving back toward our consistent friend and ally, Israel. It had more to do with going out there and recognizing the relationships that we have through our

cross-military training exercises that we do, sharing of military technologies, and so on and so on.

It didn't just end with acknowledging something that everybody knew for decades since the beginning of Israel, where the capital is. That was an important piece of it for the President to make that acknowledgment. But it went so far beyond. Would the gentleman agree?

Mr. ROY. Well, I do agree with the gentleman. I might say to the Speaker, in order to be deferential to my friend's time, if I might ask how much time remains in the gentleman's half-hour?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. I would agree with the gentleman. I would add a couple of other thoughts. I noticed today a tweet on May 11, which would be yesterday, by Supreme Leader Khamenei, ''Palestinians are awake and determined. They must continue this path. One can only talk with the language of power with these criminals,'' i.e., Israelis. ''They must increase their strength, stand strong, confront the enemy,'' the enemy being, of course, Israel, ''and force them to stop their crimes.''

Would the gentleman agree that Iran is certainly responsible and tied to Hamas, to the supply of rockets and technology that is being targeted toward our friends in Israel and that we must remember where Iran stands with respect to Israel and the United States?

Mr. MAST. I thank the gentleman for his question.

I could continue on through this list and read year after year, nine killed, nine killed, six killed, 14 killed, 11 killed. I read Hamas, Palestinian Islamic jihad, al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, and Hezbollah in that list, as well, and the list goes on year after year after year.

As you look at those threats and those calls to violence, it begs the question—I can't take credit for this quote. I forget who exactly said it first. But they said you don't sell a gun to somebody that wants to shoot you.

This was the failed policy that President Trump worked to correct, in reversing from that relationship with Iran and strengthening that relationship with Israel. Would the gentleman agree?

Mr. ROY. I would agree, and I think that it is critically important to remember who we are dealing with and who we empower at the expense of both our national security and the national security of our friends in Israel.

I would also offer a tweet that I saw from his home base in Qatar, the Hamas political director and literal United States designated terrorist Ismail Haniyeh. He tweets his support, tweets his support of the attacks on Israel.

This individual notes, and I don't know that we need to get into cancel culture, but this individual notes that he won't be banned from Twitter, and I think this is something we should all be cognizant of as we are looking around the world when we remember that, in the previous administration, with President Trump's policies, that we were seeing extraordinary gains in peace in the Middle East, Arab countries recognizing Israel, opening up flights and engagement between Israel and countries that before would not recognize them. Does the gentleman agree with that?

□ 2000

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his question.

Not only do I agree with that, but I think one of the most important points that we make on that is that it was without concession. We didn't have to negotiate. The President did not negotiate or barter a deal that said, Listen, you need to go out there and submit to another authority that is bombing you, sending mortars, sending rockets, kidnapping people from your territory. You don't have to submit to some other authority in order to have this peace.

It was a negotiated peace based upon a truth and, I believe, an acknowledgment by those other nations of exactly what has been read off here today. The historical documentation of rocket attacks, mortar attacks, suicide bombings that point to the fact that Israel is not the aggressor. They show a tremendous amount of restraint year after year after year. The fact that their enemies that attack them are not simply a smoldering pile of ashes at this point is demonstration of the restraint.

I don't know that if we had that kind of history, we would—that our enemy would not be a smoldering pile of ashes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the gentleman. I would suggest that the gentleman made the point best earlier when he said, How would we respond in United States of America if this many missiles were being fired from Mexico?

Where, by the way, we have cartels who are operating control of our border.

If we had, literally—and here is some of the data. The gentleman quoted some data. Here is some from my staff:

More than 1,500 missiles—possibly 700 already, I think the gentleman alluded to—in the last 72 hours, on average, every 3 minutes by Hamas; 200 of the rockets fired fell short of crossing the border and caused civilian damage; IDF targeting military PIJ and Hamas infrastructure, the operatives and the rocket launchers, an Iron Dome battery was operationalized from reserves. IDF forwarded an attack by an elite Hamas unit, which is trying to dig a tunnel into Israel. And now you have got the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Quds Brigade saying it will expand the ring of fire and target Tel Aviv, and after Tel Aviv with huge rocket barrage. This is the state of things in Israel.

And to the gentleman's point, and I will yield back: No American would be sitting here today—if I am sitting here in Austin, Texas, or San Antonio, Texas, about 150 miles to the west and over to Mexico, if we had 1,500 rockets firing in on San Antonio or Austin, look, man, I would be grabbing my weapons and I would be heading down to the border, and we would be taking care of business.

This is the reality of what we are talking about. So when I hear people saying Israel has a right to defend itself, Israel has a duty and a responsibility to defend itself, I support them fully.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, by my calculation, we should have about 2 minutes remaining. So I will try to give the gentleman the last word in just a moment.

Mr. Speaker, I would just bring us back to what I opened up with for myself here. And that was the tweet, the statement that was put out in a number of places by our colleague, who I am absolutely astounded sits on the Committee on Foreign Affairs with me, Representative OMAR. That Palestinians deserve protection and that Israel is somehow the aggressor committing an act of terrorism. And ask that the American people go out there, do your own research, look up what the history is, look at the attacks, see what's going on, and judge that for yourself in the most honest way that you can.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. This was kind of an impromptu colloquy, but I think this is the best of what we do in the House, and I would like to do it more often with you and other colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say to the gentleman who has served in IDF and who has served in our Armed Forces: You bear the scars of your service, and we thank you for that. You know well what the Israelis are experiencing every day. And I am glad that you and I stand here united, along with at least the majority of conference.

I wish it was more of a bipartisan agreement of our duty in this country, our responsibility to stand with our friends in Israel, with whom we have an extraordinary relationship. That our joint efforts to stand athwart terrorists to build things like Iron Dome. To work together on missile defense technology has made this world infinitely safer.

And that the most recent administration, the President Trump administration, deserves extraordinary credit, which it never gets in the press, for what was an unbelievable achievement with respect to Middle East peace and the direction we were headed.

And that we are going to stand with Israel. That we are going to make that an unequivocal statement, that we stand with Israel, we are going to defend Israel, and we are going to make sure that we can work together in

peace going forward for the betterment of this world and for our mutual relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman for any closing thoughts.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 13, 2021, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1087. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 14 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral or real admiral (lower half), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1088. A letter from the Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2020 Fair Lending Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5493(c)(2)(D); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1013(c)(2)(D); (124 Stat. 1970); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–1089. A letter from the President and CEO, Securities Investor Protection Corporation, transmitting a Report Regarding Standard Maximum Cash Advance Amount, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 78fff-3(e)(3); Public Law 91-598, Sec. 9(e)(3) (as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 929H(a)(2)); (124 Stat. 1857); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–1090. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–1091. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's 65th Semiannual Inspector General Report for the period October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1092. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the activities in the time period since the eighth Emmett Till Act Report, and second Reauthorization Report, which was dated June 2019, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 509 note; Public Law 110-344, Sec. 3(c)(2); (122 Stat. 3935); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1093. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Third Annual Report from the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties, pursuant to Public Law 115-59, Sec. 2(c)(4), 131 Stat. 1152 (Sept. 2017) (codified at 42 USCA Sec 405, note); jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Reform and Ways and Means.

EC–1094. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Attorney General's First Quarterly Report of Fiscal Year 2021 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4332(b)(2); Public Law 103-353, Sec. 2(a) (as added by Public Law 110-389, Sec. 312(c)); (122 Stat. 4165); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 958. A bill to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–30). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1448. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments; with an amendment (Rept. 117–31). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1703. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–32). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 3129. A bill to amend the War Powers Resolution to require an annual report and assessment with respect to each specific statutory authorization of the use of military force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 3130. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Operation Stonegarden grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 3131. A bill to subsidize the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promote officer hiring and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 3132. A bill to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3133. A bill to establish a National Secure Data Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. ROY, Mr. OWENS, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MAST, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 3134. A bill to prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3135. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any live animal of any prohibited primate species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROOKS (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BABIN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 3136. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen the disclosure requirements for institutions of higher education related to foreign gifts and contracts; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 3137. A bill to amend title III of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to prohibit the expenditure of funds on the priorities noticed in the proposed rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to Proposed Priorities-American History and Civics Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 3138. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a grant program relating to the cybersecurity of State

and local governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 3139. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress an annual report on peaker plants in the United States and to provide financial incentives for replacing peaker plants with technology that receives, stores, and delivers energy generated by renewable energy resources, 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. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina):

H.R. 3140. A bill to provide that an individual may not occupy the position of the Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for more than 12 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 3141. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to authorize the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. ESTES, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 3142. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for International Regulated Investment Companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 3143. A bill to establish a gun buyback grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 3144. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Russia until Russian troops are removed from the Donbas region of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 3145. A bill to require Executive agency review of occupational licensing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. HILL (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 3146. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure the supply of certain medical materials essential to national defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 3147. A bill to help States combat abuse of occupational licensing laws by economic incumbents, to promote competition, to encourage innovation, to protect consumers, and to facilitate the restoration of antitrust immunity to State occupational boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACOBS of New York (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 3148. A bill to amend the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to require States to impose certain requirements on individuals seeking pandemic unemployment assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 3149. A bill to expand access to health care services for immigrants by removing legal and policy barriers to health insurance coverage, 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. KATKO (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 3150. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 3151. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 3152. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of the tax on private foundation excess business holdings to treat as outstanding any employee-owned stock purchased by a business enterprise pursuant to certain employee stock ownership retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 3153. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 3154. A bill to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. WILD, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. HAGEDORN):

H.R. 3155. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in the loan programs of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3156. A bill to reestablish the Commission on Wartime Contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina (for himself and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 3157. A bill to amend section 8526A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal mandates, direction, or control with respect to American history and civics education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 3158. A bill to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MENG, Mr. EVANS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 3159. A bill to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 3160. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 3161. A bill to establish a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of such mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as

fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Ms. MACE, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 3162. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to submit to the Congress a report that describes the methodology used to allocate amounts appropriated in covered provisions for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program and the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. ROY (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BABIN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 3163. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to schools that promote certain race-based theories to students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 3164. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule that requires all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 3165. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in 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 Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3166. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. VAN DREW:

H.R. 3167. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the ''George Henry White Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 3168. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the ''Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3169. A bill to establish the Future of Local News Committee to examine and report on the role of local news gathering in sustaining democracy in the United States and the factors contributing to the demise of local journalism, and to propose policies and mechanisms that could reinvigorate local news to meet the critical information needs of the people of the United States in the 21st century; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 3170. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide relief for taxpayers that were victims of identity theft to commit unemployment insurance fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3171. A bill to provide for a comfortable and safe temperature level in dwelling units receiving certain Federal housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H. Res. 384. A resolution electing certain members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BENTZ):

H. Res. 385. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of award-winning children's author Beverly Cleary; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MANN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. HERN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ESTES, Mr. MAST, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BARR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 386. A resolution expressing support for recognizing ''National Police Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BIGGS):

H. Res. 387. A resolution expressing support for the Nation's law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H. Res. 388. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that President Biden's gun policies are unconstitutional and should never be approved; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BABIN, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HERN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H. Res. 389. A resolution designating the week beginning November 8, 2021, as ''National Pregnancy Center Week'' to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VELA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H. Res. 390. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H. Res. 391. A resolution supporting the designation of July 21, 2021, as ''Glioblastoma Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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 Mr. CLOUD:
H.R. 3129.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 12
''To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two years''
By Mr. GUEST:
H.R. 3130.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 3131.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
[The Congress shall have Power. . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. AMODEI:
H.R. 3132.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to authorize Appropriations under Article I, Section 9 of the United States Constitution .
By Mr. BEYER:
H.R. 3133.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:
H.R. 3134.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 3135.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. BROOKS:
H.R. 3136.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. CAWTHORN:
H.R. 3137.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 3138.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 3139.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
By Mr. DAVIDSON:
H.R. 3140.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 3141.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 3142.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. DEUTCH:
H.R. 3143.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 3144.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:
H.R. 3145.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. HILL:
H.R. 3146.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 3147.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.
By Mr. JACOBS of New York:
H.R. 3148. 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 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 3149.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. KATKO:
H.R. 3150.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. KELLER:
H.R. 3151.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 3152.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. KUSTOFF:
H.R. 3153.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.
By Mr. LAHOOD:
H.R. 3154.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
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 Mrs. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 3155.
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. LYNCH:
H.R. 3156.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina:
H.R. 3157.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. O'HALLERAN:
H.R. 3158.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 3159.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
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. PINGREE:
H.R. 3160.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. QUIGLEY:
H.R. 3161.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:
H.R. 3162.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. ROY:
H.R. 3163.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. RYAN:
H.R. 3164.
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. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 3165.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. TITUS:
H.R. 3166.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 3167.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, §8, cl. 7.
By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 3168.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, §8, cl. 7.
By Mr. VEASEY:
H.R. 3169.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 (relating to interstate commerce)
By Mr. WENSTRUP:
H.R. 3170.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. WILSON of Florida:
H.R. 3171.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. BENTZ and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 72: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 82: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. Letlow.
H.R. 256: Ms. DEAN and Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 261: Mr. SIMPSON and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 263: Mr. CASE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 265: Ms. PLASKETT and Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 310: Mrs. AXNE and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 421: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 471: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 475: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 501: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 512: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 541: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 554: Mr. MCCARTHY.
H.R. 555: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 563: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 606: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 657: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 695: Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 825: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 890: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 892: Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 911: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 959: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 962: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 963: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1015: Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1057: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1179: Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 1184: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 1193: Mr. CURTIS, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 1226: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 1283: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1321: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1330: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 1346: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. UPTON, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1355: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1381: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. EMMER, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1384: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1443: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 1448: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1474: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 1551: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 1585: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1611: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1625: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1641: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 1664: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 1693: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 1699: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 1730: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 1778: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 1783: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1819: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1833: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1834: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1861: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1881: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1888: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1892: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 1902: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 1909: Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1915: Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CHU, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1946: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1959: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1972: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1974: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 1978: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1994: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2007: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2012: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2028: Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 2059: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2062: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2079: Mr. SUOZZI and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2082: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2090: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2120: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2127: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2132: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2133: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2188: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2198: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2214: Mr. TONKO and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2229: Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2244: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. YOUNG, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2249: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2255: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2268: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2269: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2274: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2278: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. BROWN.
H.R. 2288: Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 2294: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2307: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2316: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 2363: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 2441: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2461: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2486: Mr. LATTA and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2545: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2570: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2583: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 2586: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2590: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2612: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2615: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 2616: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2631: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 2646: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 2688: Mr. REED, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 2691: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 2709: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2714: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2718: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2721: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2728: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 2742: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2748: Mr. KELLER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 2759: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2774: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2782: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2800: Mrs. AXNE and Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 2811: Mr. GARBARINO and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2812: Ms. NORTON and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2820: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KIND, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2833: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 2840: Mr. KILMER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. CHU, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2860: Mr. CARL, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2911: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2936: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2938: Mr. MEIJER and Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 2940: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2941: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2962: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2967: Ms. TITUS and Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2985: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2996: Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 3009: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3013: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3014: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 3018: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3023: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3035: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 3045: Mr. TIFFANY and Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 3046: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 3055: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 3057: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 3080: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3088: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 3093: Mr. CASE and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3098: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3101: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. BARR.
H. Res. 47: Mr. KINZINGER.
H. Res. 117: Mr. BUCK and Mr. BABIN.
H. Res. 118: Mr. MEIJER.
H. Res. 160: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. BABIN.
H. Res. 215: Mr. MFUME.
H. Res. 352: Mr. CARL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. STEIL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MAST, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. NEHLS.
H. Res. 356: Mr. POCAN and Ms. BUSH.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021 *No. 82*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, continue to guard the path of the godly. Lord, You have filled us with reverential awe for You. So please keep our feet from stumbling or slipping. We acknowledge that without the shield of Your favor, our lawmakers labor in vain.

Bless them as they embrace Your promise in Psalm 84:11, which states, ''The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.'' May this promise motivate our Senators to refuse to deviate from integrity.

Mighty God, be a refuge and strength for us all.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KELLY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, later this morning, the four congressional leaders will meet with President Biden and Vice President HARRIS at the White House.

Speaking for the Democrats, our hope is to come together and find common ground where we can work in a bipartisan way to overcome the many challenges of our time. We cannot be small-minded or passive. We must be big and bold to meet the changes in the world, the rapid changes that are occurring in the world.

The world is rapidly changing and has been for some time. Just like the steam engine launched the Industrial Revolution and a century of tumultuous change and electricity changed things dramatically in the latter half of the 19th and early parts of the 20th century, the internet has launched the technological revolution.

We are living through that period of massive change everywhere: in media, communications, transportation, how we learn and work and live. The world is not going back to the old way that it was, and America needs to adapt so our workers, families, and businesses can compete and prosper in the 21st century.

There are so many different changes. Let me just point out one that our society has basically neglected, and that is about childcare. When I was a kid in the late fifties and early sixties, the typical American family had two spouses, only one of whom worked. I would get home from school every day, and there would be my mom for me, my brother, and sister, with milk and cookies, to make sure we drank our milk. She didn't care if we ate our cookies.

And she asked us: Did you have homework? We went out to play, but she was keeping an eye on us. We would play in the street. That was one of the places I learned the most, just playing stickball and other stuff in the streets of Brooklyn.

But, in any case, that is not true anymore. The typical American family is not the way it used to be. The vast majority are either single-parent families or two-parent families where both work. That means that childcare is much more needed to maximize both the happiness and productivity of our society in the 21st century.

Parents sweat over childcare. They need to go to work, but who is going to watch the kids? Can they afford childcare? Is it good enough for the children, of course, whom they love? Our children are our most precious possession. And if we don't dramatically change childcare, we are going to fall far behind, far behind. I read somewhere that of the 37 OECD nations, we are 36th in childcare. Only Turkey is lower.

In general, these things should not be partisan issues. Infrastructure and jobs, putting our economy on firm ground should be the work of both Democrats and Republicans.

Another change, obviously, is climate. In the fifties and sixties, we didn't even imagine a world with climate change. In the last 20 years, it

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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has become apparent that we had better do something about it or we could have worse times than this COVID year, every year, 10 or 15 years from now. The dramatic changes that will discombobulate our society and risk our health and our economy, just as COVID did, will happen if we don't do anything. So fighting climate change and making sure America leads the world in emerging industries that deal with climate should be the work of both Democrats and Republicans.

This Congress has proven that we can legislate in a bipartisan way, just most recently on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill and a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. I believe we will continue that trend by taking up and passing a bipartisan competition bill this work period.

So as we head to the White House today, I hope our other leaders are thinking about how we can come together to solve our Nation's problems in a bold and lasting way. One hundred percent of Democrats' focus—and I think I can speak for Speaker PELOSI as well as myself and President Biden—is on delivering help to the American people.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, speaking of bipartisan legislation, today the Commerce Committee will begin marking up the Endless Frontier Act, one of the most significant investments in American innovation in generations. The bill will be at the core of comprehensive legislation to address American competitiveness and security in the 21st century.

Once again, for the information of the Senate, it is my intention for the Senate to consider and finish competitive legislation before the end of the month. There have been productive bipartisan talks over the last week to improve the Endless Frontier Act.

This is an issue I have worked on with my friend the Republican Senator from Indiana for the past few years. He has been a great help, a great partner, and I appreciate his work. And, of course, Senator CANTWELL, our chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator WICKER, our ranking member, have come together. And everyone had to give a bit here, there, and everywhere, but I think we have a strong bill that should get strong bipartisan support.

The simple truth is very simple. The Endless Frontier Act is legislation our country desperately needs. For decades after the Second World War, our country led the world in science and technology, from healthcare to computers, from telecommunications to manufacturing, to defense. Our workforce brought these innovations to the global economy, and it produced more than half a century of prosperity.

People in the last 50 years, from 1950 to 2000, thought the future was going to be better even than the present, and it created the usual American optimism. But things have changed, and one of the things that has changed is years of Federal investment in sciences, and they have exposed long-term weak spots—serious weak spots—in our economic competitiveness. This could hurt us dramatically in the next 50 years.

The longer we put off investing in sciences, the likelier it is that other countries, like China but others too, will overtake America as the global leader in innovation, and that will have profound consequences for our economy, our national security, even the future of human liberty, and it will have a lot to do with whether Americans believe that the future economically will be better for them than the present, which is part of the American hallmark and trademark, our sunny optimism, which we must restore. There has been a sourness in the land lately. It is our mission to restore it.

So to take the initiative back, the Endless Frontier Act provides $100 billion for basic research through the National Science Foundation, focusing on the critical technologies of tomorrow, where we have to stay the leader: AI, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, quantum computing, cyber security, 5G, battery storage, and so much more.

This bill will nurture tech labs and tech hubs across the country in places where they are not now. We have to spread the wealth. The clock is ticking on the need to make these critical investments.

The Chinese Communist Party has gone to extraordinary lengths to steal a generation of American intellectual property and cheat their way to innovating and economic growth. We do not, we definitely do not—Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives do not want a future where the Chinese Communist Party dictates the global order and how the world uses 5G, artificial intelligence, quantum computing.

That is why the Endless Frontier Act is resoundingly bipartisan. We already have six cosponsors from each side—six Democrats, six Republicans—because these issues affect the future of our entire country. I greatly look forward to the good work that Chair CANTWELL and the Commerce Committee will do to advance the bill this week.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a final topic, I am not in the habit of commenting on the House Republican minority, but today they have reached a new and very dangerous low point. Earlier this morning, the House GOP ousted LIZ CHENEY from the party's leadership. Her crime? Telling the truth—telling the truth that Joe Biden is the legitimate President of the United States and Donald Trump is lying when he says the election is stolen.

Congresswoman CHENEY spoke truth to power, and for that she has been fired. Make no mistake, the Congresswoman and I disagree on so many policy issues, but we both agree that truth matters. And she, like so many characters in history—I am just thinking now of Sir Thomas More—had the courage to tell the truth and paid a big price for it.

So this is sad—a very dark moment for the Republican Party. Republicans are seeking to perpetuate and act upon the big lie that the election was stolen, simply to placate the most dishonest President in American history. This President lies at will. He doesn't care of the consequences for the future of grand, great, and wonderful democracy. He only cares about himself and feeding his ego, and truth has nothing do with that. It mattered—what happened matters a great deal, and what the former President is trying to do hurts our country dramatically. The former President's lies, right now, are poisoning our democracy, eroding our faith in government, and exciting a plague—often nasty, sometimes racist—of voter suppression laws.

I had thought that January 6 revealed the devastating consequences of the big lie. I thought that the invasion of our Capitol by an armed mob—a mob that sought to delay the peaceful transfer of power; a mob that I was within 15, 20 feet of at one moment—would demonstrate to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both ends of the Capitol, the awful price of Donald Trump's lies. But after a brief and all-too-short period of introspection, it appears that the big lie is no longer on the retreat among Republicans but, instead, is spreading like a cancer.

Far be it for me to tell House Republicans who should lead them, but it is truly a dangerous—dangerous—sign of our times that the price of admission in today's Republican Party is silence in the face of provable lies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a one-party takeover of our political system—that is what Senate Democrats brought to the Rules Committee just yesterday, their side's top priority for multiple years now.

The supposed rationales for the bill continue to change. A few years ago, when majorities of Democrats were mistakenly convinced that foreigners had hacked voting machines and tampered with tallies in 2016, this was marketed as an election security bill. But it keeps morphing to suit new headlines. Lately, it has been called a racial justice bill. Some Senators say it is really a response to some recent State-level legislation, even though their bill predates those bills by multiple years.

A partisan power grab in search of a justification—that is what we have here. Voter turnout last November was the highest in decades. African-American turnout was twice as high in Mississippi as it was in Massachusetts. Democrats' hysterical attacks against the new election law in the State of Georgia have been dismantled even by typically left-leaning fact checkers.

There is no crisis. Our Democratic friends just want the power to rewire our democracy on a partisan basis. S. 1 would take the Federal Election Commission—the bipartisan panel that regulates elections and private citizens' speech—and make it a partisan body run by the Democrats.

It would let Washington Democrats act like a nationwide board of elections on steroids, neutering popular things like voter ID and forcing legalized ballot harvesting onto all 50 States. This bill would let bureaucrats snoop around more in free speech; attack citizens' privacy so dramatically that even the liberal ACLU is unhappy; and even send public funds—get this: public funds—directly to politicians.

Republicans put forward amendments to fix those things. If Democrats had wanted real, bipartisan solutions, Republicans were there, right at the table, and ready, but Democrats voted us down. They wouldn't even let us redirect any of that public money to the opioid crisis. They wanted that cash for their own campaigns.

This partisan power grab failed to advance out of committee for the same reason it must never ever become law as currently written. It will shatter public confidence in our democracy if the Democratic Party decides it can rig the rules.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter, yet again, air raid sirens have been sounding in Israel. Israeli civilians have been huddling in basements, shelters, and hospital stairwells. Hamas rocket attacks are lighting up the skies, hitting buildings, and terrorizing, injuring, and killing innocent people. Of course, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic jihad receive significant support from Iran.

Fortunately, a remarkable percentage of the incoming rockets have been intercepted in midair by Israel's Iron Dome system. Americans should take some pride of our own in defending our friends with these high-tech defenses, which we have helped Israel bring online and have advanced our own joint missile defense efforts at the same time. Missile defense is expensive but vital. It is yet another reason I am concerned with this administration's intention to underfund defense.

Whatever complaints Palestinians have with Israel's Government, wanton violence against civilians is completely and totally inexcusable. This is barbaric terrorism, not a legitimate protest; nor is it legitimate for Israel's obsessive critics to suggest any equivalency whatsoever between these inexcusable attacks and Israel's measured and quite targeted response against terrorists.

Yesterday here in Washington, street protesters screamed—listen to this—''Israel is a terrorist state.'' On the streets of Washington, they screamed: ''Israel is a terrorist state.'' Some Democratic Members of Congress echoed that rhetoric almost exactly.

Look, the State of Israel has every right of self-defense. Its national security leaders have continued to display restraint and invest so much in precision and avoiding civilian casualties. That has been the approach of the Israeli Government.

Israel must know that their friends and allies here in the United States stand with them as they seek to restore deterrence, that we support their right to peace and security, and that we will not relax our efforts to hold terrorists and terrorists' supporters to account.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now one final matter, Mr. President. This morning, I will be joining three other congressional leaders to meet with President Biden at the White House. There is certainly no shortage of important business to discuss.

The President campaigned on a promise that his agenda would unite a divided nation. And he inherited a favorable situation. Vaccines were flooding America. Science had proven schools can reopen. Job openings were beginning to pile up.

Republicans sought to continue the 2020 bipartisan streak on COVID relief, but our new President and our Democratic colleagues preferred a one-party approach. They used the end of the pandemic to pass what the President's own staff admitted—admitted—was ''the most progressive bill in American history.'' Not exactly shopping for consensus.

Republicans were upfront with our concerns. We said these old liberal ideas would slow rehiring, slow down the reopening, and stoke inflation. Of course, just a few minutes ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics published the most dramatic monthly inflation report in more than a decade. Many of the things American families buy have grown more expensive at a dizzying pace. Last week's incredibly disappointing jobs report showed what happens when Washington taxes working people to pay other people more to stay home.

I am going to discuss these and other concerns with the President today, but I also hope we can begin to come together on pressing issues that should actually unite us.

The last time Congress took comprehensive action on surface transportation infrastructure, 83 Senators signed on. By the way, that bill was produced by Senator Boxer, myself, and Senator INHOFE—a totally bipartisan effort across broad ideological lines. The last time we drilled down on water resources, the margin was 92 to 6. Infrastructure can and should be a bipartisan issue; the same for supporting working families; the same for supporting our national defense.

If the President can remember that he promised to govern for all Americans, not just the far left, if my Democratic friends can remember they have just a 50–50 Senate and a closely divided House—not exactly a sweeping mandate for a socialist agenda—there is much we can deliver together for the country.

I hope today marks the start of a new course correction from this White House and a more successful dialogue across party lines. That is what Americans need, and that is what they deserve.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Brooks-LaSure nomination.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

MEDICAID

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, more than 4 million Texans, including half of the children in my State, depend on the stability of the State's Medicaid Program to provide healthcare for themselves and their families. Everything from emergency room visits to mental health care, Medicaid funding

is vital to the health of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. The same is true in virtually every State across the country.

Unfortunately, a recent move by the Biden administration has put the healthcare of these vulnerable citizens in jeopardy. A few weeks ago, the Biden administration rescinded approval of Texas's 1115 waiver extension. I know that is an obscure reference to most folks, but, basically, here is the long and short of it. The previous administration reached an agreement with the State that will enable billions of dollars to flow to Texans in need. Now, for some reason, the Biden administration is trying to stop it.

The real question is, Why? Why would the Biden administration try to jeopardize the healthcare for 4 million Texans, while the President has consistently talked about ensuring every American has access to quality healthcare. Just 2 weeks ago in his joint session to Congress, he said:

> Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege in America.

So why would the administration take an unprecedented action to reduce access to healthcare for some of the most vulnerable people in my State?

Well, the official answer from CMS is to correct an administrative error. But two Federal health officials did an unusual thing in Washington, DC, albeit anonymously. They told the truth. They told the Washington Post that this was done to ''push State officials toward accepting the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion.'' It is pretty bold to admit that this was not about an administrative error at all but about forcing Medicaid expansion onto the State of Texas.

Many people will recall that this was a portion of the Affordable Care Act which was held unconstitutional in an opinion written by Chief Justice Roberts. Chief Justice Roberts said that the Federal Government cannot put a gun to the head of the State and force it to accept the Medicaid expansion since it is a joint program between the Federal Government and the State. Now the administration is engaged in a game of political chicken, with 4 million Texans on the line, and the only ones who are getting hurt are the low-income and uninsured Texans whose healthcare relies on this safety net.

This move by the administration would have been damaging during normal times, but it is even more damaging after this unprecedented year for our healthcare providers. In fact, it is downright reckless. Hospitals and providers in Texas have been pushed to the brink during the pandemic. On top of the additional expenses associated with COVID–19, they have faced serious financial shortfalls from the pause on nonessential medical procedures as well as the hesitancy of patients to seek care because they have been worried about contracting the virus.

Now, more than ever, hospitals and healthcare providers need reliable funding to plan ahead for their financial stability and uncompensated healthcare costs. If this funding stream goes away or is disrupted, it will directly threaten the healthcare for uninsured Texans and harm the livelihoods of healthcare providers as a whole.

In rural areas and those that are already underserved, the consequences of this move could not be more dangerous. Let's say the Biden administration refuses to change course and Texas loses billions of dollars in Medicaid funding. If uninsured patients in small towns go only to local hospitals for emergency care, they will receive that emergency care because that is another Federal law, called EMTALA. But without the Federal funding to offset those costs, how would these hospitals make ends meet? If these patients aren't paying out of their pockets and the Federal Government is not helping to cover the costs, what will happen?

It is pretty simple, actually. Without funding, the rural hospital will close.

So those same uninsured patients will start visiting the second closest hospital. In my State—it is a big State—that is, maybe, 30 minutes down the road. Maybe it is more than an hour away. Once again, without Federal funding to help cover the costs of treating rising numbers of uninsured patients, what will happen?

Well, that hospital will close too. We will descend into a death spiral of hospitals and healthcare providers that close their doors because they can no longer afford to provide healthcare. The hardest hit patients won't be those with private health insurance; they will be those low-income and uninsured patients, especially in rural and underserved areas.

So the consequences of this irresponsible move by the Biden administration could not be more serious, and they will be felt far and wide because this funding is vital to our healthcare system as a whole.

It is not hyperbole to say that these are going to have life-and-death consequences. While patients in Texas may be the first to get caught in the game of political chicken, they will not be the last. There are only four States that don't have approved or pending 1115 waivers. Four—only four—don't have approved or pending 1115 waivers. Every other State could find itself in the same situation as my State in the coming months.

Florida was granted a waiver around the same time as Texas. What will happen to vulnerable Floridians? Tennessee is already facing legal challenges to its waiver. Will its providers be in jeopardy too? North Carolina, South Carolina, Missouri, Idaho—the list of States that could be impacted by this life-or-death game of chicken goes on and on. The most vulnerable patients in States across the country could lose access to healthcare because of the Biden administration's irresponsible and reckless actions. Something must be done.

To state the obvious, the nominee to lead the CMS, Ms. Brooks-LaSure, did not rescind the Texas Medicaid waiver approval. In fact, she has not been confirmed as yet, but before her nomination can advance, Members of the Senate deserve a commitment from the administration that it won't try to force the hand of States by putting the healthcare of millions on the line.

If we don't step up now and push back against this reckless move, what State will be next? How far will the administration go—in the words of Chief Justice Roberts—to put a gun to the heads of the States, forcing them to dance to Washington's tune?

I have asked the administration to work with Texas to ensure that millions of impacted individuals won't lose access to healthcare, but, so far, there has been zero progress. The administration has been unwilling to provide any assurance that an agreement with Texas could be reached before the end of this fiscal year—something that would have dire consequences for our providers, especially those in mental and behavioral health.

As a reminder, the CMS said the only issue with the Texas waiver was an administrative error. Now it won't even commit to providing reliable care for these patients. This unprecedented action by the CMS threatens the security of the Texas Medicaid Program. It disrespects the continuity of this agreement, and it erodes the partnership between the State and the Federal Government.

I think it also violates the constitutional authority of the States. The Federal Government is one of delegated powers, with the rest retained by the States and we the people. That was the basis upon which the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the compulsory Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Yet now the administration seeks to do through the backdoor what it could not do through the front door. This sets a dangerous precedent of the administration's undoing of agreements, negotiated in good faith between the States and the Federal Government, for purely political reasons, and it could have cascading consequences across the country.

I appreciate Ms. Brooks-LaSure's experience in working with States to develop these waivers as well as her willingness to talk to me about this issue, but she doesn't have any authority to force the Biden administration to undo its terrible and reckless mistake, at least not yet. Until Texas can receive a waiver and an assurance that this action will be rectified and the rug will not be pulled out from under our poorest patients, I cannot support this nomination.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for the healthcare of their most vulnerable populations and push the administration to find an alternate path forward.

If they are willing to do this to my State, they will do it to your State and every other State in the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic whip.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, they did it in a closed room. No one in the public was allowed to watch. They did it by a voice vote so that there would be no physical record of how individual Congressmen—how they voted. And they decided to remove a Member of the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives this morning in that fashion. These proud, courageous disciples of Donald Trump didn't want to be on the record publicly as to where they stood on the fate of Congresswoman CHENEY.

This is the same Congresswoman CHENEY who was reelected to leadership in the House just a few weeks ago. This is the same Congresswoman CHENEY who is one of the most ideologically conservative Members of the House. She voted with President Trump nearly 93 percent of the time while she was in office. With a name like CHENEY, it is hard to question her Republican credentials.

No, the decision, in private, in secret this morning by a voice vote, was not about a disagreement over policy but the issue as to whether or not LIZ CHENEY dares to tell the truth.

She refused to defend or ignore the big lie that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, and in today's Republican Party, it seems like that is all that is necessary for grounds for removal.

More than 6 months after the 2020 election was held, it is clear that the big lie has been spread in a big way. And that lie is not just a threat to the future of the Republican Party, it is a threat to our democracy.

Since the start of this year, Republican State legislatures, inspired by Donald Trump's big lie that the election was stolen, have introduced more than 360 bills with restrictive voting provisions in 47 States—one of the most notorious examples, the State of Georgia.

Remember, the State of Georgia—hotly contested in the 2020 election, and then the Trump troops came in and went to court over and over and over again, suggesting there was election fraud and dishonesty in the Georgia election. And the Georgia election officials, virtually all Republicans, stood up and said it was an honest election, a close one, but it was an honest election. They were challenged over and over again, to the point where the former President of the United States, while he was still in power, called an election official in Georgia and basically threatened him; that if he didn't change the votes and give President Trump what he thought he needed to win, he would pay a price for it. It went that far.

To his credit, this election official stood up and said: The results are accurate and I stand by them and I am not going to change it.

It went that far.

And there was a big turnout in Georgia. In fact, there was an amazing turnout in the runoff elections for the two Senate seats won by JON OSSOFF and RAPHAEL WARNOCK, our colleagues here in the U.S. Senate. So even with that big turnout and even with the certainty that that election was honest from start to finish, the Georgia Legislature decided to change the laws for voting in Georgia. It wasn't volume they were looking for; it was loyalty. They wanted to make sure that the voters in the future would be friendlier to the Republicans.

And so they changed the Georgia election law and made it harder for people, particularly people of color, young people, the elderly, and people of limited means, to vote. That law—that Georgia voting law—represents a blatantly political effort to subvert our democratic process.

Republicans of conscience know this, but it seems there is no future for those Republicans, if we reflect on the vote taken this morning in the House of Representatives Republican caucus. LIZ CHENEY's expulsion from her role in the Republican conference is just the latest example of what happens to Republican officials who dare to speak the truth about the 2020 election. They are not only silenced, they are purged from the party ranks.

Our own colleague Senator MITT ROMNEY, not long ago a Republican candidate for President of the United States, was just censured by a Republican county organization in his State because he refuses to support the big lie of Donald Trump. The unfortunate reality is that, today, the loudest voices within the Republican Party have joined Donald Trump in declaring war on the basics of our democracy.

That is why we in Congress need to do something. Immediately. This week, the Rules Committee held a markup on a measure that would combat voter suppression and protect our democratic process. It is known as the For the People Act.

This is a democracy defense plan. It will ensure that all eligible Americans can exercise their constitutional right to vote without facing burdensome barriers at the ballot box. The For the People Act invests in election infrastructure, provides State and local officials with resources to run safe, secure elections.

In addition to combating voter suppression, the bill also reforms a broken campaign finance system that gives wealthy donors and big corporations far too much influence over our electoral process. By passing it, we will say, loud and clear, that America's elections are not for sale to the highest bidder. Above all, this legislation will strengthen the integrity of our democratic process and put more power in the hands of the people.

Now, I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are attacking the bill as a ''takeover'' of the Nation's election system. The truth is, American elections have already been taken over by special interests. This bill will start to restore our democracy and make it more accessible to every eligible American.

I would love to know what my Republican colleagues find so objectionable about the legislation's core provisions. Listen, it automatically registers American voters when they get a driver's license; it guarantees at least 15 days of early voting; ends partisan gerrymandering nationwide; and brings greater transparency to the campaign finance system. These are reforms that will make our democracy whole again, and they are desperately needed, particularly at this moment in our history because in the world's greatest democracy, people shouldn't have to wait in line for hours on end to have their voices heard. And yet that is the reality for voters in States just like Georgia. And it is not an accident; it is intentional. Look at the people standing in the lines, and you can understand why they are being discouraged from voting by waiting so long.

Let's be honest about these restrictive voting provisions being passed in State legislatures across the country, because they are grounded in one lie after another. The truth is that President Trump's own officials at the Department of Homeland Security declared that the 2020 election was the most secure election in American history.

The truth is, judges across the country, including many appointed by President Donald Trump, threw out more than 63 lawsuits that his followers filed, challenging the results of last year's elections. Why? There was no evidence, no basis in fact for the big lie.

But the truth is, the big lie won't just die with the 2020 election. It will sow distrust in our electoral system for years to come, unless my Republican colleagues act with courage. A few have done so. This morning, one paid a heavy price.

The question to all of us is: Are we prepared to either discredit democracy or defend it?

Rejecting the big lie is the defense of our democratic process. We have to join together in making certain that every American's right to vote is protected.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, our Nation just concluded National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Because the Senate was not in session last week, I want to take this opportunity to recognize these heroes and everything they do to protect our people and uphold the rule of law.

Every day, correctional officers go in to work to guard and operate our Federal prisons, State prisons, and local jails. They not only administer justice on behalf of innocent victims, but they also defend the guilty from unjust adversity.

They combat the drug trade so that addicts can recover. They fight back against vicious prison gangs so that inmates can have a chance to find redemption instead of recidivism. They confront the most violent offenders so that persons with short minimum-security prison sentences don't turn out to have what is a death sentence.

Without safety, security, and structure, our prisons and our jails would devolve into anarchy, into chaos, and crime. Correctional officers combat these forces of disorder so that these facilities can instead be centers of self-improvement and, indeed, correction. As a result, many inmates are able to pursue education, learn marketable skills, and find solace in God.

The profession of a correctional officer is both noble and very dangerous. Fewer than 450,000 correctional officers protect and police approximately 1.5 million inmates in a normal year, around the clock, every minute of every day.

Riots, jailbreak attempts, and targeted anti-police violence are common and result in particularly high-risk situations for correctional officers. In a 9-year period measured by the National Institutes of Health, correctional officers suffered over 125,000 work-related injuries and 113 tragically lost their lives.

Correctional officers willingly endure this danger, suffer these injuries, and sometimes give their lives so that our families, neighborhoods, and communities can be safe. The least we can do is to recognize their sacrifice and express our gratitude.

This year, our correctional officers did even more than usual. For the past 14 months, they have worked tirelessly to keep our inmates healthy in the middle of this global pandemic. They shifted normal confinement arrangements, and they maintained order among the population under enhanced stress due to coronavirus protocols.

Correctional officers have done an amazing job and saved so many lives during this crisis. Sadly, some even paid the ultimate price for their work. They should be proud of their work, and we ought to be proud of them. So from the floor of the U.S. Senate, I certainly can say I am proud of our correctional officers.

But our Nation should go beyond gratitude. We ought to give correctional officers the funding, the wages, the equipment, the facilities, and the support that they need.

To start, Congress can finally crack down on contraband cell phones. Inmates use them to maintain their criminal enterprises from behind bars and to terrorize those who put them there. They also use them to victimize other inmates and to prey upon random victims outside prison walls. In other words, prisoners use these cell phones to undermine the life's work of correctional officers.

Contraband cell phones are even used as tools of retribution against the officers themselves. In 2010, a gang member imprisoned in South Carolina used a contraband cell phone to order the murder of Captain Robert Johnson. Captain Johnson was then mercilessly shot six times in the chest and stomach in his own house. Remarkably, he survived the attack, and he is now a leading advocate for taking action against contraband cell phones.

Regrettably, the use of contraband cell phones shows no sign of slowing. On the contrary, they are becoming ubiquitous weapons inside of our prisons. While available technologies can be helpful, it is also increasingly clear they are not capable of solving the problem alone. So that is why I will soon be reintroducing my Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act. This bill would empower State prisons to install jamming technology and turn contraband cell phones into nothing but useless paper weights. This easy and commonsense step will honor the hard work of correctional officers to clean up our streets and to keep our Nation safe.

The men and women of this country—law-abiding citizens and those who serve their time alike—owe a debt to our Nation's correctional officers. So I, once again, want to thank them for their courageous and diligent service. And I hope they took time last week to celebrate National Correctional Officers and Employees Week because they certainly deserved it.

ABORTION

Mr. President, a few years ago, mainstream news articles trumpeted, supposedly, stunning news out of Scandinavia: Iceland was close to eliminating Down syndrome. Eureka. Fantastic.

How is it possible? Have these Icelandic scientists discovered some amazing and miraculous new gene therapy? No, they hadn't because Iceland wasn't eliminating Down syndrome. Iceland was eliminating babies with Down syndrome using prenatal testing to identify genetic anomalies and then aborting the babies that had those anomalies.

According to one Icelandic genetic counselor—and this is a direct quote. I am not making it up. You might think I am.

> We don't look at abortion as murder. We look at it as a thing that we ended.

Imagine, how ghoulish that is. That is what this counselor and some like him believe, that a baby is just a ''thing.'' But if they are honest with themselves, I think if they look into their hearts, they know the truth: Babies with Down syndrome aren't just ''things.'' They are living human beings of inestimable value who are loved by their Creator, even if they aren't protected by the law or valued by too many in society.

Sadly, Iceland is no exception. In many parts of the world, a Down syndrome diagnosis is tantamount to a death sentence. And while in America, thankfully, we are more welcoming, sadly, we still terminate roughly two-thirds of babies diagnosed with this genetic condition. That needs to change.

A civilized nation has a responsibility to protect our most vulnerable people, and that means we have an obligation, especially, to protect unborn babies with Down syndrome.

My home State of Arkansas passed a law to do just that—to make it illegal for an abortionist to perform an abortion if they know it is motivated solely by a Down syndrome diagnosis. You would think this law would be uncontroversial. You would think a country that cares about ending discrimination against people with disabilities would leap at the chance to outlaw a particularly evil and final form of discrimination. After all, this Congress has taken many steps in recent years to protect those with disabilities. But, no, you would be wrong. That is not what happened. The abortion lobby kicked into high gear and got a liberal judge to block Arkansas' pro-life law from going into effect.

The pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute denounced laws to protect babies with Down syndrome as ''dangerous and coercive.'' Now, this should not be surprising coming from the Guttmacher Institute. After all, it is named after a former leader of the American Eugenics Society, as so many abortion advocates can also trace their lineage to the dark, so-called science of eugenics of early last century.

These modern-day eugenicists and a few liberal activist judges are putting babies with Down syndrome at grave risk every day. These babies can find no refuge under the laws of many of our States and our Nation.

But, thankfully, that may be changing. The State of Arkansas is fighting to save its pro-life law in court, and tomorrow, I and Representative ASHLEY HINSON, along with many of my colleagues in Congress, will submit an amicus brief urging the court to protect these most innocent and vulnerable young babies. Time will only tell if the courts will hear these pleas.

But while we will make the most persuasive legal arguments available on the law and the facts, I must add that the most effective advocates for justice will always remain those little babies with Down syndrome and the parents who brought them bravely into this world. They will be the first to tell you that a person with Down syndrome isn't a burden. It isn't just a ''thing,'' to quote the Icelandic eugenicists. These babies are persons. They are fearfully and wonderfully made. They are created equal in the eyes of and image of God, just like each and every one of us.

So let us fervently pray that one day soon, our laws will reflect this very basic truth and protect these innocent children.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure from the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BROWN. 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. VAN HOLLEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Cornyn	Graham
Blackburn	Cotton	Grassley
Blunt	Cramer	Hagerty
Boozman	Crapo	Hawley
Braun	Cruz	Hoeven
Burr	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Capito	Ernst	Inhofe
Cassidy	Fischer	Johnson
Kennedy	Portman	Shelby
Lankford	Risch	Sullivan
Lee	Romney	Thune
Lummis	Rounds	Tillis
Marshall	Rubio	Toomey
McConnell	Sasse	Tuberville
Murkowski	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Paul	Scott (SC)	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the motion to discharge having been agreed to, the nomination will be placed on the Executive Calendar.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Cantwell	Collins
Bennet	Capito	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blunt	Carper	Cramer
Booker	Casey	Duckworth
Brown	Cassidy	Durbin
Ernst	Markey	Schatz
Feinstein	McConnell	Schumer
Gillibrand	Menendez	Shaheen
Graham	Merkley	Sinema
Grassley	Moran	Smith
Hassan	Murkowski	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Murphy	Sullivan
Hirono	Murray	Tester
Hoeven	Ossoff	Thune
Johnson	Padilla	Toomey
Kaine	Peters	Van Hollen
Kelly	Portman	Warner
King	Reed	Warnock
Klobuchar	Romney	Warren
Leahy	Rosen	Whitehouse
Luján	Rounds	Wyden
Manchin	Sanders	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich Young

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a few minutes about mental health for our kids. I think many Americans have known and, unfortunately, some Americans have loved some of our fellow citizens who suffer with depression and anxiety and thoughts of suicide. It is a particular problem for our young people. CDC reports that one in four young Americans have actually considered suicide, and, in fact, the second leading cause of death for young people is suicide.

I am sure there are a lot of reasons for this. I think it is harder to be a young person today. Many of our kids see things that those of us who are older didn't have to deal with until we were adults—drugs, of course; alcohol; also, social media. You can still find kindness in America, but unfortunately you have to go offline to do it.

Some of our young people—many of our young people—just need someone to talk to. Some of them, when their anxiety and their depression is acute, need medical treatment, and this bill will simply provide a mechanism for our young people to receive it.

The bill, as I said, is called the Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act. It would provide that schools—our universities—be required to print phone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and a campus mental health center or program on the student ID cards.

This bill would not require our schools to tear up current ID cards. It would be phased in. And if a school doesn't use an ID card, they don't have to start using an ID card. My bill

would simply require that the schools put the information on their website.

This bill passed unanimously by UC in our last Congress, but, unfortunately, the House ran out of time to take it up.

Toward that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I am going to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1585, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1585) to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1585) was passed as follows:

S. 1585

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 ''Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDING SUICIDE PREVENTION CONTACT INFORMATION TO SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(30)(A) In the case of an institution that creates and distributes identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall include phone contact information on each such card for the following organizations:

''(i) The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

''(ii) Crisis Text Line.

''(iii) A campus mental health center or program, as determined by the institution.

''(B) In the case of an institution that does not create and distribute identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall publish the suicide prevention contact information specified in subparagraph (A) on the website of such institution.

''(C) If an organization in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) ceases to exist, the Secretary may designate a different entity with a similar purpose to be included on the identification card.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect beginning on the day that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOMINATIONS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the President's nominees to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors. I would like to thank Senator PORTMAN for working with me to swiftly advance the nominations of Ron Stroman, Amber McReynolds, and Anton Hajjar to fill the remaining vacancies on the Postal Service Board of Governors.

Today, we are voting on the nominations of Mr. Stroman and Ms. McReynolds, and I expect to take up Mr. Hajjar's nomination soon.

The Board of Governors is an independent, bipartisan body that provides leadership, strategic vision, and oversight of the U.S. Postal Service—one of the oldest and most trusted American institutions.

For nearly 250 years, the Postal Service has served communities all across our Nation. Countless Americans rely on the Postal Service to deliver critical medications and financial documents, to run their small businesses, to cast their ballots, to stay connected with family, and so much more.

But the Postal Service continues to face enormous challenges. From longstanding financial constraints to the impacts of the ongoing pandemic, the Postal Service has struggled to provide timely delivery and plan for its future.

Our dedicated postal workers have shown time and again that they can get the job done when they are given the right tools and measures. The Board of Governors will be responsible for guiding the Postal Service through its current challenges and working with Congress to ensure that Americans can rely on the Postal Service to deliver their mail each and every day.

Mr. Stroman, Ms. McReynolds, and Mr. Hajjar are each highly qualified to serve as Governors. They are all accomplished leaders who bring diverse experiences and backgrounds that are currently not represented on the Board.

Most importantly, they each understand the public service mission of the Postal Service and are committed to improving and preserving reliable delivery service for Americans all across our country.

Ron Stroman is a lifelong public servant who served as Deputy Postmaster General for nearly 10 years. He has a deep operational knowledge of the Postal Service and an extensive record of working across the aisle on postal issues.

Amber McReynolds is the chief executive of the nonpartisan, nonprofit National Vote at Home Institute and a former senior local government official for Denver, CO. She is a proven leader who drives innovation and understands how the Postal Service impacts both State and local governments.

Anton Hajjar is an accomplished lawyer who understands the unique challenges faced by the Postal Service's large and diverse workforce. He has worked extensively in labor-management relations, including forging compromises between Postal Service workers and management. And prior to his decades of legal experience, as a high school student he spent a summer as a substitute letter carrier.

Each of these nominees will each bring a fresh perspective to the Board, and I look forward to working with them to strengthen this vital public service for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting each of these highly qualified nominees to serve as Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

I yield.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Washington has been on a dizzying spending spree over the past couple of months, passing trillion-dollar bills right and left. It is nearly impossible to calculate the total cost. And now, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress are proposing several trillion dollars in even more spending.

With tax day approaching on May 17, the time has come to pay the bills for all of these government giveaways. And guess who will be forced to pay for it? Well, of course, it is the American people.

Right now, Democrats are hoping to finance their ongoing spending splurge by increasing taxes on hard-working Americans across this country. One of the key tax hikes included in the President's so-called American Families Plan would hit farm families especially hard.

The Biden proposal would eliminate a protection that allows Iowa farm families to pass down their assets to the next generation without a tax penalty. The Farm Bureau says the end result would be a significant tax increase on our farmers and ranchers.

This is the last thing the ag sector needs as they continue on their economic recovery. While hiking taxes on our farmers who help feed and fuel our Nation every single day, my Democratic colleagues also want to give a tax break to high-income coastal elites.

And don't just take my word for it. Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, the leader of the socialist squad in the House, says the Democrats' proposal to repeal the cap on the State and local tax deduction is ''a gift

to billionaires'' and ''a giveaway to the rich.'' Never in a million years did I ever think that I would agree with AOC, but there is no arguing on that particular point.

Those aren't the only parts of the Democrats' tax strategy that make no sense. According to recent reports, their demand to raise taxes on capital gains could actually cost the government money. The calculation is that if rates get too high, people will just stop selling their assets.

Well, here is an idea: Rather than taking more of Iowans' hard-earned dollars to pay for their plans, maybe Democrats could stop their reckless spending. But let's be honest, that probably won't happen. They are the party of tax and spend, after all.

Rather than raising taxes, my friends across the aisle could start by collecting the $380 billion in taxes that is already owed, but not paid, every year. Current and retired government employees alone owe over $3 billion in delinquent taxes. Why should Iowans be paying the salaries and benefits of those who aren't even paying their own tax bill? They shouldn't. And that is why I am helping lead an effort that would collect the billions in back taxes owed by Federal employees.

Another solution: We could bring in billions of dollars by closing a tax loophole that literally goes all the way to China. If the communist regime was treated the same as a U.S. citizen, it would be required to pay taxes on interest from our debt to China.

But as a result of a three decades old treaty, communist China is exempt from paying taxes on these profits. Instead of increasing taxes on farm families and working Americans, the Biden administration should collect the hundreds of billions of dollars that is already owed to us and close the loophole that treats communist China better than our own U.S. citizens.

Right now, to pay off your annual Federal tax bill, you would have to set aside every penny you earned from January 1 until mid-April, every single penny.

Folks, Washington should be working for you, but it turns out you are working for Washington, and you can't even claim the government as a dependent on your tax return. This plot to pickpocket taxpayers to pay for the left's unpopular progressive policies is bad for our Nation's economic recovery and even worse for working Americans who get stuck with the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, I would like to associate myself with the remarks from the Senator from Iowa, who very clearly stated the problems that people all across the country are facing. I love the line about we can't even claim the government as a dependent because the government truly is dependent upon the people of this great country.

Tax day is just a few days away so I come to the floor to oppose the tax hikes proposed by President Biden. Today, tax revenues in America are at a near-record high of all times. We don't have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem. Yet President Biden wants to take more money out of the wallets of America's hard-working men and women.

How much is he calling for? Astonishingly, $3 trillion in additional taxes. This is on top of the taxes that are already being paid. It is the biggest tax increase in over half a century.

It is supposed to pay for a lot of liberal spending ideas. It is a big liberal agenda that this President is promoting. Yet even with these historic tax increases being proposed, our Nation will still need to continue to borrow money from China.

In just over 100 days, President Biden has already put $1.99 trillion on our Nation's credit card. Now he wants more. In total, President Biden's agenda would cost more than America's total commitment to World War II. Are these liberal spending proposals as important to our Nation as was our victory in World War II? Of course not.

As I have said before, our economy was already on track to be back to normal this summer. That was before President Biden passed his spending bill on a party-line vote crammed through the Senate after a middle-of-the-night debate, crammed through on a direct party-line vote using budget reconciliation.

President Biden has said—it is interesting, astonishing, and amusing to listen to the President when he says only the rich will have to pay these taxes. The American people have seen this movie before. We know as Americans that when we hear politicians say only the rich will pay, it is time to hold on to your wallet because they are coming for you.

Working families are going to pay in the form of higher prices, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities.

We are already seeing higher prices. We are seeing significant inflation since the day President Biden has taken office. We see it again today with the newest economic statistics that have come out. We hear about it at home on the weekends as we talk to folks at home about what is happening with their day-to-day life and their expenses.

Experts tell us that President Biden's tax hikes could destroy a million jobs—a million jobs. When Republicans cut taxes in 2017—and it is good to be here on the floor with my friend and colleague from Ohio who is one of the four horsemen who put that proposal together on behalf of the Republicans—revenue at the Federal Government actually went up. It is the same thing that happened when taxes were cut under President Coolidge and Kennedy and Reagan and George W. Bush.

If you cut taxes, there is more money in people's hands. They can do what they want to do with that money and make better decisions than the government. I think it is very important to let people keep more of their hard-earned money. They make better decisions than Washington, DC, does.

People can decide what they want to spend, what they want to save, what they want to invest, how much they want to donate. And all four of these are very good for our Nation. That means more jobs, more growth, and, ultimately, more tax revenue with more people working, even though each is paying less in taxes individually.

I have much more confidence when money is in the hands of the American people than I do when it is in the hands of the politicians in Washington, DC.

I would urge all of my colleagues to say: Stop these tax hikes. Stop this reckless spending. Let people keep more of their hard-earned money and make decisions for themselves.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I would like to congratulate my colleague from Wyoming for his thoughtful remarks. I mean, he is absolutely right. This is not the time for us to be raising taxes.

It is tax day coming up next week, and Senator ERNST of Iowa put together this colloquy to focus us all on that issue and the fact that here we are coming onto tax day, yet there are proposals out there saying you are not paying enough tax. So all of you who think you are paying too much tax, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the administration would like to increase those taxes substantially.

It is going to really hurt our economy and hurt workers. That is my big concern about this proposal in this so-called infrastructure package. Our economy is kind of limping along still, in part, because we have spent so much in stimulus that it has overheated the economy, and you can see the inflation that is hitting us. You can see it in the gas prices when you go to the pump or food costs or, if you are trying to buy lumber these days, check out the cost.

On the one hand, Democrats are encouraging more inflation through stimulation that really wasn't needed based on what we had learned from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office—and that has overheated the economy—and, by the way, as former Secretary of the Treasury Larry Summers predicted. This was in a Democratic administration, two of them.

I am concerned about the spending, but then to pay for the spending, these tax cuts are really a mistake. What I would like to do is go back to the economy we had before COVID. That economy was really helping everyone. It was an inclusive economy.

Two years ago, just before COVID, we had significant economic growth, which most people know about. What folks might not know about February a year ago, just before COVID hit, it was the 19th straight month of wage growth of 3 percent or more on an annual

basis. Think about that, 3 percent or more wage growth. We haven't had that in Ohio, my home State, in a long time, perhaps a decade and a half.

That kind of wage growth was primarily focused on lower income and middle-income workers, so the benefit wasn't just to the companies and the people at the high end. The benefit was primarily to those who were at the lower end of the economic scale.

We had a study by the Congressional Budget Office, as we looked to these corporate tax cuts that were made in 2017, and they said that 70 percent of the benefit was going to go to workers in terms of higher wages and better benefits. That is exactly what happened. I think they were right. We tied the 50-year low in unemployment at 3.5 percent. We also had historically low unemployment for some groups—Hispanics, Blacks, Asian Americans.

In fact, before the pandemic, we reached the lowest poverty rate we ever had in this country. We started keeping track of it back in the 1950s, the late fifties. We had the lowest poverty rate going into the pandemic than we had ever had. You probably haven't heard that much because it wasn't reported much. Again, it was not just a growth economy; it was an inclusive economy.

Importantly, the tax reform that was put in place in 2017 didn't just help stimulate this kind of inclusive growth but also stopped these companies in America from going overseas. I remember this word ''inversion.'' The companies were literally inverting, meaning they were switching and becoming foreign companies to get out from under our Tax Code. We have two big companies in Ohio that did this. Probably some companies in your State did too.

We were losing jobs and losing investments because they went overseas and took the investments with them. This was not a good situation for American workers.

In addition, there was a lockout effect while companies were saying: I am not going to bring my cash home because it costs me too much. I will keep it overseas and invest it over there.

So $1.6 trillion from overseas earnings came back to our company after the 2017 tax reforms because we changed the way we taxed internationally, and companies no longer had this incentive to keep their money overseas—$1.6 trillion.

As a result of the 2017 changes, the largest U.S. companies increased their domestic research and development spending by 25 percent to $707 billion. They increased their capital expenditures by 20 percent to $1.4 trillion. Before the pandemic, we had a good economy, but, importantly to me, it was an opportunity economy, creating jobs and increasing wages right here at home. All that progress could be thrown away through the tax increases that are being proposed.

The centerpiece of the Biden plan is corporate tax increases that would raise the combined Federal and State corporate rate from an average of 25.8 percent. That is the 21-percent Federal rate plus the average of the State income tax for corporations. Twenty-one percent, by the way, is above the average of the OECD, the developed countries in the world. When we put it in place back in 2017, we did it at 21 percent, specifically, to get right at the average so we wouldn't be noncompetitive. We would be able to compete and win.

Since then, other countries have come below us, so we are actually above the average now. Yet the Biden administration would like to take this rate from 21 up to 28, but when you add the State and local, you know, the State taxes, it is to 32.8 percent. Again, it would put America, of course, as having the highest corporate tax rate in the entire world. It gives us a much higher tax rate than many of our competitors like China. Why would we want to do that?

Based on analysis by the Joint Committee on Taxation, these combined corporate tax hikes are actually five times as big as the corresponding tax cuts were in 2017. Let me repeat that because it is fascinating. Democrats are proposing, they say, to get rid of the 2017 tax cuts, but that is not what they are doing. They are actually proposing going back and adding five times more tax increases than were cut.

The Joint Committee on Taxation—again, a nonpartisan group—says the tax cuts were about $300 billion over 10 years, and the proposed tax increases are about $1.5 trillion. That just makes no sense for our workers. Again, CBO has said 70 percent of the benefit went to workers. Who is going to get hurt by doing this? The workers.

The Biden plan also eliminates what is called the FDII, or the foreign-derived intangible income provision. That is the one that incentivized U.S. companies to bring their intellectual property back here. We wanted that. We did it on purpose. The companies that did that brought all their IP back here, including Google, Cisco, Qualcomm, Synopsys, and Facebook—some pretty big companies and a lot of others. We wanted them to bring that valuable IP back here, and they did because it creates high-paying, high-skilled jobs here at home. Why would we want to stop that? That was the carrot to bring it back.

It also makes it more costly for U.S. companies to operate outside the United States, again, punishing American workers who have jobs here that support international sales. Studies by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office have shown, again, it is workers who will bear the brunt of that. This is what many seem to miss. When we talk about how this proposal makes us less competitive, we are really saying that it makes American workers less competitive. It ties their hands behind their backs.

In Ohio—this is one example—we have Procter and Gamble. Procter and Gamble makes a lot of diapers and a lot of other products. It is not cost-effective for them to make diapers here and ship them overseas so they have diaper plants overseas. That is the only way they can be competitive. These tax increases would punish companies like that if they are to do business overseas, even though they are creating jobs here in America by doing that. There are about 13,000 people who work for Procter and Gamble in Southwest Ohio, where I live. Forty percent of them have their jobs because of international sales. You are talking about losing thousands of jobs in America if they can't be competitive globally.

We want our American companies to be competitive globally, at least we should. These tax hikes are going to hurt our competitiveness and put domestic jobs at risk.

By the way, the Biden administration knows all this is going to happen. They know that increasing the corporate rate is going to make us noncompetitive. Taxing international overseas earnings, taxing companies more that want to bring their IP back will make us less competitive. We know this because when Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen announced these proposals, she said: Help us, other countries in the world. Raise your taxes, too, to make it a ''more level playing field.'' It is a plea by America to other countries, saying: Please raise your taxes, too, so we can all be in this together. Other countries aren't going to do that. Again, they actually lowered their taxes since 2017, on average.

By the way, it is interesting. The Irish Finance Minister said right after that, when he was asked at a press conference ''Are you going to raise your taxes?'' he said ''No, we want to be competitive. We want to bring jobs.'' Of course, they want to bring jobs to their countries. Other countries are looking at us and saying: Wow. America is just going to show the white flag and allow us to now beat them in terms of this global competition that is out there.

That is the real world. It may sound good to raise taxes on business, but it is going to hurt workers, and it is going to make us noncompetitive. I really hope the Biden administration is not successful in this effort. I don't want to see the workers hurt whom I represent in Ohio. I want to see us get back to that economy wherein we had not just low employment but rising wages and low poverty rates—the kind of inclusive economy we should all want.

There are all sorts of other issues here, and I know my colleague from Iowa is probably going to talk about some of those, like the estate tax and the capital gains tax. I mean, there are all sorts of things that are being talked about. Yet, in this first package of infrastructure, just the corporate taxes

alone are going to be so damaging to our economy. Instead of pursuing these kinds of partisan tax hikes, let's focus on getting back to where we were pre-COVID—back to that strong job and wage growth and back to that competitive opportunity economy.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we are now in the final week of tax-filing season. While filing season typically ends on April 15, this year, taxpayers have until May 17 to file or to request an extension.

This is also the third filing season under the tax cuts and reforms that the Republicans enacted in 2017. For the vast majority of Americans, this means they are paying significantly less in income taxes than they were under prior law. Moreover, thanks to a nearly doubling of the standard deduction, most Americans are paying less without having the headache of itemizing their taxes.

More importantly, prior to the pandemic, tax reform contributed to the best economy America had seen in decades. Unemployment reached a 50-year low and was at or below 4 percent for 24 consecutive months. Family incomes and workers' wages experienced robust gains. In fact, wage growth was the strongest for low-wage workers. As a result, we actually saw income inequality decline.

Unfortunately, the current administration's ambitions to use the pandemic as an excuse to pass a Big Government, anti-growth agenda threatens our return to a thriving economy.

First came its $2 trillion untargeted COVID relief bill that focused more on enacting a liberal wish list rather than on pandemic relief. A lot of my colleagues have referred to only 10 percent of that $1.9 trillion bill actually being related to problems caused by the pandemic.

The dangers of passing this untargeted and largely unnecessary spending are already beginning to weigh on our economic recovery. Throughout the economy, prices are soaring, and job growth is tepid. April's jobs growth data fell short of expectations by more than 700,000 jobs. This is deeply concerning, and it ought to be to every one of the Members of the Senate.

I have heard firsthand from business after business in my State of Iowa that they are desperate for workers but that job applicants are scarce. As my Republican colleagues and I have warned our Democratic colleagues for months, this is the natural result of the Democratic policies that pay people more not to work than to work. Yet, despite the obvious overreach of their liberal agenda, my Democratic colleagues are preparing to double down with an additional $4 trillion Big Government spending spree. Then, in turn, to finance their progressive dreams, they are proposing trillions of dollars of job-killing tax hikes.

You just heard from my colleague from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN, who went into that very deeply, how those tax policies are going to hurt our economy and the workers in our economy.

Their proposals to roll back critical reforms to our corporate tax system would result in the United States once again having the highest corporate tax rate among our major trading partners and incentivizing companies to move headquarters abroad.

Small businesses are also in their crosshairs. Family businesses and farms could be decimated by proposals to hike capital gains taxes and subject paper-only gains in family business assets to taxation immediately upon the transfer of that farm or that business at death.

My Democratic colleagues' tax proposal would make the United States a less attractive place to invest. It would erode American competitiveness and slow our Nation's postpandemic economic recovery. That means fewer jobs. It means lower wages for middle-class Americans.

Postpandemic prosperity won't be achieved through higher taxes and Big Government spending programs or the government itself, which consumes and doesn't produce wealth. The real wealth of America is created by the working men and women of this country. If we are going to have this growth, it is going to be achieved through pro-growth policies and in the unshackling of our economy from stringent pandemic-era restrictions as we move toward a vaccinated world.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I was on the floor earlier this week, and I made a point that I think is really relevant to the discussion that we are having today as we are now looking straight into these proposals coming from the administration that would end up totaling $6 trillion in new spending. Now, that is not the annual appropriations; that is new spending.

The point that I had made was that we have to go back pre-COVID and remember what was going on in this economy. Everything was thriving, really thriving, and people kept talking about how great the economy was. In Tennessee, I had so many people who would say: You know, I have more money at the end of the month, and before, during the Obama years, I had too much month left at the end of my money.

Do you know what? They liked having some money left over at the end of the month.

That economy we had pre-COVID came about because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It came about because of the work of President Trump and a Republican-led House and Senate and, indeed, because of the support from some of our Democratic friends. This gave us, our country, the most robust economy we have seen in decades. Unemployment had hit 3.5 percent—historic lows. Wage gains were at a record high.

Pro-growth policies, like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, had set a new standard. We proved we don't have to tax and spend ourselves into oblivion to make a difference in the lives of struggling families. It is a legacy that my Democratic colleagues wish the American people would forget because that memory is getting in the way of their work on behalf of big spending, big government, and big programs that take big bucks right out of the American taxpayers' pockets.

The Democratic agenda is not cheap. It is going to take a lot of taxpayer dollars. So how does President Biden intend to pay for this? It is called a $2 trillion tax hike that targets all of the usual, supposed villains but that in reality would harm the very people my colleagues across the aisle insist they are trying to help.

Let's look at the proposed corporate tax hike. Corporations are the left's favorite villain, and they would certainly suffer under this scheme, but it is not the CEOs and the high earners who would feel the pain. As it stands, the proposal would impose a combined corporate tax rate higher than any other developed nation. It would put us at the top of the heap in tax rates. The only way American corporations would maintain their competitiveness is if other countries were to set aside their advantages, which, of course, we know would never happen. Not only will the Amazons and the Apples bear the brunt of this decline, so will nearly a million small businesses. We call them the mom-and-pops, and they are organized as C-corps.

Workers won't escape the fallout either. When the cost of doing business goes up, growth and investment stagnate, wages fall, and the people driving the economy suffer. That is right. This is going to hit Main Street in local communities where you are going to see small businesses that cannot afford to keep up with inflation, that cannot afford these high taxes, and that cannot afford increased regulation. They are your friends and neighbors who have these small businesses. They are the ones who are going to suffer. And why will they suffer? Because the Democratic majority never ceases to have an outsized appetite for the taxpayers' dollar.

Even conservative estimates from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation show that workers will bear a quarter of that new cost of doing business. The workers, the laborers, are going to have this on their shoulders. Think about it. Think of what you are doing to families.

The view doesn't look any better from the owners' side. Anyone taking advantage of an IRA or a pension plan will see a bigger tax bill too.

Watching this White House make fiscal policy is like watching reruns of the Obama administration. The formula is the same: Pitch a big idea.

Sound compassionate. Make a big promise—you are going to help all of these people—and then send the bill to hard-working taxpayers. They do it every time.

Increasing taxes is bad enough, but now they are demanding bigger payouts from struggling families and small businesses on Main Street in your community, and they are doing this in the middle of a pandemic recovery. They locked you down, and now they are going to push you down. They are going to shut the doors of your small business, your version of the American dream. Do they give a ripping flip? Probably not. It is all about getting the money to pay for what they want to do. It is a power grab.

I would encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop the madness, because we know this will cause irreparable harm to our Nation's already fragile recovery.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

(The remarks of Mr. TUBERVILLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1582 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Utah.

ISRAEL

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as I offer these remarks on the Senate floor today, tensions between Israel and Palestine continue to escalate to levels we haven't seen in years. Innocent lives have been lost, and hundreds face injuries.

While the global media reports largely paint Israel as the instigator of violence, this portrayal is patently false. It is simply not only not backed up by fact, it is contrary to the facts.

Hamas, a U.S.-declared, U.S.-designated terrorist organization, purposely exploited a nonviolent point of tension as justification to trigger a violent set of conflicts.

On Monday night, Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Israeli cities. The intended targets? Well, the intended targets were any Israeli person, civilian or not, residential or commercial. The goal? Just to create destruction and terror.

So to paint this action of armed aggression as anything other than offensive terrorism is disingenuous, and we in the United States and the U.S. Government itself must acknowledge and affirm Israel's right to take proportional action to defend itself against these attacks.

What is perhaps even more disturbing and distressing than the media's portrayal of these ongoing events is the Biden administration's ongoing nuclear conversations in Vienna with Hamas's No. 1 supporter—the Iranian regime.

Iran, of course, is a well-known state sponsor of terrorism. It is a major funding source for Hamas, and their leaders continue to heap praise on Hamas, specifically for its attacks against Israel.

Israel is undoubtedly our strongest democratic ally in the Middle East, and together, the United States and Israel have made great strides—tremendous strides, historical, unprecedented strides—toward peace and stability through the region through the Abraham Accords.

The Biden administration's nuclear talks with Iran, as well as its posture of willingness to concede on sanctions relief to Iran without any meaningful corresponding gains to U.S. security, undermine both the U.S.-Israel relationship and the new partnerships formed by the Abraham Accords.

We really must stand with our strongest democratic ally in the region, and we need to do that by recognizing Israel's right to self-defense against terrorism.

U.S. policy really ought to be geared toward strengthening and not undermining this valued relationship. We certainly undermine that relationship when we legitimize a regime that is funding these very same terrorist activities.

I have gotten updates. Some of them are difficult to come by, given that sometimes it is hard to find real-time, accurate facts on what is happening on the ground. In addition to relying on U.S. media, I have relied on media sources from throughout the world. I have also spoken to people familiar with the area and in some cases, people who have lived or currently live in Israel.

My friend Ruth Lieberman, a joint citizen of the United States and of Israel, recently commented, just noting the exasperation that is in the air, noting the genuine source of frustration that she feels. She said:

> My kids are sitting ducks, and the world thinks we're the aggressors.

Ruth is one of many Israeli citizens—one of countless Israeli citizens—subjected to these attacks. It is Ruth and her husband and their children who are among the many whose lives are put at risk every single day as a result of these cowardly acts of aggression.

So we can't hesitate to condemn violence when we see it; nor can we, nor should we ever step back and pretend that this is something that can be perceived as a situation where language of moral relativism or even moral neutrality can fairly be applied. On some days, that would almost be a good day, if you could truly look at both sides, if the mainstream media could look at both sides with language of moral equivalence, but they don't. They don't even do that. Instead, they largely refuse to blow the whistle on the aggressor and heap only blame and vitriol on our ally, which is not the aggressor.

There are others who, regardless of whether they use terms of moral equivalence wrongly or even unfairly, heap blame on Israel and on Israelis. Some will resort to a different tactic, expressly or in some cases implicitly saying: Yeah, I know this is bad. Yeah, I know it is bad when hundreds and then thousands of rockets rain down on Israeli citizens, innocent victims, civilians, often in residential neighborhoods. Yeah, I know that is bad, but then again, Israel has a strong military, in part because the U.S. supports its strong military and shares funding and equipment with the Israeli military.

Let's think a little bit about the flawed logic there, how truly messed up that is. You know it is cold comfort to the men and women and children whose lives are put in danger every single day when they have rockets raining down on them; it is cold comfort to them when their loved ones die or are afraid to go outside even when they haven't done anything wrong; it is cold comfort to them to say: Well, at least Israel has a strong military.

Look, Iron Dome and David's Sling—these great technologies that have been developed with the support of the United States—they provide a great source of security and comfort and safety to the Israeli people, and these same technologies benefit the American people as well. But let's remember, those technologies are not foolproof. They can't catch every single rocket. The more rockets that fire, the more difficult it is to protect citizenry from casualties. So let's never make that mistake of saying it is not that big of a deal because Israel is well fortified and has a strong military infrastructure and Israel has sophisticated, top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art equipment.

It doesn't excuse—nor can it in any way, shape, or form negate—the terrors to which they are subjected. Look, whenever someone aggresses and starts firing on someone else, they are opening up a whole can of worms. We can't be good allies and we can't be good global citizens unless we are willing to call out acts of unprovoked aggression, acts of violence, acts even of terrorism.

Unless we are willing to step out and call those evil and unprovoked and unwarranted—unless we are willing to do that—we won't have the credibility that we need, not just with our allies but also with our enemies. We have to make sure that Hamas doesn't enjoy our support—not directly, not indirectly, not through our acquiescence or otherwise.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the people in Israel. Everyone gets hurt—the Israelis and the Palestinians—when Hamas engages in violence and then tries to pass that violence off as somehow a defense on their part. Nor can we allow Israel to be castigated as the aggressor, as the instigator of these acts of violence, when it is plainly and clearly not true.

I hope our friends in the media and in the Biden administration will acknowledge that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the two U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors nominees that are before the Senate this afternoon, as well as a third nominee under consideration later this month.

Like our Presiding Officer, I had the privilege of serving our country in a time of war and a time of peace, with three tours in Southeast Asia and a good deal of time in the Cold War after that. My dad had many years in the Navy, and my uncle, my mom's youngest brother, was an enlisted man, a third-class petty officer on an aircraft carrier in 1944, the USS *Suwannee*. There was a kamikaze attack, and it never recovered.

I know how important it was to my uncle, to my dad, and to myself when we would receive mail, whether it was in Southeast Asia, whether my uncle was deployed on his aircraft carrier or my dad was deployed around the world—how important the mail was.

I know how important the Postal Service was to tens of millions of people who voted last fall in local elections, State elections, and Federal elections across this country—more than ever, ever in the history of our country.

There are some people I know who think that the Postal Service is a relic and is not something that we need. Ask the people who receive their medicine, not just their mail today, not just the things that they have ordered to come and are delivered by the Postal Service—all kinds of stuff—but also the people who receive medicines, whether they are veterans or other people from all walks of life.

The Postal Service today has had a profoundly challenging year. It has had a profoundly challenging year with the global pandemic. Drastic reforms were made without full knowledge of their service impact, and a busy holiday season created tremendous challenges for this venerable institution.

Delays in mail and package delivery increased last year while employees struggled with the effects of the pandemic on themselves and their families. At a time when reliance on mail and package delivery was perhaps higher than ever, the U.S. Postal Service struggled to deliver mail and packages in a timely and a predictable way.

Delays in the mail service have real world impact in communities large and small. In Delaware, veterans of our Armed Forces had to wait longer for lifesaving medications and delayed packages. Our Delaware congressional delegation heard from literally hundreds of constituents in our State about missed paychecks, credit card bills, and court notices.

''Mom and Pop'' shops in my State—and I guess in Arizona, the home of our Presiding Officer—may have suffered from the delays. ''Mom and Pop'' shops in my State and across the country have suffered from delayed deliveries of important supplies to run their business and to stay in business. Many poultry farmers, particularly in more rural parts of Delaware and on the Delmarva Peninsula, to include the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, too, were shocked to find that baby chicks died in the course of delayed postal deliveries to their farms.

These impacts were unacceptable. They were driven by the pandemic and decisions largely made at the top of the Postal Service.

Further, Postmaster DeJoy released in March a 10-year strategic plan that doesn't do enough to address the significant operational challenges being faced right now at the U.S. Postal Service. The plan limits operating hours and lowers service standards, which would harm many seniors and rural Delawareans up and down our State and across the country. If implemented, such a plan would make it harder, not easier, to restore confidence in the Postal Service.

Fast forward to today. By selecting these nominees to the U.S. Postal Board of Governors, it has become clear that President Biden recognizes the dire need to get the Postal Service back to its core mission—reliable, affordable, and on-time mail delivery service for Americans across this country.

These well-qualified nominees—and they are well-qualified nominees—also make clear President Biden's desire to drive innovation at the Postal Service that can keep costs low while boosting revenue opportunities and protecting the livelihoods of the men and women who work tirelessly to deliver our mail.

Ron Stroman, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for more than a decade, is himself a former Deputy Postmaster General, a role he served in from 2011 to 2020, a longtime Federal servant—and he is a servant. Mr. Stroman has intimate knowledge of this institution and how to make long-lasting positive changes in large organizations like the U.S. Postal Service.

Amber McReynolds is currently the CEO for the National Vote at Home Institute and Coalition. What do they do? Well, they work to make it easier for Americans to vote securely, to vote safely, and to vote conveniently. Delivering ballots by mail is one of the most solemn obligations that the Postal Service has. It is the underpinning of our democracy in this country.

Finally, Mr. Anton Hajjar is the third nominee, whose nomination we are considering later in this work period, not today. Mr. Hajjar is the former general counsel of the American Postal Workers Union, where he fought to make sure that mail carriers and other postal employees get the support that they deserve.

At the hearing we had last month in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I was thoroughly impressed with each of these nominees and their knowledge of the needs of the Postal Service. All three nominees exhibited professionalism, the expertise, the leadership, and the commitment—the commitment—that we need at the Postal Service Board of Governors. Think of the Board of Governors almost like a board of directors for a company. They don't run the Postal Service every day, but they help set the tone, policies, and oversee the operations.

Further, these three nominees agree that the Postal Service has tremendous opportunities ahead. The Postal Service is currently in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime update to the postal delivery vehicles, with a prime opportunity to be a leader in the fight against climate change. The Postal Service will replace up to 165,000 vehicles.

So, every now and then, we see postal vehicles—probably every day. We probably look at them sometimes and say: That looks like an old vehicle. The reason it looks like an old vehicle is because it is. Many of them are 25 years old. They run on gasoline. They run on diesel. They pollute, and they break down. We have an opportunity here to replace them with a new fleet of low-emission or no-emission vehicles powered by batteries and powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

The nominees we are considering today and later this month also agree that the Postal Service has an obligation to work with Congress to enact important postal reform legislation which would help the agency save tens of billions of dollars over the next 10 years.

How might that happen? One, by better integrating postal retirees' healthcare with the Medicare Program and by repealing a burdensome retiree health benefit obligation that most other large companies don't have to bear.

I often refer to a saying made popular by Albert Einstein. I am not smart like Albert Einstein, but I am smart enough to quote Albert Einstein. Albert Einstein used to say: ''In adversity lies opportunity.'' Think about that: ''In adversity lies opportunity.''

The Bible says something like this: In all things, give thanks.

I think it was Henry Ford who said: ''If you think you can or you think you can't, you're right.''

But Einstein said: ''In adversity lies opportunity.'' The Postal Service has faced considerable adversity over the last decade or two. This has been perhaps the most difficult stretch in its long and storied history.

You know, the Postal Service is not an idea that somebody dreamed up 30, 40, 50, or 60 years ago. It was originally outlined in the Constitution and the first Post Master General was a guy named Ben Franklin. After that storied history, we have an opportunity to face

the adversities the Postal Service faces today with an opportunity to confirm three well-qualified Postal Service Board of Governors to public service who will be ready on day one—not a month from now or a year from now, but on day one—to ensure that this invaluable institution is able to meet its vital mission.

I am proud to support them. I am proud to say I know them, and I urge my colleagues to support them as well—two of them later today and another one probably later this month.

With that I yield the floor.

VOTE ON THE STROMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stroman nomination?

Mr. KELLY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Booker	Johnson	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Cassidy	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Thune
Cramer	Merkley	Toomey
Duckworth	Moran	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The nomination was confirmed.

(Thereupon, the President pro tempore assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 109, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Sullivan
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Cramer	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EAGLES ACT OF 2021

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to address the national plague of targeted violence. Whether it is in our schools, houses of worship, restaurants, businesses, or even on our city streets, these senseless killings are impacting all of us.

I woke up Friday morning, April 16, to learn of another tragedy, this time in Indianapolis, where a 19-year-old walked into a private business and proceeded to kill eight innocent workers, including four members of the Sikh community. My heart breaks for another set of families and friends newly devastated and the unthinkable happening to them.

While it is still early in the investigation and an exact motive remains unclear, all signs indicate that that young killer suffered from mental illness. The killer's own mother contacted authorities just last May for fear that he was going to commit what she called ''suicide by cop.''

The date of April 16 is unfortunately significant, as it is the solemn anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. Thirty-two students and educators lost their lives at the hands of a 23-year-old who had a well-documented record of mental illness. Despite clear homicidal warning signs, school authorities and counselors failed to intervene and help the troubled young man.

Earlier this April, tragedy struck when a 25-year-old man rammed his vehicle into a security barricade just steps from this Chamber. Fortunately for those inside, U.S. Capitol Police officers courageously intervened when the man brandished a large knife and lunged in their direction. As all of us know, this attacker tragically took the life of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans. Officer Evans was a hero, and we mourn his loss.

While the Capitol attacker's exact motive is unknown, social media profiles indicate the man was a devout follower of a group that repeatedly holds racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-LGBTQ beliefs. It is too early to tell if these beliefs motivated this man to commit an act of terrorism, but what is clear is this man struggled with depression, hallucinations, and suicidal thoughts.

If someone had properly identified these symptoms as warning signs, perhaps this tragedy could have been avoided.

I could go on and highlight tragedies from just the past several years from all over the country. Post-incident investigations show that all of these violent actors often suffer from variations of mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, delusions, paranoia, bipolar disorder, suicidal and homicidal thoughts, and adherence to bizarre conspiracy theories. Many of those who are closest to these attackers were aware of their conditions, and some even expressed concern about their propensity for violence ahead of their times of killing.

The EAGLES Act of 2021 is a bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation. This bill carries the namesake of the Parkland, FL, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mascot—the Eagles, that is—and it is a tribute to the 17 Eagles who tragically lost their lives 3 years ago at the hands of a former student struggling with severe behavioral problems and mental illness.

This legislation helps proactively mitigate threats of violence by reauthorizing as well as expanding the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, which also goes by the acronym NTAC.

NTAC's approach is squarely focused on research. After every instance of mass violence, their team of social science experts canvasses the circumstances and the attacker's behavior to determine the facts.

NTAC's 2019 publication called ''Mass Attacks in Public Squares'' found that during the previous year, 93 percent of the attackers engaged in threatening or concerning communications prior to carrying out violent actions. Another 2019 NTAC study entitled ''Protecting America's Schools'' made an even more definitive finding related to violence in our educational system. This study concluded that all—in other words, every one—of the school attackers exhibited concerning behaviors prior to engaging in an act of violence.

A family member, a teacher, a coach, a fellow employee, or a neighbor's ability to observe someone's behavior, home life circumstances, work life factors, and other political stressors, coupled with NTAC's threat assessment training, can prevent harmful outcomes from occurring. But in order for this to be effective, we need to increase NTAC's ability to continue their research and get much needed training to their communities. The result will be increased opportunities for early intervention and referrals to mental health services for those in need and also get names to the FBI database so that they can't buy a gun.

Just recently, the EAGLES Act got a resounding endorsement from the National Association of Attorneys General. Forty attorneys general from all over the United States believe that NTAC's proactive approach is critical to violence prevention and its training programs are urgently needed. These attorneys general are responsible for ensuring safe communities and are urging our quick action to pass this legislation. We cannot afford to ignore or delay their explicit plea for assistance.

So now, as a bottom line, I ask all of my Senate colleagues to consider the commonsense, practical solution provided in the EAGLES Act. The more research and threat assessment training that we can provide, the more violence we can prevent.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Madam President, on another matter, I have come to the floor I think Monday, Tuesday, and today because this is National Police Week, to honor our men and women in blue. It started way back in 1962. Our Nation has annually celebrated the lives and memory of the men and women of law enforcement who are killed in the line of duty.

The origin of National Police Week goes back nearly 50 years to President John F. Kennedy's proclamation that each May 15 be designated as ''National Peace Officers Memorial Day.'' Over the years, this single day has grown into a weeklong opportunity to honor the sacrifices of our law enforcement professionals throughout America.

Normally, tens of thousands of police officers, deputy sheriffs, State troopers, and others sworn to uphold the rule of law would have gathered here in our Nation's Capital. They would be participating in a host of events that both honor their fallen colleagues and celebrate their comradery. Unfortunately, the global virus pandemic continues to take its toll on nearly every aspect of life, with National Police Week events being no exception. It is very disappointing to lose the opportunity to celebrate, as we have every year before last year, our communities' heroes in this public way. Maybe next year it will be back to normal.

Rather than gathering in-person along the National Mall, this year's events will include a virtual candlelight vigil. On Thursday, May 13, Americans will come together online to pay tribute to our fallen protectors. The name of each man and woman who gave their last measure of devotion during the previous year will be read aloud. I encourage everyone to join me in honoring their sacrifice during this event.

Despite the impact of COVID–19 and the risk to their individual safety, men and women of law enforcement continue to steadfastly uphold their oath to serve and to protect.

Pandemic or not, the National Law Enforcement Memorial remains a focal point of National Police Week. It is here where cops come to remember their departed friends and honor those families of the lost ones.

At the time of its dedication in 1991, the names of 12,000 local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty dating back to 1786 were engraved onto that memorial. Each year, the curved stone walls are updated with the names of the recently fallen. Today, over 22,000 heroes are permanently venerated within those solemn 3 acres.

In our own Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers spoke of certain unalienable rights endowed by our Creator. Those specifically mentioned were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. None of these rights are possible without every citizen's most basic level of security.

While the United States has layers of safety built into our system of government, none is more critical to our foundational rights than local law enforcement. Maintaining a free, safe, and civil society is squarely dependent on someone who is willing to answer the call without regard to time or circumstance and who puts themselves in harm's way to ensure that the innocent are protected and the law is upheld.

HONORING SERGEANT JIM SMITH

This call to service was embodied by Sergeant Jim Smith of the Iowa State Patrol, who courageously gave his life on April 9, 2021. Sergeant Smith was tragically killed during an attempt to apprehend a violent suspect.

Sergeant Smith, a 27-year-old Iowa State Patrol veteran and tactical team leader, put himself in harm's way on behalf of his fellow Iowans last month, and it cost him everything.

As his colleagues remembered Sergeant Smith during his memorial service, he was described as a completely genuine man who loved his family and loved being a civil servant on behalf of his community.

Sergeant Smith found his life's purpose as a dedicated law enforcement officer, and I know I speak for many Iowans when I say we are forever grateful for his service.

While I mourn the loss of Sergeant Smith, along with his family, fellow troopers, friends, and the entire Independence, IA, community, I am pleased that his sacrifice will not be forgotten. His memory, along with the 306 officers we tragically lost in 2020, will live forever, as their names will be inscribed on the stone walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Iowans for generations to come will be able to visit Washington, find Sergeant Smith's name, and be reminded of the high cost of preserving our precious rights.

Earlier this week, I introduced a resolution to commemorate National Police Week. This resolution honors the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to make their communities a safer place. As in years past, the measure has significant bipartisan support and gives tribute to those who, despite knowing the inherent risk, chose to serve their fellow citizens. Thank you to my many Senate colleagues who signed on as cosponsors to this resolution.

In closing, I want to encourage everyone to visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial. As you enter the

memorial grounds in Northwest DC, you pass a statue of an adult lion keeping close watch over a pair of cubs. It is a telling illustration of the role undertaken by our cops vigilantly defending us 24 hours a day.

Underneath this statue is a quote from Vivian Eney Cross, the wife of fallen U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Christopher Sherman Eney. The quote reads:

It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.

Despite the uncertainties our Nation currently faces, I am sure of one thing: The sacrifices of American law enforcement will never be forgotten.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize National Police Week and honor the law enforcement officers who selflessly serve and protect our communities. Law enforcement professionals at all levels, from local police forces to sheriff's departments, to State police and Federal law enforcement agencies, leave home each day not knowing what challenges they will experience, but they are ready to face danger head-on.

National Police Week is a solemn occasion to honor those who tragically lost their lives while performing their duties. Sadly, last year proved to be particularly dangerous for officers, and 2020 was one of the deadliest years for law enforcement officers in recent memory. The COVID–19 pandemic certainly played a part in that unfortunate reality.

This year, the names of 394 officers killed in the line of duty have been etched into the walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. The deaths of 185 of those individuals were COVID–19 related, including Sergeant James Dancy of the North Little Rock Police Department.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES L. ''BUCK'' DANCY

Sergeant Dancy was a 35-year-old veteran of the police force who helped mentor young officers at the department. He contracted COVID–19 while performing his job.

First responders like him were on the frontlines of the pandemic and kept going to work every day despite the risks to their own health. We are grateful they did. Sergeant Dancy's heroism and dedication are reminders that coronavirus took not only vulnerable populations but also dedicated public servants from us.

We also reflect on the other heroes from Arkansas who lost their lives in the course of their service to their communities this past year.

HONORING OFFICER TRAVIS WALLACE

Officer Travis Wallace of the Helena-West Helena Police Department gave his life while attempting to apprehend a suspect wanted in connection with a violent crime.

HONORING DETECTIVE KEVIN DWAINE COLLINS

Pine Bluff Detective Kevin Collins had a lifelong dream to serve as a police officer. He made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while conducting an ongoing investigation.

HONORING OFFICER BRENT WILLIAM PERRY SCRIMSHIRE

Hot Springs Police Officer Corporal Brent Scrimshire had earned recognition as the Arkansas Southwest Region Officer of the Year in 2016. Sadly, he lost his life while conducting a traffic stop.

We honor the service and sacrifice of these Arkansans and law enforcement officers all across the country who courageously gave their lives while upholding law and order. Their deaths are tragic and call us to acknowledge their tremendous heroism and selflessness. They also invite us to appreciate the reality that the stakes of this occupation are a lot higher than most others; they are life and death. The perilous nature of policing and law enforcement is something we simply can't underestimate or fail to respect.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Senate resolution marking National Police Week because we must always remember the brave officers whose lives are cut short because of their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER TYLER FRANKS

We also pray for the recovery of those injured in the line of duty, like Prairie Grove Police Officer Tyler Franks, who was shot while responding to a domestic disturbance call last week. Thankfully his condition is improving, but we know he has a long road to recovery.

By supporting policies to improve law enforcement training and resources, we can recognize the dedication and heroism so often displayed by these public servants and help make them more effective and safer at the same time.

Over the past year, we have witnessed increased calls for defunding or abolishing police forces across the country. Instead of this misguided approach, we need to improve investments and resources for the men and women in blue. That is why it is important that Congress fund programs like the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, which has proven vital to helping States and local law enforcement agencies purchase equipment and support much needed training for officers.

We know there are more ways to ensure officers have the tools they need to enhance community safety and protect themselves so they can go home to the families they love and the support systems they rely on. That is why this week I will join Senators INHOFE, BROWN, and TILLIS to introduce the Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act. This legislation will help provide police with better strategies and procedures to respond to calls involving a mental health crisis.

We also need to hold all those who perpetrate attacks against law enforcement accountable, so I urge my colleagues to pass the Protect and Serve Act. I am proud to support this legislation that will create Federal penalties for individuals who deliberately target local, State, or Federal law enforcement officers with violence.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I thank all of our law enforcement officers for making sacrifices to keep us safe. I will continue advocating for improved tools, resources, and training for officers so they can prepare for unpredictable circumstances.

Our safety and peace of mind come at a cost, and our police officers need our support and our gratitude for being the first ones to pay it. We honor them this week and every week for what they do and for what they represent.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 136

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I rise here today, and I have been in the Senate a little over 2½ years, and I never imagined that I would have to drift back to my days at Wabash College, as I migrated from a biology major to a political science major and, thank goodness, to an economics major.

In that time, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be able to talk about macroeconomics because back then there were a couple of points of view. You had Milton Friedman, who was a disciple of monetary theory—that if you get too much out there circulating, your currency devalues and you get inflation. And then there was Keynes, who was a big disciple of the government, either through tax policy or spending. And, my goodness, how either one of them would react to what we are contending with today, I think it would give them some pause in terms of where we are at.

This has nothing to do with the underlying policy goals. I am someone that comes from a State legislature in Indiana where we tackle things like infrastructure, defined there and then as roads and bridges. We came together. We actually paid for it through user fees, which we haven't done here since 1993. That is fuel taxes, which generally would be at least one thing you would look at when you want to spend a lot of money on infrastructure.

So here we are today. We had a hearing a couple of weeks ago, and I will

cite him in a moment. Robert Reich was in there, and I threw that question at him: How could we have come so far from Keynes' economics and Milton Friedman, which has controlled the dynamic of this country, its monetary policy, and its fiscal policy, until just recently?

Then comes along the Modern Monetary Theory, a new approach to macroeconomics. This theory proposes that governments can spend however much they want, go into debt as much as they want, and have these structural trillion-dollar deficits that would work nowhere else. It only works now because we are the only reserve currency. Being the only reserve currency, people come to us with their currencies, and that keeps our interest rates down. That doesn't acknowledge that there are places like China, which will be a larger economy than ours and lends us money currently.

In places like China and most other places across the world—unless you were Greece, Italy, maybe Spain and Portugal, which kept the euro from being a prominent currency because they lived beyond their means—you cannot, just because you can get by with it in the short run, continue to do things into the mid and long term without consequences.

This fanciful theory has found its way out of the faculty lounge and into the halls of Congress. Considering that President Biden has proposed another $4 trillion in spending. There is $1.9 trillion that we have recently done—a done deal—borrowing every penny of it. We have not raised taxes. That is a false argument too. With the amount of taxes that you could raise, you wouldn't even cover part of our day-to-day trillion-dollar deficit. It adds to our debt.

When I got here, I think it was around $20 trillion. Soon it is going to be over $30 trillion. And listen to this: World War II was the highest debt we ever had as a country. We were savers and investors then. Now we are consumers and spenders. They paid that off. We had basically no debt until the wars came along that we financed by borrowing, not paying for it. Then, 2008 and 2009 came along, and that looks like chump change compared to what we are doing now.

Now we had an approach to one of the biggest challenges we have ever had as a country, navigating through COVID, and of course we did things that basically needed some new idea how to justify it—Modern Monetary Theory. It is a recipe for hyperinflation and continued higher deficits. By the way, the trillion-dollar deficit without any COVID, just in its own momentum forward, is going to be $1.5 trillion in 4 to 5 years.

I am not surprised the big spenders in DC have latched on to a theory that tells them it is OK to spend irresponsibly and hike taxes. They may not acknowledge that pre-COVID we were in a pretty good place. We were raising wages. Senator SANDERS and I would share that. We need to raise wages in places, but you can't do it through the government. That is not the productive economy. Everything that the government gets comes from the productive economy.

I am surprised there has not been more pushback because it is a flawed economic theory. When I asked Robert Reich about it, he dismissed it: Well, it is too new. It is too novel. I can't really talk about it.

That shouldn't be the foundation upon which you are having your spending plans laid out currently.

What it is, in my opinion, is a bunch of malarkey that is embraced because we want to spend like drunken sailors. Coming through a crisis, we can't do that. We have already done that. What we did in a bipartisan fashion in 2020 probably made sense. Continuing that forward, you can't base it upon this new idea that debt, deficits don't make any difference. It is kind of like a kid coming up with a modern dietary theory that says it is OK to eat cookies for every meal. It wouldn't work.

Many noted economists from across the political spectrum have warned that the implementation of the Modern Monetary Theory will pose a danger to the economy, and this wouldn't be center and right economists. Let's listen to a few of them.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the National Economic Council, Lawrence Summers, back in the Clinton years, and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who has been OK with accommodating some of it—he said that is not a new theory that you can rely upon. Even Paul Krugman, whom we know that generally he would be eating this up, he has reservations, and not to mention a host of others. I just told you what Robert Reich said when he dismissed it as something too new to comment on.

Now, Secretary Janet Yellen discussed Modern Monetary Theory's idea that interest rate payments can be handled by the central bank buying the debt back in 2019, calling it ''a very wrong-minded theory because that's how you get hyper-inflation.''

Joel Griffith, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, summed it up well when he wrote:

> There is no free lunch. We will pay either through the visible burden of direct taxation, the hidden tax of inflation, or higher borrowing costs.

I said earlier that we are the only reserve currency. Interest rates are starting to go up. The Chinese could do things that could knock interest rates up two to three points quickly if they decided to take a different point of view. There is a lot of danger in living in the moment because you don't feel any of the pain that will inevitably come in the future, and it is not far out.

The acceptance of Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation. The underlying policy in terms of higher wages, trying to do things to improve the lot of Americans, that is fair game for discussion. Just don't mislead them, putting all that debt on our kids and our grandkids. That would be like running a business, running it into the ditch, going to your banker, and thinking that you could get a loan. You would be laughed out of the office if you tried to do it 2 years in a row. That is now standard operating procedure with trillion-dollar deficits built into the system, not to mention this.

The Senate must abandon this fundamentally flawed, irresponsible economic model in favor of mainstream fiscal and monetary frameworks that work everywhere else. The European Union, a recent example, headed to be a reserve currency, and even Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy have found that they can't do that and get by with it.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 136. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I find this resolution somewhat odd, if I may say so. There are enormous crises facing our country and the world. The fact that we are spending time on the floor of the Senate to condemn a proposition or a theory does not seem to me to be the best way to be spending our time.

And the implication—and I think the Senator from Indiana made this implication—that the President of the United States is objecting to raising taxes is simply not factual.

The President has come forward with some very specific tax proposals, but his proposals are not meeting much support on the other side of the aisle because he is saying that he doesn't want to raise taxes on anybody in this country earning less than $400,000 a year, but he does want to raise taxes on some of the wealthiest people in America and some of the largest corporations that today may be paying zero in Federal income tax. And he shares a concern that many of us share and that Warren Buffet reminds us of, that the effective tax rate for the billionaire class is actually lower than it is for working families.

The President's view, which I share, is that this Congress must address the enormous crises facing working families, and that is rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, making sure that our kids have quality childcare and pre-K, that we have to address the existential threat of climate change, and we have to address many of the other problems facing working families, and one way we do that is demanding that

the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes.

When we talk about resolutions condemning something—I am not, again, sure why we are condemning a particular theory—we might be today thinking about condemning the actions of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives today. They got rid of a Member of their leadership for the crime of suggesting that that party should not maintain a big lie implying that Donald Trump won the election. Shall we condemn that? I think that is worth condemning.

I think we might want to condemn the fact that we have more income and wealth inequality today in America than at any time since the 1920s. Let's condemn that. Maybe we want to condemn the fact that every scientist who has studied the issue tells us that climate change is a threat to our Nation and the world, and we have done virtually nothing to lead the world in addressing climate change. Let's condemn that inaction.

Let's condemn the fact that in the richest country in the history of the world, we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth. How about condemning that?

Let's condemn the fact, maybe, that half of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. Let's condemn the fact that we live in a country which has institutional racism.

We can go on and on. There are a lot of things to condemn, but I don't know that it is in the best interest of the U.S. Senate to be condemning a particular economic theory.

You don't like it, argue against it. That is fine. But I don't know that we have to spend our time condemning it.

So with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. So I don't disagree with what Senator SANDERS said in terms of policy that needs to be debated, but a classic tactic when you are focusing on how you are going to pay for something is to change the subject. And whatever you think about what happened over in the House of Representatives, whatever you think about the other issues, this is about being honest with future generations and where has that worked and been a good end result.

When it comes to some of the taxation part of it, that is a smokescreen because even if you raise all the revenue they are talking about with those taxes—and I am a believer that corporations should pay their fair share. Multinationals that flatten their tax rate, that is different from many C corps, many corporations. But the dishonesty in that argument is that you couldn't cover even 20 percent of our existing structural deficit. So you need to be honest.

If you want to do this, ask your kids, ask your grandkids if they are willing to put that burden on them. And there is no theory out there, other than this which is being used as a current rationalization, that would make that ever have a pleasant outcome.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, if I could respond?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I am not sure—the Senator from Indiana suggested a moment ago that the President was not interested in raising taxes, and, of course, he has a very specific proposal to raise taxes.

And I would suggest to my colleague from Indiana that if we want to talk about the burden on our kids and on our grandchildren as a result of the national debt, maybe we should also be discussing the fact that, under the last administration, a massive tax break was given to the very wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations. We were told that that tax plan would pay for itself, but, in fact, it will result in almost $2 trillion in additional national debt, and virtually all of those benefits went to the people on top.

So all that I am saying is, we can argue taxation; we can argue economic policy; we can argue why we are the only major country on Earth not to guarantee healthcare to all people; we can argue why we are paying, by far, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs; we can argue why we have a political system that allows billionaires to buy elections—a lot of things that we could be talking about, but I am not sure that it is in the best interest of the Senate to be condemning a particular economic idea that some economists have brought up.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. I know we have a vote coming up, and I won't belabor it.

I think the basis for maybe a good conversation, because we are not going to solve it today, is when it comes to the tax package that was put through in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017—and I would have some authority on this, Senator SANDERS. I spent 37 years in the trenches running a small business that ended up being a larger company. Three of my kids run it with a good young executive team—the American dream. And my observation was that we had kind of hit the sweet spot.

And the CBO, which actually put that original cost of $1.5 trillion—$150 billion per year, over 10 years—said that we were actually generating record revenues pre-COVID and that they could have revised, and still might, that trajectory.

I think if we are going to go forward, you have to realize that there is a limit to anything you can do through government. And when you try to raise taxes, you have to be honest about it. Over 50 years, regardless of what the tax rate has been, the economy has generated about 17 percent of our GDP with tax revenues because when they are high, there is less economic activity. You actually find a sweet spot, like we did with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and the economy was proving it pre-COVID.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VOTE ON STROMAN NOMINATION

Mr. SANDERS. I know of no further debate on the Stroman nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stroman nomination?

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Sullivan
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Thune
Cortez Masto	Moran	Toomey
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Ernst	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich	Leahy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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 actions.

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. 110, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), are necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 189 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Luján	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Sinema
Casey	Markey	Smith
Collins	Menendez	Stabenow
Coons	Merkley	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Moran	Tester
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Ernst	Murray	Warnock
Feinstein	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich	Leahy

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Secretary of the Senate:

The bill (S. 1, A bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anticorruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes) having been referred to the Committee on March 17, 2021, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows -

1. On the question of reporting the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill be passed 9 ayes to 9 nays; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the bill because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1261, the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, having been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination without recommendation, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the veterans throughout Michigan's history who have given their lives while serving our country. Whether they served in the Civil War or the Korean war, in the Middle East or the South Pacific, we owe these heroes so much.

Aleda E. Lutz is one of those heroes. She grew up in a large family; she was the youngest of 10 children—and her parents were immigrants from Germany. She graduated from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw and the Saginaw General Hospital School of Nursing. When World War II broke out, Lutz felt called to serve her Nation.

She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1942 and began working as a general duty nurse at Selfridge Field. When she had the opportunity to become a flight nurse, she signed up. It wasn't easy; it required a lot of training. But Lutz, known as ''Lutzy'' to her friends, was smart, determined, and extraordinarily brave. She made the cut and joined the elite 2 percent of World War II nurses qualified as flight nurses. She was promoted to first lieutenant and transferred to the 802nd Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron, which soon deployed to North Africa.

Lutz transported more than 3,500 patients from the frontlines while earning six battle stars. She was known for her professional skill and her courage under fire. During her 196th mission, her C–47 plane crashed while carrying 15 wounded soldiers. There were no survivors. Lutz is known to be the first military woman to die in a combat zone during World War II.

Lutz is one of the most highly decorated women in American military history. She was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. An 800-patient hospital ship was named in her honor, as was a C–47 cargo plane. And in 1990, the Saginaw veterans hospital, long known by her name, was officially rededicated as the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It remains a fitting memorial to honor a nurse who gave her life while serving her country.

Not all veterans have had to give as much for their country as Aleda Lutz did, but all of them are willing to. It is what sets them apart. It is what makes them heroes.

This Memorial Day, we honor 1LT. Aleda E. Lutz and all of the Michigan

veterans who gave their lives in service to our country, and we thank our veterans who are still with us, as well as their families. Their courage, selflessness, and sacrifice bring honor to our State and our Nation.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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–956. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2021; ordered to lie on the table.

EC–957. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39–21422'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–958. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–21461'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0700)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–959. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39–21457'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0710)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–960. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–21379'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1168)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–961. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters; Amendment 39–21433'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0682)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–962. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–21411'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0846)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–963. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes; Amendment 39–21471'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0831)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–964. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes; Amendment 39–21467'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0917)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–965. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft. Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39–21515'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–966. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–21495'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0200)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–967. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–21516'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0313)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–968. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–21504'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1167)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–969. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–21513'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–970. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC Parachutes; Amendment 39–21523'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0336)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–971. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39–21481'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1112)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–972. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–21479'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0190)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–973. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Embraer S.A.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–21491'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0253)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–974. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–21443'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1114)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–975. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–21484'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1119)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–976. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–21474'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0182)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–977. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–21478'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0982)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–978. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–21480'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0913)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–979. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–21453'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0971)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–980. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3947'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31359)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–981. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3948'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 31360)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–982. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3951'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 31364)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–983. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3952'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 31365)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–984. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3943'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 31355)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–985. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3944'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 31356)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–986. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3945'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31357)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–987. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3946'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31358)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–988. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3954'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31367)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–989. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3953'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31366)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–990. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3940'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31351)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–991. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3939'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31350)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–992. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3937'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31348)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–993. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3950'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31362)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–994. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3949'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31361)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–995. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3938'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31349)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–996. 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; Leoti, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1072)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–997. 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 Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, Michigan'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–998. 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; Farmington, New Mexico'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–999. 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 Class E Airspace; Wharton, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1082)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1000. 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 Class E Airspace; Elkhart, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0887)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1001. 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 Class D and Class E Airspace; Palmdale, California'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0942)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1002. 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 Class E Airspace; Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0872)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1003. 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 D and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gillette, Wyoming'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0800)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1004. 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 Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, Michigan'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1005. 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 Class D and Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspae; Fort Riley and Manhattan, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0759)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1006. 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 and Revocation of Class E Airspace; North Dakota, North Dakota'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0035)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1007. 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; Hughes, Alaska'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1193)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1008. 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 Class E Airspace; Kremmling, Colorado'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1097)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1009. 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 Class E Airspace; Meeker, Colorado'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1098)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1010. 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; Kayenta, Arizona'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1124)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1011. 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 Class E Airspace; Buena Vista, Colorado'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1096)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1012. 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 Class E Airspace; Fosston and Little Falls, Minnesota'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1186)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1013. 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; Calais, Maine'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0935)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1014. 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 and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Orange City and Le Mars, Iowa'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0664)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1015. 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 VOR Federal Airways V–12, V–74, and V–516 in the Vicinity of Anthony, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1016. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–3.B)'' (FRL No. 10016–30–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1017. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Georgia: Direct Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 10021–97–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allegheny County Area Attainment Plan for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)'' (FRL No. 10023–27–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; PSD and Nonattainment NSR Rule Clarifications'' (FRL No. 10022–90–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Washington; Regional Haze Best Available Retrofit Technology Revision for TransAlta Centralia Generation Plant'' (FRL No. 10022–93–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Washington; Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency'' (FRL No.

10022–48–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1022. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 10019–45–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS Second Maintenance Plan for the Clearfield/Indiana Area'' (FRL No. 10022–88–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions From Wood Furniture Manufacturing Operations'' (FRL No. 10023–01–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Louisiana; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 10023–14–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Removal of Asbestos Requirements from Jefferson County Regulations'' (FRL No. 10023–56–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1027. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Miami Copper Smelter Sulfur Dioxide Control Measures'' (FRL No. 10022–52–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1028. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19–1.F)'' (FRL No. 10023–11–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program'' (FRL No. 10020–41–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Louisiana; Control of Emissions From Existing Other Solid Waste Incineration Unit'' (FRL No. 10022–53–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Utah; R307–204 Emission Standards: Smoke Management'' (FRL No. 10022–97–Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent'' (FRL No. 10021–59–OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1033. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.237 Rev 0, Guidance for Changes During Construction for New Nuclear Power Plants Being Constructed Under a Combined License Referencing a Certified Design Under 10 CFR Part 52'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1034. A communication from the Endangered Species Biologist, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Yangtze Sturgeon as an Endangered Species'' (RIN1018–BC83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1035. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1036. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2021 Enterprise Housing Goals'' (RIN2590–AB04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1037. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1038. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rescission of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Rule on Guidance'' (RIN1212–AB52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1039. A communication from the Supervisory Workforce Analyst, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting , pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards'' (RIN1205–AC03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1040. 0A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Rescission of Revisions to the Vaccine Injury Table; Final Rule'' (RIN0906–AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1041. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1042. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021–0056 - 2021–0061); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

*Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2017.

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

*Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2026.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1574. A bill to codify a statutory definition for long-term care pharmacies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1575. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1576. A bill to provide for a comfortable and safe temperature level in dwelling units receiving certain Federal housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to ensure equity for America's children by providing access to summer meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 1579. A bill to appropriately limit the use of riot control agents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1580. A bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1581. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1582. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1583. A bill to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 1584. A bill to create a 2020 Census Federal Advisory Committee on Transparency and Standards; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1585. A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards; considered and passed.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1586. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1587. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in the loan programs of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1588. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any live animal of any prohibited primate species; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1589. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1590. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1591. A bill to counter efforts by foreign governments to pursue, harass, or otherwise persecute individuals for political and other unlawful motives overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1592. A bill to limit the period of authorization of new budget authority provided in appropriation Acts, to require analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of existing programs for which continued new budget authority is proposed to be authorized by committees of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 1593. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 1594. A bill to clarify the congressional intent behind the requirements relating to immediate suspension orders and corrective action plans under the Controlled Substances Act that were added by the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1595. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1596. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1597. A bill to ensure America's law enforcement officers have access to lifesaving equipment needed to defend themselves and civilians from attacks by terrorists and violent criminals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1598. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of personal service income earned in pass-thru entities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1599. A bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1600. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to make modifications to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1601. A bill to establish the Future of Local News Committee to examine and report on the role of local news gathering in sustaining democracy in the United States and the factors contributing to the demise of local journalism, and to propose policies and mechanisms the could reinvigorate local news to meet the critical information needs of the people of the United States in the 21st century; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1602. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 207. A resolution designating the week beginning November 8, 2021, as ''National Pregnancy Center Week'' to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 209. A resolution recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 210. A resolution designating July 21, 2021, as ''Glioblastoma Awareness Day'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 221

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 221, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

S. 228

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to promote antitrust enforcement and protect competition through adjusting premerger filing fees, and increasing antitrust enforcement resources.

S. 241

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, increasing the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes.

S. 273

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 368, 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.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to suspend certain United States assistance for the Government of Honduras until corruption, impunity, and human rights violations are no longer systemic, and the perpetrators of these crimes are being brought to justice.

S. 464

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

S. 660

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, and for other purposes.

S. 754

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 754, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 926, a bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a 5-year extension of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1210

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to issuers of American infrastructure bonds.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to promote United States values and fulfill agency missions through the use of innovative applied artificial intelligence technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1441, a bill to appropriate an additional amount to improve the Navy shipyard infrastructure of the United States.

S. 1469

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 1475

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1475, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 1491

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve obstetric care in rural areas.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustain in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1520

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1520, a bill to reform the disposition of charges and convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and increase the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 1535

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1535, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to shorten the extension, and the amount, of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in order to get Americans back to work.

S. 1559

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain qualified over-the-counter securities to be treated as readily traded on an established securities market for the purpose of diversification requirements for employee stock ownership plans.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1581. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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. 1581

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 ''Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FLOOD MAPPING MODERNIZATION AND HOMEOWNER EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COASTAL.—The term ''coastal'' means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that the unit borders a body of water that—

(A) is more than 2,000 square miles in size; and

(B) is not a river.

(3) PELAGIC.—The term ''pelagic'' means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that—

(A) the unit is a coastal unit; and

(B) the body of water that the unit borders is—

(i) an ocean; or

(ii) a large, open body of water, including a bay or a gulf, that empties into an ocean.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the pilot program carried out by the Administrator under this section.

(5) URBAN FLOODING.—The term ''urban flooding''—

(A) means the inundation, by water, of property in a built environment, particularly in a densely populated area, that—

(i) is caused by falling rain—

(I) collecting on an impervious surface; or

(II) increasing the level of a body of water that is located near that built environment; and

(ii) overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems in the built environment, such as storm sewers;

(B) includes—

(i) a situation in which stormwater enters a building through a window, door, or other opening;

(ii) the backup of water through a sewer pipe, shower, toilet, sink, or floor drain;

(iii) the seepage of water through a wall or a floor;

(iv) the accumulation of water on property or a public right-of-way; and

(v) the overflow from a body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean; and

(C) does not include flooding in an undeveloped or agricultural area.

(6) URBANIZED AREA.—The term ''urbanized area'' means an area that has been defined and designated as an urbanized area by the Bureau of the Census during the most recently completed decennial census.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to units of local government to—

(1) enhance the production of maps relating to urban flooding and associated property damage; and

(2) increase the availability of the maps described in paragraph (1) to homeowners, businesses, and units of local government to enable those entities to minimize the risk of urban flooding.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—Amounts from grants made under the pilot program may be used only to carry out activities that meet the following objectives:

(1) Developing a methodology for assessing the risk of urban flooding through the deployment of technology-based mapping tools that—

(A) are easily understandable by the public; and

(B) effectively convey information regarding the level of flood risk.

(2) Providing structure-specific projections of annual chance flood frequency.

(3) Providing structure-based flood risk assessments.

(4) Providing program design for the mitigation of the risk of urban flooding.

(5) Incorporating information regarding climate trends into urban flooding risk assessments.

(6) Making the information described in this subsection publicly available on the internet through a web-based portal so as to increase transparency regarding homeowner flood risks.

(d) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under the pilot program may be made only to—

(A) a unit of general local government that is located in an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals; or

(B) a stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government described in subparagraph (A).

(2) ONE-TIME GRANTS.—A grant under the pilot program may not be made to—

(A) any unit of general local governmental, or the stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government, that previously received a grant under the pilot program;

(B) any unit of general local government if the stormwater management agency for that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program; or

(C) any stormwater management agency of a unit of general local government if that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program.

(3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a stormwater management authority that operates with respect to more than 1 unit of general local government, the application of that authority shall be considered for purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (f), (g), and (h)(1) to be made for the largest unit of general local government with respect to which that authority operates.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to limit the ability of a stormwater management authority described in that subparagraph to carry out activities under a demonstration project in any other jurisdiction in, or with respect to any other unit of local government with, which that authority operates.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program, a unit of general local government or a stormwater management agency shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form and containing such information as the Administrator shall require.

(f) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—

(1) ANNUAL SELECTION.—Subject to paragraph (2), and to the submission of approvable applications, in each fiscal year for which amounts are made available for grants under the pilot program, the Administrator shall select, from among applications submitted under subsection (e) for that fiscal year, 3 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program.

(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—Subject only to the submission of approvable applications, the Administrator shall select, in the aggregate over the entire duration of the pilot program, 12 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program, as follows:

(A) TIER 1.—Three of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for those units, each of which has a population of more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that—

(aa) is a coastal unit; and

(bb) is not a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(iii) NON-COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is not a coastal unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(B) TIER 2.—Six of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for those units, each of which has a population of more than 200,000 individuals and not more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are not coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(C) TIER 3.—Three of the applicants selected shall be—

(i) units of general local government, each of which has a population of more than 50,000 individuals and not more than 200,000 individuals; or

(ii) stormwater management authorities for units described in clause (i).

(g) PRIORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall select applicants for grants under the pilot program based on the extent to which the applications of those applicants shall achieve the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) TIERS 2 AND 3.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under the pilot program under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (f)(2), the Administrator shall give priority to applicants—

(A) that are highly vulnerable to sea level rise;

(B) within which are located a military installation or another facility relating to national security concerns; or

(C) that have—

(i) populations that are highly vulnerable to urban flooding; and

(ii) an uneven capacity for flood mitigation and response efforts resulting from socioeconomic factors.

(h) AMOUNT.—

(1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of a grant under the pilot program, the Administrator shall consider the population of the grant recipient, which may be considered in terms of the tier under subsection (f)(2) with respect to the recipient.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of a grant under the pilot program may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost incurred in carrying out the activities described in subsection (c).

(i) DURATION.—The Administrator shall require each recipient of a grant under the pilot program to complete the activities described in subsection (c), which shall be, subject to subsection (h)(2), carried out using the grant amounts, not later than 18 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts under the pilot program.

(j) USE OF CENSUS DATA.—The Administrator shall make all determinations regarding population under the pilot program by using data from the most recently completed decennial census by the Bureau of the Census.

(k) GRANTEE REPORTS TO FEMA.—Each recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall, not later than 30 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts, submit to the Administrator a report that describes—

(1) the activities carried out with the grant amounts;

(2) how the activities carried out with the grant amounts have met the objectives described in subsection (c);

(3) any lessons learned in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2); and

(4) any recommendations for future mapping modernization efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(l) BIENNIAL REPORTS BY FEMA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter until the date on which all activities carried out with amounts from grants under the pilot program are completed, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on an internet website a report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the progress of the activities carried out with amounts from those grants; and

(B) the effectiveness of technology-based mapping tools used in carrying out the activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) with respect to the final report that the Administrator is required to submit under this subsection, includes recommendations to Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government for implementing strategies, practices, and technologies to mitigate the effects of urban flooding.

(m) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, because the pilot program is limited with respect to scope and resources, communities that participate in the pilot program should acknowledge that the most successful efforts to mitigate the effects of urban flooding—

(1) take a structural-based mitigation approach with respect to construction, which includes—

(A) recognizing any post-storm damage that may occur; and

(B) pursuing designs that proactively minimize future flood damage;

(2) make individuals in the community aware, through any cost-effective and available means of education, of the best approaches regarding the construction of properties that are able to survive floods, which reduces the cost of future repairs; and

(3) encourage home and property owners to consider the measures described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which are the most cost-

effective and prudent ways to reduce the impact of flooding, when constructing or renovating building components.

(n) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under the pilot program—

(1) $1,200,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(2) $4,300,000 for fiscal year 2023, to remain available through fiscal year 2025.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1582. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today during Police Week to honor the work of our Nation's law enforcement officers.

Being a law enforcement officer is one of the toughest jobs that there is, but it is also foundational to a functioning society. We rely on these brave men and women to protect and serve our country every day.

Unfortunately, many officers are being driven out by a wave of anti-police rhetoric on the heels of bad actors who operated outside of their training. We need to have trust between law enforcement and citizens. Without it, our society frays and decays.

Over the course of this week, my colleagues are sharing many stories of law enforcement officers stepping up to help their fellow citizens in times of need and build trust with the communities that they serve.

We are lucky to have many brave and honorable officers in Alabama and around this country.

I think about Officer Jonathan Espino from the Decatur Police Department. Last year, Officer Espino responded to a medical call. A man was trying to bring his mom back to life, trying to perform CPR. Officer Espino took over for the man after he arrived and began CPR. Just before medical personnel arrived, the woman's heart started beating again, and she was gasping for air. He saved her life.

I think of Officer Wesley Harrison from the Abbeville Police Department. Officer Harrison received a call that a woman was in a burning building. Officer Harrison arrived on the scene minutes later and was able to carry the elderly woman out of the structure, with the help of another investigator.

These police officers went above and beyond the call of duty, and lives were saved because of their heroism. But we know such an important job comes with great risk. Just last week, Alabama honored the 11 law enforcement officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice the last 2 years. In the last 2 days alone across the United States of America, four law enforcement officers have been killed. We are forever grateful to each of these officers who have laid down their lives in service for their community.

How would you like to every day wake up, put a uniform on, a badge on your chest, a gun on your side, leave your family, walk out the door, knowing it might be the last time you ever walk into that home or see your family? That is what happens to these law enforcement officers every day of their career, which is why I firmly believe we need more support for law enforcement, not less.

They need more training so they can be better at handling difficult situations. This is especially true as we see an uptick in mental health issues all across this country. They need targeted resources so they can recruit the best and brightest for these important roles in the community and across our country. Let's invest in the resources that they can ensure all law enforcement officers are a true force for good for all people across their State and across this country.

Part of keeping communities safe is making sure our law enforcement officers have the authority they need to enforce compliance with our current laws. This is especially necessary as we see a flood of immigrants coming into our country illegally.

Right now, unless State and local law enforcement agencies have an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if an officer encounters an illegal alien in the course of performing their normal duties in their hometowns, they cannot arrest or detain that individual for immigration purposes.

Right now, ICE arrests are low, even while illegal border crossings are historically high. Under President Biden's enforcement of our immigration laws, which has fallen dramatically, arrests by ICE for the last 4 months have fallen 66 percent. Under the Biden administration, ICE has released at least 3,700 inmates. Alarmingly, 1,800 of those were charged or convicted of crimes including homicide, rape, assault, child abuse, and more. Secretary Mayorkas recently limited the places where ICE and CBP can enforce the law. Many Federal law enforcement officers fear that the Biden administration will further restrict where they can do their jobs.

If the Federal Government will not enforce the immigration laws, our State and local law enforcement should be empowered to do so. That is why today I introduced the Empowering Law Enforcement Act, which grants inherent authority to State and local officials to enforce our Nation's immigration laws.

Additionally, my bill will give Federal authorities the flexibility to extend the amount of time they can detain criminal aliens. If a State or local law enforcement entity is detaining an alien, this bill would require Homeland Security to take that illegal alien into custody upon request from that entity.

The bill ensures that State and local authorities can get reimbursed for the cost related to the incarceration and transportation of the alien.

The Empowering Law Enforcement Act is about common sense. If the Biden administration won't enforce the law, let's empower those who will. I urge my colleagues to support this practical solution to a very real and very serious problem.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1585. A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards; considered and passed.

S. 1585

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 ''Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDING SUICIDE PREVENTION CONTACT INFORMATION TO SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(30)(A) In the case of an institution that creates and distributes identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall include phone contact information on each such card for the following organizations:

''(i) The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

''(ii) Crisis Text Line.

''(iii) A campus mental health center or program, as determined by the institution.

''(B) In the case of an institution that does not create and distribute identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall publish the suicide prevention contact information specified in subparagraph (A) on the website of such institution.

''(C) If an organization in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) ceases to exist, the Secretary may designate a different entity with a similar purpose to be included on the identification card.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect beginning on the day that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8, 2021, AS ''NATIONAL PREGNANCY CENTER WEEK'' TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED PREGNANCY CENTERS PLAY IN SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WOMEN AND MEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have

found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish maternity homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2019, there were approximately 2,700 pregnancy centers (also known as ''pregnancy care and resource centers'') in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, nonprofit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach almost 2,000,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

(1) pregnancy tests;

(2) ultrasound and medical services;

(3) options counseling and education; and

(4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas the estimated value of services provided in 2019 to women and men of all ages and backgrounds was nearly $270,000,000;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

(1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;

(2) a limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and

(3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

(1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;

(2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and

(3) has represented nearly 1,300 pregnancy centers that currently operate as medical clinics;

Whereas more than 53,000 people in the United States volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year;

Whereas more than 2,130 medical pregnancy centers provide a limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 476,000 ultrasounds were performed at medical pregnancy centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that pregnancy can be emotional for mothers and fathers, and the compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

(1) provide each patient with educational materials; and

(2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 86 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

(1) through direct services on premises; or

(2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

(1) maternity clothing;

(2) baby clothes and furniture;

(3) housing assistance; or

(4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

(1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and

(2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers have saved more than 823,000 babies since 2008;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports that the Abortion Pill Rescue Network has saved more than 2,000 lives;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net-affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers—

(1) provided 1,300,000 free ultrasound scans;

(2) provided parenting support and education to 1,100,000 individuals;

(3) provided material resources to more than 1,700,000 individuals; and

(4) administered 3,200,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

(1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy centers; and

(2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the individual's local pregnancy center, where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas Heartbeat International has made contact with over 4,000,000 women and men through the Option Line;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of approximately 450 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled ''Our Commitment of Care and Competence'', which—

(1) addresses issues including—

(A) scientific and medical accuracy;

(B) truth in advertising;

(C) compassion;

(D) nondiscrimination;

(E) patient confidentiality;

(F) staff training; and

(G) a consistent life ethic; and

(2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—

(A) employment;

(B) fundraising;

(C) financial management;

(D) taxation;

(E) medical licensure; and

(F) operation standards; and

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States is derived from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

(1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and

(2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 8, 2021, as ''National Pregnancy Center Week'';

(2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;

(3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and

(4) recognizes the importance of—

(A) protecting life; and

(B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 208

Whereas, beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as ''National Recognition Day for Nurses'', through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses serve on the front lines, risking their lives treating the injured and sick during wartime, natural disasters, and public health emergencies, including the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting to protect the lives of individuals under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated population of more than 4,000,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;

Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine has called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;

Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide care that is sensitive to the cultures and customs of individuals across the United States;

Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate, and work closely with, legislators to improve—

(1) the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses; and

(2) the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;

Whereas there is a need—

(1) to strengthen nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members; and

(2) to provide education to the nurse research scientists who can develop new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States;

Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States through every stage of life; and

Whereas nursing has been voted the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOULAS TOWARDS IMPROVING PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND POSTPARTUM OUTCOMES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 209

Whereas doulas can play an important role in—

(1) maternal care; and

(2) addressing maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

Whereas doula support includes continuous non-clinical 1-on-1 emotional, physical, and informational support around the time of birth, including during pregnancy and postpartum;

Whereas doulas empower mothers with information about pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas studies have shown that doula-assisted mothers are 4 times less likely to have a low birth weight baby, and 2 times less likely to experience complications during pregnancy;

Whereas research indicates that, with the support of doulas, women are—

(1) more likely to have vaginal births; and

(2) less likely to require epidural anesthesia;

Whereas, in 2013, the Expert Panel on Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services identified providing coverage for continuous doula support during labor as a potential strategy to enhance maternal and infant care management;

Whereas the presence of a doula during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum helps foster shared decision-making for birthing women by facilitating communication between women and their providers;

Whereas a doula provides continuous support during labor and delivery and can alert hospital staff to signs and symptoms of complications that require immediate medical attention, thus lowering the risk of escalating complications for the mother and baby;

Whereas access to doula support services, especially in underserved communities, may contribute to—

(1) improved birth outcomes, both physically and emotionally; and

(2) lower health care costs by reducing the risk of—

(A) low birth weight babies;

(B) complications that might otherwise go unnoticed;

(C) low-risk cesarean deliveries; and

(D) epidural anesthesia;

Whereas training members of underserved communities to become doulas and support mothers in their own communities can—

(1) help provide employment opportunities for improving maternal health; and

(2) build trust and reduce adverse consequences of racial bias for pregnant and postpartum women of color; and

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including doula support services, in collaboration with obstetrical care, show great promise in improving, and reducing disparities in, maternal health outcomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important role of doulas in providing respectful, responsive care to all women, including women in underserved communities who lack access to maternal health services;

(2) acknowledges that doula support services provide continuous physical and emotional support to help mothers achieve healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries and recoveries;

(3) urges greater recognition for the important role that doulas play in—

(A) supporting improved pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes, including maternal mental health;

(B) reducing health care costs and working towards the elimination of health disparities; and

(C) overcoming barriers for assisting low-income women of color and women in rural areas with access to health and social supports;

(4) designates the week beginning May 9, 2021, as ''Doula Week'' to raise awareness for, and advocate for the benefits of, doulas and the support services doulas provide; and

(5) recognizes the importance of access to doula support services, especially in underserved communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—DESIGNATING JULY 21, 2021, AS ''GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas approximately 13,000 new cases of glioblastoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2021;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

(1) the most common malignant, cancerous brain tumor, accounting for approximately half of all primary malignant brain tumors; and

(2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma every year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 7.2 percent and the median length of survival for glioblastoma patients is only 8 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the ''essence of self'', as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas, relative to other types of cancers, brain cancer has—

(1) the highest per-patient initial cost of care, with an annualized mean net cost of care approaching $150,000; and

(2) the highest annualized mean net costs for last-year-of-life care, with a cost of between $135,000 and $210,000 per patient, depending on the age and gender of a patient;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 4 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat glioblastoma since the 1920s and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas, as a promising first step since the first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, the National Cancer Institute established the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network (referred to in this preamble as ''GTN'') in 2020, as part of a national infrastructure to enhance and support the discovery and development of glioblastoma therapies, with an initial $6,000,000 available for multi-institutional GTN teams to drive therapeutic agents through pre-clinical studies and early-phase clinical trials necessary to rapidly evaluate potential treatments to advance toward cures and improved quality of life; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research and treatment advances for glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 21, 2021, as ''Glioblastoma Awareness Day'';

(2) encourages increased public awareness of glioblastoma;

(3) honors the individuals who have lost their lives to glioblastoma, a devastating disease, or are currently living with it;

(4) supports efforts to develop better treatments for glioblastoma that will improve the long-term prognosis and quality of life of individuals diagnosed with the disease;

(5) expresses its support for the individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals;

(6) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research, which is a promising means of advancing the understanding and treatment of glioblastoma; and

(7) encourages continued investments in glioblastoma research and treatments, including through the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network and other existing brain tumor research resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION 211—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN,

Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 211

Whereas the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, has been designated as ''Public Service Recognition Week'' to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of public servants have worked and continue to work to help the United States overcome the challenges from the COVID–19 pandemic, allowing essential services to continue and playing a critical role in protecting public health and safety;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States continues to reaffirm the critical importance of public service employees in responding to public health and economic challenges;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) fight disease, including COVID–19, and promote better health;

(2) promote economic stability and growth;

(3) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(4) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

(5) fight crime and fires;

(6) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(7) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(8) protect the environment and parks in the United States;

(9) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(10) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(11) help the people of the United States respond to and recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks;

(12) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(13) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to improve our knowledge on how the world changes;

(14) improve and secure transportation systems; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and other threats to the security of the United States, and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, marks the 37th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, as ''Public Service Recognition Week'';

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year, especially during the ongoing COVID–19 crisis;

(3) salutes government employees and members of the uniformed services for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives and health in service to their communities, States, Tribes, and the United States;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) supports efforts to promote an efficient and effective public service that serves the people of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 15 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS;

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to met during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

The Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND BORDER SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

MAY 12, 2021

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS.

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, in compliance with Section 105 of Public Law 88–454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

HONORING LAS DAMAS DE BLANCO, A WOMEN-LED NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA AND CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. Res. 81.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81) honoring Las Damas de Blanco, a women-led nonviolent movement in support of freedom and human rights in Cuba, and calling for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 81) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 1, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECOGNIZING THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE PROSPEROUS, SECURE, AND DEMOCRATIC WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 28, S. Res. 120.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) recognizing the Ninth Summit of the Americas and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a more prosperous, secure, and democratic Western Hemisphere.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble as follows:

Whereas the United States has pursued multiple collaborative initiatives to advance the region's enduring and shared interest in a more secure, prosperous, and democratic Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States will host the Ninth Summit of the Americas for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Summit in Miami, Florida in 1994;

Whereas, since 1994, the Summit of the Americas is a valuable forum for democratically elected heads of state and governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values, and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level to address the novel and existing challenges facing the Americas;

Whereas the First and Second Summits of the Americas advanced commitments to lower trade barriers, improve transparency and market access, and facilitate economic integration, and, following those Summits, the United States has signed free trade agreements with 12 of the 35 countries in the region;

Whereas, since 2018, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Uruguay have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the United States under the America Crece Program to leverage private investment in energy and infrastructure projects and advance economic prosperity, security, and good governance;

Whereas, during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the United States announced additional humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country as a result of the political, economic, and security crises created by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, including support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response to assist Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and Brazil;

Whereas Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and their involvement in money laundering and the trafficking of people, narcotics, and weapons in the region pose complex transnational threats to United States public health and national security, as well as the stability of the Americas, by undermining citizen security, basic human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and economic development;

Whereas the United States has sought to improve regional security through friendly and sustained relationships that build interoperability, readiness, and capability with regional security partners, including through programs such as Plan Colombia, the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI);

Whereas the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as ''COVID–19'') has had devastating health and socioeconomic consequences for the states and peoples of the Americas that have—

(1) overwhelmed health systems;

(2) led to the worsening of economic conditions and contraction of gross domestic product per capita;

(3) led to an increase in unemployment, especially for individuals working in small- and medium-size businesses and large informal sectors across the region, and a rise in the number of people living in poverty; and

(4) created conditions that have strengthened the illicit activities of criminal organizations;

Whereas the United States Government remains deeply concerned about the negative, often predatory effects of China's growing political, economic, military, and technological influence throughout the region, including significant illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean and opaque infrastructure investments that impose unsustainable financial burdens on recipient countries, enable corruption, and undermine good governance;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about the Government of the Russian Federation's employment of a wide array of diplomatic, military, intelligence, cyber, misinformation, and commercial tools to undermine democratic systems in the region, including through its deepening political, economic, and security support for the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about efforts by the Government of Iran to expand its political, economic, and security presence in the region, including through its deepening ties with the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the regimes of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, have systematically eroded democratic institutions, commit widespread human rights violations, draw lessons from one another to sharpen state-sponsored repression and internal control mechanisms, and receive the support of malign state and non-state actors, which pose a challenge to United States national security and national interests;

Whereas entrenched corruption, linkages between transnational criminal organizations and political actors, and the harassment and murder of journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean weaken citizens' confidence in democracy and negatively affect United States national interests; and

Whereas weak rule of law, elevated levels of criminal violence, and systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras fuel irregular migration that affects regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the occasion of the United States hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote economic prosperity, security, and democratic governance throughout the Americas; and

(3) calls on the President to lead a strong and coordinated diplomatic effort during the Summit process to ensure the Ninth Summit of the Americas—

(A) strengthens democratic governance by building on the 2018 Lima Commitment to—

(i) reduce bureaucracy;

(ii) strengthen the independence of judiciaries;

(iii) increase transparency through the use of new technologies;

(iv) encourage private sector participation in the formulation of public anti-corruption policies;

(v) protect whistleblowers, journalists, and law enforcement officials;

(vi) work towards preventing regional financial systems from being used to transfer and conceal illicit funds; and

(vii) identify resources to strengthen hemispheric anticorruption mechanisms;

(B) strengthens post-COVID–19 pandemic economic recovery efforts by outlining specific commitments to deepen trade and investment integration throughout the Americas and pursuing effective nearshoring and reshoring initiatives;

(C) builds upon United States efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of partner countries to strengthen the rule of law, civilian security, respect of human rights, and government transparency;

(D) builds upon United States efforts to enhance regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle malign state and non-state influences, including transnational organized criminal networks, and terrorist organizations;

(E) reinforces the capacity of member states to—

(i) implement actions and initiatives in support of peaceful and democratic efforts of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who desire to hold free and fair elections and restore democratic order and the rule of law in their respective countries; and

(ii) support the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as they strive to address weak democratic governance and the elevated levels of corruption, violence, and criminality that drive irregular migration; and

(F) explores a comprehensive approach to forced displacement and migration challenges in the Western Hemisphere, takes stock of humanitarian crises and flashpoints in the region, and mobilizes member state commitments to advocate for and support multilateral humanitarian and development responses.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 120

Whereas the United States has pursued multiple collaborative initiatives to advance the region's enduring and shared interest in a more secure, prosperous, and democratic Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States will host the Ninth Summit of the Americas for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Summit in Miami, Florida in 1994;

Whereas, since 1994, the Summit of the Americas is a valuable forum for democratically elected heads of state and governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values, and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level to address the novel and existing challenges facing the Americas;

Whereas the First and Second Summits of the Americas advanced commitments to lower trade barriers, improve transparency and market access, and facilitate economic integration, and, following those Summits, the United States has signed free trade agreements with 12 of the 35 countries in the region;

Whereas, since 2018, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Uruguay have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the United States under the America Crece Program to leverage private investment in energy and infrastructure projects and advance economic prosperity, security, and good governance;

Whereas, during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the United States announced additional humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country as a result of the political, economic, and security crises created by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, including support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response to assist Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and Brazil;

Whereas Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and their involvement in money laundering and the trafficking of people, narcotics, and weapons in the region pose complex transnational threats to United States public health and national security, as well as the stability of the Americas, by undermining citizen security, basic human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and economic development;

Whereas the United States has sought to improve regional security through friendly and sustained relationships that build interoperability, readiness, and capability with regional security partners, including through programs such as Plan Colombia, the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI);

Whereas the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as ''COVID–19'') has had devastating health and socioeconomic consequences for the states and peoples of the Americas that have—

(1) overwhelmed health systems;

(2) led to the worsening of economic conditions and contraction of gross domestic product per capita;

(3) led to an increase in unemployment, especially for individuals working in small- and medium-size businesses and large informal sectors across the region, and a rise in the number of people living in poverty; and

(4) created conditions that have strengthened the illicit activities of criminal organizations;

Whereas the United States Government remains deeply concerned about the negative, often predatory effects of China's growing political, economic, military, and technological influence throughout the region, including significant illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean and opaque infrastructure investments that impose unsustainable financial burdens on recipient countries, enable corruption, and undermine good governance;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about the Government of the Russian Federation's employment of a wide array of diplomatic, military, intelligence, cyber, misinformation, and commercial tools to undermine democratic systems in the region, including through its deepening political, economic, and security support for the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about efforts by the Government of Iran to expand its political, economic, and security presence in the region, including through its deepening ties with the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the regimes of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, have systematically eroded democratic institutions, commit widespread human rights violations, draw lessons from one another to sharpen state-sponsored repression and internal control mechanisms, and receive the support of malign state and non-state actors, which pose a challenge to United States national security and national interests;

Whereas entrenched corruption, linkages between transnational criminal organizations and political actors, and the harassment and murder of journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean weaken citizens' confidence in democracy and negatively affect United States national interests; and

Whereas weak rule of law, elevated levels of criminal violence, and systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras fuel irregular migration that affects regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the occasion of the United States hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote economic prosperity, security, and democratic governance throughout the Americas; and

(3) calls on the President to lead a strong and coordinated diplomatic effort during the Summit process to ensure the Ninth Summit of the Americas—

(A) strengthens democratic governance by building on the 2018 Lima Commitment to—

(i) reduce bureaucracy;

(ii) strengthen the independence of judiciaries;

(iii) increase transparency through the use of new technologies;

(iv) encourage private sector participation in the formulation of public anti-corruption policies;

(v) protect whistleblowers, journalists, and law enforcement officials;

(vi) work towards preventing regional financial systems from being used to transfer and conceal illicit funds; and

(vii) identify resources to strengthen hemispheric anticorruption mechanisms;

(B) strengthens post-COVID–19 pandemic economic recovery efforts by outlining specific commitments to deepen trade and investment integration throughout the Americas and pursuing effective nearshoring and reshoring initiatives;

(C) builds upon United States efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of partner countries to strengthen the rule of law, civilian security, respect of human rights, and government transparency;

(D) builds upon United States efforts to enhance regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle malign state and non-state influences, including transnational organized criminal networks, and terrorist organizations;

(E) reinforces the capacity of member states to—

(i) implement actions and initiatives in support of peaceful and democratic efforts of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who desire to hold free and fair elections and restore democratic order and the rule of law in their respective countries; and

(ii) support the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as they strive to address weak democratic governance and the elevated levels of corruption, violence, and criminality that drive irregular migration; and

(F) explores a comprehensive approach to forced displacement and migration challenges in the Western Hemisphere, takes stock of humanitarian crises and flashpoints in the region, and mobilizes member state commitments to advocate for and support multilateral humanitarian and development responses.

COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 32, S. Res. 114.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 114) commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 114) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 15, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOULAS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 209, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the resolution pass?

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.'')

GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) designating July 21, 2021, as ''Glioblastoma Awareness Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 211, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, May 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the McReynolds nomination, postcloture; that all time on the McReynolds nomination expire at 12 noon; and following the confirmation vote, the Senate recess until 1:45 p.m.; further, that the cloture motion on the Graves nomination be withdrawn, and at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Graves nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF AMBER FAYE McREYNOLDS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the floor tonight to spend just a few minutes to speak about Amber McReynolds, President Biden's nominee to serve on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

Everyone in America relies on the Postal Service, but hardly anyone knows about the Board of Governors and how much it matters to all of us. The Board sets the policies for the Postal Service. It directs its budget and reviews its practices. It also selects the Postmaster General.

But the Board's most important job is to represent the public interest, not special interests, and to help manage

the Postal Service in a way that is competent, professional, and completely nonpartisan. That matters for a lot of reasons, but one of the most important is the critical and growing role that the post office plays in our democracy.

Over the past year, States all across the country followed our example in Colorado by giving people the freedom to vote by mail. As we have learned in my State, the case for voting by mail is overwhelming. It is more convenient. It is more accessible. It costs a lot less to administer and, during a pandemic, it is a lot safer than voting in person. But it only works if people have confidence that the post office can deliver their ballots in a way that is reliable, secure, and completely free of politics.

That is why I can't think of anyone better to serve on the Board of Governors than Amber McReynolds, who is one of the most respected election officials not just in Colorado but all across the country.

Ms. McReynolds spent 13 years serving in Denver's Elections Division, including for 7 years as the city's director of elections. Under her leadership, Denver became a national model for making it easier for people to vote while increasing election security.

She oversaw Denver's transition to a fully vote-by-mail system, where every active voter can receive and return their ballot by mail or by taking it to a drop box in their community. Last November, we saw images on television of people lining up in this country for hours and hours on election day to cast their ballots.

In Colorado, I left my ballot in a secure drop box. There is no line. There is no wait. The whole process took 30 seconds, if that. It is like that all across Colorado. It is like that all across my State because we have made it incredibly easy and secure for Coloradoans to cast their ballots.

Ms. McReynolds had a lot to do with that by introducing one popular reform after another. She helped to make Denver the first city in America to adopt a ballot tracking system, which notifies voters when their ballot is mailed, when it is delivered and counted so they can have transparency about the process every step of the way.

I never have to wonder whether my ballot is in the mail or not or whether I sent it back or not because I get an email from the clerk telling me. You even get an email that tells you when your ballot has been counted. She had a lot to do with that. And after Denver put that system in place, cities across the country followed our example.

Ms. McReynolds also led efforts to launch a new voting system that used touchscreen tablets and other technologies from Dominion, a fantastic Colorado company, that was much easier for voters to use and was just one-tenth the cost of typical voting machines.

Under her leadership, Denver was also one of the earliest counties in Colorado to pioneer something called a risk-limiting audit, where election officials match a random sample of ballots against the official results to catch any discrepancies. It was a cost-effective way to reinforce the public's trust in local elections, and it set the stage for Colorado to become the first State in America to introduce risk-limiting audits statewide.

The same thing happened with vote-by-mail. Ms. McReynolds' success in Denver helped pave the way for Colorado's transition to a fully vote-by-mail system in 2013—2013. That was 8 years ago. That is two Presidential elections ago that we went to vote-by-mail.

And just like in Denver, when we did it in the State, none of those changes were partisan. We actually transitioned to vote-by-mail under a Republican secretary of state. In fact, there was a view at the time that moving to vote-by-mail would help Republicans because it made it a lot easier for Coloradoans in rural areas to vote.

In reality, it has made it easier for everybody to vote—Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters, urban voters, suburban voters, busy voters, working people, students, everybody. And it is why we adopted vote-by-mail statewide, and turnout went up in every demographic group, seniors included. Costs went down, and people across the State cheered the new system.

Today, I guarantee you, if a politician in Colorado tried to take away vote-by-mail, people would run them out of town. In my State, we are proud of the election model that we built in a collaborative, nonpartisan way, and Ms. McReynolds deserves a lot of credit for that.

She is the right kind of leader who isn't satisfied with the status quo. She is constantly asking how to make things better, how to make things more efficient, and how to make complex systems simpler and more accessible and useful to people. That is exactly the kind of experience we need at the Postal Service, especially at a time when more Americans are voting by mail than ever before.

The Postal Service needs someone with her expertise, her leadership, and her impatience, frankly, with the status quo, and that is why I urge my colleagues from both parties to come together and confirm this outstanding nominee from my home State of Colorado.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. 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 8:06 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CHRIS MAGNUS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE KEVIN K. MCALEENAN, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

GUSTAVO A. GELPI, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE JUAN R. DEL VALLE TORRUELLA, DECEASED .

ANGEL KELLEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE DOUGLAS P. WOODLOCK, RETIRED.

LAUREN J. KING, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE ROBERT S. LASNIK, RETIRED.

EUNICE C. LEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE ROBERT A. KATZMANN, RETIRED.

VERONICA S. ROSSMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT, VICE CARLOS F. LUCERO, RETIRED.

KAREN MCGLASHAN WILLIAMS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JEROME B. SIMANDLE, RETIRED.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by yea-nay vote Vote and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

CHIQUITA BROOKS–LASURE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 12, 2021:

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021.

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2028.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association headquartered in Rosemont, Ill., and its efforts to designate the week of June 6–12, 2021, as National Roofing Week.

The roof is one of the most important components of any home or business. It is the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow or wind, and yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week honors the thousands of roofing-related businesses and workers across the country, as well as the industry's commitment to public service. National Roofing Week is a valuable reminder of the significance quality roofing has on every home and business in the U.S.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. NRCA has nearly 4,000 roofing company members who represent the entire roofing supply chain. Using its vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA is responsible for the installation of new construction and replacement roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. Most of its members are small, privately held businesses that provide family-sustaining jobs for thousands of hardworking individuals who are the backbone of our economy.

Professional roofing contractors provide vital services to their communities, on and off the clock. NRCA members will recognize National Roofing Week June 6–12 by supporting numerous charitable projects and employee training programs throughout the nation. I commend NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to cast my vote on May 11, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 134.

HONORING KITTY WILLIAMS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Kitty Williams, a Holocaust survivor and tireless advocate, as our Iowan of the Week. Mrs. Williams is a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa. She is a public speaker who travels to schools with the goal of educating the youth of America about her experiences as a survivor and to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust and the horrors of hate, bigotry, and discrimination are never forgotten. She is described as extremely resilient and tough as nails and I couldn't be more proud of the work she has done to educate youth and people from all walks of life.

Through Kitty's imprisonment at Auschwitz and later in Allendorf, she endured unspeakable atrocities. While she suffered greatly, she survived and worked to make a life for herself. She ultimately made her way to the United States. In her first marriage she experienced heartbreak and the loss of her son. She had been pressured to hide her Jewish heritage and her past but struggled to deny her heritage and the horror she experienced. Eventually, she became a working single mother and trained bank tellers. She remarried and found a loving husband who embraced her past.

Through a challenging life, Kitty has persevered and survived. She has taken these experiences and—despite great heartache and trials—has touched the lives of countless individuals and made a lasting impact on the lives of those she interacts with. While the pandemic had brought a halt to her ability to do presentations, she has since been able to secure a vaccine and fully intends to continue her work at the age of 96 educating and giving speeches to school children.

During Women's History Month it is crucial to remember the hard-fought rights and freedoms gained by women like Kitty. Her bravery and determination highlight the efforts taken by those who came before us. While stories like Kitty's aren't often told or shared, her grit and force of will show how women can and must persist.

We can never forget our past and the atrocities that have been committed as there are still too many instances of bigotry and hate occurring today. It is through stories like Kitty's that we can bridge the experiences of those in the past and connect to the battles still to come.

Kitty's efforts to educate others and be an advocate is inspiring and I hope she can soon return to schools to remind the next generation to stay vigilant in the face of adversity and to be allies to those who face discrimination. I am proud to represent constituents like Kitty Williams, who aren't afraid to stand up for themselves and ensure the next generation doesn't forget the past. In this third week of Women's History Month, I couldn't be happier to name Ms. Kitty Williams our Iowan of the Week.

EXPLANATION OF ''NO'' VOTE ON H.R. 1629

HON. DAVID B. McKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I voted No on H.R. 1629. Although I support the bill, I do not support the tactics by which it was brought to the floor. H.R. 1629 was once a bipartisan bill but now, like so many other good bills, it will fail due to the pettiness of partisanship.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ''BILL'' EBEL, CITY MANAGER OF OVERLAND PARK

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William ''Bill'' Ebel, City Manager of Overland Park for his exemplary professional accomplishments. Mr. Ebel has been recognized by the American Public Works Association's as one of their ''Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year''.

Mr. Ebel has lived a life committed to public service. Before serving as city manager of Overland Park, Kansas, Mr. Ebel graduated from West Point and served for 21 years in the United States Army. He continued pursuing an interest in public service through his graduate studies in public administration and civil engineering.

In over a decade of public service as city manager, Mr. Ebel has prioritized solutions and innovation. He championed the Indian Creek Flood Control Project which solved flooding issues, created development opportunities, and demonstrated his commitment to building partnerships between the public and private sectors. This commitment to public-private partnerships has allowed Mr. Ebel to explore innovative financing solutions to fund development and infrastructure improvements. This is just a small glimpse into a lifetime of work that has led to this professional achievement.

One of the most rewarding parts of representing the Kansas Third District is hearing about the exemplary service and accomplishments of my fellow Kansans. Mr. Ebel is certainly no exception and I commend him for his dedication to our state and to our country.

GLASGOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL PROGRAM ENTERS MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the players, coaches, and student managers of the Glasgow High School Boys Basketball Program who were recently enshrined in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

This small Howard County community in Missouri's 4th Congressional District has produced one of the most successful basketball programs in state history . . . with the Yellowjackets advancing to 16 Final Fours and earning Class 1 State championships in 1974, 1978, and again in 1980. In addition, this roundball powerhouse has won 37 district titles and 28 conference championships.

The 1986 movie ''Hoosiers'' told the story of a basketball team from a small Indiana town as it earned glory against all odds. It could easily be the story of the Glasgow High School basketball team—a small town team with a tremendous record of success. Congratulations to Glasgow High School's Boys Basketball Program on entering the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

IN MEMORY OF MICHELLE SANFORD

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Mrs. Michelle Sanford, a resident of Pewaukee, Wisconsin who passed away at the age of 52 on April 19, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Michelle will be remembered for her spirited and uplifting energy that she brought into every corner of her life. To her colleagues at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, where she worked for more than 20 years, Michelle's infectious laughter and smile will be missed. As will her energy that she brought to every project no matter how big or small, or close or far. Michelle started her career as a secretary at AEM, and quickly grew to become an integral leader of the AEM exhibitions and operations team. She oversaw operations for AEM's many trade shows, and she traveled the globe to support international exhibitions in China, India, and Russia, among other places.

Michelle enjoyed her time with family and giving back to her community. She volunteered at many organizations but notably volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin. Michelle served on their board and as a direct volunteer.

On behalf of Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District, it is my privilege to celebrate the life and legacy of Michelle Sanford for her outstanding contributions to our community. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Michelle's family, including her loving husband Donald, her mother Claire, and her many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends she is survived by.

RECOGNIZING THE DIGNITY HEALTH DOMINICAN HOSPITAL AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2021 AL SMITH FRIEND OF AGRICULTURE AWARD

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital as the recipient of the 2021 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Award. As a strong supporter of local agriculture, the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital has been instrumental in the COVID–19 vaccination efforts for our local farmworkers.

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital's values include compassion, inclusion, integrity, excellence, and collaboration. By leading the charge in providing COYID–19 vaccines to farmworkers in Santa Cruz County, they have demonstrated the impact and importance of their mission in our community.

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital will celebrate their 80th Anniversary later this year. It has always been the Hospital's steadfast mission to serve all who come through its doors, regardless of ability to pay. When its founders, the Adrian Dominican Sisters, arrived in Santa Cruz in 1941, they traveled from Michigan to reopen a failed hospital on West Cliff Drive. Even though only one of them was an active healthcare worker, they felt driven to provide care for our community. In 1988, the hospital joined what was then known as Catholic Healthcare West. Their founding tenets of community outreach and helping those in need have remained the driving values for the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital as it moved into the 21st century.

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital has evolved to offer the greater surrounding community the kind of cutting-edge technology typically reserved for large metropolitan areas, earning them the recognition they deserve. The 2021 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Award was awarded to the Hospital for their creation of the first large-scale vaccination clinic in California that is focused on farmworkers. Additionally, they worked with local partners, such as the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, to develop a formula to ensure equity in vaccine distribution to local farmworkers, Their ongoing efforts during vaccine distribution made Santa Cruz County a model for prioritizing farmworkers for counties throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the compassion, excellence, and community support exemplified by the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital, and I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing their service. I extend my personal appreciation to the healthcare workers, administrators, and staff of the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 TRUMAN SCHOLARS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2021 Truman Scholars. These 62 individuals were chosen from a record applicant pool of 845. These students were nominated based on their records of leadership, public service, and academic achievement.

They are: Sagal Ahmed, Joris Alawoe, Abigail Alvarez, Oseremhen Arheghan, Sarah Beisner, Mercedes Blancaflor, Tarik Brown, Tatyana Brown, Alessandra Brussel Faria, Sophie Cardin, Yu Jing Chen, Ronnie Clevenstine, Jarrell Daniels, Dominique DiSpirito, David Edgerton III, Cosimo Fabrizio, Max German, Carlee Goldberg, Catherine Hadley, Nicholas Hakes, Halima Hamud, Noah Harris, Austin Hickle, Emma Hotz, Chanise Jackson, Cassandra James, Andre Jimenez, Gurtaran Johal, Dhwani Kharel, Jessica Lambert, Chase Lee, Mia LeJeune, Abel Liu, Destiny Magnett, Thor Manson, Gregory Marchal, Kehani Mendiola, Gregory Miller, Rachel Miner, Jenna Mu, Daud Mumin, Araoluwa Omotowa, Iesha-LaShay Phillips, Sage Phillips, Lexi Raikes, Makaila Ranges, Tayna Rivera Rodríguez, Abigail Roston, Grace Roy, Eli Sabin, Naomi See, Sakshi Sehgal, Hillary Shah, Olivia Shipp, Abigail Smith, Klarke Stricklen, Coleman Warren, Claire Wayner, Sena Wazer, Max Williamson, Samuel Zahn, and Felita Zhang.

The Truman Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 to honor President Harry S. Truman's legacy of extraordinary public service. The Truman Scholarship serves as a living monument to that legacy. As a former Truman scholar myself, I look forward to seeing how this class continues that legacy.

IN HONOR OF THE YORK THEATRE COMPANY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the York Theatre Company as it works to fully reopen. The York Theatre Company was founded by Janet Hayes Walker in 1969. Before the COVID–19 pandemic, the York Theatre produced nearly 200 musical theater performances each year, reaching over 37,000 patrons. During the coronavirus shutdown, the Theatre streamed an online series, so that its patrons could continue to experience and enjoy musical theater. Unfortunately, on top of an already difficult year for New York City theaters, the York Theatre Company's physical home was devastated by a flood caused by a municipal water main break in January.

The unique mission of the York Theatre Company is two-fold as it aspires to produce new musical works, as well as rediscover musicals of the past. The York Theatre hosts several programs and activities that encourage musical theatre students to engage in Off-

Broadway productions, greatly impacting the Off-Broadway scene. With programs such as the Mainstage Series, Musicals in Mufti Series, Developmental Reading Series, internship offerings, and a volunteer program, the York Theatre has made its mark on New York City's vibrant theatre community.

Since 2015, the York Theatre Company has offered its Musical Theatre Training Program that brings together working professionals and dedicated theatre students. This program offers training in singing, acting, and movements, as well as master classes with New York's top theater artists. The York Theatre's intensive sessions are offered to students from middle school to college. Many of these intensives offer students an opportunity to perform on the York Theatre's Off-Broadway stage at the conclusion of the program.

In the fall of 2014, the York Theatre celebrated its 100th Musical in Mufti with the production of Stephen Sondheim's Saturday Night. The York Theatre's Musical in Mufti ensures that lesser-known musicals of the past are performed and brought into new light for the enjoyment of modern audiences.

All New York City theaters have faced unprecedented challenges over the past year due to the COVID–19 pandemic and the important public health restrictions put in place, but the York Theatre also had to face the unexpected and heartbreaking flooding of their physical home. Faced with these ''slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,'' the York Theatre has shown its adaptability. It has produced and streamed an incredibly popular online series. New York—its people and its institutions—are resilient, and I am confident that the York Theatre will soon be able to reopen its doors once again and introduce new audiences to the joys of musical theater.

The York Theatre Company has long been an incredible company that makes musical theatre accessible to New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds, and I look forward to its full reopening. Off-Broadway theatre has played a pivotal role in making New York City the theater capitol of the world. The York Theatre Company has had a substantial impact on this great city's history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in recognition of the York Theatre Company, a principal in shaping New York City's theatre culture, as they celebrate the inauguration of their new theatre seats.

IN HONOR OF MESA POLICE SERGEANT BRANDON MENDOZA

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Mesa Police Sgt. Brandon Mendoza who was tragically killed by an illegal alien 7 years ago.

In the early morning hours of May 12, 2014, Sgt. Mendoza was driving home from his shift when he encountered an illegal alien driving under the influence of alcohol and meth. The illegal alien drove at high speeds in the wrong direction for 35 miles on four freeways in the Phoenix metro area. Despite law enforcement efforts to catch up to and stop the illegal alien, he ultimately collided head-on with Sgt. Mendoza, killing them both.

Sgt. Mendoza's death was untimely and preventable. But it requires Democrats to get serious about enforcement of our immigration laws and putting American families first.

Sgt. Mendoza's illegal alien killer had previously pled guilty to criminal conspiracy charges in Colorado, but, despite his illegal presence, he was not removed from the United States. Instead, he roamed free in our communities, ultimately choosing to drive without a license and while severely intoxicated.

Today, there are more than 3 million illegal aliens with final orders of removal, many of whom are suspected or convicted criminals, living in American communities. President Biden should prioritize removal of these individuals before they can do any additional harm.

I am enraged by President Biden's nonchalant attitude towards illegal immigration into the United States. In April, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended a near record number of aliens attempting to illegally enter the United States, more than 173,000. President Biden's refusal to acknowledge the crisis at the border is a bold attempt to mislead the American public.

Last week, I traveled to the southwest border with 10 fellow members of Congress to again see firsthand the damage of President Biden's new border policies. Sgt. Mendoza's mother, Mary Ann, joined us for a portion of the tour. Since her son's death, Mary Ann has been a fierce advocate for border security, pleading with the Obama and Biden Administrations to protect other American families from experiencing the same pain and suffering.

During our visit, Mary Ann expressed concern that government leaders have forgotten families like hers and instead placed the interests of illegal aliens ahead of the interests of our nation. Families like Sgt. Mendoza's deserve to have their stories remembered. They deserve a government willing to protect them from the hands of illegal aliens.

I will continue to fight for border security and enforcement of our immigration laws. Sgt. Mendoza and other victims of crime by illegal aliens deserve no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, I was unavoidably delayed in returning to Washington, D.C., due to airline and transportation issues.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 134.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, a murderous, heinous car bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed dozens of girls. The intentional targeting of girls should be inconceivable but is the deliberate aim of fanatical totalitarians who are obsessed with murdering American families. Sadly, the reality of the Global War on Terrorism is that we must defeat terrorists overseas or they will return to attack American families.

I appreciate the insight of Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and former Ambassador Ryan Crocker in their May 4, 2021, op-ed in The New York Times:

Last month, President Biden announced a complete withdrawal of all United States troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the day terrorists killed almost 3,000 people.

Many in the defense and intelligence communities oppose the move. A complete withdrawal based on an arbitrary deadline, rather than conditions on the ground, threatens our long-term national security. After all, it was the decision to rapidly pull out of Iraq, creating a power vacuum that allowed the Islamic State to grow, that ultimately forced our return to Iraq, prolonging the war.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself.

It's foolish to think the Taliban will engage in good faith with the Afghan government or abide by the commitments made to the previous administration after we've departed. In response to the withdrawal announcement, the Taliban tellingly announced they would not participate in a peace conference planned to start late last month in Turkey and refused to commit to a date in the future, effectively ending the already fragile peace process. The Taliban clearly does not want peace.

In fact, after America withdraws, it's very likely the Taliban will try to take control of the country, once again giving our enemies a place from which to conduct external attacks against us and our allies. Without a military presence in country, the United States will be giving the green light to the Taliban to roam and conquer.

As William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee in April, there is ''significant risk'' associated with withdrawal. ''The U.S. government's ability to collect and act on threats will diminish,'' he said. ''That's simply a fact.''

The decision, however, has been made. But before the pullout is complete, the Biden administration must mitigate its dangers. As our sources on the ground will soon go dark, the gaps in our intelligence collection and counterterrorism networks must be remedied so we retain the ability to identify and eliminate threats before they reach our shores. To do so, we must urgently set up agreements with neighboring countries to provide us with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Mr. Biden promised that America's humanitarian and development assistance to the country would continue. To enable our personnel and the countless nongovernmental organizations we work with to provide that help, we must keep them safe. If the country slides back into civil war or once again falls under Taliban rule, maintaining an embassy presence and distributing assistance will become close to impossible. The administration must develop a clear strategy for protecting our embassy, diplomatic staff and aid workers.

The president must also acknowledge that the withdrawal will have dire consequences for Afghan women and girls—and work hard to prevent it. For the past 20 years, we have encouraged Afghan women to step forward, as students, teachers and professionals. Encouraged by our presence, they did just that. But without our presence in the country, it will be difficult to safeguard the gains women have made in Afghan society and to ensure women 's rights are protected.

Lastly, we have obligations to the thousands of Afghans who supported us, mainly as interpreters for our military. They were promised special immigrant visas to get them out of harm's way, but many have yet to materialize. The Taliban view them as traitors: Since 2014, there have been at least 300 targeted killings of people who worked with us. Many more will die if the administration doesn't take immediate steps to speed up the process to get them out safely.

These are vital issues Mr. Biden and his team must address—before we pull out on Sept. 11.

Yet so far they have offered no clarity on what counterterrorism agreements, if any, have been reached with other countries. They have provided only minimal assurances for how they will secure the safety of our embassy and personnel. They appear to have no plans for protecting Afghan women. And they have announced no strategy to address the visa backlog that could endanger thousands of our Afghan partners' lives.

When America pulls out of a conflict zone at the wrong time, it creates a vacuum in which the terrorist threat grows again. That, in turn, eventually requires a re-entry of forces to keep Americans safe. So begins yet another forever war.

The ill-advised decision to pull out of Afghanistan may do just that. But by ensuring proper guardrails are in place, we have a chance to limit the fallout.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 17

6 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the challenges and opportunities for the United States in the Horn of Africa.
SVC–217

MAY 18

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
To hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve.
SH–216

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.
WEBEX

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security
To hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on internet privacy and manipulative marketing.
SR–253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure.
WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine paid leave for working families, focusing on examining access, options, and impacts.
SD–106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis.
SD–342/VTC

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
To hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base.
SR–222

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).
SH–216

3 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion
To hold hearings to examine reviving international travel and tourism to create and restore jobs.
SR–253

MAY 19

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary (Western Hemisphere Affairs), and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.
SD–106

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
SD–138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine rethinking disaster recovery and resiliency, focusing on protecting communities and accelerating assistance.
SD–192

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine biodiversity loss, focusing on drivers, impacts, and potential solutions.
SD–G50

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine COVID–19 health care flexibilities, focusing on perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned.
WEBEX

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service, focusing on narrowing the tax gap and improving taxpayer services.
SD–138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine COVID–19, focusing on evaluating the medical supply chain and pandemic response gaps.
SD–342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine antitrust applied, focusing on hospital consolidation concerns and solutions.
SD–226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine realizing the vision of Parren Mitchell, focusing on untapping the potential of minority and women contracting.
SR–301

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine military infrastructure and climate resilience.
SD–192

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD–G50

4:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic defense activities and programs in review of the

Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and future years defense program.

SR–232A

MAY 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of State.

SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2463–S2497

Measures Introduced: Twenty-nine bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1574–1602, and S. Res. 207–211. **Pages S2485–87**

Measures Passed:

Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act: Senate passed S. 1585, to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards. **Pages S2469–70**

Honoring Las Damas de Blanco: Senate agreed to S. Res. 81, honoring Las Damas de Blanco, a women-led nonviolent movement in support of freedom and human rights in Cuba, and calling for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba. **Page S2494**

Recognizing the Ninth Summit of the Americas: Senate agreed to S. Res. 120, recognizing the Ninth Summit of the Americas and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a more prosperous, secure, and democratic Western Hemisphere. **Pages S2494–96**

United States African Development Foundation 40th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 114, commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development. **Page S2496**

Doula Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 209, recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes. **Page S2496**

Glioblastoma Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 210, designating July 21, 2021, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day". **Page S2496**

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 211, expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States. **Page S2496**

Motion to Discharge Brooks-LaSure Nomination: By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 184), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, from the Committee on Finance. Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress. **Pages S2465–69**

McReynolds Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026. **Pages S2496–97**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 60 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 189), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2480–81**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, May 13, 2021; that all time on the nomination expire at 12 noon; and that following the vote on confirmation of the nomination, Senate recess until 1:45 p.m.; provided further that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, be withdrawn, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m. **Page S2496**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 69 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 186), Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021. **Pages S2470–76**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 185), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2469**

By 66 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 188), Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a

Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. **Pages 2476–80**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 187), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2476**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Chris Magnus, of Arizona, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

Gustavo A. Gelpi, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Angel Kelley, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Lauren J. King, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Karen McGlashan Williams, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Page S2497**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which was sent to the Senate on February 22, 2021, from the Senate Committee on Finance. **Pages S2465–69**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2482–85**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2485**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S2481**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2487–88**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2488–93**

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2493–94**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—189) **Pages S2469 and S2476–81**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:06 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2497.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN AMERICA

Committee on Appropriations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine domestic violent extremism in America, after receiving testimony from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Department of Justice; and Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine military and civilian personnel programs in the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Lernes Herbert, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Terry Adirim, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Elizabeth P. Van Winkle, Executive Director, Office of Force Resiliency, Lieutenant General Gary M. Brito, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1, Vice Admiral John B. Nowell Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, N–1 and Chief of Naval Personnel, Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Lieutenant General David A. Ottingnon, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Patricia Mulcahy, Chief Human Capital Officer, United States Space Force, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Defense budget posture for nuclear forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Johnny Wolfe, Director, Navy Strategic Systems Program, General Timothy Ray, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Andrew Walter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Matters, and Leonor Tomero, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, all of the Department of Defense.

THE PENTAGON

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine waste, fraud, cost overruns, and auditing at the Pentagon, after receiving testimony from Lawrence J. Korb, Center for American

Progress, William D. Hartung, Center for International Policy, Mandy Smithberger, Project on Government Oversight, Roger Zakheim, Ronald Reagan Institute, and Tom Spoehr, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 82, to require a joint task force on air travel during and after the COVID–19 Public Health Emergency;

S. 116, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, with an amendment;

S. 140, to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 316, to establish a temperature checks pilot program for air transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 497, to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants;

S. 516, to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1037, to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 1289, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program;

The nominations of Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, and Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, and Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator, and Michal Ilana Freedhoff, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, who was introduced by Senator Markey, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PRESIDENT'S TRADE POLICY AGENDA

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's 2021 trade policy agenda, after receiving testimony from Katherine C. Tai, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President.

COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care concluded a hearing to examine the COVID–19 pandemic and beyond, focusing on improving mental health and addiction services in our communities, after receiving testimony from Victor Armstrong, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh; Stephanie Woodard, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Carson City; Lenette Kosovich, Rimrock Foundation, Billings, Montana; and Malkia Newman, CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma Program, Waterford, Michigan.

COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID–19 pandemic and the United States international response, after receiving testimony from Gayle E. Smith, Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security, Department of State; and Jeremy M. Konyndyk, Executive Director of COVID–19 Task Force, Office of the Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1351, to strengthen the security and integrity of the United States scientific and research enterprise;

S. 1316, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make a declaration of a significant incident, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1097, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce;

S. 1353, to promote United States values and fulfill agency missions through the use of innovative

applied artificial intelligence technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 73, to ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems;

S. 1143, to prohibit certain individuals from downloading or using TikTok on any device issued by the United States or a government corporation;

S. 1330, to facilitate the reskilling of Federal employees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1350, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a national risk management cycle, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1306, to provide for domestic sourcing of personal protective equipment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 732, to strengthen Buy American requirements, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 1303, to ensure that certain Federal infrastructure programs require the use of materials produced in the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

GAO REPORT ON DUPLICATION, OVERLAP, AND FRAGMENTATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine the findings and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office's 2021 report on duplication, overlap, fragmentation and opportunities to achieve financial benefits, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

COVID–19 RESPONSE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the COVID–19 response in native communities, focusing on tourism economies one year later, after receiving testimony from Dennis Alvord, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Economic Development Administration; Anthony M. Rodman, Acting Director, Office of Indian Economic Development, Department of the Interior; John De Fries, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Honolulu; Sherry L. Rupert, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Russell Dick, Huna Totem Corporation, Juneau, Alaska.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Deborah L. Boardman, and Lydia Kay Griggsby, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, both introduced by Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Ronald L. Davis, of California, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety concluded a hearing to examine the essential role of immigrant workers in America, including S. 747, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, after receiving testimony from Ronald D. Vitiello, former Chief, Border Patrol, and former Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Rose Michelle Tilus, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Pawtucket, Rhode Island; Bruce Goldstein, Farmworker Justice, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, both of Washington, D.C.; and Tom K. Wong, University of California San Diego, La Jolla.

CLAIMS PROCESS DURING COVID

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine supporting disabled veterans, focusing on the state of claims processing during and after COVID–19, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Murphy, Acting Under Secretary for Benefits, and Willie C. Clark, Sr., Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, both of the Veterans Benefits Administration, and Toby T. Mathew, Chief Officer, Office of Disability and Medical Assessment, Veterans Health Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Elizabeth Curda, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Ryan Gallucci, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans, and Carmen McGinnis, Disabled American Veterans, all of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 3129–3171; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 384–391, were introduced. **Pages H2268–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2272**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 958, to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–30);

H.R. 1448, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–31); and

H.R. 1703, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–32). **Page H2268**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Correa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2199**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2208**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 384, electing certain Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H2208**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Protecting Moms Who Served Act: H.R. 958, to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2215–17**

Designating the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806: H.R. 49, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806; **Pages H2219–20**

Native American Child Protection Act: H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act; and **Pages H2222–25**

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Act: H.R. 2208, to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair. **Pages H2225–26**

Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 380, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2547) to expand and enhance consumer, student, servicemember, and small business protections with respect to debt collection practices; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1065) to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reason-able workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 136, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 135. Pursuant to section 7 of H. Res. 380, House Resolution 379 is hereby adopted. **Pages H2226–35**

Suspending the Rules and passing bills en bloc: Pursuant to section 6 of H. Res. 380, Representative Hoyer made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the following bills en bloc, and therefore the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions would be vacated to the end that all such motions would be considered as withdrawn: H.R. 297, H.R. 433, H.R. 478, H.R. 586, H.R. 721, H.R. 768, H.R. 810, H.R. 1205, H.R. 1260, H.R. 1324, H.R. 1448, H.R. 1475, H.R. 1480, H.R. 2862, H.R. 2955, and H.R. 2981, which was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 349 yeas to 74 nays, Roll No. 137. **Pages H2235–46**

Senate Referrals: S.J. Res. 15 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page 2208.

Quorum Calls Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on **Pages H2233–34, H2234–35, and H2246.**

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TITLE II CONSERVATION PROGRAMS: EXPLORING CLIMATE SMART PRACTICES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled ''Title II Conservation Programs: Exploring Climate Smart

Practices''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

USDA RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS MISSION AREA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''USDA Research, Education and Economics Mission Area''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Carrie Castille, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Hubert Hamer, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service; Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Acting Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics; Simon Y. Liu, Acting Administrator, Agricultural Research Service; and Spiro Stefanou, Administrator, Economic Research Service.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SAFETY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on Federal Aviation Administration Safety. Testimony was heard from Steve Dickson, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration.

AN UPDATE ON AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''An Update on Afghanistan''. Testimony was heard from David F. Helvey, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs, Department of Defense; and Brigadier General Matthew G. Trollinger, Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs, Joint Staff, J–5.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service''. Testimony was heard from Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 HHS BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2022 HHS Budget''. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 166 the ''The Fair Lending for All Act''; H.R. 1188, the ''Greater Accountability in Pay Act''; H.R. 1443, the ''LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act''; H.R. 2570, the ''Climate Risk Disclosure Act''; H.R. 3007, the ''Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act''; and H.R. 3009, the ''Improving Language Access in Mortgage Servicing Act''. H.R. 166, H.R. 1188, H.R. 1443, H.R. 2570, H.R. 3007, and H.R. 3009 were ordered reported, as amended.

DRIVING A GLOBAL, WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY RESPONSE TO CLIMATE ACTION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Driving a Global, Whole-of-Society Response to Climate Action''. Testimony was heard from John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Department of State.

OVERSIGHT OF THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK: UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE THREAT ASSESSMENT AND COUNTER-SURVEILLANCE BEFORE AND DURING THE ATTACK

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee continued a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the January 6th Attack: United States Capitol Police Threat Assessment and Counter-Surveillance Before and During the Attack''. Testimony was heard from Christopher P. Failla, Inspector General, Architect of the Capitol.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee held a hearing on H. Res. 279, the ''Insular Cases Resolution''. Testimony was heard from Representative Plaskett; Tina Muna Barnes, Vice Speaker, Guam Legislature; and Talauega Eleasalo Va'alele Ale, Lieutenant Governor, American Samoa.

THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION: UNEXPLAINED DELAYS AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Capitol Insurrection: Unexplained Delays and Unanswered Questions''. Testimony was heard from Robert J. Contee III, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington D.C.; and public witnesses.

COVID–19 VARIANTS AND EVOLVING RESEARCH NEEDS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a

hearing entitled ''COVID–19 Variants and Evolving Research Needs''. Testimony was heard from Stephen Streiffer, Deputy Laboratory Director for Science and Technology, Argonne National Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

MILITARY TRANSITION DURING THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled ''Military Transition During the COVID–19 Pandemic''. Testimony was heard from William Mansell, Director, Defense Support Services, Department of Defense; James Rodriguez, Acting Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Outreach, Transition and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR FAMILIES AND FOSTER YOUTH

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support held a hearing entitled ''Making a Difference for Families and Foster Youth''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FUNDING OUR NATION'S PRIORITIES: REFORMING THE TAX CODE'S ADVANTAGEOUS TREATMENT OF THE WEALTHY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Revenue Measures held a hearing entitled ''Funding Our Nation's Priorities: Reforming the Tax Code's Advantageous Treatment of the Wealthy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

RACIAL WEALTH GAP IN U.S.

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the racial wealth gap in the United States, after receiving testimony from Dorothy A. Brown, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia; Darrick Hamilton, The New School Institute on Race and Political Economy, and Ian Rowe, Vertex Partnership Academies, both of New York, New York; and Mehrsa Baradaran, University of California Irvine School of Law, Irvine.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine rethinking disaster recovery and resiliency, focusing on protecting our nation's transportation systems, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christine Elizabeth Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine offshore energy development in federal waters and leasing under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine retirement security, focusing on building a better future, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine Department of Homeland Security actions to address unaccompanied minors at the southern border, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 228, to promote antitrust enforcement and protect competition through adjusting premerger filing fees, and increasing antitrust enforcement resources, S. 1511, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustain in the line of duty, S. 921, to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, S. 1502, to make Federal law enforcement officer peer support communications confidential, and the nominations of Kristen M. Clarke, and Todd Sunhwae Kim, both of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Julien Xavier Neals, and Zahid N. Quraishi, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Regina M. Rodriguez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, 10 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Resource Management and Operational Priorities'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Mental Health Emergencies: Building a Robust Crisis Response System'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Navy and Marine Corps Quality of Life and Installations Update'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled ''Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Creating Opportunities for Youth Employment'', 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled ''The CLEAN Future Act: Superfund Proposals to Advance Cleanups, Equity, and Climate Resilience'', 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration and International Economic Policy, hearing entitled ''A Race Against Time: Deploying Vaccines and Addressing the Disproportionate Impacts of COVID–19 in Latin America and the Caribbean'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''Juvenile Justice Pipeline and the Road Back to Integration'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled ''Environmental Justice in Indigenous Communities'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Protecting Coastal Communities and Ocean Resources from Offshore Drilling'', 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3076, the ''Postal Service Reform Act''; H.R. 3077, the ''Postal Service Improvement Act''; H.R. 1930, the ''Federal Advisory Committee Transparency Act''; H.R. 2485, the ''Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act''; H.R. 2681, the ''Integrity Committee Transparency Act''; and H.R. 978, the ''Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, markup on H.R. 2225, the ''National Science Foundation for the Future Act'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Overview of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, markup on H.R. 2225, the ''National Science Foundation for the Future Act'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Federal Real Estate Post-COVID–19 Part One: A View from The Private Sector'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Biden Administration's 2021 Trade Policy Agenda'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Recruiting, Empowering and Retaining a Diverse Congressional Staff'', 9 a.m., Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine preventing mass atrocities, 9:30 a.m., VTC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Thursday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 12 noon.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

(Senate will recess following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds until 1:45 p.m.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Thursday, May 13

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete Consideration of H.R. 2547—Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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