The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GALLEG A). The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, June 24, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUBEN GALLEG O 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 Speaker pro tempore. 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.

THE NEED FOR 2002 AUMF REPEAL AND THE PEACE ACT

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for Congress to reassess its role in the war powers discussion.

I proudly joined many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle last week in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF. This AUMF provided for military operations in Iraq, an Iraq that is far different from the one we know today.

The goal was to defend the United States against the threat posed by an Iraq of 20 years ago, specifically, that of Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein was captured in December of 2003 and executed 3 years later.

Despite ousting Saddam Hussein, the 2002 AUMF has remained on the books. Less than one-fifth of the current Members of the House of Representatives were present on that original AUMF vote. As you can imagine, many Members have entered Congress and left the Halls of Congress without ever taking a vote on the 2001 or 2002 AUMFs.

Repealing the existing AUMFs, like the one from 2002, can be a step in the right direction in Congress reasserting its Article I powers, but we should not stop there. We need to rethink how we approach military authorizations.

A few weeks ago, I introduced the Preventing Endless Armed Conflict and Engagement Act, or the PEACE Act for short. The goal of this bill is to ensure regular oversight is being conducted on future military authorizations.

First, this bill would require each military authorization, or AUMF, to terminate after 2 years. This is because the Constitution stipulates that military funding should not extend past 2 years. This would also ensure that every Member of Congress has the opportunity to weigh in on current military operations.

The PEACE Act would also set standards for drafting military authorizations. For instance, each authorization would need to set a geographic scope on where the military force can be used. A clear objective would need to be established for each authorization, and the countries and groups that the U.S. troops are authorized to fight must be listed.

Additionally, the Department of Defense and the State Department would be charged with publishing an annual, unclassified report on existing military operations. This report will include information such as whether the military is meeting their objective, the number of casualties, and total cost. This will assist Congress in making the needed decisions that we have to make regarding AUMF reauthorizations. Finally, the DOD and State Department will be required to brief Members of Congress on the contents of this report once every 6 months.

It is critical that new Members of Congress, with new constituencies, have their chance at providing input into military operations. Many Members came to the floor last week to reiterate the importance of updating these existing AUMFs instead of repealing them. While I supported the repeal, I do hope that any updated or future AUMF incorporates elements from the PEACE Act.

Future AUMFs should be more concise and relied on for only a few years, not for a couple decades.

I look forward to working with Members from both sides of the aisle on future reforms to Congress’ war powers authority.

NO CLIMATE, NO DEAL

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, we are living in a climate emergency. The carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have reached the highest levels in human history.

In California, we have our worst drought in decades. Last week, we were hit by a heat wave that stretched from the West Coast to the Great Plains. This combination of unforgiving drought and relentless heat sets the conditions for another severe wildfire season. New Federal data shows the number of new wildfires this year is at a 10-year high.
In recent years, our country has also faced record floods, deep freezes, and hurricanes. And deadly wildfires have hit States beyond California.

Climate disruption is here. Congress has a responsibility to act boldly in response. The American Jobs Plan is a one-in-a-generation opportunity to meet the moment with a transformative investment in infrastructure.

We have the opportunity to build a clean-energy future that uplifts the communities that have suffered from the impacts of the fossil fuel industry. We must do it.

We must also recognize that communities of color have been hit first and worst by climate change. They must be at the front of the line for these investments. They must be represented in discussions on any infrastructure agreement.

We can afford to protect our planet, clean our air and water, and provide a better quality of life for communities all over the country.

We cannot afford an infrastructure bill that doesn’t have climate at its center. We cannot afford a bill that doesn’t invest in infrastructure that will put millions of jobs and serve the needs of our communities.

We need: clean energy, a resilient electric grid, electric vehicle charging, green affordable housing, zero-emissions public transit, climate smart ports, and more.

Our constituents did not send us here to back down when faced with climate deniers and deniers of taking any meaningful climate action.

If we don’t do it now, when will it ever happen? This is our opportunity. Now is the time to stand up for the health and the well-being of our communities and our planet to say: No climate, no deal.

RECOGNIZING DISTRICT DIRECTOR BRIAN MCDONALD AND THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Brian McDonald and his entire team at the Small Business Administration’s Minnesota District Office.

In May 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic, Brian took on an enormous challenge when he rose to the role of district director for the SBA’s Minnesota region.

Brian and his team were charged with supporting Minnesota’s 500,000 small businesses and their 1.3 million employees through one of the most challenging economic crises in our Nation’s history. Under Brian’s leadership, the SBA’s Minnesota district office facilitated critical loans, provided valuable training, and served as true warrior advocates for businesses of all sizes during this difficult time.

At the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Brian and I hosted a joint town hall where he helped my constituents understand how they could keep their small businesses afloat. Brian’s participation was crucial, and his willingness to offer guidance and expertise is characteristic of his impressive work throughout the crisis.

Brian and his team in the SBA’s Minnesota district office continue to work around the clock to help businesses in our State survive. We are grateful for all of their work, and I am fortunate to have such a dedicated SBA district presence in our State. I thank them for all they do.

HONORING THE WORK AND BRAVERY OF HALO TRUST AFGHANISTAN

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angie Charboneau-Folch, assistant principal at Big Lake High School.

In April, Angie was named this year’s Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year by the Central Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. She received this honor after 15 years of service as a school administrator, including a decade at Big Lake.

Angie has been a longtime advocate for both students and educators during her tenure. As leader of Big Lake High School’s Student Targeted Instruction and Goals program, better known as STING, she has ensured that students receive the additional instruction time and support they need. She has also worked to open the channels of communication between teachers and families through her Being Your Own Champion initiative.

I congratulate Angie on this remarkable achievement. I thank her for her years of dedication to the Big Lake community, and I know Minnesota students are better off because of her support.

HONORING Reverend Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Myers, who was one of the real reasons that President

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage of Teresa Bohnen. Teresa is retiring this year as president of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

Teresa led the chapter for the past 28 years. During that time, she has been a staunch advocate for small business.

Under Teresa’s leadership, the St. Cloud Area Chamber earned a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce the first year it became eligible and has maintained that rating ever since.

I thank Teresa for her service to St. Cloud, and she should enjoy her well-earned retirement.

HONORING REVEREND RONALD V. MYERS, SR., M.D.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Myers, who was one of the real reasons that President
Biden was able to sign into law Juneteenth as a national holiday.

Reverend Myers was founder of numerous medical and cultural organizations and a committed physician, serving the poorest Americans through clinics in Tchula, Belzoni, Yazoo City, Indiana, Greenville, and Tupelo, Mississippi.

Doc was also a jazz musician, composer, and human rights activist. The New York Times stated: “There aren’t any doctors like Ronald Myers, a jazz-playing, Baptist-preaching, family practitioner whose dream has always been to practice medicine in the kind of place most other doctors wouldn’t even stop for a tank of gas.”

In 1994, a group of community leaders from across the country gathered at Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the end of slavery. Dr. Myers was elected chairman of this advocacy effort, which led to the establishment of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation and his recognition as the leader of the modern Juneteenth movement in America. Doc was instrumental in the passage of 45 of the 49 State and District of Columbia pieces of legislation naming Juneteenth as a day of observance in this country.

Working with the Congressional Black Caucus, which included Illinois Senator Barack Obama and Representative Jesse Jackson (D-Ill.), he sought legislation to recognize Juneteenth independence, hosting the annual Juneteenth prayer breakfasts.

□ 1015

He established the Washington Juneteenth National Holiday Observance and the National Day of Reconciliation and Healing from the Legacy of Enslavement, which includes the National Juneteenth Black Holocaust “Maaafa” Memorial Service.

Dr. Myers organized the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters and the Fellowship of Creative Christian Jazz Musicians. Under his leadership, the Washington Juneteenth congressional event was held by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, Juneteenth America, Inc., and the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters.

An accomplished jazz pianist, trumpeter, and composer, Dr. Myers performed across the country promoting “June is Black Music Month!”—Celebrating Juneteenth Jazz—“Preserving Our African American Jazz Legacy!”

For over 20 years, he met with state and local politicians, local Juneteenth organizations, and community leaders.

Charles Taylor, author of Juneteenth, said: “Doc would give a copy of my Juneteenth book to every Governor whom I made Juneteenth a holiday or observance. He even gave Sarah Palin a copy when she was the Governor of Alaska after her State recognized Juneteenth.”

At an award ceremony at the Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts at the Saban Theatre, founder Rabbi David Baron said: “Reverend Dr. Ronald V. Myers is an outstanding living model of all the values for which Martin Luther King stood.”

Thanks to Steve Williams, who has carried on Dr. Myers’ work; and my staffer, Dr. Caleb Gilchrist, who has worked closely with him.

Thank you, Dr. Myers, and may you rest in peace.

KANSAS IS THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kansas farmers for their long hours during this year’s wheat harvest and for their work to produce food for people all over the world.

With more than 15,000 wheat farms across the State and 5 million acres of wheat in the Big First District alone, Kansas leads the nation in wheat production, the largest exporter of hard red winter wheat aptly named the breadbasket of the world.

The United States exports that wheat to more than 100 countries around the world, and some of that wheat from Kansas ends up abroad under the U.S. food assistance programs, like Food for Peace. In fact, it was the Kansas Farm Bureau who began sending surplus grain to those in need around the world, continuing U.S. leadership in addressing world hunger.

As I reflect on my own time on our family farm in Quinter, Kansas, I am reminded that harvest season is about more than just harvesting the crop. For Kansas farm families and communities, harvest is about coming together.

Harvest is when we share tractors and other equipment with our neighbor when theirs gets stuck. Harvest is when a grandmother takes food to the field so the rest of her family doesn’t have to leave the field for a lunch break. It is when a father takes his child out on the combine to show him how the work is done. And it is when we reflect on our advancements in agriculture, thanks to land-grant universities, like the wheat breeding research at Kansas State University, v-King—high-quality and plentiful harvests around the world.

Wheat harvest is a time for Kansas to be proud of the great strides they take to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. At the end of the season, we look back and know that each agricultural success is inexplicably tied to our Kansas values of faith, family, community, and grit. While we are at work here in Washington, they are back at home making the goods and food for that we owe farmers our sincerest thank you.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE IS SELF-EVIDENT

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in support of one of the most basic functions of any government, the right to life.

Our Founding Fathers wrote 245 years ago, “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

To them, the right to life was so overly obvious that they called it self-evident.

But, today, in America, some policymakers insist on denying the right to life to millions of Americans. Instead, they diminish that right through murderous abortion policies, policies that fail to recognize life until a child lets out his or her first cry in the delivery room, policies that justify abortion based on the belief that any unborn child may have Down syndrome, and policies that funnel taxpayer dollars to funding abortions and abortion services.

Today’s technology and science has shown us proof of life inside the womb. We see 3D ultrasounds of a baby sucking her thumb and moving around. We know unborn babies can experience pain as early as 12 weeks. At 20 weeks, we can reveal if a baby is a boy or a girl.

Yet some of our country’s leaders still proceed to support policies that devalue and eliminate the innocent child’s life. For decades, these elected officials have spent more time protecting the right of potentially endangered species, like the lesser prairie-chicken or sea turtle eggs, than they do protecting unborn babies, human babies.

But not to me. I strongly believe life begins at conception. I believe every life matters. I support adoptions, foster care, and crisis pregnancy centers that work tirelessly to care for mothers and their babies. I have cosponsored pro-life legislation, including H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, permanently prohibiting Federal funding for abortions and abortion services.

I even introduced my own, H.R. 714, which would require the executive branch to notify Congress and the American public before issuing any new executive order pertaining to pro-life provisions and the right to life guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Devaluing the life of unborn children has desensitized our Nation, and I pray we soon wake up and realize the horrors it has done. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services and focus on lifesaving resources that value the life of both the mother and the child. The right to life is self-evident, and I will fight to protect it at all costs.

REMEMBERING ROBERT KALEIMOMI KEKAULA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. Kahale) for 5 minutes.
Mr. KAJELE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I stand before you to share the passing of a legendary news and sports broadcaster, an accomplished musician, a father, friend, and son of Hawaii, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, who unexpectedly passed away last Saturday in Hawaii at 56 years of age.

In order to tell you about Robert, I must do so with great respect to his chosen career path and success as the consummate communicator. Where, when, and how quickly he acquired his excellent skills, whether at his high school alma mater, the Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in communications, or throughout his experience as a Native Hawaiian growing up on Hawaii Island, I can’t say.

Yet what I can say with certainty is that Robert held the powerful ability of talking to people; not about people, but to people. He did it exceedingly well, with thousands, including myself, for 35 years in the broadcast industry.

As a mentor, he could see in young listeners who leaned in to listen andtails of their lives with him, and the more he performed alongside his daughter, Tiera, and through his family and friends whom he loved dearly.

“A‘ohe mea nana e ho‘opuhili, he moho no ka la makanu,” “there is no one to interfere, for he is a messenger of a windy day,” said in admiration of a person who lets nothing stop him from carrying out the task entrusted to him.

To me and to so many others, that is the essence of Robert, who carried out the task as the consummate communicator with extreme love for Hawaii and its people.

Mahalo, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, for your immeasurable contributions to Hawaii. We are forever grateful, and you will be forever missed.

DR. DREW VAN HORN IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 1 minute.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Freddie’s Garage and Towing in Tybee Island, Georgia.

In August of 1946, Freddie’s opened on Tybee Island, Georgia. Although Freddie’s transitioned from a gas station to a garage over the years, Freddie’s continues to operate in their original location.

Residents of the Tybee Island community have trusted Freddie’s through multiple generations. For 75 years, customers are relieved to know that Freddie’s dependable service will always be there to keep their car running.

Freddie’s Garage and Towing is a perfect example of a hardworking American business. As a small business owner for more than 30 years, I commend the hard work and dedication that Freddie’s Garage and Towing has shown to their customers.

The team at Freddie’s Garage and Towing works hard to maintain the trust of the Tybee Island community, and I congratulate them for 75 years of success.

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who worked diligently to pass the advanced child tax credit, which will cut child poverty in half in just one year. We have a responsibility to make this money accessible to every child.

While our elder daughter, Emmy, is accounted for, our pandemic baby,
Caroline, is not. In my district, the IRS estimates that more than 6,000 children are unaccounted for.

My team has worked tirelessly to get relief to our constituents. I encourage our constituents to visit the IRS website to check their eligibility. There’s a tool for nonfilers.

The IRS is underfunded, and we need to fix that, but they have done a phenomenal job getting this set up.

While our caseworkers are always happy to help, our constituents shouldn’t money on the table. So, check your eligibility and find out what makes sense for your family.

☐ 1030

AMERICA NEEDS TO DO THE RIGHT THING

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, our Afghan allies and friends risked their lives, not just for their country, but for ours. They put their lives on the line, not just for Afghanistan, but for America. And they are not just Afghan heroes, but American heroes, too.

They risked their lives because we made a solemn promise to them: We have your backs. Because we said that we have their backs, they now have a target on theirs.

Today, the Biden administration has heard the call of veterans across America who have said: Save our allies. Do the right thing by the promise that we made.

They have heeded our calls to pursue an evacuation because there simply is not enough time for special immigrant visas to be processed. It is 80 days until our withdrawal. The average time to process an SIV is 800 days.

Today is, therefore, a bright chapter in the long story of the advocacy of veterans all over this country, Democrat and Republican, who have called on the administration to execute a plan for evacuation.

But the story is far from over. We need to see a detailed operational plan, including a way to collect our allies from across this war-torn country, a way to ensure that their family members are saved as well, and a clear plan to get them COVID vaccines so they can travel safely to other countries, or to Guam, and not carry a risk of carrying the disease.

We also need to see an operational command named to lead this effort, and we need a guarantee that this evacuation mission will continue until it is complete.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley, said yesterday that we have a moral obligation to fulfill this promise. I would add that that moral obligation is not just our Afghan friends and allies. It is to every future young American on the ground in some conflict overseas who needs a friend, who needs an interpreter, who needs a ally and makes that promise once again: Come work with us. Come risk your life for us because we have your back.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRIS OBERHEIM

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim.

Our communities in Illinois and across the Nation continue to mourn the loss of this fallen hero. Officer Oberheim was called home to be with the Lord on May 19, 2021. Officer Oberheim was on duty when he was shot and killed while attempting to protect a mother and her children.

Officer Oberheim put his life on the line and made the ultimate sacrifice. As Champaign Police Chief Anthony Cobb stated, the debt of gratitude we owe Officer Oberheim and his family goes beyond written and spoken word.

Throughout his career, Officer Oberheim put the people of his community first, and he was a true credit to the badge he wore, receiving two medals of valor for acts of selfless bravery, as well as countless letters of accommodation.

Officer Oberheim’s life and service will not and should not be forgotten. My prayers are with his wife, Amber, as well as his four daughters, Hannah, Avery, Addison, and Aubrey.

I had the great honor of speaking with Amber Oberheim, a devoted wife, and a strong woman of faith. She told me that her husband had a servant’s heart. His life revolved around his family and protecting others.

Chris was a son, brother, coach, friend, and leader, but his family was his first priority.

To honor her husband, Amber Oberheim wants to create change. She started a foundation, Peacemaker Project 703, to support brothers and sisters in blue. Amber’s goal is to promote the support of our law enforcement officers and their families and to shine a light on their service and sacrifice.

These are dangerous times. Please love and appreciate our officers. May God bless the Oberheim family.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the very concerning uptick in hate crimes against members of the Jewish community in recent weeks. To be clear, these incidents have not been isolated, and their sheer volume should frighten us all.

We must do more to acknowledge these crimes against our Jewish brothers and sisters and ensure the perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable.

Perhaps the most telling sign of how dangerous things have gotten is the statistical data. Those who clearly identify as Jews, with their garb and outward trappings, have been viciously and frequently targeted.

According to the ADL, there has been an 80 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States. Some of these crimes include the vandalism of public parks and synagogues as well as suspensions in schools related to anti-Semitic attacks.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, the South Street Temple was spray-painted with swastikas and racist epithets. In Omaha, about 75 headstones were topped and more than $50,000 in damage caused at the Temple Israel Cemetery.

I have repeatedly condemned this behavior and stand with Nebraska’s Jewish community and all of those across the U.S. who have experienced similar situations.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting one of the most prominent leaders of the orthodox Jewish community, Rabbi Dovid Hofstedter, the son of Holocaust survivors who founded the Dirshu, the largest Torah organization in the world.

Rabbi Hofstedter was compelled to come to Washington to address my colleagues and me about the very serious issues related to the safety and security of the State of Israel, including the hatred toward Israel that has manifested itself in many cases toward the entire Jewish people.

Committed to Rabbi Hofstedter that we, in Congress, will do everything in our power to continue standing up for the Jewish people and ensuring their safety, from New York to Nebraska and all across the United States.

During his address to my colleagues and I, Rabbi Hofstedter remarked that perhaps at no time since the 1930s have we found ourselves in a more similar situation. Jewish lives are being threatened both domestically and on a global scale. How watching the hate crimes against our Jewish brothers and sisters over the last few weeks, it is abundantly clear that the rabbi’s words were sadly and tragically understated.

It is time for all of us in Congress to wake up to the reality of the hatred that is being directed toward the Jewish people and ensure that “never again” truly means “never again.”

Cowardice emboldens the enemy. What Rabbi Hofstedter and Rabbi Dirshu represent is the true antidote to this venomous hatred that has been exhibited toward the community he leads.

We must not buckle under fear but, rather, call out the haters and show that the Jewish people as a community will never stand down. They will continue to practice their Jewish heritage with their heads held high.

Out of the darkness of the Holocaust, Rabbi Hofstedter decided to dedicate his life to reviving the levels of Jewish education and to the levels that were predating the Holocaust. As the son of Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Hofstedter’s personal life’s mission
that he has chosen to undertake and execute upon ought to serve as a source of inspiration for every Member of this legislative body. Just as Martin Luther King once said: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

I thank Rabbi Hofstadter for all that he and the members of the Dirshu continue to do to advance Jewish scholarship and education in the face of the evil that has been perpetrated on their community in recent weeks. May God bless them all. May God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF LOUISE DUNLAP

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to remember the exemplary life of one Mr. W.L. Pate from Beaumont, Texas.

Words cannot adequately express how deeply saddened Brenda and I were to hear of W.L. Pate’s passing just the other day. As I think back, Madam Speaker, we are hard-pressed to remember anyone who gave more to their community than W.L. did to his—or ours, for that matter.

The list of W.L.’s considerable accomplishments and contributions are far too numerous to be listed here, but here are just a few.

W.L. was a two-term mayor of Beaumont. He was an Army veteran and had 14 years of service as a city councilman. W.L. was the past president of the Texas Association of Mayors. Council Members and Commissioners. W.L. was on the board of the Texas Municipal League and served as TML president for Region 16.

Never missing a chance to give back, W.L. assisted the District 14 office every term with military service academy nominations, and he was good at it and proud to be able to do it.

I am particularly proud of W.L.’s passion project in recent years. W.L. was the driving force behind obtaining the Presidential Medal of Freedom that was awarded to Louise Didrikson Zaharias, a fantastic female athlete, given by President Donald Trump. I recognize and thank W.L. Pate for his servant leadership. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends, especially his daughters, Jennifer and Suzanne.

This is a tremendous loss for Beaumont and the Nation. W.L.’s remarkable legacy of service and sacrifice is the epitome of what it means to be a great American. Our country would be well-served to have many more with such a servant’s heart.

Rest in peace, my friend. W.L. Pate, you done good.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILBUR L. “W.L.” PATE, JR.

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend of more than 65 years, Lieutenant Colonel Wilbur L. “W.L.” Pate, Jr.

W.L. and I grew up together in Beaumont, Texas, where he was better known by his nickname, “Bubba.” We became close friends playing football together at Austin Junior High School, and eventually, W.L. moved across town, which, unfortunately, sent us to different high schools. I still remember the football game in 1965 when French High School—led by W.L. Pate at quarterback—dealt me and my team, Forest Park High School Trojans, a close loss.

The final score of 8-7 stung, but I couldn’t help but be proud of the skill and sportsmanship demonstrated by W.L. and his French High Buffalos.

A year later, W.L. and I both ended up at Lamar University in Beaumont and served in the same unit in the Army Reserve, as well. In 1969, he was commissioned as an infantry officer, and in 1978, he graduated from Command and General Staff College.

After leaving the military as a lieutenant colonel in 1994, he dove into another form of public service—serving his community on Beaumont’s City Council as mayor pro tem. and on several boards, including the Beaumont Rotary Club, Better Business Bureau, the American Legion, Lamar Institute of Technology, and many more.

One of Bubba’s most significant accomplishments was his advocacy for the late Babe Didrikson Zaharias to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Babe was from our hometown of Beaumont, Texas, and was a gold medal Olympian, and later, professional golfer, winning ten LPGA major tournaments. She is considered by many to be one of the world’s greatest female athletes.

I was honored to attend the White House ceremony with W.L. when he...
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proudly accepted this award from President Trump on behalf of the Babe Zaharias Foundation in Beaumont, Texas. W.L. Pate was the very man who inspired me to run for Congress back when he nearly threw longtime incumbent Representative Jack Brooks into a ravine. Roberta certainly got Brooks’ attention.

W.L. was a dear friend and a respected leader. My heart goes out to his loved ones, his daughters, Suzanne and Jennifer; fiancée, Sherrene; brother, Robert; sister, Pam; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. My prayers are with all of them.

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

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to direct the House’s attention to H. Res. 3281, the RPM Act.

The RPM Act is necessary because of a gross abuse of the Administrative Procedures Act by unelected, unaccountable, unrecallable bureaucrats.

Madam Speaker, most people aren’t aware that the chances are better than a thousand to one if you are ever hauled into Federal court under charges, it is more than likely you will be subject to a violation of rules, administrative rules, that are enforceable as laws.

Most Members of Congress seem oftentimes to forget that, and we have allowed the rule-makers, the unelected, unaccountable people, to make an incredible amount of laws that become a heavy burden on our society.

So we are hoping, with the RPM Act, H. Res. 3281, we can right some of those wrongs.

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 10 o’clock and 51 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 (Mrs. BUSTOS) at noon.

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

Sovereign God, speak to us this day. Speak to us in words that we can hear and understand. Give us humbleness of spirit, that we would be receptive to the promises You provide.

Open our ears to Your word, even as You speak through the voices of those around us, both in the compassion of our friends and in the criticism of our counterparts.

May we not just take the time to heed guidance that comes from the counsel of our colleagues, but to listen to concerns You would have us hear, even when those voices come from the mouths of our adversaries.

Then, having listened for Your truth and discerned Your voice amid the commotion and the calm, may we not just hear, but listen carefully to the perfect law of liberty You have established. Inspire us to obey Your guidance and put Your wisdom into practice.

We ask Your blessing on the work You have called us to do this day. 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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

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.

THREE MILLION FREE MEALS
(Mr. SIERES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIERES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the West New York School Nutrition Service Department and Nu-Way Concessionaires for serving the West New York, New Jersey, community throughout the pandemic. Nu-Way Concessionaires was founded in 1958 by a longtime West New York resident, Joseph Pantaleo, who sadly passed away in December at the age of 90. Joe understood the importance of giving back to his community and fully embodied the spirit of service.

It is in this light that I wish to recognize the West New York School Nutrition Service Department, managed by Nu-Way, which has provided over three million free meals to the West New York community since the beginning of the pandemic and will continue providing meals throughout this summer.

Free breakfast and free lunch have been provided every day, including weekends, and have provided a lifeline during a turbulent and uncertain year.

I would also like to commend Sal Valenza and Jose Sabater and their 21 employees who have worked tirelessly every day for their community to ensure students have access to healthy and locally sourced meals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDWARD BURR AND THE MONIQUE BURR FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Burr and the Monique Burr Foundation for Children located in northeast Florida.

Established in 1997, the Monique Burr Foundation works to prevent abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, exploitation, and human trafficking of children.

They have trained more than 5,000 facilitators in schools all across 67 Florida counties, 22 other States, and 3 foreign countries.

Madam Speaker, as the former sheriff of Duval County, I can personally attest to the difference the Monique Burr Foundation is making in the lives of children across Florida and across our country.

Recently, Mr. Burr received the Hearthstone BUILDER Humanitarian Award in recognition of his decades of public service to support and protect children in need.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I congratulate Edward Burr for his well-deserved honor, and I thank the Monique Burr Foundation for Children for their excellent work in our community.

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to lament the failure of the For the People Act, H.R. 1, in the United States Senate. It is a sad week that this has happened.

H.R. 1, the For the People Act, ought to be a bipartisan American goal. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we get big secret money out of politics. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we protect people’s right to vote throughout this land. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we end gerrymandering and let the people choose the politicians instead of the politicians choosing their voters.

I am here to say that we are not done with the For this People Act and its goals. Let’s make it bipartisan and let’s make it an American goal.

CHINA LIED, AMERICANS DIED
(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, after months of record taxpayer spending, the Biden administration has underperformed on job growth expectations in back-to-back months. Inflation is higher than any point in more than a decade, and people across our country are still being paid to sit home and not work.

When you pay people not to work and pump untold amounts of money into liberal special interests, you get a unique recipe.

The Biden economic model is failing, and now the administration is fighting crises on two fronts, border and economic. The American people and small businesses across our country need real leadership that puts the American people first.

We will not spend our way out of this Biden-made economic crisis. We will get out of it if we reduce regulations, lower taxes, and increase economic freedom. This model did work under President Trump, and it will work again if only the Biden administration and Democrats would put the American people first and not special interests.

CONGRATULATING MIA NEAL

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to congratulate Mia Neal of Gary, Indiana, and celebrate her noteworthy achievement of winning an Oscar in the 93rd Academy Awards for best makeup and hairstyling.

Mia Neal attended Horace Mann High School in Gary, Indiana, and after graduating in 1997, Mia’s interest in hairstyling and makeup blossomed as she attended Merriville Beauty College and Columbia College in Chicago. I would note that Mia’s family has been actively involved in northwest Indiana’s community, as her mother, Dena Holland Neal, was pastor of Peace United Church in Merrillville; and her grandfather, James Holland, taught at Roosevelt High School for more than 15 years and served as Gary’s first deputy mayor from 1976 to 1988.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Mia Neal on her historic Oscar award and again congratulate her for this outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF NEAL TODD

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero. Neal Kenneth Todd of Akeley, Minnesota, enlisted as a Fireman First Class in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS Oklahoma in Pearl Harbor.

He tragically lost his life on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when Japanese torpedoes caused the ship to capsize.

Initially, Neal Todd was reported missing in action, and his family went almost 3 months without answers before learning of his death. To make matters worse, his body was never identified, leaving his family without the closure that they deserved.

After nearly 80 years of unimaginable grief and unanswered questions, Neal’s remains have finally been identified, beginning the process of returning him home to Minnesota.

On July 10, Neal Todd will be buried with full military honors next to his brother and parents. It will be my distinct privilege to join his family in Akeley when he returns home.

Witnessing this American hero laid to rest after decades will be an honor, but it will also be a somber reminder that freedom comes at such a heavy price.

Madam Speaker, we can never forget the sacrifices made by heroes like Neal Todd. Americans like him are the reason that this Nation is known as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

God bless Neal Todd and God bless his family.

LIFTING FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share in the relief that families across New Mexico will be receiving starting next month. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, about 95 percent of New Mexico’s children will be eligible to get money through the child tax credit. Working families with kids will get payments of up to $300 monthly per child. That means more money for childcare and to put food on the table and to support our hardworking families.

I personally know the struggles that many New Mexican families face, and that is why here in Congress I am continuing to work to tackle childhood hunger and create more opportunities to lift our families out of poverty.

We must make these tax credits permanent and put more money into the pockets of hardworking parents so they can get back to work and fuel our economy.

KEEP OUR POLLINATORS BUZZING

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Pollinators Week to recognize the important work of our natural pollinators.
Each year, Pollinator Week focuses on promoting the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research.

It is time we protect natural pollinator species, such as honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies, as essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing food.

These pollinators are vital to keeping items like fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets. And healthy pollinator populations are crucial to the continued economic well-being of rural America and the U.S. economy.

Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1,200 crops. This equates to one out of every three bites of food eaten being there because of pollinators.

In addition, pollinators added $217 billion to the global economy, and honeybees alone are responsible for between $1.2 and $5.4 billion in agricultural productivity in the United States.

Madam Speaker, as someone who has a beehive in his backyard, I fully support efforts to raise awareness and keep our pollinators buzzing for generations to come.

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT THE UNBORN

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep disappointment with President Biden’s fiscal year 2022 budget request—more specifically, the President’s removal of long-standing pro-life protections such as the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits Federal funds from being used to pay for abortions. Historically, this policy has shared strong bipartisan consensus in the House.

I made a promise to my constituents to protect the unborn and to give a voice to those who have no voice. Since coming here to Congress, I have consistently supported pro-life policies. This is a value in the First District of Michigan that is shared across party lines.

Yet, this President’s budget request forces American taxpayers to fund abortions, a denial of the basic human right to life.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House to not follow in those footsteps and to oppose this proposal.

As we work through the Federal appropriations process, it is imperative Congress maintains these basic protections and opposes any other policies that would promote abortions here in the United States and throughout the world.

Let us, the United States of America, be an example to the rest of the world that, no matter how much we may disagree, we can come together for the protection of human life both before and after birth.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CAROL CLEWS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Carol Clews, a pro-life leader in Maryland who passed away from cancer this spring. Archbishop Lori, without exaggeration, called her a “towering figure” in the pro-life movement.

Carol’s vocation was to help women in their crisis pregnancies by directing the faith-based Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns, where pregnant women could go for support until and after their children were born. Her pregnancy center, staffed mostly by volunteers, helped thousands of women and their children in a time of need.

When the City of Baltimore decreed that her pregnancy center had to display a poster that promoted abortion, she refused to do so and took the case to Federal district court, where she prevailed. On appeal, the Fourth Circuit upheld the important religious protections and free speech rights of pregnancy centers from attacks by pro-abortion governments that want to deny the choice of life for women during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives.

The pro-life and pregnancy center movements in Maryland will greatly miss Carol Clews and her faith and courage. The thousands of women and their children who were helped by her pregnancy centers are her legacy.

SEEKING URGENT RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA’S DROUGHT

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to request an urgent response to California’s drought.

Since returning to Congress, I have introduced two pieces of critical water legislation. I have stood here before my colleagues in the House majority to address the drought. I have requested hearings be held and sent letters. Yet, the majority has done nothing to help those suffering from this crisis.

Communities in my district, like Avenal, Coalinga, and Huron, totally rely on 100 percent of their water from the delta. That is about 37,000 of my constituents relying solely on the delta for water.

My bill, the NEED Water Act, would allow communities like these and communities growing our food the ability to purchase and transfer water more easily.

As if water wasn’t scarce enough, now communities in my district, like Teviston, are completely out of water. They are forced to rely on bottled water delivery programs to receive water because their wells have failed. It is only a matter of time before there are more towns in my district in the same situation as Teviston.

I implore my colleagues across the aisle to work with me to combat this crisis. This is an emergency, and it is unacceptable to stand back and watch as these communities suffer and completely run out of water while the real solutions available can bring immediate relief.

CONGRESS MUST INVESTIGATE COVID–19

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, we know that more than 600,000 Americans and 3.8 million people worldwide have died as a result of COVID-19. A recent study found that cases could have been significantly reduced around the globe if interventions in China could have been conducted just weeks earlier.

It is a widely accepted fact that China’s obstruction and coverup cost lives. It is simple: China lied and Americans died.

Also, despite mounting credible evidence that COVID–19 may have actually originated from a Chinese lab, Congress has not had a single hearing to address the COVID coverup.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS BURROW

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Detective Travis Burrow for his remarkable contributions to his community as general case detective for the Great Falls Police Department.

This past week, Detective Burrow was named Officer of the Year by the Montana Police Protective Association for his service as lead investigator for major criminal activity in Great Falls. His investigations included high-profile cases such as homicides, kidnappings, robberies, arson, missing persons, and suspicious death investigations.

Detective Burrow’s competence and experience has made him a valuable resource to the department, where he consults on his coworkers’ cases and serves as a leader and mentor to his colleagues.

Detective Burrow continues to serve the Great Falls Police Department with honor and distinction.
I commend Detective Burrow for his outstanding service to Great Falls and the State of Montana and wish him and the department continued success.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK


Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(b) 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 June 24, 2021, at 9:47 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2184.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Carilyn L. Johnson, Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader:


Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 104(c)(2)(C)–(D) of Title I, Division T of Public Law 116–260, I am pleased to appoint the following Members to the Smithsonian (Public Law 116–260), I am pleased to appoint the following Members to the Smithsonian

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Equal Access to Contraception Act for Veterans Act”.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON COPAYMENTS FOR CONTRACEPTION.

Section 1722A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “to pay” and all that follows through the period and inserting “to pay—”;

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

“(A) an amount in excess of the cost to the Secretary for medication described in paragraph (1); or

“(B) an amount for any contraceptive item for which coverage under health insurance coverage is required without the imposition of any cost-sharing requirement pursuant to section 2713(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–13(a)(4)).”.

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

The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENTRAN SCOTT

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. 239. 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, this is not the first time I speak in favor of Representative Brownley’s bill. H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, but I continue to advocate for this bill because it is an essential component of supporting the fastest-growing population of our Nation’s heroes, our 2 million women veterans.

Last week, this bill was defeated on the suspension calendar when the Family Research Council mobilized efforts with my colleagues in the Freedom Caucus who believed that the bill pushes a “harmful ideology.” Distorting this debate into one about abortion, frankly, does not make any sense at all.

I again remind my colleagues that this legislation passed out of our committee with the support of Ranking Member Bost and through the House last Congress with the support of former Ranking Member Dr. Roe. I know that Dr. Roe is a fierce pro-life advocate, but as an OB/GYN, he understood the importance of access to contraception.

Let me be clear. This bill brings veterans’ contraception coverage on par with care they received while on Active Duty from the Department of Defense and coverage required by private health insurance providers to all women in the United States since 2010—all women except those who seek care from the VA.

Now, this bill is about healthcare. This bill is about access. This bill is about equity, especially for our women veterans.

I thank Ranking Member Bost and Minority Leader McCarthy for their leadership in support of this bipartisan bill.

Simply put, a “no” vote today is saying directly to veterans that they deserve less healthcare than all other Americans. To me, the choice is easy. Vote “yes” on H.R. 239. We cannot permit veterans to be made second-class citizens.

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. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. This bill is sponsored by Congresswoman Julia Brownley. I thank her for introducing it.

The Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act passed the House last year with the support of the Trump administration.

It would eliminate copays for birth control at the VA healthcare system. In doing so, it would remove a barrier to care for women veterans. It would bring VA in line with the Department of Defense and the private sector. It would correct a fundamental unfairness that means women pay more for birth control at the VA than elsewhere. And it would not in any way contradict or undermine the prohibition against abortion and abortion counseling at the VA that already exists in law and regulation.

Women are the fastest-growing group of servicemembers and veterans. They are raising their right hands to serve this country in record numbers. Ensuring they are cared for as veterans is one of my top priorities as the lead Republican on the VA Committee.

We have made progress in making the VA safer and more welcome to women, but we still have a long way to go. Women veterans die by suicide at twice the rate of the male veteran women. Most of the veterans who die by suicide are not engaged in VA care at the time of their death. That is why connecting more veterans with the VA is key to stopping veteran suicide.

One of the primary ways we can connect more veterans with VA is by removing barriers that prevent them from seeking the care and benefits they have earned. This bill will help to do that.

Women seeking birth control in the private sector do not pay copays.

Women seeking birth control on Active Duty do not pay copays.

This bill will make it so women seeking birth control at VA do not pay copays either. That is all this bill does. Once again, that is all this bill does.

Why would we want a woman to pay more for birth control as a veteran than she did while on Active Duty?

Why would we want a woman to pay more for birth control at the VA than she would in the private sector?
Is that any way to thank her for serving her country and defending our freedoms? I don’t think so.

Neither does Leader McCarthy, neither did the Trump administration. Neither do many of my conservative pro-life lawmakers both in this Congress and last Congress.

To be clear, this bill does not require allowing VA to provide any additional form of birth control other than those already available in the VA.

And once again, it does not in any way contradict or undermine the prohibition against VA providing abortions and/or abortion counseling to veterans. That is vitally important to me. I know it is for many of my colleagues, as well.

I have really weighed this out and prayed this out and sought the language and read the language. My life has been a pro-life life. I am not changing those positions, and this bill doesn’t change that position either. I have taken the counsel of doctors who are familiar with the mechanics of birth control that are being afforded here.

I am confident that supporting this bill is the right thing to do for our Nation’s veterans. I am confident that it is consistent with pro-life principles.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues join me in voting this afternoon, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend from my home State, and the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, and also the author of this very important piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman of the Women’s Veterans Task Force and chair of the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I have worked to identify disparities in healthcare for our women veterans, and where necessary, introduce, advocate for, and pass legislation that eliminates those gaps.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to work with my Republican colleagues to pass the bipartisan Deborah Sampson Act last Congress. This legislation, which was the most comprehensive bill to address the needs of women veterans in more than a decade, received overwhelming bipartisan support. But there are still far too many areas where women veterans have to pay more for their healthcare than men; and in this case, they have to pay more than non-veteran women.

These inequities create an environment that perpetuates the notion that women are not equal to men, and in this case, veteran women are not even equal to other women. This bill passed through the House last Congress by voice vote. It also passed out of the VA Committee this Congress with strong bipartisan support.

It was deeply troubling that misinformation and politics got in the way of helping our women veterans last week, when the bill failed to pass under suspension, which is why we are back here again this week.

Let us be clear, there was a direct slap in the face to nearly 2 million women veterans living in the United States. Because of the Affordable Care Act, women using civilian health insurance may access basic contraceptive services, like the pill, or an IUD without any copay. Additionally, Active Duty servicemembers receive contraceptive care without any copays. So current law is specifically penalizing our women veterans. As we know, choosing when, or if, to have a family is essential to women’s health and to their economic security.

Madam Speaker, 87 percent of Americans agree that everyone deserves access to the full range of birth control methods, no matter who they are, where they live, what their economic status is. The vast majority of the American people believe veteran women deserve to be recognized and deserve to be treated with the respect they have earned. The vast majority of the American people believe that birth control should be a basic part of women’s healthcare.

I am particularly disappointed that this bipartisan commitment to supporting our women veterans seems to have hit a roadblock this Congress. Our veterans, both men and women, have sacrificed so much for our country. It is past time that we ensure they get equitable healthcare, and for their economic security.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 239.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MRVAN), my good friend, and member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization.

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I just want to say that extremism in the defense of nonsense is not conservatism, it is still nonsense.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), my good friend, and member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act of 2021. I first commend my colleague on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Congresswoman

H3095
BROWNLEY, for her leadership and perseverance to see that this critically important legislation is passed by the House. It is not acceptable that today women veterans do not have access to the same contraception coverage all Americans currently have available through the Affordable Care Act or private insurance, and all Active Duty servicemembers have through the Department of Defense.

Women veterans are the fastest growing group of veterans enrolling in the Department of Veterans’ Affairs healthcare system, and it is time that our policies for women veterans show them the support, respect, and fairness that they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I thank my chairman, again, for the time, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE).

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to just take a minute to remind everyone that words matter, and their meanings need to be exactly clear.

Contraception stops a woman from becoming pregnant. The Plan B pill kills a baby in the womb once a woman is already pregnant. You see, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act is not contraception, it is providing, with taxpayer dollars, the ability for a woman to receive an abortion. The government should not be paying for abortion. The VA should not be paying for abortion. The American taxpayer should not be paying for abortion. So this is why this is very important for all of us to do what we are called to do and not play a part in killing a baby in the womb.

Contraception Speaker, this is why I am asking all of my colleagues to vote against the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. It is time to defend life in the womb.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank both Congressman ROSENDALE and Congresswoman GREENE, and I appreciate their comments on the sanctity of life, and as freshman Members, their commitment to our Nation’s veterans.

Now, I agree with both of their comments on life. I disagree on this bill. This bill is overdue. We have discussed it many times, and the fact is, the emergency contraception is available to veterans at VA today and has been for many, many years.

You mentioned some of the groups who are opposed to this legislation, and I respect their viewpoints, and most often agree with them. But I do think it is appropriate to note right now, however, that just a couple hours ago, the Heritage Action for America clarified their position on this bill.

Importantly, Heritage Action noted that the emergency contraception is not—I repeat—is not a chemical abortion drug and cannot be used to induce abortion. I think it is important for our Members to keep that in mind today.

And I also think it is important that you understand that many of our colleagues who are pro-life should not be questioned on this bill because it has been people who are pro-life that have not only worked on this bill this session, but last. And it is vitally important that not only the Members know this, but the American people know it as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, led by the chairwoman of the Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY.

Chairwoman BROWNLEY and I have worked together on this issue for years. It is about fairness, fairness for the nearly 2 million women veterans who currently don’t have access to the same healthcare as civilian women.

The Affordable Care Act requires private insurance plans to provide contraceptive services without copays, but veterans using VA care have to pay out of pocket for those same services. It is unacceptable that women who have served our country bear financial burdens that most other Americans don’t have to worry about.

This fix is overdue. And last week’s unconscionable delay by our Republican colleagues harmed our veterans even more.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to put partisanship aside and vote for H.R. 239.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 22 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Illinois has 20 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and new member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, where she also serves on the Health Subcommittee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TAKANO and Ms. BROWNLEY for their magnificant leadership advancing the health and safety of our women veterans.

Madam Speaker, my, my, my, this bill, which passed unanimously last session, is just mind-boggling that now some Republicans are opposing it.

Really? I am going to say this: As a very proud mother of a son of a United States Marine Corps veteran, I know the risks and sacrifices of our brave military. So I say without hesitation, and to a certain extent, the same holds true when it comes to the treatment men when I arrived in this Congress.

Things change. This is an opportunity to be a part of an historic change. It may seem small to you, but
to the people who have to bear the burden of this invidious discrimination, it is not the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate it. I shall be terse and laconic and pithy and concise.

It is time for change to again come to the House of Representatives. I support this legislation, and I beg that my colleagues would do so. It is time for change.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), my good friend and the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, as the chair of the Pro-Choice Caucus' Contraception and Family Planning Task Force, I rise in strong support of Congressman BROWNLEY's Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

Every day, servicemembers are willing to sacrifice their lives for our constitutional rights. So we must ensure that those rights are available to them when they come home, and that includes the right to contraception.

That is what this bill does, by ensuring that veterans, just like their civilian neighbors, have access to the contraception that works best for them, without the burden of copays. And since we know that not every method of birth control works for everyone, this bill requires the VA to cover all FDA-approved contraception, including emergency contraception, which is an especially important option in sexual assault.

Contraception helps people plan for their futures, for their families, and for themselves. This bill removes unnecessary barriers to care for our veterans who have already given this Nation so much.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, let me just say that this bill by Ms. BROWNLEY is about providing equal access to contraceptives for our Nation's veterans. To oppose this bill is to advocate for a situation where veterans are made second-class citizens.

This bill is about contraception. Nowhere in the bill's text or in the title does the word "abortion" even appear. I would ask my colleagues who are in opposition to the bill to read the one-page text very carefully. I think they will have no reference to, in any way, the word "abortion."

Madam Speaker, I would also say, I think it was H.L. Mencken who said that consistency is often the hobgoblin of little minds.

For those Members who voted against this bill, you know, in fear of the moment, they can reconsider their vote and, I think, get on the right side of the issue in terms of equality for our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my colleague and very good friend, the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for his friendship and for letting me speak.

Madam Speaker, you know, I rise with great enthusiastic support for the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

No veteran of the United States of America should be forced to pay out of pocket for basic preventative care. You know, this is 2021. Birth control should not be controversial. Veterans' access to healthcare should not be controversial.

And I really think, how dare Members on the other side even consider shutting down this bill on suspension.

Our veterans' access to all of the healthcare services that they need, and that would include every method of birth control.

Really? Are we still arguing this? The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to just say—this is something that is basic right now, we all believe that contraception should be available. And, you know, it can end up actually being quite expensive.

And why? I don't understand. So I think this legislation is long overdue. Let's pass it today.

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

Madam Speaker, if I may, I just want to reiterate to my friends and colleagues that I am pro-life. Many of the people that have supported this and will support this are pro-life, even groups now that are saying and mentioning this is contraception. It is contraception, it is abortion.

Let me also say that this includes no other drugs or expansion of drugs that are available. We want to be very, very clear on that. It does not change the position of VA on abortion in any way, shape, or form. This is only doing what is right for our veterans and allowing them the opportunity to receive exactly what someone in the private sector receives and/or someone on Active Duty receives.

I am hoping that my colleagues will understand this and understand those of us who support this and why.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the honor and courage with which my counterpart, Ranking Member Bost, has defended and stood up for the truth. And the truth is, H.R. 239 by Chairwoman BROWNLEY is about providing equal access to contraception to America's veterans.

A "no" vote on this bill—and I will say it again—a "no" vote on this bill is a vote to make our veterans second-class citizens.

Every other American under every other plan in this country, whether it is in private healthcare, because we passed the Affordable Care Act and said that every American is entitled to preventative services, including contraception, since 2010, or Active Duty servicemembers under the Department of Defense who are able to access contraception without copays—Ms. BROWNLEY's bill simply makes veterans on equal footing with all other Americans.

A "no" vote on this bill is to make our veterans second-class citizens, and I say of those who make that vote: Shame on them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill. The question was taken; and the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yea and nay.

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

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

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 486, I call up the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in

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the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-7 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1443

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 “LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS LOAN DATA COLLECTION. Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c–2) is amended—

(1) by inserting “LGBTQ-owned,” after “minority-owned,” each place such term appears;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(G), by inserting “sexual orientation, gender identity” after “sex”;

and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

“(7) LGBTQ-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ‘LGBTQ-owned business’ means a business—

(A) more than 50 percent of the ownership or control of which is held by 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer; and

(B) less than 5 percent of the net profit or loss of which accrues to 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer.”.

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

General Debate

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks to 14 minutes and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act, for the second time this month.

As we discussed on the floor last week, this bill, led by Representative Ritchie Torres, would provide much-needed transparency in lending to LGBTQ-owned businesses by updating the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to ensure financial institutions report the sexual orientation and gender identity of applicants for business loans.

This legislation is needed because research shows that LGBTQ individuals have experienced discrimination when applying for a mortgage or other forms of credit. However, due to a lack of data collection, we do not know the extent of discrimination when it comes to business loans, who has been affected, and how importantly, how it can be corrected.

According to one estimate, there are approximately 1.4 million LGBTQ-owned businesses across our country. These entrepreneurs should be treated fairly, and the data collected on small business owners by Mr. Torres’ bill will help to identify and prevent discrimination and will enable communities, policymakers, and lenders to support the development and investment needs of LGBTQ-owned businesses.

I thank Representative TORRES for his leadership on this important bill.

But I also want to express my disappointment that so many of our Republican colleagues decided to vote against this legislation down this bill last week when it was considered under suspension of the rules. This bill passed the committee on a voice vote, and we worked with the ranking member, Mr. McHENRY, to address concerns he had.

I thank Ranking Member McHENRY for working with us and for his support.

I hope my colleagues who voted “no” will reconsider their position and vote “yes” on H.R. 1443. Whether or not they do, let me assure our friends, neighbors, constituents, and colleagues in the LGBTQ community that, one way or the other, this House will pass this bill. After all, this is the people’s House, it is our duty to lend or other forms of discrimination against any of our people stand.

As we discussed last week, this is Pride Month and a time to celebrate all the wonderful contributions the LGBTQ community has given to our economy and our country.

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

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

Madam Speaker, we can all agree that data is important, but we need to recognize, particularly as it relates to obtaining data on companies, that each one is unique.

Mandatory reporting metrics do not accurately measure progress. Just look at the mandatory disclosure bills that we had on the floor last week. The only outcome we can expect to see is higher compliance costs on companies, leaving investors and other forms of discrimination to compete globally.

Simply put, one size fits all does not work.

However, this bill, the bill we have before us today, does not impose a mandatory reporting regime. Data is collected on a voluntary basis. Any loan applicant who does not want to provide information can decline to provide it, meaning there are fewer concerns or business owners that do not effectively measure their success.

Thus, Madam Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been a preeminent privilege to serve under Chair WATERS’ leadership of the Financial Services Committee. I think I can say without question, reservation, hesitation, or equivocation that, under the gentleman’s leadership, we have seen great change. But I also know this: that under her leadership, there is greater change to come. It is my honor to serve under the gentleman’s leadership.

And still I rise, Madam Speaker, and I rise today to support H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act. And I rise to thank the ranking member for his support of this legislation. He has been steadfast, and he has been true to his word.

I am honored to support this legislation, and I think that it is appropriate for me to address, first, the question of whether invidious discrimination exists.

Madam Speaker, if you deny that invidious discrimination exists, then you have to deny the existence of the KKK. To deny the existence of invidious discrimination would necessitate a denial of those who were in Charlottesville screaming: “Blood and soil.” “Jews will not replace us.”

I believe the case is self-evident: invidious discrimination exists.

Currently, we have a system that allows us to collect the empirical evidence necessary to not only identify the invidious discrimination but also to prevent it.

By denying the existence of invidious discrimination, we would make it that much more likely for us to commit invidious discrimination because they will be aware of the intelligence acquisition.

How do we do this? Here’s how it happens. Currently, when you make your application, Madam Speaker, there is a place for you to indicate whether you are a minority person. If I
Madam Speaker, this bill takes necessary action to help ensure that LGBTQ-owned businesses are treated fairly by financial institutions and protected against lending discrimination. The bill passed unanimously out of the House Financial Services Committee with a letter from the majority leader with whom I worked to bring this bill back up for a vote quickly.

This bill is supported by the Human Rights Campaign, the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and many others.

Although some of my colleagues did not support this bill last week, I urge them to reconsider, to support all small businesses this week, and vote “yea” on H.R. 1443. I would like to thank the ranking member for his consideration, his support. In closing, I would just like to thank fellow Member, Ms. WATERS. I, too, am a victim of discrimination for most of my life, and all of my family and my dear friends and sometimes the entire neighborhood that I have lived in.

So we know what it feels like, and we know that there is, for example, today, a huge wealth gap because of discrimination, a lack of being able to borrow from the banks that were making credit available to so many others. It was not made to us. So oftentimes we were not able to a loan for the basic kind of things that any family would need. So we cannot, and I cannot be a part of public policy and systems and protocols with intentionality, and you voluntarily would indicate, if you choose to, that you are a member of the LGBTQ community.

I must say, candidly, I really don’t see how this can become the debate that it has become. At some point in this country, we have to understand that discriminating against people because of who they are is inappropriate. It is unlawful.

I am the son of a segregated South, where I was lawfully discriminated against. I know what it looks like. I know what it smells like. I know what it sounds like. I know what invidious discrimination tastes like. I drank from filthy colored water fountains in my lifetime.

I don’t wish any of this type of behavior that I had to endure on anyone else, so I rise today in support of this legislation as a continuation of my mission to do all that I can to help others avoid the horrors of invidious discrimination.

I am so grateful to Chairwoman WATERS for all she has done. She has always been a friend, not only to me, but to those who are among the least, the last, and the lost. And I thank the gentlewoman for all that she has done.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I think my colleague Mr. GREEN outlines this well. This is not a mandatory reporting bill, but data collection. Though the terms may not be perfect to Chairman GREEN’s points and perhaps we need to look at the language of this reporting, for sure, but this is not a mandatory reporting bill. This is voluntary information that borrowers can offer up or not. Data is a good thing, especially if it is provided voluntarily.

For those reasons, I support this bill and I urge its adoption.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.
the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to “National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 15
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to “National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders” (85 Fed. Reg. 68742 (October 30, 2020)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S.J. Res. 15 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 15, a resolution to invalidate the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency’s so-called True Lender Rule under the Congressional Review Act.

This resolution would end a dangerous Trump-era rule that would allow predatory lenders to evade State usury laws and target consumers with high interest rate loans of 150 percent or higher through sham partnerships with banks.

I would like to thank Representative GARCÍA from Illinois for introducing the House companion to this measure and for his leadership in fighting to protect consumers from predatory lending schemes.

My committee has held several hearings that have exposed the consumer harm that results from these rent-a-bank schemes and explored how the Trump administration’s harmful rule erodes consumer protections.

The OCC’s rule undoes centuries of case law that ensured that nonbank financial institutions were subject to State interest rate caps when they partnered with banks, so long as they held the primary economic interest in a consumer loan.

Trump’s OCC allowed nonbanks to launder their loans through OCC-chartered banks, as long as the bank is listed on the loan origination documents, effectively allowing nonbanks to ignore State usury laws.

Simply put, before this Trump-era rule was finalized, if a nonbank in California, which has an interest rate cap of, for example, 36 percent, wanted to make a loan to a customer in California, the nonbank can’t charge more than 36 percent. OCC’s True Lender Rule turns this commonsense legal doctrine on its head.

What the Trump-era rule says is that this nonbank can now partner with a national bank that is based in, for example, Utah, which doesn’t have an interest rate cap, to now legally charge virtually any interest rate to the consumers in California.

This is true even if the bank in Utah has done nothing but put its name on the loan paperwork and intends to immediately transfer the loan to the nonbank in California. We have seen interest rates of more than 150 percent charged to borrowers in this way.

The committee’s work has shone a spotlight on heartbreaking stories of the harm that this rule has caused to consumers and small business owners. Let me give you a real-world example:

A recent news report detailed the case of Carlos and Markisha Swepson, who were the owners of Boulevard Bistro, a restaurant in Harlem, New York. As they told NBC News, they took out several business loans for $67,000 and were charged a whopping 268 percent APR.

For all intents and purposes, their lender was World Business Lenders, a nonbank lender that has a partnership with Axos Bank. This is a bank in New York State. Even though the loan was made by World Business Lenders, because Axos Bank’s name was on the loan documents, the nonbank could bypass the New York usury limit of 25 percent APR.

Due to the pandemic, the Swepsons are now behind on their loan payments. They are now facing foreclosure proceedings filed by World Business Lenders on a home they own that acts as collateral for the high interest rate loan. If not for Trump’s rule, the Swepsons would have only been charged a 25 percent interest rate and would probably not be facing financial ruin.

If Congress lets this Trump-era rule stand, these kinds of predatory, triple-digit interest rate loans will continue to be made through these kinds of rent-a-bank schemes, and lenders will continue to take advantage of small business owners and other consumers desperate to stay afloat.

Additionally, let’s not forget that during the last election, Nebraska joined 45 States and the District of Columbia that have already passed legislation to limit usury rates for small-dollar installment loans.

The Trump-era True Lender Rule is a backdoor way for nonbanks to charge triple-digit interest rates on loans at the expense of consumers in States where voters turned out to pass interest rate caps.

No wonder some called this the “fake lender” rule.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. And for those who did not understand what we were talking about when we talked about the True Lender Rule, I think I have laid it out in such a way that you understand this is predatory. This is a rip-off. And for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution.

Earlier this week, President Biden met with financial regulators. From the four-sentence recap released by the White House, we know one of the topics they discussed was “promoting financial inclusion and responsibly increasing access to credit.”

I agree with that concept, and I think we should all agree with that concept. Unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues here in the House and the Senate don’t seem to be on the same page with the Biden administration.

This resolution we are considering today would actually make financial services more expensive and credit less available to consumers and to small businesses and families across the country.

So why are my Democrat colleagues strong-arming this resolution through Congress?

Well, the answer is pretty simple. It is politics. That is what it is. Let’s call this what it is. It is blue States and their leftwing, so-called consumer protection advocates who want to, again, limit the reach of national banks and partnerships under the guise of “consumer protection.”

Democrats are more interested in scoring political points with leftwing activists than supporting the borrowers and small businesses that this OCC True Lender Rule helps.

We have witnessed Democrats work for decades to limit the scope of national banks through one measure or another.

The National Bank Act was signed into law in 1864. We have national banks. We have had national banks for 157 years in this country similar to today. What they are striking at is opposition to what we have lived with for over 157 years of well-regulated national banks doing business across the country.

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The left, my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle, will provide misleading statements about interest rates and spurious arguments about State versus Federal regulation. They will argue consumers are harmed and this so-called partisan rule that they are driving into the banking practice.

Above all else, my colleagues across the aisle see this as an opportunity to rebuke the last administration, simply because they don’t like the former President. I understand that. There is plenty about that. But we should not tinker with existing law that is longstanding and predates this President or any other President. We should be talking about the contents of that law.

I would like to remind my friends as well that it was the Obama administration who supported the risk-management principles underlying the true lender rule. It was an effort to regulate, to ensure that instead of having shadily peddled these services, that you have well-regulated consumer protection laws at the Federal level as a part of this process.

So once again, we have the opportunity to come together to support good policy, rather than doing what the Democrats would rather do, which is appease the woke left.

So let’s stop the political theatrics and talk about what the true lender rule actually does, not what my Democrat colleagues claim it does. Simply not true.

The rule specifies that when a bank makes a loan, the bank is the true lender if, as of the date of origination, it is named as the lender in the loan agreement or funds the loan. That loan would be regulated by the entity making the loan, funding the loan, and the regulation would fall upon them. So the consumers have Federal consumer protection laws that would act on that loan. That is what it does.

My friends that created the Consumer Protection Bureau, I thought you wanted that, and yet you are arguing against that with this rule today. It is pretty straightforward; it is a pretty straightforward law. It shouldn’t be political.

This rule also clarifies that as the true lender of a loan, a bank holds the responsibility of complying with Federal law. This eliminates the greatest risk associated with abuse of rent-a-charter, which in particular jurisdictions around the country on the nature of those partnerships, and it clarifies those partnerships in a rules-based regime.

This legal clarity enables bank and fintech partnerships to provide their customers with the financial products they want and need.

Consider this: According to the New York Federal Reserve, one in four Afri-American-owned firms use fintech services, whereas PPP firms, one in four. And they did so using this legal doctrine that enabled that to happen in partnerships with national banks.

Technology helps create greater financial inclusion. So why are my Democrat colleagues afraid of technology, so afraid of innovation?

Per usual, my Democrat colleagues are willing to ignore facts in favor of myths that back up their preferred narrative. That is unfortunate, especially for something this important.

The left likes to say that banks can charge whatever interest rate they want. That is simply not true. Federal law gives national banks and Federal savings associations the same authority that State banks have regarding exportation of interest rates.

Now, both Federal- and State-chartered banks must conform to applicable interest rate limits in those States. States retain the authority to set interest rates, which varies from State to State.

Here is another myth: Third-party bank partnerships will use this rule to skirt State supervision and usury laws. Simply not true. The myth is, banks primarily partner with third parties to reach additional markets, benefiting from a particular expertise or technology to improve their efficiency. Partnerships with third parties do not change the bank’s authority or expose interest rate differentials.

And last, but not least, progressive activists cite the interest rate as a real problem with the true lender rule. They are pushing a 36 percent best rate cap. They have even pushed it at the national level. The myth simply doesn’t back up this falsehood.

The true lender rule was not some sinister plan by the previous administration to trick borrowers. It was not. It simply was not the case. This legal principle was established in 1864 with the National Bank Act. It is being undermined by an attempt at politics rather than sound policy, and what we should support is good, bipartisan policy that provides clarity to banks and fintechs so they can better serve our constituents and the consumers of America. That is it.

We have a well-regulated banking system. We do. It is not perfect. We have States that have various laws that are operable in their States, but we also have a national system here as well.

We have worked harmoniously, not perfectly, over the last 157 years since the Bank Act. We established the national banking system. But why is a key principle of that national banking system by spurious arguments that actually don’t have to do with the true lender rule? They don’t. There are other elements that the left opposes that actually, on a bipartisan basis, we oppose, but the true lender rule is not it.

It is a question of whether or not the bank that is providing you the loan is, in fact, the true lender. That is it. It is not about, again, to reverse the anti-consumer fake lender rule pushed through in the final weeks of the previous administration. I just want to take a moment to put it in perspective.

Madam Speaker, in November, the people elected Democratic majorities in the Congress that would be for the people, fighting for the public interests, not the special interests.

To that end, they elected majorities that would reverse the damage inflicted on their health and financial security. They did so.

That mission is why the House this week is passing legislation under the Congressional Review Act to reverse three of the past President’s most egregious assaults on families’ well-being.

The Congressional Review Act is one of Congress’ most important tools to reassert the power of the people’s House to deliver for the people and to reclaim our authority under the Constitution, upholding the balance of power in the last administration.

With the gentlewoman’s permission, I wish to speak to the anti-consumer fake lender rule, but also speak to two other issues under the Congressional Review Act this afternoon.

On the floor today is legislation, again, to reverse the anti-consumer fake lender rule pushed through in the final weeks of the previous administration.

This fake lender rule greenlights rent-a-bank schemes in which predatory lenders evade bank interest rate limits to swindle vulnerable consumers. This is done by putting a bank
name on loan paperwork and claiming that the bank, not the predatory lender, issued the loan.

To take one example, in California, where the interest rate on a 2-year $2,000 loan is capped at 25 percent, lenders can use rent-a-bank partnerships to make loans with rates up to 225 percent.

This bipartisan resolution to end the fake lender rule is supported by many: a bipartisan coalition of 25 State attorneys general; consumer leaders, including the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Baptist Convention USA, hundreds of banking law and consumer finance regulation scholars, and Americans across the country and across parties, urging us today to support this Congressional Review Act reversal of the anti-consumer fake lender rule.

Also today, we are considering legislation to undo the antiworker, pro-discrimination rule forced through in the final week of the past administration. The EEOC was established to protect working people from discrimination and ensure that discrimination charges are resolved fairly. But this rule would impose draconian new obligations on the EEOC that bias the conciliation process against employees, toward employers; escalate the potential for retaliation, because retaliation claims make up half of EEOC’s charges filed at the EEOC last year; siphon off scarce EEOC resources and saddle the EEOC with wasteful collateral litigation, prolonging harm to workers through delays; and contravene both the Supreme Court precedent and Congressional intent.

This month, civil rights and workers’ rights organizations wrote to Congress in support of S.J. Res. 13, writing: “The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently . . . to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination.”

There is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities.

“The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice.”

This Congressional Review Act legislation passed the Senate. Hopefully, it will pass the House today.

Finally, let us accept the bipartisan legislation that paves the way to restore the Obama-era protections against harmful methane pollution, which the most recent past President rolled back.

Briefly, these safeguards are key protections for public health that will also make a serious difference in combating the climate crisis. Methane is responsible for at least one-quarter of the warming of the planet. And it is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere.

This resolution passed on a bipartisan basis in the Senate and in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It builds on the commitment of the President and the Democratic Congress to tackle the climate crisis.

As the administration has stated, addressing methane pollution is an urgent and essential step.

Madam Speaker, I yield that, as Speaker, I am proud to be able to use the Speaker’s prerogative to speak beyond the item on the floor right now.

I am proud to support these important actions to undo the Trump damage and to deliver results that make a difference in the lives of hardworking American families.

I thank all of our leaders for this legislation: Chair BOBBY SCOTT and Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI on the EEOC resolution; Representative CHUY Garcia for his work on the true lender resolution; Representative DIANA deGETTE and Chairman FRANK PALLONE, and many others, on the methane resolution from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I urge strong votes for S.J. Res. 13, 14, and 15.

Coming back to the resolution on the floor now is the distinguished chair of the Financial Services Committee for her leadership in looking out always for the consumer, for competition, for fairness, for the people.

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), who is the ranking member of the Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee, and also the ranking member on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss S.J. Res. 15, House Democrats’ attempt to limit the ability of our Nation’s banks to serve consumers by overturning the true lender rule.

The true lender rule was finalized by the OCC in 2020, in an effort to clarify who was the true lender in national bank third-party relationships. By providing this clarity, these third-party entities were able to provide financial services in partnership with financial institutions with the protections of legal precedence.

Partnering with third parties like fintechs gives financial institutions the ability to increase access to credit, especially for lower-income consumers and small businesses.

Unfortunately, the bill before us is nothing more than a politically motivated attempt by Democrats to make it more expensive and difficult for banks and their partners to do business ahead of the needs of their constituents. Democrats are constantly putting their disdain for America’s banks ahead of the needs of their constituents, and this bill is another prime example of this unfortunate practice.

I firmly oppose this bill and its prevention of widespread financial inclusion, especially for low- and moderate-income consumers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCIA), who is also the special counsel of the House companion to this legislation.

Mr. GARCIA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 15, a resolution to repeal the OCC’s so-called true lender rule.

Earlier this year, my State, Illinois, passed a law that protects our consumers from predatory, high-interest loans. Eighteen other States have done the same.

I introduced the House version of this resolution because the true lender rule undermines laws like ours, laws that keep working-class people out of cycles of debt they can’t pay back.

The rule is a rubber stamp for rent-a-bank schemes, where a lender can dodge State law by having a bank’s name on the loan that is all. No skin in the game, no investment in our communities; just a name on the paperwork.

This rule doesn’t encourage innovation. It encourages playing games. This isn’t a partisan issue. As a matter of fact, last year, 82 percent of Nebraska voters joined States like Arkansas and South Dakota to protect their communities from payday debt, and this rule from the OCC provides bad actors with a new tool to ignore them.

So a broad coalition of over 400 organizations—rural, urban, suburban—have come together in support of this measure, and they include consumer advocates, labor advocates, veterans, religious organizations—rural, urban, suburban—coming back to the resolution and empower working-class communities like mine that are targeted by predatory lenders, and voters across the country who support consumer protections.

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

Madam Speaker, I would reference many colleagues the Federal Code, the Federal Register, that actually has the contents of this rule.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the actual rule that we are debating here, and I would highlight one piece in particular: “The OCC agrees that rent-a-charter schemes have no place in the Federal financial system but disagrees that this rule facilitates such schemes. As noted above, instead, this proposal would help solve the problem by (1) providing a clear and simple test for determining when a bank makes a loan and (2) emphasizing the robust supervisory framework that applies to any
The statutory framework, however, does not reliably determine the applicability of key laws, including the law governing the permissible interest that may be charged on the loan. This final rule presents a clear test for determining when a bank makes a loan, by interpreting the statutes that grant banks their authority to lend. Specifically, the final rule states that a bank makes a loan when it, as of the date of origination, (1) is named as the lender in the loan agreement or (2) funds the loan.

II. Overview of Comments

The OCC received approximately 4,000 comments on the proposal, the vast majority of which were from individuals using a version of one of three short form letters to express opposition to the proposal. Other commenters represented banks, nonbanks, cutting-edge third parties, and groups representing consumers, states, and academics.

A. Lending Partnerships

Lending partnerships between national banks or Federal savings associations (banks) and third parties play a critical role in our financial system. These partnerships expand access to credit and provide an avenue for banks to remain competitive as the financial sector evolves. Through these partnerships, banks often leverage technology developed by innovative third parties that helps to reach a wider array of customers. However, there is often uncertainty about how to determine which entity is making the loans and, in this way, incorporate, rather than the form of a transaction. In a similar vein, commenters also argued that the proposal would allow nonbanks to enjoy the benefits of federal preemption without submitting to the regulatory text to ensure that interested parties understand the consequences of its interpretation. Sections 24, 371, and 12 U.S.C. 1464(c), including this rulemaking, is an attempt by the OCC to improperly regulate nonbank lenders, industry trade associations, community groups, academics, state government representatives, and members of Congress.

Banks do not obtain their lending authority from sections 85 or 12 U.S.C. 1464(c). Nor are these statutes the authority the OCC is relying on to issue this rule. The proposal referenced sections 85 and 12 U.S.C. 1463(g) to preempt state laws that determine whether a loan is made by a nonbank lender. One commenter also asserted that the proposal is an attempt by the OCC to improperly regulate nonbank lenders, a role they consider to be reserved exclusively to the states. Opposing commenters also observed that the proposal would enhance a bank’s safety and soundness by facilitating its ability to sell loans. These commenters also noted that the proposal (1) makes clear that the OCC will hold banks accountable for products with unfair, deceptive, abusive, or misleading features that are offered as part of a relationship and (2) is consistent with the OCC’s statutory mission to ensure that banks provide fair access to financial services.

II. Analysis

As noted in the prior section, commenters raised a variety of issues for the OCC’s consideration. These are discussed below.

A. OCC’s Authority To Issue the Rule

The OCC lacks the legal authority to issue the rule because it would contravene the unambiguous meaning of 12 U.S.C. 86. These commenters believe that sections 85 and 1463(g) are the law of usury as of 1864, which they view as requiring courts to look to the substance rather than the form of a transaction. In a similar vein, commenters also argued that the proposal, by displacing federal consumer protection laws, and is an attempt by the OCC to improperly regulate nonbank lenders, a role they consider to be reserved exclusively to the states. Opposing commenters also observed that the proposal would enhance a bank’s safety and soundness by facilitating its ability to sell loans. These commenters also noted that the proposal (1) makes clear that the OCC will hold banks accountable for products with unfair, deceptive, abusive, or misleading features that are offered as part of a relationship and (2) is consistent with the OCC’s statutory mission to ensure that banks provide fair access to financial services.

III. Analysis

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IV. Conclusion

The OCC is committed to enhancing access to financial services and ensuring fair access to financial services. The OCC will continue to review and consider comments received in this rulemaking, and will issue regulations that enhance consumer protections and ensure fair access to financial services.
individual bank loans result primarily from differences in the state laws that impose these caps, not from an interpretation that section 65 or 1463(g) preempt state law.

A commenter also asserted that the OCC’s interpretation is not reasonable because it (1) does not solve the problem it claims to remedy, arguing that the proposal itself is unclear and does not provide banks with a pathway to undertake this determination. The OCC disagrees. The APA’s arbitrary and capricious standard requires an agency to provide a plain statement of what it intends to accomplish, including identifying variables and principles. The OCC does not require the OCC to develop or cite empirical or other data to support its rule or wait for courts to make legal determinations. The OCC’s approach provides this information, and therefore, is not capricious.

C. Administrative Procedure Act

Several commenters asserted that the agency should have complied with 12 U.S.C. 25b, which applies when the OCC issues a regulation or order that preempts a state consumer financial law. Some of these commenters argued that the OCC should have provided the clarity needed to determine which entity is the true lender in a lending relationship. The only required factual analysis is whether the bank is named as the lender or funds the loan. Commenters also argued that the proposal contravenes 12 U.S.C. 1, which charges the OCC with ensuring that banks treat all customers in a fair and equitable manner. One commenter argued that the proposal is inconsistent with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) because it encourages predatory lending. As the OCC explained in the proposal, the true lender approach is necessary to provide legal certainty to expand access to credit, a goal that is entirely consistent with the CRA’s purposes. The OCC’s purpose is to provide legal certainty to banks and their third-party relationships. While the OCC understands its rule may not resolve all legal uncertainty for every loan, this is not a prerequisite for the agency to take this narrowly tailored action. Taking these considerations into account, the OCC has made a rational and informed decision to issue the rule.

D. Comments on the Proposed Regulatory Text

The OCC has decided to issue this rule to resolve a host of legal uncertainty surrounding banks and their third-party relationships. In this case, the OCC’s views are informed by courts’ divergent true lender tests and the resulting lack of predictability faced by stakeholders. While the OCC understands its rule may not resolve all legal uncertainty for every loan, it is not a prerequisite for the agency to take this narrowly tailored action. Taking these considerations into account, the OCC has made a rational and informed decision to issue the rule.

The OCC disagrees with the APA’s arbitrary and capricious standards. The OCC has decided to issue this rule to resolve a host of legal uncertainty surrounding banks and their third-party relationships. In this case, the OCC’s views are informed by courts’ divergent true lender tests and the resulting lack of predictability faced by stakeholders. While the OCC understands its rule may not resolve all legal uncertainty for every loan, it is not a prerequisite for the agency to take this narrowly tailored action. Taking these considerations into account, the OCC has made a rational and informed decision to issue the rule.

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thoroughly enable nonbank lenders to engage in predatory or otherwise abusive lending practices. These commenters noted that nonbanks are generally not subject to the type of supervision that applies to banks and that usury caps are the most effective method to curb predatory lending by nonbanks. They argued that the OCC’s rule would fail to address these concerns.

As explained above, in a rent-a-charter arrangement, a third party assists in or otherwise facilitates the expansion of predatory lending. As a result of these arrangements, many states have found themselves in a situation where they have been unable to regulate the third party’s activities properly. The OCC agrees that rent-a-charter schemes, the final rule will ensure that banks understand that the OCC will continue to hold banks accountable for their lending activities.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

Paperwork Reduction Act. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq., any agency, including the OCC, must submit a final rule and any comments or other material submitted by the OCC to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before issuance. The OCC has reviewed the final rule and determined that it will not introduce any new or revise any existing collection of information pursuant to the PRA. Therefore, neither a submission will be made to OMB for review.

Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., requires an agency, in connection with a final rule, to prepare a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis describing the impact of the rule on small entities (defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for purposes of the RFA to include commercial banks and savings institutions with total assets of $600 million or less and trust companies with assets of $41.5 million or less) or to certify that the final rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The OCC certifies approximately 745 small entities. The OCC expects that all of these small entities would be impacted by the rule. While this final rule could affect how banks structure their current or future third-party relationships as well as the amount of loans originated by banks, the OCC believes the costs associated with any changes to the current bank lending policies and procedures would be de minimis. Banks already have systems, policies, and procedures in place for issuing loans when third parties are involved. The OCC considers whether a final rule includes a federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by state, local, and tribal governments, or any state, local, or tribal government agency, or any small entity, of Federal financial assistance or loans. The OCC considers whether a final rule includes a federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by state, local, or tribal governments, or any state, local, or tribal government agency, or any small entity, of Federal financial assistance or loans.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Consistent with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), 2 U.S.C. 1532, the OCC considers whether a final rule includes a federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by state, local, or tribal governments, or any state, local, or tribal government agency, or any small entity, of Federal financial assistance or loans. The OCC expects that any rule that would establish additional reporting, disclosures, or certification requirements for small banks would result in an expenditure by state, local, or tribal governments, or any state, local, or tribal government agency, or any small entity, of Federal financial assistance or loans. The OCC expects that any rule that would establish additional reporting, disclosures, or certification requirements for small banks would result in an expenditure by state, local, or tribal governments, or any state, local, or tribal government agency, or any small entity, of Federal financial assistance or loans.
small depository institutions, and customers of depository institutions, as well as the benefits of such regulations. In addition, section 302(b) of RCEDRIA, 12 U.S.C. 4692(b), requires new regulations and amendments to regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosure, or other new requirements on insured depository institutions generally to take effect on the first day of a calendar quarter that begins on or after the date on which the regulations are published in final form. This final rule imposes no additional reporting, disclosure, or other new requirements on insured depository institutions and, therefore, section 302 is not applicable to this rule.

Congressional Review Act. For purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) of the OMB determines whether a final rule is a “major rule,” as that term is defined at 5 U.S.C. 804(2). OIRA has determined that this final rule is not a major rule. As required by the CRA, the OCC will submit the final rule and other appropriate reports to Congress and the Government Accountability Office for review.

Administrative Procedure Act. The APA, 5 U.S.C. 551 et seq., generally requires that a final rule be published in the Federal Register not less than 30 days before its effective date. This final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which meets the APA’s effective date requirement.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 7

PART 7—ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS

§ 7.1031 National banks and Federal savings associations as lenders.

(a) In purposes of this section, bank means a national bank or a Federal savings association.

(b) For purposes of sections 5136 and 5197 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 24 and 12 U.S.C. 85), section 24 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 371), and sections 4(g) and 5(c) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 146(g) and 12 U.S.C. 146(c)), a bank makes a loan when the bank, as of the date of origin of the loan, (1) is named as the lender in the loan agreement, or (2) funds the loan.

(c) If, as of the date of origination, one bank is named as the lender in the loan agreement for a loan and another bank funds that loan, the bank that is named as the lender in the loan agreement makes the loan.

Brian P. Brooks,
Acting Comptroller of the Currency.

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BILLING CODE 4810–35–P

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, additionally, I would highlight for you that the outline here and the arguments by my colleagues on the other side are striking at the nature of national banking.

So just repeal the National Banking Act rather than trying to undermine it by taking away the legal principle by which a bank can make a loan. That is what this rule does, and that is the absurdity of this debate. That is why I oppose this attempt on the floor today. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my colleague and friend.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from North Carolina for managing the opposition to this.

Look, it is simple. The reason we are here today is to debate the Democrats’ latest episode in their anti-financial technology agenda, but also their rush to undo any policy of the previous administration, whether it was good or bad.

Now, here are the facts: More than 30 percent of adults are unbanked or underbanked, 40 percent do not have enough savings to cover a $400 emergency expense, 42 percent have a subprime credit score and are rejected for bank loans for rates higher than those with prime credit.

Now, fintech has been instrumental in expanding access to credit for consumers who have little or no credit history. Online lending has grown to $90 billion in a year.

So what do consumers typically use these loans to pay for?

Funerals, weddings, car repairs, and home improvement.

Fintech is particularly important for minorities. In fact, fintechs were the top PPI lenders to Black-owned businesses and Hispanic-owned businesses during the pandemic.

But there is an issue that has caused difficulty when banks and fintech companies partner to make loans, and that is the question of which entity is considered the true lender. Until recently, this question was attempted to be settled in a series of confusing and conflicting lawsuits. The courts are divided on this, and the OCC finalized a rule to provide much-needed certainty. It is no surprise that the organizations calling for the rule to be overturned are the so-called consumer groups that, for the most part, are funded by trial lawyers.

The Democrats are attempting to overturn this rule because some imaginary lenders could rent a bank charter to engage in predatory lending, but as the ranking member has just stated, that is not the case in the existing rule. This resolution is devastating to minority consumers and businesses, those with subprime credit, and the unbanked.

Instead of giving those people options, this resolution would direct them to payday lenders, or in States like Georgia where payday lending is illegal, they will have no access to credit.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this disastrous resolution.

Ms. WATERs. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, we know it is expensive to be poor in our country; that we live in a country with a system that continues to put profit before our people, and it must stop.

In my home State of Michigan, communities like Detroit that are majority Black and Latino have 50 percent more payday lenders than anywhere else in the State. These lenders target our communities, the most financially vulnerable communities. Payday lenders in Michigan are 62 percent more common in low-income Census tracts compared to statewide average.

That is what folks mean when they say that we need to abolish structural racism in our country.

You cannot justify loans of 100 percent APR or higher as providing access to credit when they trap borrowers in destructive cycles of debt and ruin their credit. World Business Lenders offered loans of upwards of 268 percent of APR, despite the fact that its rent-a-bank partner was regulated by the OCC. They found a way around the rules, and that is unacceptable.

In my State, like Michigan, we have no ability to enforce our own State rate caps, giving predatory lenders free rein to exploit our neighbors with outrageous APRs.

Repealing the true lender rule is the first step toward protecting borrowers from predatory lenders, and I am proud to support it.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), a great new Member of the Congress.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the CRA before us.

Innovation in our financial industry lifts Americans across all levels of the socioeconomic spectrum. A great example of this has been the emergence of the fintech industry, which has helped more Americans access secure, affordable credit.

Unfortunately, government regulation has stifled innovation as regulatory uncertainties have imposed artificial barriers to our creativity. Recent court rulings have only exacerbated this uncertainty by creating confusion about who the true lender of a loan is when a bank works with a third party.

In 2020, the Office of the Comptroller sought to clarify this uncertainty by finalizing the true lender rule. This rule allowed our local community and regional banks to provide expanded access to banking services and lower the cost of banking to consumers across the Nation. It is that simple.

Commonsense reforms that help banks and the fintech industry do business with underserved communities, like Georgia where payday lending is illegal, they will have no access to credit.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this disastrous resolution.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).
Madam Speaker, I oppose S.J. Res. 15, and I encourage my colleagues to vote “no.”

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), who is also the chairman and the Committee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Madam Speaker. Again, I thank the chairwoman for the time and the opportunity.

I would say to all. I recall the debate around the yield spread premium, wherein a loan originator could say to a person, “Here is a loan, you are lucky to get it for 10 percent” when the person qualified for a loan at 5 percent. We eliminated the dastardly yield spread premium and the harm that it caused. We have a similar circumstance with the rent-a-bank scheme that steals the American Dream, such that people who qualify for better loans will likely get higher loans because they don’t always understand the scheme.

So I rise today, and I thank Mr. GarCIA for what he has done to bring this bill to fruition. I thank the Chairwoman, and I absolutely support the legislation.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy of the Committee on Financial Services. He is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today also in opposition to S.J. Resolution 15, the Congressional Review Act repeal of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency’s true lender rule.

The United States has the most vibrant and innovative financial system in the world. Recent advancements in technology have fostered products and partnerships that expand access to credit to large swaths of the population that previously couldn’t access basic financial services.

Many of these innovations faced challenges from regulatory red tape or confusing and often conflicting rules. The OCC’s true lender rule gave needed clarity to banks and their partners, fixing the disastrous Madden rule. The OCC’s true lender rule gave that clarity, but unfortunately, the effort in the House today threatens to undermine the progress that we have made and compromise underbanked individuals’ and small businesses’ access to financial services.

I spoke with a local Kentucky bank that partners with a nonbank fintech lender to provide credit to consumers, including many underbanked populations. They told me that absent the true lender rule they would once again be buried in compliance costs to keep track of the patchwork of cases that dictate the rules of the road.

Rather than embrace innovation to deliver cost savings to their customers, many of whom have trouble accessing traditional financial services to begin with, the bank will need to retain thousand-dollar-an-hour New York law firms and expense them to keep track of the patchwork of cases that dictate the rules of the road.

They told me that absent the OCC’s true lender rule, they would once again be buried in compliance costs to keep track of the patchwork of cases that dictate the rules of the road.

This is yet another example of the Democrats sacrificing good policy for the sake of a partisan political vendetta. This is an example of a majority that is more interested in burying the consumer in compliance costs to keep track of the patchwork of cases that dictate the rules of the road.

The OCC’s true lender rule gave needed clarity to banks and their partners, fixing the disastrous Madden rule. It is also important to dispel misperceptions of the rule, many of which are repeated by opponents of the rule. To be clear, the rule does not change banks’ authority to export interest rates. That authority is granted by federal statute. Nor does the rule permit national banks to charge whatever rate they like; national banks and federal savings associations have the same authority as state banks regarding the exportation of interest rates. Both federal and state-chartered banks must conform to applicable interest rate limits. Disparities of interest rates from state to state result from state law, and the OCC’s rule does not affect these caps, not OCC rules or actions. States retain the authority to set interest rates, and rates vary from state to state.

This rule does not limit states’ ability to regulate the conduct of state-licensed and regulated nonbank lenders, which engage in the majority of predatory lending. States are the primary regulators of nonbank lenders, including payday lenders. Nonbank lenders are generally also subject to supervision and enforcement by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to Chairwoman WATERS for allowing me to speak in support of invalidating the predatory true lender rule.

In our home State, the legislature passed an interest rate cap of 36 percent on loans of up to $10,000 about 2 years ago.

Before California Governor Newsom had even signed this bill into law, predatory online lenders began plotting during their shareholder earnings calls to evade the new law through rent-a-bank arrangements. Companies like Speedy Cash and CashNetUSA went so far as to gloat about the California law creating a huge opportunity for them by driving out their competition, subprime title lenders based in California.

Since the founding of the United States, States have chosen to impose their own limits on interest rates that lenders may charge consumers. The Trump administration’s true lender rule greenlit these rent-a-bank schemes and, in doing so, undermined the will of the people who, through the democratic process, chose to prohibit abusive interest rates.

The true lender rule violates our federalist democracy, and it must be invalidated.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), who has been a great new Member of Congress.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to allow me to speak on this matter.

It is important to understand, Madam Speaker, that having access to financial products is critical for not only the innovation of our markets but for the future expansion of our markets. It is the readiness out of politics and actually prioritizing policy that puts Americans first and puts America first.

True lender is not being discussed in the way that considers people. If that were the case, we would be recognizing the incredible ways it has spurred innovation in our markets and has provided more access to credit and other financial products for Americans.

Instead of Congress working together to create financial equity in a sustainable way or ensuring that the United States remains a global leader, Democrats are working to undo anything accomplished under the Trump administration, even if it means sacrificing the good of the people.

I support assessing harmful financial policies of the past and working to undo some of the mistakes that have been made. In fact, we could benefit from assessing legislation like Dodd-Frank, which has put tremendous downward pressure on community banks being formed in the United States. But that is not what is being done here.

We are not having honest conversations. My peers across the aisle are undoing good policy without an objective view to determine how it helps or hurts Americans.

Fintech has played a significant role in transforming our markets, helping smaller banks become more competitive, and creating more products and access for Americans. The true lender rule has supported that because it clarifies the legal framework that allows these bank and nonbank partnerships to be successful for consumers.

We should be prioritizing fair access to financial services for Americans and work to protect and promote innovation in our markets so that consumers have as many pathways as possible to prosperity and achieving the American Dream.

If we scrap the true lender rule, we will disrupt our market, stifle innovation, and hinder access to accountable and affordable credit for consumers and small businesses. This is not the precedent we should set in this body. It is a gross abuse of power and a knife in the back of consumers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The true lender rule specifies that when a bank makes a loan, the bank is the true lender. The rule clarifies what was uncertain and, therefore, made those loans more expensive.

It gives certainty to the marketplace. It is a good thing. The true lender rule is a good thing.

Under the true lender rule, we have fintechs that have been enabled to make loans in coordination with banks and regulated like the people that they work with, like the banks that they work with, which means the loans fall under Federal consumer protection laws, under Federal usury laws, under Federal laws.

One case in point, what the true lender rule enabled was one out of four African American-owned businesses accessing credit through fintechs.

I would ask Members to review a few pieces of evidence that I have here. Madam Speaker, I would refer the Members to a study conducted by NYU highlighting the important role that fintechs play in supporting African American-owned small businesses.

I would also refer the Members to letters in opposition to S.J. Res. 15: a June 8 letter from the American Bankers Association, Independent Bankers of America, Midsize Bank Coalition of America, and National Bankers Association; an April 2, 2021, letter from FreedomWorks, Americans for Tax Reform, National Taxpayers Union, Center for a Free Economy, American Commitment, and Citizens Against Government Waste; a letter from the Structured Finance Association; a letter from the Independent Community Bankers of America; a May 11, 2021, letter from the American Bankers Association; a May 7, 2021, letter from the...
Americans for Prosperity; and a June 22, 2021, letter from the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which consists of a number of additional signatories.

None of those people are payday lenders, by the way, which is the most spurious issue to get at the true lender rule. If you want to get at payday lending, go talk about valid when made. That would be the sound argument from there. At least it has some relationship tangentially to payday lending. It's about loan by loan. These are different loans that are being described by my colleagues across the aisle.

Let's be clear. The National Banking Act enacted in 1864 established the principle by which and explicitly granted national banks the ability to transfer loans State-by-State. If you don't like that model, then repeal the 1864 National Banking Act instead of making these false arguments about the true lender rule, which simply provides clarity about the National Banking Act.

My colleagues across the aisle would have you believe that this is a complex scheme cooked up by the previous administration to get around consumer protection laws. That is not true. We are talking about 157 years of banking law here in the United States, and my colleagues across the aisle are arguing about that.

My Democratic colleagues also ignored this basic fact: They have made misleading statements about national banks versus State banks. They have implied falsehoods on State interest rates. They have cited protecting consumers as a requirement for a payday loan. They are just using that lending system to do harm. That is not consumer protection.

I get it. Democrats are now so politically motivated that the facts and longstanding precedent no longer matter. I think facts matter. In fact, Democrats are now so blinded by partisanship, some can't even seem to differentiate between that doctrine of valid when made versus what we are discussing today, which is the true lender rule. I think we should focus on the facts. The rule provides necessary consumer protection.

Deal with that. Don't create needless pain for consumers. Don't drive up the cost of credit and make it less available by repealing this true lender rule. This is another moment where my colleagues are working against the nation's financial system. Technology and innovation facilitate financial inclusion, which should be our goal.

Let's not waste further time here. Let's vote this idea down that we are debating right now. Let's get back to actually driving a more competitive marketplace and doing what is right for our constituents, what is right for consumers, and what is right for families.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. McCOLLUM). The gentlewoman has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution would take the necessary action to reverse the harmful Trump-era true lender rule that preys on small business owners and individuals when they need assistance the most. This rule is a back door for nonbanks to charge triple digit interest rates that trap consumers.

Last month, the Senate passed this resolution on a bipartisan vote with all Democrats voting in support. They were joined by Republican Senators LUMMIS, RUBIO, and COLLINS. This resolution is also supported by more than 40 consumer, civil rights, veterans, small businesses, and other organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, Faith for Just Lending, the NAACP, National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, the National Consumer Law Center, Conference of State Bank Supervisors, and 25 State attorneys general from both red and blue States, among many others.

Madam Speaker, and Members, small businesses and underbanked consumers do not benefit from the rule. Instead, the rule allows nonbank lenders to launder loans through banks in order to charge those with limited access to credit triple digit interest rates and trap these consumers in devastating cycles of debt. These predatory rent-a-bank schemes disproportionately prey upon communities of color, draining wealth from these communities and, in turn, perpetuating the racial wealth gap. A disproportionate share of payday borrowers come from communities of color even after controlling for income. Communities of color have historically been left out of the banking system. Black and Latinx consumers are much more likely to have a checking account than White consumers, which is typically a requirement for a payday loan. About 17 percent of Black and 14 percent of Latinx households are unbanked compared to 3 percent of White households.

Payday lenders target communities of color. The communities most affected by redlining are the same who are saturated by payday lenders today, who are more likely to locate in more affluent communities of color than in less affluent White communities.

One borrower, a single mother living below the poverty line from California, submitted a complaint to the CFPB about Elevate's RISE.

"I was misled by RISE Credit to believe that they were unlike other predatory loan companies. By the time," she says, "I understood what I had signed, I had paid them thousands of dollars in interest."

I have recently become temporarily unemployed and called them to ask for help during my time of financial hardship. They refused any solution and my account is headed to collections now.

"The total paid is far over the amount initially borrowed from RISE. This is robbery, and all of the necessities I have for myself and my children are suffering because of it."

"How is it that they can do this? I am asking for help for not only my family, but for all of the families targeted by these predatory loans. I mean to target those living in poverty and struggling to live paycheck to paycheck."

The false lender rule protects lenders that not only destroy small businesses but also threaten to take business owners' homes.

In New York, Jacob Adoni, a realtor, has been facing foreclosure threats on a $40,000 loan at an interest rate of 138 percent APR.

In a court case—that is Adoni et al. v. World Business Lenders, LLC, Axos Bank and Circadian Funding filed in New York in October 2019—Adoni said he received threats that the lender would foreclose on his home after receiving a $90,000 loan at 138 percent APR, secured by his personal residence.

"Adoni was contacted by Circadian Funding with an offer of a personal loan that would be funded by WLB and Axos Bank. He was told that the loan documents would be provided to him at 12 p.m. and he must execute them by 6 p.m. or the offer would no longer be valid."

"Adoni was told by Circadian that the loan was meant to be a personal loan to him, but it was necessary for the loan documents to make reference to the house."

He has received multiple threats to foreclose on his home and the mortgage.
Madam Speaker, let me just respond to some of what I have heard from the opposite side of the aisle. I am absolutely overcome by the great interest that my Republican colleagues have in helping minorities. I am so moved about the fact that all this is about helping minorities to have been put into trouble because they are subprime lenders. Now if they are, it is because they were the victim of predatory lenders who put them in a subprime position.

But I hardly think that this is all about taking care of minorities and these small businesses. This is about protecting the big banks. This is about protecting the national banks. You heard what the ranking member said. The big national banks have been in business for years, and we ought to let them operate the way that they have historically operated and not interfere with them.

I don't know where they get away with protecting these big national banks. And the constituents in their own district who are being misused because they happen to get money, money that was lent to them by a nonbank, and that nonbank partnered with a national bank, they are now having to pay the interest rates of another State, perhaps—like it was explained in California, why we have usury laws and there is a cap on those interest rates.

When they do this kind of partnering, it is all about getting to a State where they are made to pay whatever that big bank is allowed to collect from them.

Madam Speaker, this is a rip-off. This is about hurting the people who most need our help. This is about allowing this partnering to go on. And many of those people who are borrowing from these payday lenders and other nonbanks don't even know that they are going to be the victims of the big bank interest rates that they charge. This is absolutely ridiculous, and there is not a credible argument from the other side of the aisle about why they should disadvantage these minorities and small businesses that they claim that they are protecting. That is outrageous.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased that the Senate passed this bill. And I am so pleased that the Republicans on the other side of the aisle—not on the other side of the aisle, on the other side of Congress—decided to join with the Democrats in order to do the right thing on behalf of our constituents.

Madam Speaker, when they talk about, Oh, this is just because they didn't like Trump and they want to undo whatever he has done, that is their talking point for the day. This is not about that.

This committee, the Committee on Financial Services, is a new and different kind of committee. We are not owned by the banks. We are not here to protect the big banks and the national banks. We are here because we are here to take care of what is right and what is fair. And this committee is not going to be about the business of ripping off the least of these.

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

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

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. McHENRY. 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 question are postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO “UPDATE OF COMMISSION’S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES”

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 7 of House Resolution 486, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to “Update of Commission’s Conciliation Procedures”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. Res. 13

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to “Update of Commission’s Conciliation Procedures” (86 Fed. Reg. 2974; published January 14, 2021), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia,
have the discretion to use whatever informal means of settlement are appropriate in each individual case. However, under the new rule, a rigid conciliation process will apply across the board, one-size-fits-all, in every case of workplace discrimination.

This rigid rule will likely lead to increased retaliation against victims of discrimination and witnesses, as well as needless delays in justice for workers. We know that justice delayed is justice denied. This is why civil rights leaders and advocates across the country have called on Congress to pass this Congressional Review Act resolution and restore fairness for victims of workplace discrimination.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record a statement of Administrative Policy from the Biden administration in support of this resolution.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S.J. RES. 13—A JOURNAL RESOLUTION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO "UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURE"—SEN. MURRAY, D-WA, AND NO CO-SPONSORS

The Administration supports Senate passage of Senate Joint Resolution 13 to nullify the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rule that was recently promulgated "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures," which became effective on February 16, 2021, under the Congressional Review Act. The rule that S.J. Res. 13 would nullify imposed onerous and rigid new procedures on the EEOC's obligation to conciliate or "settle" meritorious claims of employment discrimination, that risks unduly delaying and diverting limited resources from agency efforts to investigate and resolve meritorious claims of employment discrimination. The rule increases the risk of retaliation by making it easier for employers to demand the identities of those with information about unlawful conduct, which will likely have a chilling effect on the willingness of victims and witnesses to come forward. S.J. Res. 13 would nullify the rule's unnecessary and burdensome requirements that would likely result in increased charge backlogs, and lengthier charge investigation, resolution and litigation times. The resolution will also ensure that EEOC has the flexibility to tailor settlements to the facts and circumstances of each case, thus increasing the likelihood of voluntary compliance. The resolution will also provide more clear and comprehensive guidance for authenticating that justice for workers subject to discrimination is not delayed, or potentially denied, due to costly and time-consuming collateral litigation.

Mr. Virginia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Res. 13, which negates a recent U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, rule. I urge Members to reject this misguided resolution.

The rule in question, often referred to as the conciliation rule, is fair, increases transparency, reduces senseless litigation, and upholds a Federal statute.

There are dozens of pressing problems demanding Congress' attention. Our southern border is being run over by drug dealers and human traffickers. America is vulnerable to cyberattacks from adversarial foreign nations, like China. Our children are months behind in their schoolwork because of Democrats' insistence on putting teachers' union leadership demands before students' interests.

We could be addressing those problems, but Democrats are choosing to elevate the repeal of this commonsense rule before all those other immediate problems.

Let's examine the facts of the matter. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires EEOC to engage in conciliation. Before the EEOC can pursue court proceedings against an employer for a discrimination claim, the agency must work with the business to resolve the dispute.

There are good reasons Congress established this requirement. Successful conciliations provide immediate relief to employees who suffered discrimination. Conciliations also save these employers money. Court cases are adversarial and can last years. Individuals who experience discrimination should not have to wait years for justice.

Nothing in the regulation prohibits the EEOC from using the court system if conciliation fails. For over four decades, EEOC's conciliation process remained largely ineffectual and unpalatable. Antiquated bureaucratic systems deserve scrutiny, and this opaque practice was long overdue for improvement.

Prior to the rule's promulgation, a paltry 41 percent of the conciliations were successful. One out of every three employers declined to participate in this broken process.

In 2015, the Supreme Court remanded the EEOC for its inadequate conciliation process, which included compelling employers to provide information about the alleged discrimination to employers. The mounting evidence of a failed conciliation process grew harder and harder for the EEOC to ignore. That is why the conciliation rule was issued on January 14, after an extensive notice-and-comment rulemaking.

Under the rule, the core tenets of conciliation remained unchanged. Conciliation stays voluntary, does not favor either the employer or the worker, and protects individuals' privacy.

The rule requires the EEOC to provide employers with basic but important information in support of the agency's findings, including simple explanations and a legal basis for the finding, an explanation of the monetary relief calculations, and whether the EEOC designated the case for a class of individuals.

The rule also does not increase costs to taxpayers. EEOC is on the record saying its operating budget will absorb any minor costs associated with implementing the rule.

In summary, S.J. Res. 13 harms the victims of discrimination; encourages the EEOC to pursue needless, combative, and expensive litigation; and turns the EEOC back into a politically driven, runaway bureaucracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on S.J. Res. 13, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the ranking member of the Civil Rights and Human Services, and co-sponsor of the House version of this resolution.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 13, a resolution to repeal a harmful rule from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that threatens to delay or potentially deny justice for individuals who face workplace discrimination.

As chair of the Education and Labor Committee's Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee, I am pleased to co-lead the House companion to this resolution because far too many workers still experience workplace discrimination. The Civil Rights Act helps workers seek redress by directing the EEOC to engage in conciliation, which provides an opportunity for settlement before going to court.

But the EEOC's new rule added burdensome requirements, and it gives employers unfair advantages in the conciliation process. Under the rule, the EEOC discloses confidential information, analysis, and even the identities of workers to employers, increasing the likelihood of retaliation.

By passing this resolution, we can direct the EEOC to revert to its prior practices, which were upheld by the Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, I want to note that in the Mach Mining decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015, the Court held that "Every aspect of the Title VII's conciliation provision smacks of flexibility. To begin with, the EEOC need only to 'endeavor' to conciliate a claim, without having to devote a set amount of time or resources to that project.''

We can direct the EEOC to revert to those prior practices that were upheld and that better support the needs of workers.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman Scott for his leadership, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Democrats have claimed that EEOC's conciliation rule could subject employees to retaliation. This claim could not be further from the truth.

First, the rule explicitly states that employees may remain anonymous in the conciliation process. If they so choose, in such cases, settlement discussions would proceed with the employee or employees making claims of discrimination remaining anonymous.
Second, the existing statutes to which the conciliation rule applies all make it illegal for an employer to retaliate against an employee for filing a charge with EEOC or participating in EEOC proceedings. An employer would be compounding its legal exposure if it unilaterally tried to act against employees for making a complaint to the EEOC.

The claim that the conciliation rule will expose employees to retaliation is a red herring.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this misguided resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just to state on the question of whether or not the individuals can be revealed, identifying the aggrieved individuals must take place, but not if the individual or individuals have requested anonymity. That means you have to know that you are about to be revealed. You have to proactively request anonymity. If you haven’t gone through those steps, then you will be revealed.

That is an unnecessary step. It puts people in unnecessary jeopardy, and I hope they would not subject that. It is not necessary. The EEOC has an obligation to do conciliation, but they need to do it on an individualized case, best aimed at settlement and based on an individual case, and reveal the information that is best for that purpose, and no more.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in 2015, the Supreme Court harshly criticized EEOC’s conciliation process in the Mach Mining decision, which held that a court may review if the EEOC satisfied its statutory obligation to engage in conciliation before filing a lawsuit.

The agency claimed that two “book-end letters” were all that was needed to satisfy the statutory conciliation requirement, one at the beginning of the process announcing a finding of discrimination, and one at the end stating that conciliation had failed.

The Supreme Court disagreed and ruled that the EEOC must disclose to the employer what practice has harmed which person or class, and provide the employer an opportunity to discuss the matter in an effort to achieve voluntary compliance.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, S.J. Res. 13 is a partisan wish to overturn an eminently reasonable regulation. Before the rule, the EEOC’s conciliation process was out of date, opaque, and ineffective. Individuals subject to workplace discrimination should not have to wait years for justice.

Employers are not asking too much when they request basic information about the EEOC’s findings. The conciliation rule updates a broken system and is beneficial to both workers and employers.

S.J. Res. 13 delivers a partisan victory for the Democrats’ technocrat base.

Madam Speaker, I reject S.J. Res. 13, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is our responsibility to reverse the EEOC’s new conciliation rule. Before this harmful rule change, the EEOC’s conciliation process was what it was meant to be, an informed, cooperative, and confidential opportunity to settle discrimination claims before going to court. That is what the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 2015.

Now, the new conciliation rule is threatening to stalk the process against workers by subjecting those who make detailed disclosures to an increased risk of retaliation and allowing employers to hijack the process to focus on whether it failed to conciliate, not whether the employer violated the law.

Simply put, this is an unnecessary new regulation which will, at best, delay justice for victims of discrimination and, at worst, open the door for increased risk of retaliation and allow employers to hijack the process to focus on whether it failed to conciliate, not whether the employer violated the law.

That is why advocates of victims of discrimination support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights signed by 21 civil rights groups in support of the resolution.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Washington, DC, June 9, 2021

Re Support S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act Resolution of Disapproval to Protect Workers from a Harmful EEOC Rule

Dear Representative: The undersigned 24 civil and workers’ rights organizations urge you to vote for S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval, to undo a January 14, 2021, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) final rule that threatens to harm working people seeking relief from discrimination and to impede the work of the EEOC.

The EEOC final rule made several changes to conciliation, the process by which the EEOC attempts to resolve workplace discrimination. Instead of ensuring that discrimination charges are resolved fairly, the EEOC’s final rule imposes several new obligations and requirements that:

- Significantly weight the conciliation process in favor of employers;
- Delay justice and increase the likelihood of harm to working people;
- Divert scarce EEOC staff time and resources away from investigating discrimination and
- Contravene controlling U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 13 on May 19, 2021. If the House now passes this resolution, Congress could undo this harmful rule and restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC’s procedures. A resolution of disapproval is an appropriate exercise of Congress’s power in this case, because the CRA is the most expeditious and effective option for addressing the negative impacts of the EEOC’s final rule.

The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently in order to be effective in its mission to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination. This mission is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, including a heightened risk of job loss, health and safety hazards, and discrimination based on sex, race, age, and disability.

Individuals who experience discrimination on the job already face significant hurdles to seeking redress, including a lack of information about their rights, and lack of access to legal assistance. When an individual does file a charge of discrimination against their employer with the EEOC, the agency collects information and conducts an investigation. If the EEOC finds “reasonable cause” to believe employment discrimination has occurred, the parties are invited to participate in the conciliation process, which seeks to settle or resolve the charges of discrimination informally and confidentially. Title VII requires the EEOC to attempt resolution of charges informally before considering or proceeding with litigation, and the EEOC may only pursue litigation if conciliation has failed.

The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice. It requires the EEOC to grant the employer access to details of the victim and witnesses’ identity and allegations, escalating the risk of retaliation for workers. The rule also requires the EEOC to inform employers, in writing, of filing a charge, requiring the EEOC to turn over its case files to employers, which the agency believes to have acted unlawfully, but not to the workers whom the agency believes to have acted lawfully. This practice would allow disclosures to the charging party upon request, many working people who file charges are unrepresented by counsel and will not know to make such a request. The EEOC’s mission is to prevent and remedy discrimination, should not, in its own procedural rules, disadvantage the very people it is tasked to help.

By imposing inflexible rules on the conciliation process, the EEOC final rule also flouts congressional intent and is inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent. In its unanimous 2015 decision Mach Mining, LLC v. EEOC, the Supreme Court explained that
“every aspect of Title VII’s conciliation provision smacks of flexibility,” which allows the EEOC to tailor its approach toconciliation in the way most appropriate in each case. Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule’s onerous new procedures in the final rule, and defending the sufficiency of the new conciliation process in collateral litigation by employers.

Importantly, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a “substantially” similar rule in the future that would hinder enforcement of federal workplace antidiscrimination laws. The final conciliation rule was both procedurally and substantively flawed, raising concerns about its integrity. As such, Congress’s exercise of the CRA would be warranted here.

Accordingly, we urge you to support and vote for S.J. Res. 13, the CRA resolution of disapproval of the EEOC’s final rule. Please contact Gaylynn Burroughs of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights at burroughs@civilrights.org, or Maya Raghun of The National Women’s Law Center at mraghu@nwlc.org, if you have any questions.

Thank you,


Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we cannot allow employers to drag out the conciliation process rather than be held accountable for violating workers’ civil rights.

As I said at the beginning of this debate, justice delayed is justice denied. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution and take an essential step to ensure that those who suffer workplace discrimination can get timely and fair justice.

Madam Speaker. I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for working with me on the House version of the resolution.

I ask for the support of the House to pass the resolution to overturn the EEOC regulation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval to undo an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) final rule issued on January 14, 2021 that threatens to harm working people seeking relief from discrimination and to impede the work of the EEOC.

The EEOC final rule made several changes to the conciliation process, the process by which the EEOC tries to settle a charge of workplace discrimination, all of which harm employees.

Instead of ensuring that discrimination charges are resolved fairly, the EEOC’s final rule imposes several new obligations and disclosures that:

1. Significantly weight the conciliation process in favor of employers;
2. Delay justice and increase the likelihood of harm to working people;
3. Divert scarce EEOC staff time and resources away from investigating discrimination; and
4. Contravene controlling U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 13 on May 19, 2021, and by following suit, the House can restore the status quo ante and is restored with respect to the EEOC’s procedures.

The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently in order to be effective in its mission to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination.

This mission is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, including a heightened risk of job loss, health and safety hazards, and discrimination based on sex, race, age, and disability.

Madam Speaker, individuals who experience discrimination on the job already face significant hurdles to seeking redress, and lack of access to legal assistance. When an individual does file a charge of discrimination against their employer with the EEOC, the agency collects information and conducts an investigation.

If the EEOC finds “reasonable cause” to believe employment discrimination has occurred, the parties are invited to participate in the conciliation process, which seeks to settle or resolve the charges of discrimination informally and confidentially, in lieu of filing a lawsuit.

Title VII requires the EEOC to attempt resolution of charges informally before considering or proceeding with litigation, and the EEOC may only pursue litigation if conciliation has failed.

The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice by requiring the EEOC to gather more excessive and tedious information from the victim and witnesses’ identity and allegations, escalating the risk of retaliation for workers.

Claims of retaliation made up more than half of all charges filed at the EEOC in FY 2020, and fear of retaliation prevents many victims of discrimination from coming forward and many witnesses from being forthright—something that may be especially true during an economic crisis.

The rule also requires the EEOC to disclose critical information concerning the EEOC’s legal analysis of the case to employers, and employers only.

In other words, the EEOC would be required to automatically turn over its case files to employers whom the agency believes has acted unlawfully, but not to the working people who are seeking a remedy for the discrimination they faced.

This practice would exacerbate resource and information inequities between the parties to the benefit of employers only.

The EEOC, whose mission is to prevent and remedy discrimination, should not, in its own procedural rules, disadvantage the very party seeking to remedy discrimination.

By imposing inflexible rules on the conciliation process, the EEOC final rule also flouts congressional intent and is inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent.

In its unanimous 2015 decision Mach Mining, LLC v. EEOC, 575 U.S. 135 (2015), the Supreme Court stated that “every aspect of Title VII’s conciliation provision smacks of flexibility,” which allows the EEOC to tailor its approach to conciliation in the way most appropriate in each case.

Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule’s burdensome standards, resulting in increased delays at the expense of victims of discrimination.

By invoking the CRA and passing a resolution of disapproval, Congress could quickly restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC’s conciliation procedures, minimizing the harm to workers and eliminating the need for the EEOC to expend its scarce resources either undertaking rulemaking processes to rescind the conciliation rule or implementing the onerous new procedures in the final rule, and defending the sufficiency of the new conciliation process in collateral litigation by employers.

In addition, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a “substantially” similar rule in the future that would hinder enforcement of federal workplace antidiscrimination laws.

Without flexibility, the EEOC is prohibited from promulgating a “substantially” similar rule in the future that would hinder vigorous enforcement of federal workplace anti-discrimination laws.

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In addition, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a “substantially” similar rule in the future that would hinder vigorous enforcement of federal workplace anti-discrimination laws.

Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule’s burdensome standards, resulting in increased delays at the expense of victims of discrimination.

By invoking the CRA and passing a resolution of disapproval, Congress could quickly restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC’s conciliation procedures, minimizing the harm to workers and eliminating the need for the EEOC to expend its scarce resources either undertaking rulemaking processes to rescind the conciliation rule or implementing the onerous new procedures in the final rule, and defending the sufficiency of the new conciliation process in collateral litigation by employers.

In addition, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a “substantially” similar rule in the future that would hinder vigorous enforcement of federal workplace anti-discrimination laws.

Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule’s burdensome standards, resulting in increased delays at the expense of victims of discrimination.
Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on that I rise to present the House with a resolution.

The resolution is to provide for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Committee on the Budget pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinishing business being the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 8, 117th Congress) entitled "A Resolution Authorizing the Speaker to Vote on Roll Call No. 181."

The resolution was presented by the Speaker pro tempore, Ms. FOXX, and ordered printed to be published in the forme of a bill (H.J. Res. 8).

The Speaker pro tempore asked for the increasing of the quorum to a majority of the Members present.

The question was taken; and the ayes appeared to have it.

The Speaker pro tempore announced the vote on passage of the joint resolution was ordered.

The Speaker pro tempore asked for the increasing of the quorum to a majority of the Members present.

The question was taken; and the ayes appeared to have it.

The Speaker pro tempore announced the vote on passage of the joint resolution was ordered.
The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 252, nays 176, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—252

Adams, Cynthia
AgUILAR, Trent
Achimoff, Peter
Ackerman, Nita
Alexander, Steve
Alexander, Virginia
Alaska, Don Young
Albany, Paul
Allegretto, Teresa
Amodei, Jared
Amthor, Jill
Anderson, Don
Anderson, Frank
Adams, Mo
Adams, Rob
Aguilar, Pete
Aguilar, Frank
Aherne, Mike
Ahmed, Zainab
Ali, Hassan
Al-passi, Como
Alpert, Scott
Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
Alvarez, Lee
Amodei, Jared
Ammar,4
Amplate, Maria
Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
Altmann,4
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
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Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
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Amplate, Maria
Altmann, Brian
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
Altmann,4
Ammar, Daniel
Amplate, Maria
The result of the vote was announced so the joint resolution was passed. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 181, not voting 4, as follows:

**EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 181, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]

### YEAS—245

- Adams
- Aguilar
- ranz
- Achen
- Ax
- Barragan
- Bennu
- Benson
- Bernard
- Brown
- Browning
- Butler
- Budrow
- Boyle
- Brandon
- Brown
- Bronz
- Butterfield
- Caball
- Cardenas
- Carson
- Carter
- Carsten
- Castro
- Castro
- Chu
- Cuccin
- Clark
- Cohen
- Connolly
- Cooper
- Correa
- Costa
- Courtney
- Coyle
- Cole
- Comey
- Conklin
- Fitzgerald
- Fitzpatrick
- Fleischmann
- Foxx
- Franklin
- Scott
- Gagn
- Gavil
- Gallegos
- Garfield
- Garbarino
- Garcia (CA)
- Gibbs
- Gimenez
- Gohmert
- Gonzales
- Moore

### NAYS—181

- Adher
- Allen
- Amodei
- Armstoo
- Bal
- Baird
- Banks
- Bay
- Bergman
- Rice
- BIGGS
- Bilirakis
- Bishop (NC)
- Brooks
- Buchanan
- Buck
- Bush
- Bud
- Cheney
- Cline
- Cloud
- Cly
- Cole
- Con
- Crawford
- Crenshaw
- Curtis
- Davidson
- Davis
- Devos
- DesJarlais
- Diaz-Balart
- Donalds
- Danus
- Dann
- Reig
- Etes
- Fallon
- Finnall
- Ferguson
- Fischbach
- Fitzgerald
- Fitzpatrick
- Fleischmann
- Fortenberry
- Foxx
- Franklin
- Scott
- Gaetz
- Gallagher
- Garbarino
- Garcia (CA)
- Gibbs
- Gimenez
- Gohmert
- Gonzales
- Moore

### NOT VOTING—4

- Fal

165 so the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
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:


Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
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 submitted the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 24, 2021, at 2:53 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1251.

With best wishes, I am, Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON, Clerk.

REDUCING CHILD POVERTY

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the child tax credit, which will start reaching families next month.

It is hard to overstate the tremendous good that the American Rescue Plan is doing for people across Pennsylvania and, indeed, all across this country. Soon, we will see even more direct relief heading to families in Monroe, Northampton, and Lehigh Counties in my district.

Starting in July, nearly all families with children in my district will receive monthly payments of up to $300 per child through the end of the year as the expanded and improved child tax credit. The expanded and improved child tax credit will be a lifeline for many struggling families, helping more than 133,000 children in my district.

I cannot overstate how meaningful this assistance is to families who have been hit so hard this past year. These payments will help families pay for the cost of childcare, healthcare, diapers, and clothing. For many, these payments will be the difference between food on the table or hunger.

I am proud to have fought for and passed the American Rescue Plan, and I am glad we were able to get important help like the child tax credit into the hands of families across Pennsylvania.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, the Hyde amendment is an essential protection for the conscience rights of Americans and has saved over 2 million innocent lives.

The prohibition on the use of taxpayer funds for abortions has been enacted annually on a bipartisan basis despite our country’s divisions on the question of abortion itself. Yet, despite President Biden’s decades of support for the Hyde amendment, his budget request bows to the radical left and for the Hyde amendment, his budget request bows to the radical left and for the Hyde amendment, his budget request bows to the radical left.

As ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I am committed to protecting all existing pro-life protections and advancing the pro-life cause whenever possible.

I will strongly oppose the elimination of the Hyde amendment from annual appropriations bills. But to strengthen the Hyde amendment, we must make it permanent law. That is why I support H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

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

HONORING BSA TROOP 19 FROM SHORT HILLS, NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BSA Troop 19 in Short Hills, New Jersey, and their historic first class of female Eagle Scouts. Five members in the troop in my district earned this prestigious rank in the first year young women were able to obtain the status in the organization’s 111-year history.

I first met Katelyn Cannon, Keira Lowden, Riya Tyagi, and Bridget and Morgan Lomax virtually in February and I was lucky enough to attend their Eagle ceremony earlier this month. Their pioneering leadership has paved the way for many more young women to follow.

From creating a nonprofit corporation, to leading conservation efforts for koalas; to preserving and digitizing hundreds of hours of music for the New Jersey Youth Symphony; to building and installing houses for bats in local open spaces, these Scouts have gone above and beyond.

The Scouting community is better with Katelyn, Keira, Riya, Bridget, and Morgan as Eagle Scouts.

Congratulations to these trailblazing young women, and thank you to their Scoutmaster, Daniel Cannon.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WAYNE SEAY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Wayne Seay of Pooler, Georgia, who peacefully passed away on June 21 at the age of 81.

A lifelong resident of Pooler, Wayne attended Chatham Junior High, graduated from Savannah High School and Georgia Southern College. He was then drafted into the United States Army where he proudly served in the 1st Infantry Division.

After completing his military service, he joined the faculty of Robert W. Groves High School where he taught history and social studies for 28 years.

Wayne was a devoted Pooler resident and was elected to the city council where he served as mayor pro tempore. I had the honor and privilege of serving on the Pooler City Council with Wayne Seay. He was an outstanding member.

I also had the honor and privilege of being a former student of Mr. Seay. I know everyone will remember his kind and gentle spirit. I am thankful for the immense impact Wayne Seay had on the Pooler community and on myself, and I will always remember him.

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

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expanded child tax credit. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, working families across the country will receive a monthly child tax credit payment of up to $300 per child, covering nearly 90 percent of all children and cutting child poverty in half.

In my district, the expanded child tax credit will improve the lives of families from Newton to Fall River, helping almost 60 percent of children and lifting 3,800 children out of poverty. As a father, I am committed to providing parents with the support needed to navigate the high cost of raising a child.

From affording their food bills to paying for childcare, this substantial tax relief for our parents and children up for success. The expanded child tax credit is a necessary investment in our families so that we can build an economy that works for everyone. We must make the expansion permanent.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE HIGH TRACK TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Heritage High School girls track and field team in Lynchburg, Virginia, for winning their second consecutive Virginia Class 3 State championship. The Heritage Pioneers racked up 74 points at the title meet with only five girls.

Star student athlete junior, Alysia Oakes said: "Our coach always calls us the SEAL team. We go into states with five people, and it was definitely a tough battle," she continued, "but everybody did what they needed to do. Just stayed strong. We knew it was going to be a battle, but we didn't back down, so I'm proud of us.''

Oakes captured three events, and seniors Tya Blake, Kaelynn Hawkins, Graysen Arnold, and Jalasia Jones helped the Pioneer's pour on the five people, and it was definitely a tough battle, every individual to suppress information related to the origins of coronavirus as well as available medication and treatment options.

In December 2020, shortly after medical professionals and infectious disease specialists testified before the United States Senate Committee on the effectiveness of COVID-19 treatments, Google's YouTube removed the testimony from their online platform. The big takeaway is that these conglomerates have been complicit in limiting discussion of facts and evidence related to the COVID-19 pandemic to the detriment of the American people.

We must rein in Big Tech and the mainstream media's abusive and monopolistic practices that have led to an abundance of censorship, views, and opinions deemed, in their own judgment, to be objectionable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK DOUMIT

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Cathlamet resident Mark Doumit. Sadly, Mark passed away this week at the age of 59. For decades, Mark's life had been defined by a commitment to his home community. Mark served two terms as Wahkiakum County commissioner, then as a State house member representing the 19th legislative district for 10 years.

Though he left elected office, he never abandoned public service. He served as a steady leader of the Washington Forest Protection Association for the last 15 years until his passing.

A stalwart supporter of our forests, fish, water, and our economy, Mark was never hemmed in by Democrat versus Republican politics. He was a friend and an ally to me and anyone who cared about these priorities.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Mark's family, friends, and
colleagues as they grapple with this profound loss. He will be dearly missed.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years American taxpayers have been protected from paying for abortions on demand with their tax dollars. Alarming, President Biden’s budget proposal calls for the Hyde amendment to be removed. This radical, immoral policy makes it legal for taxpayer dollars to support and enable the abortion industry.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans agree that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion. This is not a partisan issue. One of the most basic ways we can protect innocent life is ensuring that taxpayer money is not being used to fund abortions.

As a defender of the unborn, I do not support the removal of the Hyde amendment. I oppose all efforts to mandate taxpayer funding for abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in Section 596 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to consider the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, legislation that would preserve the longstanding Hyde amendment.

For the first time in over 40 years, the administration’s proposed budget does not include Hyde protections, protections that have long ensured taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortions.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde protections have saved 2.4 million babies. Reversing this longstanding pro-life policy is wrong. The right to life is the most fundamental of all of our rights. We must defend those who cannot defend themselves. I will always lend my voice to the voiceless and fight to ensure that Iowa taxpayers are never forced to fund abortions against their will.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. This bill codifies the Hyde amendment which ensures that taxpayer dollars aren’t spent on abortions.

For over 40 years, both Democrats and Republicans have understood the value of this important protection which has saved more than 2.4 million lives. The right to life precedes all other rights and is fundamental to everything I believe.

I urge my colleagues across the aisle to embrace life and support H.R. 18. As President Biden said in 1994, “Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INDICATOR SPECIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, environmental protection of species revolves around the use of indicator species. But what has been lost in recent years is the impact also on humans and their needs.

The indicator, for example, for farmers in California is very grave in the Siskiyou County Basin and up at the Klamath Basin.

Up on the Klamath, you have one environmental management plan that says more water is needed for salmon, for example, under a biological opinion, and another management plan that says more water is needed to be stored in the lake for suckerfish. You can’t do both at the same time, and the result is the salmon are not more plentiful and the suckerfish are not recovering as a species.

But the rural areas in Klamath and Siskiyou Counties are being cut off from their main economic driver. The farms up there are suffering badly because of water that has been taken by the Federal Government that does not belong to the Federal Government.

The stored water in that lake was created for agriculture solely, and yet it is being used as more or less a slush fund for Federal agencies that want to take this water and somehow try and make a difference in the river. This has got to come to a stop, because we need agriculture in California.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AFTER THE PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina? There was no objection.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, what is the American businessman to do...
Our economy should be seeing robust growth. Instead, businesses cannot fill the record number of jobs available.

In fact, the number one issue that I hear, not only from business owners and managers, but from all constituents, is that folks will not come to work, businesses cannot find workers.

Last month, despite 9.3 million job openings, there were only 69,000 more new hires than in the month before. How is that possible with unemployment at 6 percent?

Simply put, President Biden and Democrats have insisted on continuing to pay people more to stay home than to work.

Despite consistent warnings from Republicans and economists, the so-called American Rescue Plan continued expanded unemployment benefit programs enacted in the heart of the pandemic.

In my home State, in North Carolina, these expanded benefits are worth $50 a week. That is about $50 more than the Progressives’ preferred minimum wage of $15 an hour. You don’t have to be an economist to see why small businesses can’t fill job openings, and it is beyond time that Congress fix this self-inflicted wound.

That is one reason that Representative JODEY AHRINGTON and I introduced the Jump-Start the Economy with Jobs Act. This bill, which ought to move promptly in this Congress, requires individuals who is currently receiving enhanced unemployment benefits to recertify that they do not have a job offer waiting for them in order to continue receiving enhanced benefits.

If their former employer would receive a communication, and if they say we are prepared to give an offer to that person to come back to work, then they can’t continue to receive unemployment benefits. How appropriate. That would tailor the program to those people that continue to need it because of a job dislocation they cannot resolve. Enhanced unemployment benefits should continue for those who truly need them and not for those who have a job waiting for them.

The extended Federal unemployment benefits implemented during COVID-19 had their time, but they should not be the mainstay now. They are, instead, artificially reducing the workforce.

Across the country, let’s all be thankful communities are opening up their economies and getting back to normal.

It is past time for this government to stop holding back the recovery and to stand up for small businesses, job generators, by ceasing to pay people to stay home.

A good first step would be to enact the Jump-Start the Economy with Jobs Act.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Thank you very much, Congressman Bishop, for those words. I echo the sentiments of both JODEY AHRINGTON and DAN BISHOP of wanting to jump-start this economy again.
If you think about it, $387 is the amount the average American receives from their home State in weekly unemployment benefits. You add to that the $300 boost that the Federal Government is putting on, on top of that, and it is no wonder why people aren’t going back to work. They get to stay at home with their families while making $17.17 an hour. That sounds like a good deal to me.

But I genuinely hope that we can find some way out of this, because there is a real spiritual poverty created when you don’t actually work for your living.

It is now time for me to recognize a dear friend of mine from a Carolina that is not as good a North Carolina, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for offering this Special Order. It could not come at a better time and a better place in history.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have been subjected to one of the most testing years we have ever seen. Just as they are starting to get back on their feet and the great economic engine that is the American economy is starting to turn over, this administration and my Democratic colleagues are proposing to shut down the engine that we had running so robustly for the last 4 years under President Trump.

Six trillion dollars in spending, with no offsets, is downright irresponsible and unfair to the American taxpayer. We are not going to get this economy on the right track by expanding our Government even more.

Growing inflation concerns have already begun to hit our constituents where it hurts the most, at the gas pump—have you tried filling up your car lately? It has hit you in the checkbooks.

This oncoming crisis is putting hard-working Americans on rocky footing, and it is proposing to put the rug out from underneath them. Another cash infusion will do nothing more than kick those Americans while they are down by driving prices up even more. Enough is enough.

Businesses are opening up, construction projects are expanding our neighborhoods and cities, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel and the light is a bright one. Don’t shut the door on that light by throttling the demands of everyday Americans.

Ultimately, there are a variety of reasons for these rising prices, many of which are industry specific. However, it is important to remember that big government spending is only going to make this problem worse.

I was elected to Congress to take care of the American people. I was not elected to bankrupt this country. I was not elected to burden them even more. It is clear that the American economy wants to make a comeback. The only question is, will bureaucrats, will politicians, will government get out of the way.
In May, core inflation rose at its fastest pace since 1992. That is because Democrats’ untargeted spending has acted like kindling for inflation. There is too much money chasing too few goods. Recent surveys show that 70 percent of Americans are concerned that President Biden’s spending plans could lead to inflation. But if you have filled up your gas tank recently or entered a grocery store, you know that it is already there.

Instead of working to quickly reopen and prioritize getting America back to work, upon entering office, President Biden took his eyes off the ball and squandered the recovery that President Trump had handed to him. In the first five months of 2021, the current administration has added 500,000 fewer jobs than the last 5 months of 2020. President Biden should be concerned about his economic crisis.

Biden’s slow-growth agenda calls for $3 trillion in government spending with $3 trillion in taxes. That would crush small and midsized companies, resulting in far fewer jobs down the road.

One of the most antigrowth policies in President Biden’s agenda is his plan to raise business taxes. That would lead to one of the worst in the world again at 28 percent, a move that would return us to the old tax code that incentivized jobs to be shipped overseas.

Biden’s budget even acknowledges that jobs aren’t their priority. It only forecasts a meager 2 percent GDP growth by 2023, with it dropping even lower until 2029.

The American people should contrast Biden’s tax-and-spend agenda with what Republicans have done and are fighting to do. In 2017, we put the American people first by passing a progrowth tax code while removing massive amounts of government regulation. That created an economic atmosphere that enabled wages to grow for historically disadvantaged workers, brought the unemployment rate down to the lowest in 50 years, and allowed more people to find jobs in America than at any point in our history. The income gap was even shrinking as lower income wages were increasing faster.

We need to get back to that. It is not hard to see the impact that common-sense, progrowth policies can make. Our focus should be on filling available jobs to overhear our economy, not to line the pockets of progressive special interest groups with millions in Federal spending, as Biden’s agenda would do. It is hard to ignore that, across the country today, the six States with the lowest unemployment rates all have Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Speaker PELOSI need to prioritize economic recovery, not unrestrained government spending.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I think Congressman ESTES touches on a great point. Under Republican leadership, under the last administration, business applications were at record levels. The TCJA encouraged business creation, as the amount of business applications reached its highest level ever, of over 880,000. Now, you contrast that with what is going on in America today. There are just 1,500 business permits in my own district, who are having to literally pay people $50 just to turn an application in, and then they never show up for the interview or even for work.

Biden is trying to shutter years of congressional bipartisanship with a radical budget that has no Hyde amendment protections.

The President ran on unity, yet his first budget proposal immediately divides. This Congress must take back its congressional responsibility and craft spending bills which protect the lives of the unborn, just as past Congresses have done since 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 37 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, it really has felt like our small businesses, our middle class, our communities have really taken one punch after another.

First, we were handed mandatory shutdowns of our restaurants, our small businesses, and our churches, while Walmart and Lowe’s and other big box retail stores were allowed to remain open. In some places around the country, we were not even allowed to leave our homes unless it was for a purpose that the government deemed essential.

Like all Americans, I am extremely excited and pleased to see that most of the economy in our communities have reopened. But we can’t help but observe that it seems like the reopening is occurring because of the independence and resilience of the American people, despite the best efforts by some to keep us shuttered indefinitely.

Well, unbelievably, the Biden education plan included zero requirement that your son’s or daughter’s school reopen. You were excited for your hotel to be busy this spring?

Well, the CDC was still advising Americans not to travel, even if they were vaccinated. Your bait shop along the Canadian border has been struggling since the border closure?

Too bad President Biden and Justin Trudeau decided that couldn’t be solved at the G7 last week.

You need gas to get to work, to get to your job site?

Well, it costs you $50 more this year than it did last year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a staggering laundry list of policies that individually would be an enormous impediment to our success, but together it is a brick wall. Without urgent changes to these antijobs, anti-small business policies, our communities will continue to struggle to reopen completely, and more families will feel the negative impacts of the Biden-Pelosi economy.

As a small business owner myself, I know what these men and women are going through. I know that they were the ones who built their business, not the government. And despite opposing efforts, they won’t let the government take it away from them either.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are created to work, and I believe we are created to work hard, and the right to work and the determination to build with one’s hands is foundational to the American ethos as it is the process by which illusional visions become dynamic achievements.

This administration seeks, though, to strip employment from the men and...
women of America, to replace work with welfare and service with subservience. I reject that notion.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my dear friend.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the most important issue facing our country today: the reopening of the U.S. economy.

For 16 long months, the U.S. economy has been held hostage by government which is elected and unelected. What started as a 15-day shutdown to allow hospitals to brace for the coming wave of COVID cases has ballooned into over a year of shifting goalsposts, evolving science, and political power grabs.

Since the pandemic began, over 200,000 small businesses, which the President once claimed were the backbone of the U.S. economy, have been shuttered for good. This has left their owners jobless and futures uncertain.

The worst businesses did survive the long lockdowns still face harsh restrictions. For too long and in too many cases, we have seen restrictions on controlling how many customers they can serve, how their employees can dress, and, by default, how much revenue they can bring in.

Worse, the reopening of our economy has been prolonged even further by the misguided attempts from the political left to tax, tax, and tax.

The example I hear the most from constituents and businesses back in George’s First Congressional District is the increased unemployment benefits. Under these expanded benefits, many Americans have been able to receive more money not working than they did actually working. This is a poor incentive to get people back into jobs, especially as our economy continues to see record-high job openings.

Business owners out of their long hibernation will continue to struggle to find employees as long as this benefit is in place.

There are not enough taxpayer dollars in the world to give these businesses the relief they need, but we can remove the Federal Government as an obstacle to returning to normalcy.

We need policies that incentivize Americans to find jobs and allow businesses to stand on their own. Ultimately, we need to put an end to all COVID business restrictions nationwide.

It is hard to say what the long-term impact of prolonged shutdowns will be, but it does not take a Harvard economist to see that 200,000 small businesses alone does not spell good fortune.

The sooner we get Americans back to work and our economy back to full capacity, the sooner we can return to normal, or at least, stop the damage from continuing.

To borrow a quote from President Trump, we built the greatest economy in the world, and we will do it a second time.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when we started looking at the American Families Plan, we realized the tax hikes it would increase would raise capital gains and dividends tax from 20 to 3.8 percent, almost twice the normal price. It would impose capital gains taxes at death, which creates a second death tax, although I can’t believe that we would ever need to tax anyone more than we do now. It would expand the Obamacare surtax to hit even more small businesses’ income than it already does.

Lastly, it would increase the IRS’ auditing power, including monitoring bank accounts, because the very first thing that we need to reopen our economy at a better pace is to give more power to three-letter agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), my good friend.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation founded on a history of rugged individualism, the American people are resilient and self-reliant. They will flourish and prosper absent the intrusion and heavy-handed weight of the government.

Apart from national defense, safety, and security, the less our government does, the better, especially here at the Federal level.

In fact, our country would be far better off if we had just paid this President and his administration to stay home, and they did nothing over these past 5 1/2 months. It is sadly true that the less this government does to us while pretending to do things for us, the better off we will all be.

Incredibly, this administration’s disastrous economic policies have produced fewer jobs in their first 5 months of the year than the Trump administration produced in the last 5 months of 2020. These unprecedented restrictions and lockdowns in the name of the China virus were far more widely and strenuously enforced.

Unfortunately, at present time, we have employers, businesses, and job creators literally competing with their own government for employees because of the enhanced $300 a week Federal unemployment benefit.

Every business owner that I talk with in my district tells me that this is a major problem. Every business has up signs saying: “Help Wanted,” “Employees Needed.”

We even have this problem in my home district in the city of Charlotteville, in Albemarle County, with the Postal Service. They can’t get people to come to work for the starting wage of $18 an hour for a mail carrier because they are getting paid $17 an hour to stay home and not work.

However, the tone-deaf, economically illiterate Democrats, especially those I serve with on the Education and Labor Committee, tell businesses they simply need to raise their wages so far above what the Federal Government is paying folks not to work—again, $17 an hour in my home State of Virginia—that folks will finally refuse the free income not to work and return for a higher paycheck—this as businesses are struggling to recover from the government shutting them down for a year ago, and again, in the name of the China virus.

We need to fully reopen our economy, end all restrictions, open our schools so parents can go back to work, and stop sending confusing and harmful messages like requiring masks on public transportation.

In this very House, it was only a couple of weeks ago that we were pretending that even in a Special Order, speaking to an empty Chamber with no one near you—within how many feet?—you needed to wear a mask to keep us safe because we wanted to appear to the American people back home that we were doing something, the theater of wearing masks just a few weeks ago.

Is this continuing on a non-stop public transportation? What kind of a myth and harmful message does that send to folks?

We need to stop paying folks not to work, reopen our economy, and turn the American people back home.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK).

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

The resilience and creativity of many teachers to adjust to these tragic circumstances are admirable. However, the reality is that these closures resulted in deteriorating mental health among students and less effective educational environments for children across America.

Importantly, these shutdowns disproportionately affected children with disabilities, minority students, and students facing economic hardships.

America is beyond ready to reopen. Today, more than half of Americans have been vaccinated, and broadband mask
mandates are clearly no longer necessary for most communities. The science overwhelmingly demands that the restrictions continuing to burden our communities be lifted, and efforts by liberal politicians to extend these mandates only serve to reveal their ideological motivations. I urge our national, State, and local officials to follow the science, unshackle our economy from these burdensome and unnecessary restrictions, and reopen our country.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when we start thinking about what is going on here in our country with unemployment, in the week ending May 1, 2021, about 16 million people collected unemployment. Now, that is a staggering statistic when you realize that over 6.6 million of those people would not have been eligible to receive unemployment benefits in a traditional environment. But because of the trumped-up and boosted-up unemployment benefits the Federal government is sending out, we are basically incentivizing people by giving them $34,000 a year to not go to work, thus creating more and more inflation. There is no production so, therefore, there are too many dollars chasing too few goods.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when we start thinking about what is going on here in our country with unemployment, in the week ending May 1, 2021, about 16 million people collected unemployment. Now, that is a staggering statistic when you realize that over 6.6 million of those people would not have been eligible to receive unemployment benefits in a traditional environment. But because of the trumped-up and boosted-up unemployment benefits the Federal government is sending out, we are basically incentivizing people by giving them $34,000 a year to not go to work, thus creating more and more inflation. There is no production so, therefore, there are too many dollars chasing too few goods.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I certainly appreciate his leadership on this matter giving us an opportunity to speak about small business issues in our country.

Mr. Speaker, as restrictive government mandates on Americans have relaxed, our economy has begun recovering from the worst of the pandemic. Many businesses have reopened their doors, and there are now millions of new returning jobs and available jobs across the Nation.

Unfortunately, I hear from businesses in my small across my district that Big Government is getting in the way of the return of our booming prepandemic economy. It is a bizarre paradox, but under the Biden administration, we are simultaneously facing an intense labor shortage and widespread unemployment at the same time, when our economy should be thriving back to prepandemic levels. Sadly, this is a common story in every corner of our country.

It is the primary driver of this problem is federally subsidized unemployment benefits. In many regions, particularly in rural areas, would-be job seekers make more staying at home than reporting to work.

Recently, I was speaking to a friend of mine, and he called an unemployed driver that he was going to hire. The unemployed driver’s response was this: I am going ride this mule until it goes away.

Many small businesses are facing that very same issue. Some businesses have even offered cash bonuses to interviewees, but small businesses cannot afford this.

There are plenty of examples back home in my district. For example, in Houston County, there are 124 unemployment claims and over 2,000 job openings. In Coffee County, there are 57 unemployment claims and 570 job openings, with many more coming. In Dale County, there are 47 unemployment claims yet 350 job postings.

It is very simple. Small business cannot compete with government handouts. I am glad that many red States, including my great State of Alabama, have ended all federally funded pandemic unemployment benefits. I hope our numbers will improve as a result.

Removing these payments that were meant to be short-term is necessary to advance our economic recovery. But this is a real problem that betrays the Biden administration and congresional colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the best welfare program in the world is a job, not government. I know that many of my Democratic colleagues agree with me.

Let’s get Americans back to work by empowering workers and removing incentives to stay home. Only then can we truly reopen this economy.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that with this Federal unemployment stimulus that we are sending out around the country, although it might solve some short-term financial woes, it is creating a spiritual poverty in the hearts of men and women across this country that I believe cannot be described.

When you start to think about how devastating it would be to one’s morale and one’s own honor and one’s own self-esteem to think that you don’t actually create anything, you don’t actually build anything, you are not truly benefiting society, it makes me shudder to think about how I would feel about that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce you to the newest resident of west-central Kansas. She greets every store’s patrons at the business front door and every farmer at the farm gate. She is in the newspaper, on the radio, and all over social media. She goes by Help Wanted, and you have probably met her, too, as she has made herself quite popular under President Biden’s policies.

It has been more than a year since the pandemic shut down the country. America is finally getting back to normal. Businesses across the country are rehiring as we welcome back customers. Unfortunately, President Biden’s bonus, the monthly unemployment checks being distributed on top of the already existing unemployment checks, is paying a premium for potential workers to remain at home rather than finding work.

The data doesn’t lie. There are nearly 8 million job openings in America right now. Business in the Big First of Kansas Hospitality, food service, manufacturing, construction, and healthcare — cannot find workers, leading to reduced hours or closures to accommodate the staffing shortages.

Help is wanted at the North Central Kansas Hospital, short 50 employees and regularly turning away patients as the hospital is unable to properly staff and serve them.

Help is wanted in McDonald’s in that same north central Kansas town, closing early each night.

Christina, the owner of hair salons in Garden City, Hays, and Dodge City, Kansas, wants help as she temporarily shuts down one location, only opens another for a few days a week, and shortens hours at all three.

Help is wanted at the ethanol byproducts plants in west-central Kansas, unable to find workers even after offering a salary of a $35,000 plus health and retirement benefits.

And PureField Ingredients, a food ingredient manufacturer in Russell, Kansas, wants help as they are staffed at only 30 percent of their normal levels.

Mr. Speaker, hear me say this: If you can get to work, you should. Do it for our local businesses and our State’s economy. Do it for your family. Most of all, do it for yourself.

I recently joined fellow Kansas Republicans in urging the Kansas governor to opt out of the enhanced unemployment benefits. Additionally, I co-sponsored the Help Wanted Act, which addresses the severe labor shortages caused by the Federal unemployment policy and the Get Americans Back to Work Act, which would shorten the extension of the pandemic unemployment checks.

It is time to take the masks, get our kids back to school, get our businesses open, get people back to work, and get the country back on track.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited for Congressman CAWTHORN’s leadership on this issue tonight. I thank him for making time to address the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there are three people who come to mind when I think of people who cannot even give their money away back home. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, do you remember when her donations were returned to her by Members of Congress
because they didn’t want to be associated with her?

Harvey Weinstein. And Joe Biden.

Those three cannot even give money away. In fact, by July 3, 25 States across America will have rejected President Biden’s Federal unemployment benefit bonuses.

I meet with organizations every day that request funds for worthwhile endeavors. Sadly, America is $28 trillion in debt and can’t afford to spend the money on many of these worthy causes. But leave it to Joe Biden to try to spend money in a way that actually hurts our economy and is rejected by Republican and Democrat governors across our entire country. That is a special level of basement incompetency.

We have got 9.3 million unfilled jobs. And I hear it back home, businesses can’t get people back to work because they are making more to sit at home on the couch. They would rather watch Dave Chappelle or a slice of pizza. But then, again, maybe that is not his viewers. Maybe it is more of the folks sitting back, watching Joy Behar and “The View” cackle and demonize our country and all of our worthwhile efforts, and destroy dignity in this Nation. The Biden regime is literally incentivizing laziness. But then again, they set that example on a regular basis, calling it quits in the middle of the day. When is the last time the President hasn’t called a “lil’d” before his afternoon snack?

In my home State of Colorado, many corporations are offering bonuses that small businesses can’t afford. We are seeing massive signing bonuses, from $10,000 to $50,000 for utility and HVAC workers, and that is simply unsustainable.

According to the Colorado Restaurant Association, many corporations are offering bonuses that small businesses can’t afford. We are seeing massive signing bonuses, from $10,000 to $50,000 for utility and HVAC workers, and that is simply unsustainable.

Joe Biden is quickly becoming the greatest threat to small businesses since Fauci’s fraud. While small businesses across my district and across America are struggling to find workers, struggling to stay open, Joe Biden is struggling to stay awake.

I am working on this administration to end these excessive Federal COVID payouts and stop disincentivizing work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MADISON CAWTHORN for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her always incredibly accurate and fierce comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), another similarly fierce Congressman.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate my friend, Congressman CAWTHORN, holding this because it is important. You know, to some people, it is just about, “Well, it is the economy. It is an inconvenience.” Well, that is for rich people, like the billionaires that donated to the current President’s campaign. They sure didn’t help the former President.

Well, what are we talking about? We are talking about a President that is so out of touch. As he has said, “I keep forgetting I am President.” It is very unfortunate.

But if you go back to his days as Vice President, you find what this President, the current President, was doing in the previous administration, and these policies are now coming back.

It ran up the price of oil and gas—natural gas, propane. It ran up the price of gasoline. And unfortunately, for the working people in America, for those that haven’t been in Washington for 40 years like the current President—they are getting strangled with debt. They are getting strangled with increasing prices because it just so happens, we don’t have a lot of electric 18-wheelers. We don’t have a lot of massive electric engines that are pulling countless numbers of cars down the train tracks.

That means every time this President takes another step to raise the price of oil—which raises the price of gasoline—he is economically crippling people that have jobs and are on Social Security, people that have fixed incomes. They are getting hammered. Yeah, it is an inconvenience to the mega wealthy that donated to the President, or people like here in Congress that are millionaires, but it is devastating.

And I go back to when President Biden was Vice President, and a lady from Panola County told me, she said, “I am 80 years old, and my gas is getting so expensive, I am afraid I am going to end up in a home like I was born in, where the only energy we had was a wood-burning stove.”

And I said, Oh, ma’am, I am so sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but if Biden and Obama have their way, you are not going to be able to even have that wood-burning stove you had when you were born. You are going to be at home without any kind of energy. And that is where this President is now wanting to send us.

We enjoyed the days of cheaper gasoline, cheaper energy. America was vibrant; and people spent and they went out to eat and they bought clothes, and it generated jobs. And this President is killing those. And he is devastating the people that are working and poor, he is debasement them—the people that he is supposed to care about.

Well, it is time for this administration to think about somebody besides themselves and their mega-billionaire donors. It is time to think about the American people and the damage that this administration is doing to them.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as I continue to consider that the Democrats’ plan must be to destroy our economy by incentivizing laziness, by incentivizing people not going to work, I wake my head and say, No, that can’t be true. That is just one mistake that they made.

But then when I start to look through all the points that I have outlined—of the ridiculous tax increases on dividends, the tax increases on capital gains, the tax increases on small businesses, the tax increases which will increase the cost of living for the middle class, I am sure that they are trying to destroy our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the most powerful and the most humble man in Congress.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CAWTHORN for his leadership on behalf of working families, small business—of which he is one—for getting this economy going again. I thank him for allowing me to be part of this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, when President Biden promised to focus on climate change, I didn’t realize he meant changing the climate of the U.S. economy by cooling off the jobs recovery. The President inherited a strong recovery, life-saving vaccines, a President that was hammering back the left. It was trillion dollars in COVID stimulus. Yet, in his first 5 months of this year, America is nearly 550,000 fewer jobs than in the last 5 months of 2020 under President Trump—550,000 fewer jobs.

Inflation is running twice as high as wage growth. In fact, for Americans, their pocketbook, their paycheck has actually declined in buying power since President Biden took office.

America’s jobs recovery ought to be stronger, but instead, the reports that we were just disastrous. Main Street businesses, Congressman CAWTHORN, as you said, they are struggling to find workers.

Labor force participation is back in the 1970s. Inflation has hit a 13-year high, and a lot of Americans are fearful about the impact of rising prices and slow growth economy when the sugar high from all this COVID stimulus goes away, which is exactly what President Biden’s budget admits will do.

This President is sabotaging America’s jobs recovery, with crippling tax increases and antibusiness policies that hurt working families and Main Street businesses and drive U.S. jobs overseas.

Treasury Secretary Yellen, the other day, conceded that just as you heard tonight, these lavish Federal employment bonuses really are hurting Main Street and hurting hiring. Thankfully, half of American States, including one blue State, have opted out of these benefits to help reconnect workers and help our economy survive.

A recent analysis of the Ways and Means’ staff shows that Congress has
already approved, for an average family of four, where both parents are out of work, we have already approved over $109,000 in stimulus checks, unemployment checks, and child checks.

We were incredibly generous during COVID, do not get people on their feet, defeat this virus, and move back. But the time for emergency spending is over; the time for endless government checks is over. We cannot become the Olive Garden of never-ending government checks. It won't help people rebuild their lives. It won't help us rebuild the economy.

Unfortunately, because of these Federal bonuses on unemployment, we are seeing a record 5.3 million unfilled jobs. It is hurting Main Street businesses; they are struggling. And frankly, it will hurt families who are not going to be able to reconnect again when all these checks run out. And our job creators shouldn't have to compete with the Federal government.

Instead of helping America get back to work, the Biden administration is pushing crippling tax hikes that will cost us millions of new jobs. I am proud to have worked with President Trump in a Republican Congress, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced tax cuts across the board, or reduced taxes across the board, redesigned our Tax Code so American businesses could compete and win anywhere in the world.

It made America the most competitive economy on the planet, lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, and stopped U.S. businesses from moving overseas. But now, we face a big risk. President Biden's insistence on repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will cost 6 million U.S. jobs. For that family of four, middle class, making maybe $73,000 a year, it will rob their family and their kids of the opportunity to get ahead.

The attack on American energy will kill jobs by 1.5 million U.S. jobs and repealing stepped-up basis on family farms will cost us another 1 million jobs over 12 years.

Congressman CAWTHORN's efforts to lead commonsense proposals, stop these crippling tax increases, and get the economy back on task is exactly what our country needs today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for letting me join him.

Mr. Speaker. I think with everything that has been said from all over these Representatives from all over the country, each of them representing nearly 730,000 people, I believe it is overly and abundantly clear that it is time to end the emergency spending. It is time to end the trumped-up unemployment checks, which are incentivizing laziness. It is time to end government-mandated joblessness in America.

There is a labor shortage in this country, and if we don't end it, we will see inflation, the likes of which our country has never seen before, and I don't know if we will be able to recover from that.

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

VIRTUE SIGNALING

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I am going to try to do something that is a little bit different, and parts of it are going to be incredibly annoying. I am going to hurt some feelings, but my theme is actually very simple.

There are general solutions to so many of the things we consider problems, but we are going to have to deal with something, and it is a true problem around this place. And that is, I am going to do something: "virtue signaling" and sort of folklore.

We sometimes know what we know, but the fact of the matter is that technology, science, all of what we were told was wrong, yet we can't get it out of our heads. Or, as a society, we care more about the symbolism than actually curing the problem. And I really do believe if we could embrace that thing called a calculator, math, thinking, science, there are some amazingly good things we could do.

But, first, we got to step up and admit that we have been making up a lot of crap. And that is me being slightly vulgar on the vulgar side. But it is a frustration I have where often I see our speeches behind these microphones, and we are virtue signaling because that is often what is expected from our voters. At least we think that is what is expected, but I bet you our voters would be elated if we would actually give them the truth and then show them the math.

I am going to show a couple of things to first set up my argument, and then work through a couple things that I think are incredibly optimistic for our future as a country, but maybe even the entire world.

So, first off, let's just use this. I have done versions of this before, but it is important as a thought experiment. Do you care about plastic in the ocean?

I think everyone in America cares about plastic in the ocean. Except we have a small problem. We do this virtue signaling of let's ban plastic straws. But the fact of the matter is, the data says that straws that come from North America don't end up in the ocean. We do actually have an amazingly good job grabbing our waste and putting it in the landfills or incinerating or taking care of it. But if you actually look at the real math, 90 percent of the plastic in the world's oceans comes from 10 rivers: 8 in Asia, 2 in Africa.

If you actually gave a darn about plastic in the ocean, what would you do?

You would actually go to those 10 rivers—8 in Asia, 2 in Africa—and either add value, use our technical assistance, use our foreign aid, and go and deal with the plastic in the ocean.

But, instead, we give speeches here, we award, we allot cities like D.C. that ban plastic straws. That is pure virtue signaling. It doesn't actually do anything, yet we parade around like we did something.

Instead, this body could actually have an incredible impact on plastic in the ocean. Go to the 10 rivers that are 90 percent of the plastic, and actually get our foreign aid, our technical aid, even some economic incentives to capture that plastic and stop sticking it into rivers that flow into the ocean. It is a simple example of the virtue signaling that actually warps real environmental policy.

Here is one that is going to drive some people crazy.

What would happen if I came to you and said the entire environmental impact of that cloth cotton bag you carry to the grocery store, you have to use 7,100 times to basically equal the plastic bags that are produced out of natural gas?

Yet we walk around with our little plastic bags when we walk into the Trader Joe's and those things, you know, proudly showing, hey, I care about the environment. But the math—that is not the science.

If we are going to make public policy, how does this body, and not only Congress, but our city councils, our county governments, our State legislatures, how do we stop making public policy that is virtue signaling, and the math is true math?

We have this incredible report, detailed. It came out of, I think, Denmark. It was looking at the environmental impact. It turns out those crappy little plastic bags that are banned in so many of our cities were less environmentally impactful than the cotton bags we are walking around with, because those cotton ones you have to use 7,100 times to actually have the same environmental impact.

Another one that is going on around the country right now is let's ban natural gas for cook stoves and heating in homes. Except if you actually do the math of burning natural gas to make steam, to turn the turbine, to make electricity, it actually is environmentally impactful than the cotton bags we are walking around with. And there are lots of really good studies and data on this.

But, once again, it is sort of this urban folklore, it is virtue signaling to say my city council is going to ban natural gas from people being able to cook with. Aren't I doing something wonderful for the environment?
But it turns out, no, you are not. We have got to stop doing this.

So there is actually some other really interesting ones.

So how many out there did we watch on the cable news shows after the function of the canceling of the Keystone pipeline?

Now, as Republicans, we all talked about the jobs lost. On the left, they are talking about the environmental benefit of stopping that pipeline.

Well, first, let's deal with the reality. Those hydrocarbons are going somewhere. They are going to be cracked somewhere, turned into distillates or fuels. And they are refined in southeast Asia or refined in Louisiana or Texas. They are going to be refined. So let's just do the math on the transportation.

It turns out the Keystone pipeline has dramatically less carbon impact than sticking it in the rail, sticking it into the pipeline attachment, or sticking it into the pipeline and putting it on the coast and shipping it out to southeast Asia. Just the shipping part.

If you actually cared about the actual math of the environmental impact of the Keystone pipeline, you would have to say that the pipeline, but that wasn't the virtue signaling that came from the environmental community.

And being someone who genuinely cares a lot about the actual math, you know, as those of us who try to do the math of what the actual impacts, the global warming, and what is actually the folklore, what is make-believe, what is real, we got to stop doing this.

And I know we love the political wedges, saying, well, they supported this and we supported the union workers.

How do you get some people around the table to use a calculator, and say, well, it turns out, whether you like hydrocarbons or not, the pipeline turns out to have a less environmental load than canceling it does because now we are going to stick it in railcars, now we are going to ship it to other parts of the world?

And I haven't even done the math on other refineries from other parts of world that have dramatically less environmental standards when cracking carbon chains.

So here is another one. This one actually is both hopeful, but we are going to have to think a little bit more creatively. So here is my setup. Half of the noncarbon-emitting electricity in the United States—actually, I think it is slightly more than half—comes from baseload nuclear.

We have a massive amount of our baseload nuclear that is coming off line. If you actually do the math of the amount of nuclear that is coming off line, our renewable baseload cannot keep close to keeping up. So there are a lot of charts. And I have done this on the front porch, showing that as all this nuclear comes off line, carbon emissions in the United States on electrical generation is going up.

Even though we have all this renewable, this wind, this photovoltaic, these things, geothermal hitting the market, it doesn't produce enough power to keep up with the nuclear coming off. And the argument for much of the nuclear is, well, think, they have to do uranium mines, think of this, think of that.

Well, what if I came to you and said, baseload nuclear is absolutely critical to the reliability of the grid and all of those other things, and it is noncarbon-emitting, and we have the technology today?

I have done a whole presentation on this in detail. Basically, we can extract uranium from sea water now. We do this. We have the technology.

But it is even better than that. We have a Nobel Prize physicist who has been writing papers, articles, saying that, within a decade, they believe high-pulse lasers—and, look, I have done my best to read the scientific articles a couple of times beyond even—you know, when you are having to read an article and have a dictionary close by to look up some of the technical. But his premise is we can use high-pulse lasers to break up and make those spent nuclear fuels.

So his theme is, say, in 30 minutes I could take something that would have lasted a million years, and in 30 minutes I can make it inert. If this is true, it is the virtuous cycle on nuclear energy. And you all know, because that place has actually helped fund it, the new compact nuclear reactor design that is dramatically safer, dramatically less intrusive, and much more efficient.

So think of that. I can extract my uranium from rain water, the new nuclear reactor design, and now we have a way of instead of sticking it in Yucca Mountain, we can actually break up that spent nuclear fuel.

This shuts the whole thing. There should be people on the left and the right going, it is worth sticking some money into this type of technology. But it doesn't fit our political folklore around here of, well, we can't have nuclear because of this.

But we claim we give a darn about science and technology, when we have some of our smartest people in our society saying, we think we have a solution.

Why don't we actually invest in those solutions instead of investing in the things that we keep doing around here, where we are investing in technology that is already decades out of date?

So part of my fixation is—the reason I bring this chart is there was a Member, I think, just last week that was on the floor, and she alluded—someone from the left— that the economic growth basically led to more greenhouse gases, more environmental impact. But that is not actually the math.

We are still working on some of the data for 2019, but if you look at 2018 and what we are preliminarily seeing in 2019, you know, greenhouse gases, the environmental impact, went down, even though GDP went up dramatically.

Why? Because what we did in the tax reform created this huge incentive to invest in the latest technology.

Mr. Speaker, you can go buy that new technology, and you could 100 percent expense it. It turned out we were able to create a moment where economic growth took off, jobs took off, and the working poor got dramatically less poor.

It was the first couple of years in modern economic times when income inequality shrank, and it shrank because there was opportunity. People's labor became valuable. And, oh, guess what? Our environment got cleaner. And growing the economy. We have the proof. We have the data.

Isn't this the Holy Grail that both the left and the right claim they care about? Except the difference is it didn't require a command-and-control economy. It just required really good technology and the incentive to invest in that technology, and it made a difference.

The other argument we come to the microphone and talk about is that there are incredible technology disruptions on the cusp. If we could get our heads around them, then we could make some amazing things happen. If we don't get our heads around them, then it is going to create economic disruptions. It is going to hurt a lot of people. We need to understand these.

Over the last couple of years, I have done some presentations on something called artificial intelligence. The reality is it is incredibly hopeful for humanity. It also has some really scary stuff. Mark my words, we will know in about a decade whether I am right. I believe this piece of technology here will be the single most disruptive technology of our lifetimes.

Here is one: What if I came to you tomorrow and said that we can take plants and make them from the mid-20s to 52 percent more efficient in their growth by tweaking?

Now, I am not a plant biologist, but I have gone out of my way to read every article of the University of Illinois and those who are producing.

Mr. Speaker, you remember your high school biology science fair if I can get this right. You had a plant cell, and it really, really, really wants a carbon molecule to turn it into a sugar to grow. But a quirk of nature, it grabs an oxygen molecule. It now has to spend all this energy to purify that and then turn around and grab the carbon so it can grow.

What happens if every time it grabs the right molecule to maximize its growth? Oh, it looks like we would now know how to tweak commodity crops and other crops to always grab that carbon molecule and grow.
Now, I need the thought experiment. I need the people around here who all believe we are geniuses to think this through.

What happens tomorrow to the value of farmland? What happens to our trade relationships with the world where is the agriculture muscle of a country when other countries are now able to grow 40 percent more soybeans on the same land, same water, same fertilizer?

Think about the value of agricultural land. What is the value of agricultural debt?

This is coming. This technology is here.

Are we preparing, thinking what it means? What type of opportunity does this mean? Because the world already produces more food than it needs. Our real problem is distribution. What happens if tomorrow much of the agriculture in the world could produce 40 percent more on the same piece of land?

There is also a quirky piece of math to think about, and that is world agriculture is estimated to produce about 2.2 times more greenhouse gases than every car on Earth. Mr. Speaker, if you were a Democrat, you'd say: What technology and what technology is functionally equal to removing every car off the face of the Earth. Yes, that is the positive. But you also have to be ready to deal with the disruption it means economically. And how is it coming?

But yet have we ever had a hearing? Have we ever had a discussion? Have we ever invited the scientists to think about and talk us through and have us start to plan economically about what it means?

Or are we just going to do what this place does, which is to avoid difficult discussions until it kicks us in the head?

Let's talk about healthcare a bit. Obviously that is my fixation. I come here every week and try to talk about ways we can change.

Before we do this, here is a simple thought experiment. Well, it is not a thought experiment. It is the facts. ObamaCare, the ACA, was a financing bill. It is who gets subsidized, who gets to pay. Our Republican alternative is a financing bill. It is who has to pay, who gets subsidized. Medicare for All is a financing bill. They don’t actually change what the underlying cost of delivering healthcare is. They just shift around who gets to pay.

This debate here has to become what we pay. What technology and what models are we going to adopt that change the cost of delivering healthcare?

What happens if I come to you, Mr. Speaker, and say that 5 percent of our brothers and sisters have preexisting conditions, that they are suffering, and that they are also over half of the healthcare costs of this Nation?

Wouldn’t it be much smarter, much more caring, much more empathetic, and much more compassionate to fixate on that 5 percent who are suffering and say that we are going to do everything we can to push technologies, to push the caring, and to push disruption in biologics to cure or minimize the suffering of the 5 percent? We are living examples of this.

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, only a few years ago the cost curve we were all looking at in regard to hepatitis C? Do you remember, hep C, you carry the virus in you for sometimes decades and decades and decades, Mr. Speaker. Then, all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, you need a liver transplant.

We were looking at numbers that were going to essentially bankrupt the VA with all the liver transplant costs. Then what happened? A cure was delivered. It was really expensive at the beginning, but it was dramatically less expensive than somebody having a failed liver.

We are living in the time of disruption, and we should promote those as a Congress of us who are panicked over the debt but also really care about eliminating suffering. It is one of the reasons I have an absolute fixation. If you really wanted to help people of color, Mr. Speaker, and if you really cared about some of the populations with the highest diabetes in the world, some of my Native Americans—how about an Operation Warp Speed on diabetes?

Remember, Mr. Speaker, in the next 30 years, as we adjust inflation-adjusted dollars, we have $121 trillion of debt coming at us. Sixty-seven percent of that is just Medicare.

The single biggest thing you could actually do, Mr. Speaker, the single thing, the biggest thing to deal with future debt that buries and destroys the future for my 5-year-old daughter, believe it or not, is a cure for diabetes because 31 percent of the Medicare future is just diabetes.

One of the most loving and compassionate things we could do as conservatives and liberals is say that we are going to do—call it whatever you want, Mr. Speaker. I want to call it operation warp speed because we are close to the cusp of major revolutionary treatments for type 1, the ability to do stem cells to the pancreas. There are some incredible journal articles out just in the last 6 weeks on that.

Some of that can also be used for type 2 as well. We are working on that. Because it is both the autoimmune but also lifestyle and having a discussion of, as a people, as a society, are we going to continue to fund really unhealthy foods? Are we going to continue to do farm supports in a way where we give really a handful of crops instead of being able to have a wide variety of different things?

These are really disruptive concepts, and they would be really compassionate and loving for everyone if we took it really, really, really seriously what diabetes means to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, if you really want to deal with the reality, don’t come to these microphones and give a speech about how COVID affected certain populations much more dramatically and then, in the next breath, not talk about the fact that the curve is absolutely sympathetic with those same populations suffering having diabetes. The math is the math.

Mr. Speaker, if you really give a darn about people, let’s solve that because it is the single biggest thing you and I could do to take on future sovereign debt.

The other one that drives me insane, because this is the one you and I could have the most impact on in the shortest period of time, Mr. Speaker, 16 percent of U.S. healthcare costs, so about $526 billion every single year, is people not taking their pharmaceuticals properly.

We have a lot of data now. This is a really well-vetted number. Sixteen percent of U.S. healthcare is our not taking or taking improperly our pharmaceuticals.

Well, it turns out there is a technology solution to that: the little pill cap that talks to you.

How about for grandma, who has to take some pills in the morning and then in the evening, we have the technology that drops the pills and talks to her. It turns out this technology could save not $100 billion but a few hundred billion dollars every year.

Mr. Speaker, you talk about wanting to have an impact on healthcare and make people healthier and deal with those 5 percent of our brothers and sisters who have chronic conditions that are 50-plus percent of our healthcare. These are things you could do tomorrow that would have an impact on society before the year is over.

We made a proposal last year or just before the pandemic of super-high-value pharmaceuticals. Let’s put them in sterile blister-pack-type containers and make them recyclable? I had a number of Members here, particularly one who is my friend on the left, who came to me and said: Oh, that isucky.

But I remember 10 years ago, when my mother was in hospice care, and one of the nurses there—she was a family friend—took me in the back. We were talking, and she showed me this barrel. She said: You know, there is probably $10,000 to $20,000 of pharmaceuticals in there that I am throwing away from our patients who have passed away in the last few weeks.

That got me thinking: Is this rational?

Besides the fact that the small molecules end up in your water supply, Mr. Speaker, the biologics, but is that rational?

These are just little, incremental, creative things. We know we have technology now—the thing you can blow
into, Mr. Speaker, that instantly tells you that you have the flu that could bounce off your phone with its medical records and say that you are not allergic to this antiviral and instantly order that antiviral, and you would be healthy.

But that process is illegal under the laws that we passed here. The Social Security Act says you are going to need a doctor, Mr. Speaker, the reimbursement from HHS, our state licensing rules.

Are we ready to stop living in virtue signaling, stop living in folklore, and start looking at the actual math?

Yes, we are going to get lobbied like crazy from groups that we are disrupting their business model. But wouldn't it be neat to say: This isn't Republican, and it is not Democrat. It is technology.

Let's make a difference. It is doable, and it is here.

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

INFLATION THREATENS FUTURE OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the threat of inflation on the future of America's economy.

In other places around the Capitol at this time, people are discussing a new infrastructure bill. They are talking about a new 2022 budget. People talk about the importance of not raising taxes on the poor. Earlier this year, they rejected a possible gas tax hike but a factor of 5 times in the last year.

Look at M1, up 30 percent in the last year. Of course, the cost of commodities is ramping through the roof. The cost of food, and even prepared food, is going up.

Look at M2, up 30 percent in the last year. Of course, the cost of commodities is ramping through the roof. The cost of food, and even prepared food, is going up.

Look at where we already are on other commodities: aluminum, lumber, soybeans. How are our young people going to buy that first house?

The cost of food, and even prepared food, is going up.

Why is that?

Take a look at the charts showing the amount of currency in banks. M1 currency, which is up by a factor of 5 times; not 5 percent, not 50 percent, but a factor of 5 times in the last year.

Look at M2, up 30 percent in the last year. Of course, the cost of commodities is ramping through the roof. The cost of food, and even prepared food, is going up.

America is a wealthy country because our dollar has been the envy of the world. But this Congress has not been acting like a Congress with the world's reserve currency. This Congress is acting like the Congress of a country such as Zimbabwe, and we all saw on TV what happened there.

It is time for the people who are not only negotiating the infrastructure bill, but negotiating the 2022 budget, to take into account what they are doing to the poor of this country or the middle class of this country as they inevitably stoke inflation.

Think of the people on almost fixed income. Of course, think of all of the people on pensions, who are locked in at $15,000 a year, $20,000 a year, and think how their purchasing power will go down if we continue along this path, including the bloated budget proposed by President Biden himself.

We must rein in our spending. The poor and the middle class are the ones paying the price. I beg the negotiators to stand up to the people who think that printing hundreds of millions of dollars more in the infrastructure bill or passing this bill with an excessively high spending increase in the regular 2022 budget will not affect the average guy. It is going to affect the average guy. It is going to erode their savings. It will shrink their pensions or Social Security. It will be a true disaster for middle class and poor America.

QUESTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS ON HER TRIP TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to, first of all, applaud the fact that Vice President HARRIS is going to the southern border. I don't know whether she has done this on her own accord or she was sent from President Biden himself, but, either way, I am glad she is going down there.

I have been to the border several times this year. I think it is very difficult to learn all you should learn in one day. There are nine sectors to the southern border, and what you learn in El Paso is very different from what you learn in Yuma. It is very different from what you learn in San Diego. It is very different from what you learn in McAllen.

Nevertheless, I am glad she is going down there, and I would like to make some suggestions for her, which we will forward to her as questions she should be asking or things she should learn about the southern border.

First of all, Madam Vice President, the Migrant Protection Protocols caused the Mexican Government to hold asylum seekers on the south side of the border. President Biden has since withdrawn from President Biden. What effect did the nullification of this agreement with the Mexican Government have on the number of people crossing the border? And what effect will it have on the number of people from around the world who will come here in the future?

Secondly, we also had Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries that held people south not only of the Mexican border, but south of Mexico. What effect did President Biden's ending the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries have on the number of people entering southern Mexico? And what effect will this have on people coming through Mexico from around the world?

Third, I want the Vice President to find out what type of drugs are coming across the border. Has there been a change in the fraction of marijuana, meth, and fentanyl coming through the southern border? How lethal is fentanyl?

Fourth, I hear horrific stories from the border guards as far as women and girls are being sexually assaulted on their journey through Mexico. What percentage of women and girls are sexually assaulted as they travel to enter the U.S. illegally?

Fifth, you will find when you get down there, Madam Vice President, that families consist of adults and children, find out how many times a family supposedly shows up and the Border Patrol suspects that the children are not part of the family, and what happens when DNA tests are given to children and the adults they are entering with.

Six, how much does it cost for the migrants to enter our country? And by that, I mean how much are they having to pay the drug cartels? I think you will find different numbers for the cost of a Mexican, a Central American, a Brazilian, and Asian. But you should ask those questions when you are on the southern border.

Seventh, got-aways are when people enter this country and have no contact with the Border Patrol. As the Border Patrol must spend time doing paperwork with the huge increase of unaccompanied children coming here, has the number of got-aways, increased from this time last year to now?

Eighth, I think you should look at some demonstrations with some dogs. How effective are dogs in looking for fentanyl and other drugs, and should we be purchasing more dogs in this budget?

Next, I ask you to look at the border wall which you will find is 30-feet high and 8 feet underground. Talk to the Border Patrol, talk to ICE, talk to local law enforcement, and see what they think of that wall and whether it would be worth expanding it or whether your administration was right to just cut it off with equipment just sitting in the open sun.

Next, Madam Vice President, you say you want to focus on the root causes from countries whose citizens are coming here. I ask you to find out what countries are sending its citizens here and which countries have sent a significant amount of people. I think you are going to be surprised that it is not just a matter of people coming here from Mexico or Honduras. They are coming from around the world, but you should report back on the number of countries you would have to improve to prevent the demand from going up further to come here.
ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.
Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-1467. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Appropriations, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Report to Congress from the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies June 2021, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 251 (Public Law 95-452, Sec. 1701(a) as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 583; 112 Stat. 2681-202); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1468. A letter from the Chairman, Appliance Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the Council’s 2020 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 C.F.R. Sec. 153 (as amended by Public Law 109-135, Sec. 1105; as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 147(b); 121 Stat. 2190); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1469. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s interpretive rule “Examinations for Risks to Active-Duty Servicemembers and Their Covered Dependents received June 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 668); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1470. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Amendment of Section 73-622(i), Post Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Transferring the Broadcast Stations (Augusta, Georgia) [MB Docket No.: 21-49 (RM-11874) received June 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 668); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1471. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Final Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 122; 123 Stat. 91); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1472. A letter from a Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Major final rule — Revision of Fee Schedule, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 18067(b); Aug. 7, 2019, Sec. 13045; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1473. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Annual Financial Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2020-2022, including the Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1550(a); Public Law 112-78, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1474. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the 6-month period of October 31, 2020 through March 31, 2021, to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1475. A letter from the Acting Director, Selective Service, transmitting the Service’s fiscal year 2022 Congressional Budget Justification, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231(f); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 111-246, Sec. 307); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1476. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the final map and perimeter boundary description for the Sturgeon Wild and Scenic River located in Michigan; and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Public Law 102-249, March 3, 1992, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274(b); Public Law 90-442, Sec. 3(b) (as amended by Public Law 100-554, Sec. 501); (102 Stat. 2708); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1477. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the GIPS Office Annual Report to Congress, FY 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1478. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s Reauthorization Plan, and the Urban Sea to Abundance five-year review of the 2015 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Report, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1269(f)(1); June 30, 1948, ch. 305, Sec. 501; (115 Stat. 215-203, Sec. 1105; as amended by Public Law 115-270, Sec. 410(a); 132 Stat. 3873); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1479. A letter from a Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Modification of 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustments for the Internally Due Statutory Changes Contained in the American Rescue Plan of 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

TABLE 1.—ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Employment and Training Administration Education for the Disadvantaged</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>BA ...................................................................................... 2,163,027</td>
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<td>OT ................................................................. 1,355,710</td>
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TABLE 2.—ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

| School Improvement Programs Career, Technical, and Adult Education Special Education Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Tenant-based Rental Assistance Project-based Rental Assistance For Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Corporation for Public Broadcasting Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Veterans Medical Care Veterans Medical Support and Compliance Veterans Medical Facilities Veterans Medical Community Care |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| H. R. 49. To designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes. H. R. 711. To amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes. H. J. Res. 27. Providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. | 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 668); to the Committee on Financial Services. |
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. LYNCH:
H.R. 4112. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to establish clear Federal oversight of the development of credit scoring models issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:
H.R. 4113. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. VULCAN):
H.R. 4114. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, 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. TLAIB:
H.R. 4115. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to restore the impaired credit of victims of predatory activities and unfair consumer reporting practices, to expand access to tools to protect vulnerable consumers from identity theft, fraud, or a related crime, to compensate victims from further harm, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. ROY):
H.R. 4116. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. TONY GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. MACUR):
H.R. 4117. A bill to establish the National Commission on Domestic Terrorist Attacks on the United States by Antifa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. NGUERE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CARR, Mr. CARDENAS of Louisiana, Mr. CUILLIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NOLAN, Mr. CLIFTON of Louisiana, Mr. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. VITO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. TITUS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. DEAN):
H.R. 4118. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 4119. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 4120. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide comprehensive reforms to the consumer credit reporting laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ABRAMOVICH:
H.R. 4121. A bill to codify a final rule issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to fraud and abuse and the removal of safe harbor protection for certain drug rebates, 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. BABIN (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):
H.R. 4122. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BUDGET, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CATTWELL, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. REESE):
H.R. 4123. A bill to codify certain rules related to health reimbursement arrangements and other account-based group health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARLTON of Kentucky (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MURPHY of Ohio, Mr. HUNTSINGER, Mrs. WATERS, Mr. TAUSSING, and Mr. MCLAUGHLIN):
H.R. 4124. A bill to establish the "Biomedical Innovation Fund", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. HICK of Georgia):
H.R. 4125. A bill to authorize Inspectors General to continue operations during a lapse in appropriations for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GANTZ, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. HERN):
H.R. 4126. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from issuing vaccine passports, to prohibit businesses from discriminating against patrons and customers by requiring documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination, or post-transmission recovery, as a condition on the provision of products or services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and 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. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. DEGROSSI):
H.R. 4127. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development and use of DISARM antimicrobial drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DeGETTE (for herself and Mr. BRIDGES):
H.R. 4128. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEUTCHE (for himself and Mr. BILHARZIS):
H.R. 4129. A bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCHE (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. BASS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Ms. CHU):
H.R. 4130. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, and Ms. MATSU):
H.R. 4131. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TENNEY, Mr. MANN, Mr. GOODIN of Texas, Mr. HERN, Mr. BARNIN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ROY, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):
H.R. 4132. A bill to consolidate or repeal unnecessary agency major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. ESPAILLA (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MEeks, Mr. McCaul, and Mr. Sires):  H.R. 4132. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. Waltz, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Mr. Louhan, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Degette, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Ms. Bass, Mr. Moolemen, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Rutherford):  H.R. 4134. A bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Ms. Lisch):  H.R. 4135. A bill to require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of the Arctic Security Initiative, enhance the United States’ presence in the Arctic, 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. GONZALEZ (for himself and Mr. REDDY of Illinois):  H.R. 4136. A bill to establish competitive grant programs to incentivize the safe and responsible disposal of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Takano, Mr. Carson, Mr. Moulton, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Mr. Swalwell, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Rush, Mr. Vargas, Ms. Norton, Mr. Jackson Lee, Ms. Kaptur, and Mrs. Kilpatrick):  H.R. 4137. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from or a United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veteran’s Affairs, 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. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. Katko, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Guest, and Mr. Cuellar):  H.R. 4138. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) identification of staffing needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HIMES:  H.R. 4139. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to remove victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program relating to the removal of firearms from adjudicated domestic violence offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. Spanberger, Mr. Mann, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Cuellar, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Finkensta, and Mr. Lucas):  H.R. 4140. A bill to make improvements with respect to the training of cattle in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Pascrell, and Mr. Reed):  H.R. 4141. A bill to make changes in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and 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. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. Malinowski, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Miller, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Foster, and Mr. Gallegly):  H.R. 4142. A bill to require the Secretary of State to establish an investor visa denial database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARBON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. Young):  H.R. 4143. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements, to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:  H.R. 4144. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ban the use of credit information for most employment decisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. REESE of Nevada (for herself and Mr. Schweiker):  H.R. 4145. A bill to establish a matched savings program for low-income students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. Kilmers, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Welch, Mr. Yarmuth, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Norton, Mr. Chu, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Pocan, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Takano, Mr. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Delgado of New York, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Garcia of California, Mr. Gonzalez of Florida, Mr. Vargas, Ms. Norton, Mr. Jackson Lee, Ms. Kaptur, and Mrs. Kirkpatrick):  H.R. 4146. A bill to establish the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCHENK (for himself, Mr. Rupala, Mr. Clack of Missouri, Mr. Brandon, Mr. McCall, Mr. Armendariz, Mr. Randle, Mr. Vivas, Mr. Delgado, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Espaillat, Mr. Millman, Mr. Adriano, Mr. Espaillat, Ms. Castenada, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Soto, Mr. McHale, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Cuellar):  H.R. 4147. A bill to extend the authorization of the Laurie Lake National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MAST (for herself, Mr. McKinley, Ms. Wild, Mr. Welch, Mr. McGovern, and Ms. Slotkin):  H.R. 4148. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. Tonko):  H.R. 4149. A bill to extend the authorization of the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCCAULL (for herself and Mr. Rupala):  H.R. 4150. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:  H.R. 4151. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Appalachian Regional Economic Hub Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. Schrader, Ms. Tenney, and Mr. Costa):  H.R. 4152. A bill to advance clean power technology development and use through innovation and clean energy standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Reform, and 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. PASCRELL (for himself, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, and Mr. Kildee):  H.R. 4154. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for direct-pay...
credit bonds in the case of certain bonds the proceeds of which are used for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SANCUS (for herself and Mr. MORELLI):

H.R. 4155. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow additional funds to be provided under the airport improvement program for certain noise mitigation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. VULANO):

H.R. 4156. A bill to amend the Safeqaury and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. LOIS FRANZEL of Florida, Ms. LAWRENCE of Texas, Ms. MURPHY of Ohio, Ms. VELAZQUEZ of Illinois, Ms. TTUS of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Maryland, Ms. ROGERS of Texas, Ms. KEATING of Massachusetts, Ms. BASS of Texas, Ms. POOLE of Mississippi, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MATSUI of California, Ms. GOMEZ of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. COHEN of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON of Pennsylvania, Ms. PHILIPS of Pennsylvania, Ms. FARMER of Mississippi, Ms. JUNOD of South Dakota, Ms. JAYAPAL of Washington, Ms. LAWSON of Florida, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 4157. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the charitable deduction for donations of certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BOKANYI, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DEMINGOS, Mrs. DIXON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. GARCIA of California, Ms. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAOMOORTHI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEeks, Ms. MENO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. RASKIN MILLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SAHLAN, Ms. SCHAWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHEES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VIVIAN of California, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPRUT, Mr. LARSON of Illinois, Mr. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATHUI, Ms. MENG, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. FOCAN, Mr. QUISOLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SHEES, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STUPACK, Ms. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTYO):

H.R. 4158. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to eliminate cost sharing with respect to coverage in the Medicare program or as a covered outpatient drug under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. SCANLON (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 4159. A bill to develop best practice guidelines for the use of dogs in Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MURPHY):

H.R. 4160. A bill to establish a Global Autism Assistance Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH of Washington (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TORRES of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. SPERRE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BASS, Ms. STEKL, Ms. MENG, and Ms. SUOZZI):

H.R. 4161. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow additional funds to be provided under the airport improvement program for certain noise mitigation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-36. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, urging the United States Congress, Federal Aviation Administration, and Hawaii Department of Transportation to take every action necessary to address rapidly increasing safety risks and community disruption from insufficient tour helicopter and small aircraft operations throughout Hawaiian skies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ML-38. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 61, urging the United States Congress to grant additional authority to the Federal Communications Commission to stop unwanted and illegal robocalls; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ML-39. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 25, urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to oppose H.R. 1 and similar harmful election policy measures; to the Committee on House Administration.

ML-40. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 7, authorizing the United States Congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, and all other similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ML-49. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial No. 1, urging the United States Congress to support H.R. 486 of the 117th Congress, the “Cybersecurity and Freedom Act of 2021,” to protect the freedom and security of United States digital information and critical infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ML-50. Also, a memorial of the National Association of Counties of the United States, relative to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa
tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specified powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 4151. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4153. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4155. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4157. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4158. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4159. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4160. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

H.R. 4161. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. TLAIB:
H.R. 4115.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII
By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 4116.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. RACON:
H.R. 4117.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
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By Mr. HORSFORD:
H.R. 4118.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 4119.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 4120.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. AARRINGTON:
H.R. 4121.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. RABIN:
H.R. 4122.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution: “To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.”
By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:
H.R. 4123.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 4124.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 4125.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. DAVIDSON:
H.R. 4126.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;
Under 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 any Department or Officer thereof”
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 4127.
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 Ms. DeGETTE:
H.R. 4128.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. DEUTCH:
H.R. 4129.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. DEUTCH:
H.R. 4130.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 4131.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. DONALDS:
H.R. 4132.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. ESPLAINT:
H.R. 4133.
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. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida:
H.R. 4134.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 8
By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida:
H.R. 4135.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. GOLDEN:
H.R. 4136.
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. GRJILALVA:
H.R. 4137.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S.C. Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 4138.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S.C. Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. HINES:
H.R. 4139.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 4140.

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Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. KIND:
H.R. 4141.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. KINZINGER:
H.R. 4142.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:
H.R. 4143.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:
H.R. 4144.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “Article 1, 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 Office thereof.”
By Mr. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 4145.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. MALINOWSKI:
H.R. 4146.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. MALINOWSKI:
H.R. 4147.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8, Clause 3, Clause 18 of the Constitution.
By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 4149.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. MASTSUI:
H.R. 4150.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Ms. McCOLLUM:
H.R. 4151.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. MCKINLEY:
H.R. 4152.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
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. MCKINLEY:
H.R. 4153.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8—Powers of Congress. 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. PASCarella:
H.R. 4154.
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. Wittman:
H.R. 4157.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States of America Constitution: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Kim of California, and Mr. Upton.
H.R. 65: Mr. Case.
H.R. 82: Ms. Castro of Florida, Ms. Tenney, Ms. Barragan, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Graves of Missouri, and Mr. Rush.
H.R. 112: Mr. Carl.
H.R. 228: Ms. Brownley and Mr. Schiff.
H.R. 293: Mr. Stckland.
H.R. 304: Mr. Suozzi.
H.R. 310: Mr. Hollingsworth.
H.R. 392: Mrs. Low.
H.R. 532: Ms. McClain, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Brady, and Mr. LaTurner.
H.R. 554: Mr. Gosar, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Estes, and Mr. Moyleann.
H.R. 555: Mr. Estes.
H.R. 556: Mr. Doggett and Ms. Sewell.
H.R. 604: Mrs. Murphy of Florida.
H.R. 735: Ms. Pelosi.
H.R. 852: Ms. Letlow.
H.R. 890: Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Calvert.
H.R. 899: Mr. Scott.
H.R. 914: Ms. Bonamici.
H.R. 1025: Mr. Soto.
H.R. 1095: Mr. Garcia of California.
H.R. 1140: Ms. Dean.
H.R. 1179: Mr. Carson, Mr. Newhouse, and Mr. Garamendi.
H.R. 1301: Mr. Lang, Mr. Himes, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Schrier, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Degette, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Green of Texas, Ms. Underwood, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, and Ms. Lezlie Fernandez.
H.R. 1284: Mr. Hollingsworth and Mr. Huizenga.
H.R. 1394: Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Johnson of Ohio.
H.R. 1396: Ms. Strickland, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Suozzi, Ms. Wild, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Brownley, Ms. Shumeland, and Mr. Veasey.
H.R. 1348: Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Ms. Omar, Mrs. McMath, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Allred, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Veasey, and Ms. Kelly of Illinois.
H.R. 1379: Ms. Tlaib.
H.R. 1394: Ms. McCollum.
H.R. 1408: Ms. Scanlon.
H.R. 1417: Mr. Jackson.
H.R. 1455: Ms. Correa of New Jersey.
H.R. 1456: Mr. Liu.
H.R. 1471: Ms. Fletcher.
H.R. 1522: Ms. Loeber Fernandez.
H.R. 1534: Mr. Sessions, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Carter of Texas, and Mr. Gooden of Texas.
H.R. 1551: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 1625: Mrs. Fischbach.
H.R. 1626: Mr. Cloud.
H.R. 1630: Mr. Beine.
H.R. 1656: Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1661: Mr. Suozzi, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Kaptur, and Mr. Cuellar.
H.R. 1670: Mr. Stanton.
H.R. 1739: Mr. Matsui.
H.R. 1745: Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smucker, and Mr. Cole.
H.R. 1794: Mr. Perry.
H.R. 1800: Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 1801: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.
H.R. 1842: Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mrs. McBeth, Mr. Moorelle, Mr. Carson, Mr. Brown, Mr. Gaetz, and Mr. Mast.
H.R. 1916: Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Fletcher, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Gohmert, Ms. Stefanik, and Mr. Murphy of North Carolina.
H.R. 1957: Mr. Liu.
H.R. 1961: Mr. Duncan.
H.R. 2028: Mrs. McClain, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Sewell, and Mr. Blumenauer.
H.R. 2056: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 2079: Ms. Ross.
H.R. 2096: Mr. Keating, Ms. Castro of Florida, and Mr. DeFazio.
H.R. 2122: Mrs. Miller-Meeks.
H.R. 2126: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 2223: Mr. Clyde.
H.R. 2278: Ms. Spanberger.
H.R. 2224: Mr. Lawson of Connecticut.
H.R. 2325: Mr. Cartwright, Mrs. Fletcher, and Mr. Blumenauer.
H.R. 2347: Mr. Schrader.
H.R. 2361: Ms. Hayes.
H.R. 2373: Mr. Price of North Carolina and Mr. Quigley.
H.R. 2408: Mr. Hayes and Mr. Kustoff.
H.R. 2472: Mr. Ryan and Ms. Kaptur.
H.R. 2499: Ms. Schrier and Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 2573: Mr. Moyleann, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Schweiker, Mr. Bacon, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Tlaib, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Yarmuth, and Mr. Lowenthal.
H.R. 2586: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Lowenthal, Ms. Slotkin, Mr. Cárdenas, Ms. McCollum, and Ms. Bass.
H.R. 2607: Mr. Kuster.
H.R. 2721: Mr. Kennedy.
H.R. 2727: Mr. Delgado.
H.R. 2767: Mr. Blumenauer.
H.R. 2782: Mr. Clyde.
H.R. 2795: Mr. Moyleann.
H.R. 2810: Ms. Kaptur.
H.R. 2816: Mr. Blumenauer.
H.R. 2946: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2949: Mr. Clyde.
H.R. 2959: Mr. Torres of New York and Mr. Allred.
H.R. 2986: Ms. Soto.
H.R. 2924: Mr. Morelle.
H.R. 2926: Ms. Spanberger and Mr. Delgado.
H.R. 3031: Ms. Spanberger.
H.R. 3074: Mr. Wild.
H.R. 3098: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 3031: Ms. Lie of California.
H.R. 3046: Mr. Waltz.
H.R. 3076: Mr. Nachbar, Mr. Mast, Mr. Espallat, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. Kildeer, Mr. Bost, Mr. K Hanna, and Mr. Smith of New Jersey.
H.R. 3083: Ms. Velázquez.
H.R. 3104: Mr. Rutherford.
H.R. 3105: Mr. Correa.
H.R. 3126: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3131: Mr. GHERS.
H.R. 3180: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3187: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3254: Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MAST, and Mr. MCCINTOCK.
H.R. 3281: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3288: Mr. BRENDAE BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3289: Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. JONES, Mr. SHERES, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. POCAIiO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3291: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3293: Mr. HOR SFORD.
H.R. 3321: Ms. SALAZAR and Ms. SCHA-...
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Jacky Rosen, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, guide our lawmakers through this day with Your higher wisdom. Help them to walk with integrity, reverence, and humility. May they refuse to deviate from the path that honors You.

Lord, open their minds to Your truth as You use them to bring healing to our Nation and world. May they submit their lives to the light of Your precepts, replacing fear with faith, falsehood with truth, and hate with love.

We pray in Your Holy 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, June 24, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Jacky Rosen, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore.

Ms. Rosen 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. First, I have a message for the information of the Senate.

I understand there is an important meeting at the White House this morning that several Members are attending. So in order to accommodate them, the first vote will start at 10:45 a.m., not at 11 a.m., and we are going to have to move quickly on that vote so people can get their votes done and get to the White House.

So, Members, please take notice.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before we reach the conclusion of the June work period, the Senate will confirm yet another one of President Biden’s highly qualified nominees to the Federal Bench: Candace Jackson-Akiwumi to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

A graduate of Princeton and Yale Law School, Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi left a career at a big law firm to work for 10 years as a Federal defender in Illinois. She was a voice in the courtroom for Americans who often had no one else to speak for them: the mentally ill, folks who could not afford an attorney.

We have plenty of former prosecutors and corporate lawyers on the bench.

Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi would bring a sorely needed perspective. The more our courts reflect our country as a whole, the more faith Americans will have in the equal application of the law.

Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi will make an outstanding addition to the Seventh Circuit, and I urge all my colleagues to vote for her later today.

Now, I want to reflect for a moment on the pace of judicial nominations in the Democratic-led Senate so far this year. Typically, the first several months of a new administration don’t feature a ton of judicial nominations.

New Presidents often have ambitious legislative agendas, and it takes a lot of time for a new President to make appointments and to get them to go through all of the background checks and for the Judiciary Committee to advance nominees to the floor. So in administrations past, the first 6 months are a fallow period for judges.

For all the focus that the Republican leader put on judges during the previous administration, the Senate only confirmed one—one district or circuit judge—before July 4 in the first year of Donald Trump’s Presidency. By the end of today, the Senate will have confirmed more judges this week than in all 6 months of Donald Trump’s first year in office.

In fact, with the confirmations this week, the Senate will have confirmed more district and circuit court judges to the Federal bench in the first 6 months of President Biden’s first year than any other administration in 50 years.

Let me say that again so people hear, because I know there is a lot of worry—justified—that President Trump shifted the bench so far to the right that we need to rebalance it, and we need to make that a very high priority. Well, we have. After the confirmation of Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi, the Senate will have confirmed more district and circuit court judges in the first year of a
Presidency in over 50 years, including the first 6 months of Donald Trump’s Presidency. So we are making good, good progress, and we have done it with judges who break the Federal mold—Federal defenders, civil rights lawyers, voting rights lawyers, the first Native American judge, the first Muslim American judge. Those make me proud that we are constantly expanding who in America can get to the bench. All of these folks have one thing in common: They are individuals of impeccable character and impressive credentials.

The Democratic Senate is restoring balance to the judiciary with highly qualified, mainstream jurists who reflect the diversity of this country, and we are going to keep at it when we come back in July and beyond.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Mr. SCHUMER, Madam President, on another matter, infrastructure, our Nation’s economic potential depends on the quality of its infrastructure. Our businesses, workers, farmers, manufacturers—you name it—they all depend on the infrastructure networks that connect America. And here in the 21st century, electrical grids and broadband internet access are just as important as roads, bridges, and highways.

But it has been decades—decades—since Congress passed a significant, stand-alone bill to increase Federal investment in infrastructure. Our roads and bridges are crumbling. Children learn in dilapidated schools. Large swaths of rural America lack access to broadband internet.

We need to refashion much of our infrastructure to address the existential threat of climate change. That is so important and essential to the overwhelming majority of my caucus. So the Senate, this summer, is going to move forward on multiple legislative proposals to make historic investments in our Nation’s infrastructure. And when we say that, we mean both types of infrastructure: the concrete and steel and that kind of infrastructure—the physical infrastructure—but also the human infrastructure, so that we can maximize the potential of our people which, after all, is our greatest resource—our greatest resource.

So we are pursuing on multiple—we are making two tracks. The first legislative track is bipartisan. The second track will incorporate elements of the American jobs and families plan and will be done through the budget process, which must pass even if it is not bipartisan.

There has been significant progress this week on both tracks. Yesterday, a bipartisan group of Senators announced that they had reached an agreement in concept for a bipartisan infrastructure proposal, and I have encouraged them to move forward. But I made it explicit to every one of them, together and separately, that we have to pass both tracks together.

Speaker PELOSI and I were made aware of the concepts of the agreement—the bipartisan agreement—last night. And while we have yet to see the details, I am encouraged by the progress the bipartisan group of Senators has made. I have supported these bipartisan discussions from the beginning, and I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work.

Senate Democrats have also made significant progress on preparing a budget resolution.

**These two efforts are tied together.** Let me make that clear. The bipartisan infrastructure bill and the budget resolution are tied together. If the Senate is going to move forward with a bipartisan infrastructure bill, we must also move forward on a budget resolution, as well. I have discussed this with President Biden directly on several occasions, and he agrees that we cannot do one without the other, and he has let the participants know that. Speaker PELOSI agrees that we cannot do one without the other.

All parties understand that we won’t get enough votes to pass either unless we have enough votes to pass both.

When the Senate returns in July, it will be time to take the next step and hold the first votes on the bipartisan infrastructure bill on the floor of the Senate. Senators should also be prepared to consider a budget resolution that will clear the way for the budget reconciliation as possible.

The bottom line is, both tracks need to make progress concurrently.

This is about building a foundation for the United States to remain the world economic leader in the 21st century. We are the largest economy in the world, but our infrastructure ranks 13th, behind South Korea, Germany, Japan, and even the United Arab Emirates.

There isn’t a community in this country without some glaring infrastructure challenge—certainly, in my home State of New York. If America is going to prosper in the 21st century, we can’t have infrastructure that is stuck in the last century.

We need to pass major investment in infrastructure, both physical and human, this year, and I look forward to holding the first votes when we return for the July work period.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The Acting President pro tempore, the Clerk, will call the roll.

Mr. LEE, Madam 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.
In other words, it would create a massive accreditation program that would potentially hamper, not foster, innovation. It would insert the Federal Government into a market that is blossoming on its own, imposing burdensome regulation and picking winners and losers in the carbon credit marketplace.

To make matters worse, it would corrupt the financial incentives of the market by allowing the USDA to cap revenues and generally regulate the sale of these credits.

Though it aims to help small farmers to participate in this market, it could easily be manipulated to demand the USDA set unusually high protocols and qualifications and then drive carbon credit purchasers solely to credit sellers working with those who fit and comply with the edicts of the Federal Government.

This will ultimately impose obstacles for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who want to share as part of this market to continue innovating and thriving, not squash it. The American Energy Alliance agrees and has issued a favorable vote recommendation.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. President, our farmers, ranchers, and foresters are the greatest stewards of the land, and many have been working for a long time to preserve natural resources and protect the environment through on-farm practices. And now, more than ever, farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners are looking to explore opportunities to benefit financially through emerging voluntary environmental credit markets.

New market opportunities to generate benefits through environmental practices hold a great deal of promise. However, producers and landowners must navigate a complex and costly landscape in order to access these markets.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act provides a framework for producers to access technical assistance, guidance, and resources in these emerging markets as they investigate whether to pursue this new opportunity.

USDA certification of entities who wish to sell carbon credits only provides them with a one-size-fits-all approach. This bill is a great opportunity for American farmers, ranchers, and foresters. I thank Senators Braun and Stabenow for helping us to make this the best bill possible.

Many farmers and stakeholders are excited about this legislation, as are many Members who cosponsored the bill and voted to report it out of committee.

The bipartisan nature of the work of the committee was exciting to see. We came together and accomplished something significant. I hope this spirit of cooperation continues as Congress considers new policies on climate change.

We need to ensure that any policies are farmer-friendly and focused, remain voluntarily, and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach.

Again, thank you to Chairwoman Stabenow and Senator Braun for their efforts. I look forward to the debate and very much support the bill through final passage.

With that, I yield to Senator Braun.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. Braun. Madam President, in the Senate here, prior to getting here, I have been a tree farmer since the late eighties and have been involved in the agricultural part of farming, other than driving the tractor, for a long time. And farming has got to be one of the most difficult things God ever created in terms of a complicated business that involves risk for a return that, in many cases, just isn't there. Thank goodness, currently, the markets are rewarding that effort and that great risk.

Environmental credits present an incredible opportunity for American farmers because that bottom line is so meager to begin with. And when you have got voluntarily markets out there that are wanting to reward good stewardship, that is important. But significant barriers still remain.

In today's market, if you are a small farmer, you are not able to connect with these markets. Only the large farmers, both tree and egg, can do it. This simplifies it; it democratizes it; and it does something, finally, that that small guy, the landowner, the American family farmer, can get some benefit for his or her good stewardship.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act creates a USDA certification program for third-party technical providers and verifiers. It allows the USDA to provide legitimacy to the trustworthy actors in the marketplace. And what is really unusual, in the short time I have been here in the U.S. Senate, there was a surprise yesterday, when I told some folks we are actually voting on something on the floor, and it has 55 cosponsors, almost evenly split between Democrats and Republicans.

More than 100 outside organizations back the bill. Farm bureaus, which are generally very conservative about doing anything where they are going to endorse, stick their neck out, across the board like it. I won't mention all the others. It also does it without adding a dime to our deficit. So it is doing something that has got bipartisan support, tapping voluntary markets, and just providing that portal that all farmers are familiar with to use as the way they take advantage of it.

We are demonstrating the right solution. We are making a statement that we need to be involved in addressing climate, and we are doing it in a place where, thank goodness, agriculture in this country is only 10 percent of the CO2 emissions. The rest is spread among electric generation, transportation, industrial emitters.

What that says, when it is 25 percent emissions across the world due to agriculture, there is a lot to be learned from this as well. A quick comment on the amendment that we are going to vote on. The key point is, under both the underlying bill and the Lee amendment, the USDA will publish a list of entities on a USDA website for outsiders to use.

The Senate Ag Committee worked closely with the Agency, both Under Secretaries Perdue and Vilsack, to ensure the bill provided the necessary quality checks so that the folks certified under the program know what they are doing.

The Lee amendment keeps the website but strikes these requirements.
This is why groups like the American Farm Bureau write that Senator Lee’s amendment would dilute farmers’ influence in the composition of the bill’s advisory panel and also removes critical protections in the base bill.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Lee amendment and to support the underlining bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:


Dear Senator, The American Farm Bureau Federation supports S. 1251, the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021, and urges its adoption by the Senate.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act would create a certification program at USDA to help solve technical entry barriers for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who wish to participate in voluntary carbon credit markets, lack of access to reliable information about markets, qualified technical assistance providers, and credit protocol verifiers has limited both landowner participation and uptake of practices.

S. 1231 seeks to provide more clarity and guidance for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who want to provide the ecosystem services that many consumers and businesses are desiring. This builds upon American agriculture’s strong foundation of environmental stewardship.

Farm Bureau opposes the Lee amendment and any other amendments that would undermine the bill. The Lee amendment would replace the balanced, and widely supported, program services that many consumers and businesses are desiring with a haphazard alternative program that would undermine confidence in the private market. Sen. Lee’s amendment goes on to dilute farmer influence in the composition of the bill’s advisory panel, and also removes critical protections in the base bill to ensure farmers and ranchers receive their fair share of proceeds under voluntary environmental credit markets.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021 is a carefully crafted bipartisan bill with over half the Senate supporting as cosponsors. Your vote in opposition to the Lee amendment and in support of final passage of the overall bill is key to Farm Bureau.

Sincerely,  
ZIPPY DUVALL, President.

**Corn Refiners Association, Washington, DC.**

The Corn Refiners Association (CRA) strongly supports final passage of S. 1231, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation reduces technical entry barriers for producers and forest owners interested in participating in voluntary carbon markets and supports our sector’s role in delivering innovative climate solutions.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act reflects CRA’s climate change principles, which guide our industry’s advocacy to ensure a more sustainable, greenhouse refilling agriculture, and consumers. By lowering this barrier to entry, S. 1251 creates an easier way for landowners to be financially rewarded for the voluntary, sustainable steps they are taking through selling carbon credits.

Unfortunately, the amendment proposed by Senator Mike Lee (R–UT) would undercut the central function of this bill by removing most of the scientific and good governance requirements to become certified under the bill central to U.S. Department of Agriculture. Without these critical protections, many farmers and producers will not have access to reliable information, reusing and measuring data and loss of trust in the carbon markets. Lee’s amendment would also remove protections for farmers already certified under the program and would remove the legislation’s focus on equity that is intended to ensure farmers of color will benefit from the program and inform its creation.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote No on the Lee amendment and Yes on final passage of S. 1231, the Growing Climate Solutions Act. If you have any questions about our position, or interest in holding a brief discussion on the legislation or Lee’s amendment, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
HEATHER REAMS, Executive Director.

**CITIZENS FOR RESponsible ENERGY SOLUTIONS, Washington, DC.**

Dear Senator, On behalf of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), I am writing to offer CRES’ strong support for S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA). This bill was reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee on a unanimous vote and has been cosponsored by 24 Republican Senators. CRES urges the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation in its current form.

GCSA will break down barriers for farmers, ranchers, and landowners to participate in voluntary carbon credit markets. The bill directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a program to certify third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. This program will connect producers to the experts that will help them earn an additional stream of revenue by monetizing conservation practices, which already produce many soil, water, and air benefits.

This bill establishes a council comprised primarily of experienced farmers and ranchers to advise USDA on program implementation and standards, which will ensure that producers come first in this limited-government approach. GCSA also contains provisions guaranteeing that the program will remain voluntary, that third parties will provide accurate estimates of carbon revenue, and that revenues will be distributed fairly to farms of all types and sizes. These provisions are among the reasons the GCSA has the overwhelming support of agricultural leaders, including endorsements from the American Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, and American Soybean Association.

Addressing climate change while strengthening our international competitiveness will require innovation across the entire breadth of our economy—including agriculture. CRES thanks you and Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman, for your judicious, bipartisan work on this commonsense legislation that puts agriculture first while providing a real path for decreased carbon emissions. S. 1231, in its current form, should be expeditiously passed by the U.S. Senate.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
ROBIN J. BOWEN, Senior Vice President, External Affairs.

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK, June 23, 2021.**

Re Support Final Passage of S. 1251 and Oppose Lee Amendment.

To the Members of the U.S. Senate: The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) strongly supports final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation reduces technical entry barriers for producers and forest owners interested in participating in voluntary carbon markets. PACA consists of nearly 80 organizations representing farmers, ranchers, forest owners, manufacturers, the food and innovation sector, state governments, sportsmen and environmental advocates. We commend Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Stabenow (D-Mich.), Ranking Member John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.) for crafting overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation that supports our sectors’ role in delivering innovative climate solutions.

One of PACA’s guiding principles states that federal climate policy must be built upon voluntary, incentive-based programs and market-driven opportunities. By fostering the growth of voluntary markets, S. 1231 will achieve just that.

Unfortunately, the amendment proposed by Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) undercut the
central function of this bill by eliminating the scientific and good governance requirements that technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers would need to meet to become certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The certification program is critical to ensure that farmers are protected in the emerging marketplace and have access to reliable information.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote No on the Lee amendment and Yes on final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Organizations’ Names]

attachment: Growing Climate Solutions Act

The Growing Climate Solutions Act is a key piece of the enormous potential that land-based solutions have to help solve this crisis. This bill gives producers even more effective tools to lead and new opportunities for economic successes as well.

The bill equips producers to succeed by doubling three things. First, it sets up a network of trusted outside experts and third-party verifiers, certified by the USDA, to provide technical assistance and help producers generate and sell their voluntary carbon credits, which, by the way, Senator LEAHY’s amendment would gut, which is why I do not support that amendment.

Then it creates a comprehensive online resource, a one-stop shop, to help our farmers get the information they need and create innovative and sustainable practices through voluntary carbon markets and traditional USDA conservation programs.

Finally, it sets up a very important advisory council made up of a majority of farmers and foresters with tremendous diversity, as well as representatives from the research community and the private industry, to help guide the USDA as they put this together.

The bottom line: It gives them the opportunity to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to design a carbon market that works for them, not Wall Street. In other words, this bill puts farmers and foresters first.

More than 175 advocates, organizations, and companies support this bill. They see it as a win-win for agriculture and the environment. That coalition is mirrored in the broad support we have here in the U.S. Senate, with now upward of 55 cosponsors who have joined in this bill. Given today’s politics, that says a lot about what this bill represents.

So let me urge you to vote yes on the Growing Climate Solutions Act, to vote no on the Lee amendment, which would essentially gut the bill, and allow us, in this tremendous bipartisan effort, to move forward on something very important.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 219

Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 219.

Mr. LEE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 11, nays 89, as follows:

YEAS—11

Baldwin  Barrasso  Bennett  Blumenthal  Blunt  Blackburn  Barrasso  Barrasso  Barrasso  Barrasso

NAYS—89

Sullivan  Tomney  Portman  Reid  Risch  Romney  Rounds  Rubio  Sanders  Scott (SC)  Shaheen  Shelby  Sinema  Smith  Tester  Thune  Tuberville  Van Hollen  Warner  Warnock  Warren  Whitehouse  Wicker  Wyden  Young

The amendment (No. 219) was rejected.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read the third time.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CARPER. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Baldwin
Barasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Braum
Brown
Burh
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Deckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gallego
Booker
Hawley
Inhofe
Portman
Reed
Risch
Rocky
Rosen
Sabato
Sasse
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sheehan
Shelby
Sinema
Schatz
Shea
Smith
Stabenow
Stabenow
Sullivan
Thomas
Tillie
Toomey
Tuberville
Van Hollen
Warren
Waring
Warnock
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—8

Baldwin
Barasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Braum
Brown
Burh
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Deckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gallego
Booker
Hawley
Inhofe
Portman
Reed
Risch
Rocky
Rosen
Sabato
Sasse
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sheehan
Shelby
Sinema
Schatz
Shea
Smith
Stabenow
Sullivan
Thomas
Tillie
Toomey
Tuberville
Van Hollen
Warren
Waring
Warnock
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

S. 1251

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. GREENHOUSE GAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER AND THIRD-PARTY VERIFIER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to facilitate the participation of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in voluntary environmental credit markets, including through the Program;

(2) to facilitate the provision of technical assistance through covered entities to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in overcoming barriers to entry into voluntary environmental credit markets;

(3) to assist covered entities in certifying under the Program; and

(4) to establish the Advisory Council to advise the Secretary regarding the Program and other related matters.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council established under subsection (g)(1).

(2) AGRICULTURE OR FORESTRY CREDIT.—The term "agriculture or forestry credit" means a credit derived from the prevention, reduction, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or sequestered carbon; or (i) prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; or (ii) sequester carbon; or (B) is a third-party verifier entity that conducts the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(3) ADVICE.—The term "advice" means any relevant conflict of interest requirement, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, for—

(A) the provision of technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners for carrying out activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a); and

(B) demonstrations of qualifications for covered entities that—

(i) demonstrate that the covered entity can assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in accomplishing the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a); and

(ii) demonstrate proficiency with the protocols described in clause (i).

(C) REQUIREMENTS.—Covered entities certified under the Program shall maintain expertise in the protocols described in subparagraph (A)(i), adhere to the qualifications described in subparagraph (A)(ii), and adhere to any relevant conflict of interest requirements, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, for—

(i) the provision of technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners for carrying out activities described in paragraph (2); or

(ii) the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets that are used in carrying out activities described in paragraph (2).

(D) ACTIVITIES.—The activities for which covered entities may provide technical assistance or conduct verification of processes under the Program are current and future activities that prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or sequestered carbon, which may include—

(A) land or soil carbon sequestration;

(B) energy feedstock production, including energy feedstock derived from fuel choice or reduced fuel use;

(C) livestock emissions reductions, including emissions reductions achieved through—

(i) feed, feed additives, and the use of by-products as feed sources; or

(ii) manure management practices;

(D) on-farm energy generation;

(E) fertilizer or nutrient use reductions;

(F) reforestation;

(G) forest management, including improving harvesting practices and thinning diseased trees;

[Congressional Record]
(1) prevention of the conversion of forests, grasslands, and wetlands;
(2) restoration of wetlands or grasslands;
(3) grassland management, including prescribed grazing and rotational grazing programs;
(4) current practices associated with private land conservation programs administered by the Secretary; and
(5) other activities, or combinations of activities, that the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, determines to be appropriate.

(b) In publishing the list of protocols and description of qualifications under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall—

(A) ensure that the requirements for covered entities to certify under the Program include maintaining expertise in all relevant information relating to market-based protocols, as appropriate, with regard to—

(i) quantification;
(ii) verification;
(iii) additionality;
(iv) permanence;
(v) reporting; and
(vi) other expertise, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) ensure that a covered entity certified under the Program is required to perform, to demonstrate expertise, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, determinations and activities—

(i) through working with covered entities certified under the Program; and
(ii) by providing information relating to programs, registries, and protocols of programs that provide market-based participation opportunities for working and conserving agricultural and forestry lands.

(3) Publication.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council and following the review by the Secretary of the completeness and accuracy of the certification notifications and documentation submitted under paragraph (1), shall use an existing website maintained by the Secretary—

(A) to publish a list of covered entities that are certified under paragraph (1) as technical assistance providers; and
(B) to publish a list of covered entities that are certified under paragraph (1) as verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(4) Updates.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall update the lists published under paragraph (3).

(5) Submission.—The Secretary shall notify Congress of the publication of the initial list under paragraph (3).

(6) Requirement.—To remain certified under the Program, a covered entity shall—

(A) maintain expertise in the protocols described in subparagraph (A)(i) of subsection (d); and
(B) adhere to the qualifications described in clause (ii) of that subsection; and

(7) Auditing.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall conduct audits of covered entities that are certified under the Program to ensure compliance with the requirements described in subparagraph (A)(i) of subsection (d)(1)(B) through an audit process that includes a representative sample of—

(A) technical assistance providers; and
(B) verifiers of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(8) Revocation of Certification.—In order to ensure that a covered entity is in compliance with the requirements under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may revoke the certification of a covered entity under the Program in the event of—

(i) noncompliance with the requirements under subparagraph (A)(i); or
(ii) a violation of subsection (f)(2)(A).

(B) Notification.—If the Secretary revokes a certification of a covered entity under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) request from that covered entity contact information for all farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to whom the covered entity provided technical assistance or verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets;
(ii) notify those farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners of the revocation.

(9) Fair Treatment of Farmers.—The Secretary shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable, that covered entities certified under paragraph (1) act in good faith—

(A) to provide realistic estimates of costs and benefits relating to activities and verification of processes, as applicable to the covered entity, as described in subsection (d)(2); and
(B) in the case of technical assistance providers, to assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in ensuring that the farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners receive their fair share of any revenues or other benefits derived from the sale of an agriculture or forestry credit.

(10) Savings Clause.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to compel a farmer, rancher, or private forest landowner to participate in a transaction or project facilitated by a covered entity certified under paragraph (1).

(f) Enforcement.—

(1) Prohibition on Claims.—

(A) In General.—A person that is not certified under the Program in accordance with this section shall not make a claim that the person is a “USDA-certified technical assistance provider or third-party verifier for voluntary environmental credit markets” or any substantially similar or related claim.

(B) Penalty.—Any person that violates subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) subject to a civil penalty equal to such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, to not exceed $1,000 per violation; and
(ii) be ineligible to certify under the Program for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the violation.

(2) Submission of Fraudulent Information.—

(A) In General.—A person, regardless of whether the person is certified under the Program, shall not submit fraudulent information as part of a notification under section (e)(1).

(B) Penalty.—Any person that violates subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) subject to a civil penalty equal to such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, to not exceed $1,000 per violation; and
(ii) be ineligible to certify under the Program for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the violation.

(g) Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council.—

(1) In General.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, the Secretary shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the “Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council”.

(2) Membership.—

(A) In General.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of members appointed by the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) General Representation.—The Advisory Council shall—

(i) be broadly representative of the agriculture and private forest sector; or
(ii) include social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and other historically underserved farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners; and
(iii) be composed of not less than 51 percent farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners.

(C) Members.—Members appointed under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) not more than 2 representatives of the Department of Agriculture, as determined by the Secretary;
(ii) not more than 1 representative of the Environmental Protection Agency, as determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
(iii) not more than 1 representative of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(D) Civil Penalties.—Any person that violates subparagraph (A) shall be subject to a civil penalty, as determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(E) Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council.''

(June 24, 2021)
forest products industry appointed in a manner that are broadly representative of the private forest sector;

(vi) not more than 4 representatives of the relevant forest sectors, including representatives of land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, andTeaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103), of which 1 shall be representative of a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1862, commonly known as the "Second Morrill Act") (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(vii) not more than 2 experts or professionals familiar with voluntary environmental credit markets and the verification requirements in those markets;

(viii) not more than 3 members of non-governmental or civil society organizations with relevant expertise, of which not fewer than 1 shall represent the interests of socially disadvantaged groups;

(ix) not more than 3 members of private sector entities or organizations that participate in the extent environmental credit markets through which agriculture or forestry credits are bought and sold; and

(x) any other individual whom the Secretary in his discretion may designate as necessary to ensure that the Advisory Council is composed of a diverse group of representatives of industry, academia, independent researchers, and public and private forest landowners.

(D) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall designate a member of the Advisory Council to serve as the Chair.

(E) TERMS.—(i) In general.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 2 years, except that—

(I) if the member is first appointed, the member shall serve for a term of 3 years; and

(II) if the member is first appointed after the initial term of a member of the Advisory Council, the member may serve not more than 4 additional 2-year terms.

(ii) Initial meetings.—(A) FREQUENCY.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less frequently than annually, at the call of the Chair.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Advisory Council shall hold an initial meeting.

(F) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) periodically review and recommend any appropriate changes to—

(i) the list of protocols and description of qualifications published by the Secretary under subsection (d)(1)(A); and

(ii) the requirements described in subsection (d)(1)(B);

(B) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the best practices that should be included in the protocols, description of qualifications, and requirements described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) advise the Secretary regarding—

(i) the current methods used by voluntary environmental credit markets to quantify and verify the prevention, reduction, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or sequestration of carbon dioxide equivalent; and

(ii) additional considerations for certifying covered entities under the Program; and

(vi) the state of monitoring and measurement technologies needed to quantify long-term carbon sequestration in soils and from other activities to prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in voluntary environmental credit markets in agriculture and forestry sectors;

(vii) means to reduce barriers to entry into voluntary environmental credit markets for small beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners and the extent to which existing protocols in voluntary environmental credit markets allow for aggregation of projects among farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners;

(viii) means to leverage existing Department of Agriculture programs and other Federal programs that could improve, lower the costs of, and enhance the deployment of monitoring and measurement technologies described in clause (vi);

(ix) the potential impact of Department of Agriculture activities on supply and demand of agriculture or forestry credits;

(x) the potential role of the Department of Agriculture in encouraging innovation in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(xi) the potential impact of Department of Agriculture programs and other Federal programs that could improve, lower the costs of, and enhance the deployment of monitoring and measurement technologies described in clauses (vi) through (xi) on credit regimes for generating and selling agriculture or forestry credits, as the regimes exist at the end of the preceding 4-calendar year period historically, in voluntary environmental credit markets, may be impeded or constricted, or achieve greater scale and reach, if the Department of Agriculture programs and other Federal programs that could improve, lower the costs of, and enhance the deployment of monitoring and measurement technologies described in clauses (vi) through (xi) are not available, or if the Department of Agriculture in reducing the barriers to entry identified under clause (vii) is not encouraging innovation, or if the Department of Agriculture in reducing the barriers to entry identified under clause (vii) is not encouraging innovation in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(xii) the extent to which existing protocols in voluntary environmental credit markets consider opportunities to ensure the continued valuation, through discounting or other accounting methods, of credits in the case of the practices underlying those credits being disrupted due to unavoidable events, including production challenges and natural disasters; and

(xiv) opportunities for other voluntary markets outside of voluntary environmental credit markets to foster the trading, buying, selling, and verification of credits that are derived from activities that provide other ecosystem service benefits, including activities that improve water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services, as the Secretary determines appropriate;

(B) publish the assessment; and

(C) submit the assessment to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUADRIENNAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Advisory Council, shall conduct a quadriennial assessment under paragraph (1)(A) and publish and submit the assessment in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) every 4 years after the publication and submission of the first assessment under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1).
(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Program is established, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish and submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing, for the period covered by the report—

(A) the number of covered entities that—

(i) were registered under the Program;

(ii) were new registrants under the Program, if applicable; and

(iii) did not renew their registration under the Program, if applicable;

(B) methods to improve the ability of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to overcome barriers to entry to voluntary environmental markets; and

(C) methods to further facilitate participation of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in voluntary environmental credits through covered entities certified under the Program;

(2) DIRECT FUNDING.—In addition to the amount made available under paragraph (2), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(3) SECURITY FOR FUNDING.—In addition to the amount made available by section 1003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) are available on the date of enactment of this Act to execute the entire rescission described in subparagraph (A), then on the day after the execution of the entire rescission, there is appropriated to the Secretary, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $4,100,000 to carry out this section.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of S. 831, to be considered made and laid upon the table.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here with Senators Cornyn and Leahy to ask unanimous consent.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 831 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Grassley amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to consider, inquire, and report upon the nomination of Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

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GRASSLEY and CORNYN on the EB–5 re-
form bill. Senator CORNYN has worked
very hard on this, Senator GRASSLEY
has, and I have, and it was truly a bi-
partisan bill. It had widespread support
of EB–5 stakeholders—those who re-
sponsibly welcomed changes to the pro-
gram, and our efforts to improve oversight and accountabil-
ity.

Senator GRASSLEY and I have been
working for years to reform the EB–5 visa program. We wanted to reduce the fraud that has occurred in several EB–5 projects, including one that occurred in my own State of Vermont.

This legislation—again, bringing Re-
publicans and Democrats across the po-
litical spectrum together—reflects a
careful and thoughtful compromise to
both keep the EB–5 Program alive and
curtail the worst abuses it has. There
is actually only a small minority that
wants to keep the program operating
without these improved standards and
oversight. I wish they would be willing to come
here and bring it up, vote it up or
down, and be on the RECORD saying
how they are going to vote, because op-
posing our effort on this is a vote that
allows the EB–5 program to languish
and it will have untold economic con-
sequences throughout the communities
that rely on the program for develop-
ment projects, like those that the Sen-
ator from Texas just mentioned.

I wish that Senators had supported
Senator GRASSLEY’s consent request.
But I will take a moment to say I
thank Senator GRASSLEY for working
with me over the years to find a bipar-
tisan compromise to reform this. Hours
have gone into that. He and Senator CORNYN and I and others have worked
hard to have a compromise. I am sorry
that the unanimous consent was ob-
jected to, especially as it means this
will expire, and we won’t have votes on
improvements that could take place. I
think that is a wasted opportunity.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, actually, if others are
waiting, let me say something on an-
other matter. It was 169 days ago that
the world witnessed a violent insur-
rection take place in the seat of American
democracy. All of us have the memory of rioters in combat gear who were
armed with zip ties and smashing in
the windows of the Capitol Building.
Everybody in America remembers that.
The images of the National Guard pat-
trolling the Capitol grounds behind
fences topped with barbed wire—those
are going to be in the pages of text-
books of American history for genera-
tions to come.

Now, we didn’t budget for an insur-
rection. In a democracy like ours, you
should never have to. But the path of
destruction from that day left the Cap-
itol Police overburdened and underresourced. Purchases of critical
equipment like respirators, ballistic
helmets, protective gear, and train-
ing—those have been delayed to make
up for these unanticipated costs. Ef-
forts to implement the department’s
wellness program to address mental
health concerns following January 6
have been put on the back burner. And
if we do nothing, the Capitol Police
projects that doing nothing will de-
plete salary funds in August, and that
would be a security crisis that we have
created.

Now, 55 sworn officers have left the
force since January 6. That is not
counting those who died from January
6. That has depleted the force, which is
already stressed. It is below what is
needed to meet mission requirements.
There is an urgent need to address the
unanticipated costs associated with the
attack on this building, including sig-
ificant overtime pay, the need for haz-
ard pay, and retention bonuses to keep
dedicated officers from leaving the
force.

The urgent need extends beyond the
Capitol Police. Last week, the Sec-
retary of Defense testified before the
full Appropriations Committee and
said that if we do not act, the National
Guard will be forced to cut training in
August as well. I met with the Green
Mountain Boys, who came from
Vermont to secure the Capitol after
January 6. I thanked them for their
service and asked them to return home
and board up shattered windows and broken doors.

Now, we did not budget for both the
pandemic and insurrection. We were
forced to rob Peter to pay Paul to keep
our congressional community safe and
healthy. But now necessary legislative
branch projects lack the funding to
move forward. We ought to have the re-
sponsibility to address that.

It has been 169 days since January 6.
It has been 169 days since Republicans
and Democrats reconvened in this
Chamber in bipartisan defiance of
those who sought to overthrow democ-
raty and the rule of law through mob
violence.

But now, for 35 days, the House-
passed emergency supplemental to ad-
dress the lingering scars of the January 6 insurrec-
tion and the lingering scars of the COVID pandemic has languished in the
Senate. And why? Because Senate Re-
publicans have refused to begin nego-
tiations on a bipartisan path forward.

So I am urging my colleagues: Begin
these negotiations. The clock is tick-
ing. My staff and I are—throughout the
Fourth of July recess, meeting with
wounded veterans, and I will talk with
these negotiations going, because if we
don’t act, the Capitol Police is going to
run out of funding in a very short time
in August.

What are we saying? We are
turning our backs on those who fought
and bled and died on that day to pro-
defend and protect this building and ev-
erything it stands for. How can we pos-
sibly do that? We are going to be forc-
ing the men and women of the National
Guard to go without training that is
necessary to achieve their mission, and
we will be telling the women and men
of the Capitol staff who support us:
Thanks, but we don’t support you.

That would be wrong. That goes against
everything that I have learned
in my years here in the Senate from both Republicans and Democrats.

The security supplemental would
address the shortfalls. It would provide
new resources for overtime, hazard
pay, mental health services, retention
bonuses, and new equipment and train-
ing for the Capitol Police, all of which
is needed. It would fully reimburse the
wounded men of the National Guard
with costs incurred protecting the Cap-
itol.

They were called. They came. They
didn’t say: Oh, are we going to get re-
imbursed?

They answered the call. Of course,
they assumed that we would be respon-
sible enough to reimburse them.

We also restored legislative branch
funding that was taken to address the
immediate needs of keeping our con-
gressional community safe and
healthy.

I have been ready to begin bipar-
tisan negotiations. I believe if we begin these
negotiations now, we could complete
our work in the July session. My door
is always open. It will be open through-
out the July recess.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise
once again in support of Jen Easterly’s
nomination to be Director of the Cy-
bersecurity and Infrastructure Secu-
rity Agency, commonly referred to as
CISA.

Yesterday, I came to the floor to
urge my colleagues to swiftly con-
firm Ms. Easterly to lead CISA so she
can go to work in strengthening our Na-
tional response to the recent onslaught
of online attacks that have literally
wrought havoc to our critical infra-
structure, businesses, and even govern-
ment.

Ms. Easterly, who has more than three decades of service in the public and private sec-
tors and her critical role in crafting vital cyber security recommendations
as a member of the Cyber Solarium
Commission. Ms. Easterly is more than qualified to lead this critical Agency. Her leadership is needed now more than ever, after the damage and the chaos that recent cyber attacks have caused. We urgently need a qualified and Senate-confirmed leader in place before the next major breach, which could be even worse.

Yesterday, when I called on the Senate to immediately confirm this critical nominee, the Senator from Florida objected, not because he opposes Ms. Easterly’s nomination, and, in fact, he actually helped advance her nomination out of my committee just last week. Instead, he blocked the swift confirmation of this critical cyber security leader because he wants to extract a completely unrelated political concession from the Biden administration.

As we now know, Vice President Harris has announced that she will travel to El Paso tomorrow, along with Secretary Mayorkas, to assess the situation on the southern border. The Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas have worked hard to address our border challenges, and, as a result, we have seen a reduction in the number of unaccompanied children who are in DHS custody.

But this nomination is not about the border, as much as my Republican colleagues try to conflate these issues. This nomination is about cyber security. This nomination is keeping American families safe and our economy secure. That is what this nomination is all about. My Republican colleagues are continuing to stall the confirmation of Ms. Easterly at a time when we desperately need strong cyber security leadership.

The Senate is preparing to adjourn for Independence Day, which is a major travel weekend. As we have seen from recent cyber attacks, our critical infrastructure networks are vulnerable. Criminal organizations and foreign adversaries will continue their efforts to compromise our networks. We must be prepared for attacks that could disrupt trains or flights over the holiday weekend.

We must confirm Ms. Easterly as the CISA Director now, not in 2 weeks and not in 2 months. We must have a qualified Senate-confirmed leader in place to help us address these attacks.

If our Republican colleagues won’t consent, they risk weakening and slowing our cyber defenses at a time when attacks could cause serious disruptions. These attacks risk the lives and livelihoods of countless Americans. Safeguarding against them should not be a partisan issue. Putting in place highly qualified cyber leadership should not hinge on whether Republicans in the Senate approve of the Vice President’s travel schedule.

I urge from Florida to withdraw his objections so that we can do our job, confirm Ms. Easterly today, and help protect the American people from this grave national security threat.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 176, Jen Easterly of New York, as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, before I address this issue, I will take a moment of personal privilege to talk about the horrific tragedy that occurred in Surfside, FL, when an apartment building collapsed earlier this morning.

Miami-Dade first and rescue, Miami-Dade police, and our other brave first responders rushed to the scene and have been working nonstop to rescue those trapped in the rubble. It looks horrible. I have talked to quite a few people down there, and we know of one confirmed death, and, hopefully, there aren't more. We don't know they are still trying to get people out of the rubble.

So I join all my Floridians in praying for strength for these first responders and all those impacted by this disaster. I want to thank my colleague for giving me a few moments to speak on this difficult moment for my State.

My colleague raised this same issue yesterday. I am here fighting for accountability for the American people. So I will say the same in return.

I voted to support Ms. Easterly’s confirmation in committee last week. If Senator SCHUMER filed for cloture, like my colleague, I would vote to support her confirmation here on the Senate floor. In fact, I don’t understand why Senator SCHUMER didn’t file for cloture on Tuesday night when my office first learned of my colleague’s intention to raise this. We could be voting on her confirmation right now.

As my colleague has said, this isn’t about Ms. Easterly, in my mind. This isn’t about cyber security. Remember, we announced and confirmed the National Cyber Director last week. Just yesterday, I met with the Administrator of the General Services Administration, which is a key Agency for modernizing and protecting the Federal Government’s IT infrastructure. I am here today because families in my State of Florida and across our Nation deserve accountability, and President Biden has shown a total lack of accountability when it comes to addressing the border crisis. That is why I announced last month that I will be holding all of President Biden’s nominees for Homeland Security from being approved through our expedited process until he and Vice President HARRIS visit the border and see for themselves the crisis their failed policies of open borders and the amnesty they have created.

As we all know, yesterday, the White House announced that the Vice President will be visiting the border tomorrow. Frankly, I think we all hope that is true. The administration made a lot of promises they haven’t kept. They promised not to raise taxes. They promised to reopen schools quickly. They promised to be tough on China. There is quite a list.

So trust me—I am glad the Vice President seems to be taking my advice and finally listening to the American people and visiting the border. I truly hope she gets down to the border to see the crisis that this administration’s failed policies have created.

I hope she meets with the National Border Patrol Council to hear from them what our brave CBP agents are going through every day to keep us safe.

I hope she meets with border community sheriffs who are responsible for keeping our families safe.

I hope she meets with our ICE and CBP section chiefs.

I hope she takes an aerial tour like I did and sees the gaps in the wall. I took a tour with Governor Ducey. You have the wall, and then all of a sudden, there are these openings where the fences weren’t put up or the gates weren’t put up.

A lot of people up here said: Oh, we don’t need the wall; we need, you know, technology.

Well, there are the lights and cameras. I saw places where it just—it wasn’t electrified. It just doesn’t make sense.

I hope she meets with families who have been victims of trafficking and hears their horrific stories, what this has put people through.

I hope she visits some of the border communities and talks to the mayors and talks to people down there about how they are housing and caring for this historic number of people illegally crossing our borders. This is a tough crisis that has been created.

I hope she talks to families who have lost loved ones from massive, massive amounts of fentanyl that now our cartels are moving across the border.

I hope she talks to ranchers who are impacted by people illegally crossing the border onto their property.

I think all of us would hope that it is not a political stunt. I hope she actually says: I want to see the crisis. I want to understand exactly what happened here.

When she does, I am going to lift all of my holds, as I told my colleagues.

I think all of us would hope that it is not a crisis, but the border is a crisis, and I don’t think there is another word for it. You can look at this chart. Look at how many people have come across. This is the number of people who have been apprehended. We don’t know how many people there are who haven’t been apprehended.

More than 180,000 illegal aliens tried to cross our southern border last
month—the highest number in 21 years—threatening our national security and the safety of American families.

President Biden’s immigration policies are putting unaccompanied minors at risk of human trafficking, violence, sexual abuse, and separation from their families. I mean, it is horrible. They are leading to an alarming increase in human trafficking and drug smuggling by cartels.

FBI Director Wray said there is “no question” that the cartel activity from Mexico is “spilling over” to the United States. We are seeing it in Florida. I talk to our sheriffs, and what they are telling me is that they are seeing a lot more deadly fentanyl coming into their counties, and it is showing up in their labs.

But instead of securing the border and finishing the wall construction project, President Biden and Vice President Harris terminate all the border wall projects? No one can—he has never had an explanation.

So this inaction of not going to the border by President Biden and Vice President Harris doesn’t make any sense. Why can’t they acknowledge that we expect and we deserve a secure border that is good for our Nation? Why can’t they stand up against the radical left and say that open borders are dangerous for our families?

It should make every American furious. It is not something to laugh about. People are dying. Children are being exploited and abandoned in the desert.

This is a picture of two young 3- and 5-year-old Ecuadorian girls. You can see it. They were just dropped. Anybody who has been around little children, 3 and 5 years old—think about it. They were just dropped over the wall and abandoned, just abandoned, hoping somebody was going to take care of them. Abandoned in the middle of the night. I mean, I have grandkids. I just can’t imagine—I can’t imagine anything worse.

The White House claims that Vice President Harris’s last trip was to talk about the root causes of immigration. It doesn’t make any sense. It seems like it was just a political stunt to me.

President Biden and Vice President Harris need to stop avoiding the crisis, stop looking away from the threat, get down to the border, and actually take real steps to really secure the border.

So if we go to the border, I am lifting my holds, but as long as they refuse to help those risking their lives every day to keep us safe, as long as they refuse to visit the border and put an end to the humanitarian crisis they have created, I am going to keep putting up roadblocks.

Those two little girls, they deserve better. The millions of immigrants going through the legal immigration process, they deserve better. Our Border Patrol agents deserve better. Our local law enforcement agents deserve better. ICE deserves better. American families deserve better. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—NO. S. 2216
Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I think we all are aware President Biden has decided to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan in September. Now, some agree with his decision; some disagree with his decision. The bill that I am about to talk about has nothing to do with the merits of his decision.

There are about 18,000—not 1,800, 18,000—interpreters and members of their immediate families who helped our troops fight the war in Afghanistan against the Taliban and against ISIS. They are at risk.

There was an article in a leading newspaper yesterday. I will read you the headline. It says: “Afghan government together collapse 6 months after US withdrawal.”

These 18,000 interpreters and their immediate families, who have helped American troops, would like to get out. We have a visa process, which is going to be set forth. We will not be able to get all of those 18,000 human beings out before the withdrawal in September. That much is clear.

Again, my bill has nothing to do with the merits or lack thereof of the war. My bill would direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to develop a plan to relocate the Afghan interpreters and their immediate families who want to get out and bring them to America.

Now, obviously, before we bring them to America, those who want to come, we have to vet them. That is part of the problem. The vetting process right now is very slow. Rather than try to get rid of people who want to flee, flee. The end is coming. Well, guess what. The end comes quicker if they all leave. So I would encourage them, rather, to stay and fight. I think it would be good to have many English speakers in Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan could be improved, but they are going to have to fight for it. And, ultimately, it is their fight.

And if we offer easy escape and easy plans to leave the country, we are assuring the defeat of the people who are our friends and help Americans, the people who have helped to get their liberty. You can say the people in Afghanistan helped us or you can you also say we helped liberate them as well.

They have been free for 20 years. It seems like it might precipitate the coming of the Taliban if you take 18,000 of the most westernized, those who speak English, and you say: Fly, flee. The end is coming. Well, guess what. The end comes quicker if they all leave. So I would encourage them, rather, to stay and fight. I think it would be good to have many English speakers in Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan could be improved, but they are going to have to fight for it. And, ultimately, it is their fight.

The quest for liberty requires fighting by those people who have been given their liberty, the people whom we have helped to get their liberty. You can say the people in Afghanistan helped us or you can also say we helped liberate them as well.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, in the first two decades after the Revolutionary War, America was under siege and our Capitol was ransacked, but I don’t recall in reading history that any of our Found ing Fathers said that they would flee the country or leave and give up on the quest for liberty.

The quest for liberty requires fighting by the people who have been given their liberty, the people whom we have helped to get their liberty. You can say the people in Afghanistan helped us or you can also say we helped liberate them as well.

They have been free for 20 years. It seems like it might precipitate the coming of the Taliban if you take 18,000 of the most westernized, those who speak English, and you say: Fly, flee. The end is coming. Well, guess what. The end comes quicker if they all leave. So I would encourage them, rather, to stay and fight. I think it would be good to have many English speakers in Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan could be improved, but they are going to have to fight for it. And, ultimately, it is their fight.

And if we offer easy escape and easy plans to leave the country, we are assuring the defeat of the people who are our friends and help Americans, the people who have helped to get their liberty. You can say the people in Afghanistan helped us or you can also say we helped liberate them as well.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I re spect my right to object. I disagree. We are all aware of what is going on in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government is in a bitter fight to the end with the Taliban. And the Taliban is winning. And the Taliban is ruthless. And they are going to murder these people. They are going to murder them. And the blood is going to be on American hands if we don’t do something to help.

My proposal would not have required any of these 18,000 Afghans who stood with American troops to beat back the Taliban and to beat back ISIS—they stood with us at their own risk, at the risk of their own kids, and their own spouses.

Now, we decided to leave. I am not saying that is right or wrong. I have my own opinion, but that is not what this bill is about. And time and time and time to these 18,000 people to offer them a chance to live. And if we don’t do something, they are going to be butchered. They are going to be gutted like...
Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

MASK MANDATES

Mr. COTTON. There is a disturbing trend in the not-so-friendly skies these days—in confrontations, often violent, on American airplanes. It is all the more disturbing because it is totally unnecessary. In most cases, these disputes go back to one of the Biden administration’s dumbest policies—the mask mandate at airports and airplanes.

When the Wuhan coronavirus broke out in our country last year, confusion and uncertainty reigned, but within a couple of months, some common sense standards had emerged: Protect the elderly and the frail. Outdoor activities and kind to each other.

But this stupid mandate does have real-world consequences. Just last month, a Colorado mother and her family were removed from their flight because the plane’s captain didn’t believe that her 3-year-old son with autism would keep his mask on. This mother, unfortunately, was not the first to be removed from a flight, and I am sure she won’t be the last if this absurd mandate remains in place.

This policy discourages family travel after a year of separation and forces Americans with children, especially parents of young kids, to cancel travel or else live in constant fear that an untimely tantrum or a bad day could ruin their trip and cost them more than $1,000 in fines.

As the father of two young boys, I can only assume the moron who cooked up this rule don’t have children, or perhaps they outsource their kids to nannies and au pairs during flights, just as they do during their dinner parties and fancy retreats. Young kids, especially when they are in a new location surrounded by strangers, tend to act out and misbehave, as any parent will tell you. That entirely predictable behavior shouldn’t result in their whole family being kicked off planes, trains, and buses far from home or their destination.

I must also observe—although I know that facts have nothing to do with this mandate—that young kids are also the least likely to get the coronavirus and the least likely to spread it.

Now, I concede that it is not only young kids who sometimes cause problems on planes. There are too many instances of grownups refusing to wear masks or berating flight attendants merely trying to do their job. These unruly adults should know better, of course, but so should the politicians and the bureaucrats who imposed this idiotic mandate in the first place.

Millions of Americans are flying again, and to say simply that ‘they should follow my rules’ is impractical and ignores all we know about human nature.

The mandate, therefore, hurts not only passengers but also flight attendants. In our line of work, we probably fly more than most Americans these days. Over the last couple of months, I have personally seen so many flight attendants set up for failure by the Biden administration. They usually don’t want to boss around their passengers or kick them off an airplane and cause a scene that will go viral on social media, but they are also told they have to enforce this stupid mask mandate, and it is all for no good reason.

It would be a cruel joke if there was scientific evidence that suggested that these masks in airports and on airplanes or buses or trains actually slowed the spread of the virus among the vaccinated, but that is not the case. Even the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, can’t defend these mandates on the merits. He doesn’t even try. The only rationale he could give when recently asked about the mandate was, ‘They’re a matter of respect,’ to which I would respond, how about respect for Americans and their common sense?

If you can’t defend a policy on the merits, you shouldn’t have the policy, and the Biden administration should therefore immediately rescind its mask mandates for airports and airplanes and buses and trains. Vaccinated Americans and their young kids should not be forced to wear face coverings on airplanes or anywhere else for that matter. It is unnecessary. It is unscientific, and in the case of children, it is cruel.

I think I speak for millions of Americans when I say: Mask mandates have long since outlived their usefulness and their welcome. We have all but won the war against the Wuhan coronavirus. It is time for us to act like it, to reclaim victory and reclaim our freedom.

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. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. BROWN, Object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I again ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. Object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

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 JACKSON-AKIWUMI NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jackson-Akiwum nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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 clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURRE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Johnson), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall), the Senator from Kansas (Moran), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Tuberville).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) would have voted ‘nay.’

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 40, as follows:
President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

President HARRIS took office, only 5 months later, 70 percent of Americans over age 30 have received at least one shot. That is a total of 300 million vaccine shots in only 150 days, and we are seeing the results.

This week, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer was able to drop our State’s pandemic restrictions. That is great news for our small businesses and our restaurants and our entertainment venues, just in time for peak travel season in beautiful Michigan. Nationally, 2 million jobs have been created since President Biden took office—2 million jobs since he took office just 6 months ago. Half as many people are applying for unemployment each month as were in January. And, next month, families will begin to receive advance child tax credit that are going to lift half of the poor children in our country out of poverty—credible. These monthly payments of $250 or $300 per child will help families pay for the things they need to care for their children, and it will also boost the economy.

We have made amazing progress, and it wouldn’t have been possible without leadership from the White House, around $20 billion in funding for vaccines from Congress, the dedication of our medical professionals, the hard work of our small businesses that have done so much to keep their employees and their customers safe, and the willingness of so many Americans to literally roll up their sleeves to protect themselves and each other.

It is true that we have a lot more to do, of course. Many families and communities are still struggling to get back on their feet. We need to continue to support our small businesses that have been through so much.

We know that some States and regions are lagging behind on vaccinations for a number of reasons. That is unfair, so we know that these vaccinations are safe, they are free to receive, and they are amazingly effective. The numbers prove it.

On January 23, 3,322 Americans died of coronavirus in a single day, and, yesterday, 370 people died of coronavirus in the United States. Of course, that is still too many lives lost. Each one of those lives was precious, and our hearts are with everyone who is grieving.

There is still a risk that variants will spread and cases could rise again, especially in areas with low vaccination rates, which is why it is so critical that people get vaccinated. It is so important to get vaccinated, not only for yourselves but for your friends, for your neighbors, and for your children.

We have come a long way—a really long way—in the last 6 months. It is really amazing, and it is just in time for the Fourth of July. Americans have a lot to celebrate this Independence Day, and we give thanks for our Nation and for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, and this year we have a few extra freedoms to celebrate: the freedom to get together with friends again, the freedom to eat dinner at a favorite local restaurant, the freedom to attend a live music event or go to a movie, the freedom to live our lives with a lot less fear—a lot less fear—and the freedom to give our loved ones a hug. And I know I am cherishing every hug I can give my 95-year-old mom.

All of these freedoms are thanks to science and an administration that believes in science, and the willingness of Americans to trust the science.

To my fellow Americans, thank you for that. Thank you to our President, and happy Fourth of July. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 67.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 67, Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 63.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 with the provisions of rule XXII of the Senate and on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.


Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 24, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

I yield the floor to Mr. CHRISTOPHER COONS, D., Delaware.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, today has been a great day for the American people, a great day for our democracy and for bipartisanship. Some of you may know that just hours ago, over at the White House, a determined group of Republicans and Democrats, led by Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA, Senator ROB PORTMAN, Senator JOE MANCHIN, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and a number of others, announced a deal on an infrastructure package with the White House that represents the largest investment in infrastructure in a generation.

This is a big accomplishment that I will talk about in a few moments, but I also want to bring attention to something that happened earlier today on the floor here that may just go overlooked because of the other important news of the day.

By a vote of 92 to 8, this Senate passed the Growing Climate Solutions Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan Senator DEBbie STABENOW, the chair of the Agriculture Committee, and my friend and colleague from Indiana Senator Mike BRAUN, who is my cochair of the Climate Solutions Caucus.

This bill, the Growing Climate Solutions Act, is a great example of how we can bring everyone to find common ground on solutions that will protect our environment, help create jobs, and combat climate change.

It will help farmers and foresters in Delaware, in Michigan, in Texas, across our whole country, benefit from changes in the way that they care for their land and forests, and it will help them to participate in carbon credit markets. It will provide a framework for rewarding America’s farms and forests, and those that tend them, for climate-smart practices.

This is a commonsense, broadly bipartisan bill that will help us create a more sustainable future for our communities, our country, and our planet, with our farmers and our agriculture community taking the lead.

It reminds me of another signature moment that happened just at the very end of last year when, in December, the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020 was passed. Senators MIKEWKOWSKI and MANCHIN shepherded that into law late last year, and it modernizes our country’s energy policies across a dozen different major areas.

Each of these bills—the Growing Climate Solutions Act, and the Energy Act of 2020—were, in part, fostered by the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus. Founded in 2019, this caucus has held more than 30 events and meetings, including many focused on natural climate solutions such as the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Every Member, all 14 Members, of this bipartisan caucus co-sponsored the Growing Climate Solutions Act, and I applaud Senators STABENOW and BRAUN for building a significant coalition here in the Senate to support it, a coalition that ranged from some of the most engaged and active environmental groups to the American Farm Bureau, one of the strongest voices for America’s agricultural community.

Our work on climate is far from done. Members of the Climate Solutions Caucus have introduced a whole series of bipartisan bills that would promote bipartisan climate solutions. Senator PORTMAN and I have the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act; Senator SHAHEEN is leading the Forest Incentives Program Act; Senator RUIHUI, the Restoring Reefs Act; and many more.

We should advance these and many other bipartisan bills that every Member of our caucus supports and on which we are taking the lead. Let me be clear. I support bold action on climate. I support President Biden’s climate agenda. And there are many more things we can and should do, but I think it is possible for us to both move ahead on those things that have enduring bipartisan support in this Chamber and across the country and move ahead on those things that perhaps do not yet enjoy bipartisan support but where the need to act is urgent.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COONS. Madam President, let me also, if I can, speak for a few more moments about the historic deal reached earlier today on infrastructure.

This is about creating jobs. This is about investing in our economy and our communities and our country, and this is about strengthening the United States globally against our adversaries and competitors.

I need not remind you that just 1 year ago public health and economic crises created by the COVID–19 pandemic were ravaging communities all over our Nation. And today, under the leadership of the Biden administration, COVID–19 cases and deaths are down by over 90 percent. More than 70 percent of adults over the age of 30 have been vaccinated. As a result, businesses are opening, communities are opening. States are opening. Our unemployment rate has come down significantly, and our economy is recovering at a robust pace.

But if our economy is going to be sustainable, if it is going to be long term, if it is going to be robust, we have to make long-overdue investments in infrastructure. Globally, the United States now ranks 13th in infrastructure. In every State, we have roads, bridges, tunnels, water systems that are crumbling or aged. Just in my little State of Delaware, we have more than 200 miles of highway deemed in poor condition.

And as the climate continues to change, low-lying States like mine are particularly susceptible to increased damage. We had more than 10 extreme weather events causing up to $2 billion of damage in the last decade, and a lot of that damage our infrastructure became cause it is built right up against the waterways, the coasts, the bays.

We have one of the most important rail lines in the entire country, the
Northeast corridor, that runs right through Wilmington, DE. One day without service on this Northeast corridor costs our economy $100 million. And that day isn’t hypothetical; it happened during Superstorm Sandy, the hurricane that pummeled the east coast a few years ago.

Across our State and every State, infrastructure is in dire need of repair, of resiliency, and of upgrade, and doing that can help create jobs and strengthen our country.

We are losing our competitive edge, and our global competitors, like China, are outpacing us. That is why I was so encouraged to see the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act pass this body just a few weeks ago. A key piece of it was the bipartisan CHIPS Act that recognizes we need to invest in cutting-edge R&D, in semiconductors, and in the industries of the future.

But we can’t move people, capital, products, and ideas if we don’t invest in our infrastructure—in the broadways, the highways, the ports, and the roads that make us competitive globally.

The $550 billion in new Federal spending on infrastructure that is the core of the deal announced today is a down-payment on rebuilding our roads and bridges, fixing our lines of public transit, and expanding airports and port capacity. It also includes $47 billion toward climate resiliency, critically needed work to make sure that our infrastructure can sustain the growing storms all across our country.

I think this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put America on the right track and exactly at a moment when the leaders of China and Russia are telling the world that American democracy can’t work; that the riot that occurred in this building on January 6 is foreshadowing the collapse, the failure of American democracy. It is important for us to show our citizens here at home and our competitors abroad that democracy still works and that we can deliver meaningful solutions for our States, for our country, and for the world.

There is a lot more for us to accomplish on President Biden’s agenda—the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan—and we will have to move that forward, but I think this is a day for us to celebrate legislating together and finding a pathway to the House and to the President’s desk for the biggest investment in infrastructure of our lifetime.

This is a great day for this institution and our country.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN TERRY PHIFER

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise today in this Chamber to pay tribute to a dedicated Delawarean, a friend who is wrapping up 36 years of public service to our State and our Nation.

Lynne Terry Phifer of Newark, DE, a valued member of my Senate staff, is retiring at the end of this month. She has been a high-spirited, pure-hearted presence for us as long as I have known her, and I am deeply grateful to Lynne for her service and grateful for her significant contributions.

Before I begin, though, it is only fitting to highlight her long career and offer up some thanks and some thoughts from her friends, family, coworkers, and well-wishers.

Her story didn’t start and doesn’t end with her more than 8 years serving in my offices for the Senate and for Wilmington, DE. She grew up in a community along the banks of Naamans Creek, where it empties into the Delaware River. Later, she moved to Claymont, DE, an area that has become better known, perhaps, because of Claymont’s favorite son, our President, Joe Biden.

Lynne graduated from Claymont High School in 1972, the same year Biden was first elected to this Chamber. It was at Claymont High School where, some members of my staff report, in good humor, Lynne made a name for herself “playing a mean clarinet.” I didn’t know clarinets could be mean.

Lynne’s public service career began shortly thereafter. She started a 10-year run with Delaware’s Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Division of Personnel. After that, her career continued across city, county, State, and Federal governments.

From 1988 to 1992, she worked for well-known Mayor Dan Prawley of Wilmington. She later took on similar responsibilities for our Lieutenant Governor and now-Governor, John Carney, and later for Paul Clark, my successor as county executive in New Castle County. Paul said it was his good fortune to have hired Lynne.

She was a shining light in the field of government service.

County Executive Clark said—

and an absolute joy to work with. I am privileged to call Lynne my friend and wish her the best in retirement.

Governor Carney offered similar sentiments, saying:

When I was Lieutenant Governor, Lynne helped make our office run smoothly and always offered a helping hand to constituents. She is a compassionate, hardworking colleague and a good friend, and I am personally grateful for Lynne’s many years of dedicated service. . . . I wish her and her family all the best in retirement.

For more than 8 years in my office in Wilmington, Lynne has seamlessly managed my front office and my college internship program. And I can’t tell you how hard a job it is to be the person who answers the phone, day in and day out. When I was serving a Senator like me who seems to draw all sorts of attention and angry phone calls.

So Lynne, thank you in particular for handling all the calls and complaints and concerns of Delawareans who call in day in and day out.

Lynne has remained our beloved gatekeeper, the first person to greet visitors, the familiar voice on the main telephone line, someone who has handled sometimes literally hundreds of calls a day. She is known for being reliable and trustworthy. She is highly regarded by my whole team and recognized for her breadth of knowledge of our States, who is it and what needs to be answered first, who are the movers and shakers.

She is known for always staying calm and professional when helping constituents. And, trust me, some of those calls can be emotional and difficult, whether assisting someone needing a vaccination appointment or dealing with a veterans benefits question.

She has run my internship program flawlessly, and that is a true testament to Lynne. During her more than 8 years of running that, she has interviewed, hired, trained, mentored, and supported more than 150 college interns—a good number of whom have gone on to land our full-time professional staff.

She is, as Brendan Mackie would say, a true force multiplier. Several of our interns, as I have mentioned, have gone on to be staff in both Wilmington and in Washington, and many others have gone on to executive branch Agencies or to be activists, attorneys, nonprofit leaders, mentors, and volunteers.

It is a profound understatement to say that my team and I, and my wife Annie and I, will deeply miss Lynne. And I have been doing all the way back to their time together in the Women’s Democratic Club of Delaware, when we were young couples and looking forward to someday both being parents of twins.

On my current staff, Marcus Wright, who is my outreach coordinator, added:

Lynne is always at the top of her game. As her counterpart in DC, I [learned to] lean on her knowledge and followed her example. She helped me be a better staffer, and I owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.

Desiree Burritt, one of my most seasoned and capable caseworkers, said:

Lynne is ever-present and incredibly dependable.

Jessica Glass, my deputy scheduler said:

Lynne not only helped me through the internship program . . . but I’m learning so much . . . sitting on the other side [now] and getting to interview interns with her! She . . . [has] watched me go full circle during the past four years.

Brian Cunningham, a beloved former staffer, said:

I always appreciated Lynne’s warm greetings to the littler guests in the office—

He means his kids—

when [my] kids came to visit, or sit with the parents to help them finish up the workday, it was Lynne who . . . had a stash of snacks (and always a kind word).

Among her coworkers, she has earned a lot of good-natured nicknames: Lynne-y, Lynne-Bird, Lynne-yeard, and Lynne-Sky, and others I won’t repeat, but she is clearly omnipresent in the hearts and minds of those who served alongside her in Delaware.

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Her dedication goes far beyond government service. She has volunteered her time with so many groups. I mentioned the Women's Democratic Club. She has also served as chair of the 22nd Representative District Committee, serving Hockessin, Pike Creek, North Star, and Newark for many, many years.

And she was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the New Castle County Democrats in 2008 for her tireless service.

On this day of her departure, her pride and joy include Dennis Phifer, her husband, and their twin sons, Matthew and Christopher.

We can’t forget the beloved family canine, Elle. In her retirement, Lynne will have more time to spend with Dennis, Matt, and Chris, and her network of friends, going all the way back to her Claymont days. She looks forward to spending her mornings with Dennis, she says, making him coffee, reading the newspaper together, and staying up late, as Dennis dozes off, trying to finish the daily crossword.

She surely will have more time with Elle, walking her around the neighborhood and spilling her with treats. Dennis says of Lynne, who absolutely loves animals, that she wants to use her newfound time to volunteer to help service dogs and other support animals.

Alice Paul, the famous suffragette, in speaking about the fight for women’s rights, said, “I always feel the movement is a . . . mosaic. Each of us puts in [our own] little stone, and then” at the end, you see a beautiful mosaic.

When looking back at Lynne’s years of public service—36 years—this analogy seems apt. Lynne has been a hard-working and headstrong person, someone who has done incredible things, often behind the scenes, and helped create her own great mosaic through her decades of dedication and service to our city, our county, our State, and this Senate.

Whether it was throwing her support behind Joe Biden amid a Senate reelection run or helping constituents in my office or the hundreds of folks she has trained and recruited and mentored, Lynne’s mosaic will last long and reach far, leaving her mark on Delaware for many, many years to come.

Lynne will undoubtedly continue to accomplish good and meaningful things, including those moments in small pieces of colored stone or glass or ceramic and putting those in place, adding to her ongoing mosaic of life.

In closing, through her career, her volunteerism, and her civic activism, Lynne has made a real difference. I can’t thank her enough for her first-class dedication and her friendship. Lynne will be deeply missed in the Senate, and filling her shoes will be near impossible.

Lynne, thank you. Best of luck in all your future endeavors. You are treasured, and we will cheer you on your way as you celebrate this next chapter of your life.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, dating back to his time as a Member of the Senate, President Biden—then-Senator Biden—frequently shared a piece of advice from his dad:

Don’t tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I’ll tell you what you value.

He is not wrong. We have heard countless iterations of the same message from President Biden. Actions speak louder than words. Talk is cheap.

Or, as we say in Texas, sometimes someone is all hat and no cattle.

So I want to take President Biden up on his advice. We have spent plenty of time hearing what his values are. He has talked about the importance of rebuilding our country, responding to the pandemic. We all agree with that—restoring public trust in government, checking, protecting lower-middle-income families from tax hikes, check; and standing up to Russia and China, the two greatest threats to the world order sustained by Americans with diverse political views, and they are critical goals that any President—Republican or Democrat—should have.

But we don’t have to take the President at his word when he talks about the importance of each of these things because we have his budget. We have a written plan from the President of the United States, outlining how his administration wants to turn his spoken intentions into concrete action.

So based upon President Biden’s budget, what does he value? It just takes a quick glance to see that responsible spending is not one of the things that he values. The overall pricetag of the President’s budget is a whopping $6.4 trillion. Even with the President’s massive tax hikes, the United States would still be running more than a trillion dollar deficit each year.

It would only take 2 years for our debt burden to reach the highest level in American history, surpassing even World War II-era debt.

As a reminder, the government has spent a massive amount of money over the last year. As we know, much of it was a necessary investment in our fight against COVID-19.

On top of that funding, though, our Democratic colleagues circumvented the number of IRS agents by 15 percent for a decade. Kimberly treasure, and we will cheer you on your way as you celebrate this next chapter of your life.

Biden Administration—Senate

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We have previously seen the damage that a politically motivated IRS can do. We saw the apparent leaking of taxpayer information recently, which is supposed to be confidential by law. And we can remember the IRS targeting controversy under the Obama administration.

Bureaucrats at the IRS subjected conservative groups that they disagreed with politically or ideologically to a different level of scrutiny than left-leaning ones. And, unfortunately, with this sort of huge investment in the IRS, it looks like the Biden administration simply wants to weaponize the IRS once again.

But that is just the start of it. A massive portion of the President's budget stems from two of the programs he has already told us about—one being the $2.6 trillion American Jobs Plan, which relies on a very generous interpretation of the word ‘infrastructure,’ which relies on a very generous interpretation of the word ‘infrastructure,’ which includes over $1 billion to help other countries—not Americans, not the United States, but other countries—to lower their emissions.

I am sure China will be glad to take our money while continuing to build coal-fired powerplants to meet the demands of their growing economy.

Then there is a broad range of spending to address climate change, including over $1 billion to help other countries—not Americans, not the United States, but other countries—to lower their emissions.

I am sure China will be glad to take our money while continuing to build coal-fired powerplants to meet the demands of their growing economy.

Well, it is one thing for far-left activists to use these kinds of terms on Twitter, but it is entirely different to diminish the role of women in an official government document. Women are more than stay-at-home mothers, and I think it is insulting to women to characterize them or define them by that.

The President doubled down on the woke ideology by proposing taxpayer funding for abortion. We know abortion is not an essential government service, and it is a jarring break from a decades-long bipartisan, consensus ban provided by the Hyde amendment. It is also stands in stark contrast in the views of most Americans. The majority of Americans say they oppose using taxpayer dollars to support abortions because they are morally or religiously opposed to the practice.

Adding to the list of absurdities is a massive expansion of welfare. We all already know that under the COVID-19 relief bills, the administration has argued in favor of paying people more not to work than they would earn if they did work.

A number of Governors—more than 20 of them now—have refused the $300 weekly supplement because of their concern that this was actually discouraging people from returning to work.

We are employers all across the country that it is hard, if not impossible, for them to find the workforce they need to get the economy growing again. Business owners in my State—and I would bet across the Country—are already struggling to find a reliable workforce following the overly generous pandemic-related unemployment benefits that our Democratic colleagues insisted upon.

We can’t continue to discourage Americans from going back to work, because our soul will never recover if we stay on that path.

Overall, the President’s budget would dramatically increase the size of government and the role it plays in our everyday lives, especially with education. As Senator Tim Scott has said, putting Washington even more in the middle of Americans’ lives, from the cradle to college, is that really what the American dream is all about—not more and bigger government interfering in our lives, denying us the freedom to make our own choices and to seek our own way?

It is no wonder that the White House rolled out the President’s budget so quietly. Frequently, a lot of this happens Friday afternoons after the press has left and nobody is paying much attention.

While President Biden has told us what he values over and over again, his budget actually speaks to much more. This is about who we are—a nation fighting for a strong national defense and a swift economic recovery. This budget prioritizes climate justice over American military service members. It further hampers our economic recovery at the expense of hard-working taxpayers, and it prioritizes the restriction of wealth over the prospect of economic growth, which would lift all boats. It digs the United States deeper and deeper into debt, creating a massive financial burden for our children and grandchildren will have to dig their way out of. We are writing the checks, but they will pay the bills, and that, I believe, is immoral.

It is all well and good to tell the American people that you value the same things they value—freedom, security, prosperity—but this, which in President Biden’s own words reflects his values, is not a blueprint to rebuild America. This is, indeed, strong evidence that President Biden has been pulled too far to the political left in his own base and is ready to bury the United States and future generations with unprecedented debt.


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. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I often come to this floor to be able to speak about news of the day, disagreements that we have, ways that we can solve a problem we have as a nation. Today, I come to tell a story.

In 1774, an Englishman by the name of Benjamin Franklin. They spent a lot of time together in conversations, and Franklin convinced this young sailor and writer and young friend to move to America, to move to his hometown, to Philadelphia. A few months later, 1774, he did.

Franklin saw something in this young man that no one else saw. That Englishman who loved freedom, and who saw the glaring injustice of the British Crown, 2 years later, on January 10, 1776, wrote a short pamphlet that changed the course of history.

The man’s name was Thomas Paine, and the short work that he wrote was called “Common Sense.” It was the first publication that declared we should call for independence for these 13 Colonies. It didn’t include his name because if it included his name, it would have been a certain death warrant from the King, but it made the case for freedom for each person, for an elected government rather than a monarchy, and the case for religious liberty. In short, he made the case for the United States of America.

He wrote these words:

The cause of America is, in great measure, the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances have, and will arise, which are not local, but universal, and through which the principles of all men are affected, and in the event of which, their affections are interesting.

He wrote about the rule of law and how that would be different than living under a monarchy, and he challenged the young colonists to be able to pursue more.

He wrote:

But where says some is the king of America? I’ll tell you Friend, he reigns above, and how that would be different than living under a monarchy, and he challenged the young colonists to be able to pursue more.

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the world may know, that so far we may approve of monarchy, that in America the law is king. For as in absolute governments the king is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king.

He wrote:

As to religion, I hold it to be the indispen- sable duty of [every] government, to protect all conscientious professors thereof, and I know of no other business which government hath to do therewith.

Suspicion is the companion of mean souls.

He wrote and he said:

It affords us a larger field for our Christian kindness. We were one way of thinking, our religious dispositions would matter for probati on; and on this liberal principle, I look to the various denominations among us, to be like children of the same family, differing only, in what is called, their Christian names.

He shared a lot of great ideas in “Common Sense.” He challenged the colonists to dream of an America that would set the example for the world.

Thomas Paine’s ideas weren’t all great, and we didn’t accept all of his ideas. In fact, he wrote a long section in “Common Sense” saying that when we face Constitutional crisis, we should take these 13 Colonies and we should elect a President and alternate among each State, so each State would, in turn, have a different President for the whole group. It is a fairly terrible idea that we never implemented. But this passion about the law being king, we did; this passion about religious liberty, we did; this passion that America would be an example to all mankind, we did.

One hundred fifty thousand copies of “Common Sense” were printed. That is an enormous number for that time period. On that January day when the first printings of “Common Sense” started being passed around the Colonies, it fanned the flame of that spark of freedom in the hearts of the colonists.

By June 11, 1776, Congress had appointed a committee of five to draft the Declaration: John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert Livingston of New York, and Robert Sherman of Connecticut—by the way, I think two redheads in that group.

The Declaration ended with this simple paragraph. We are familiar with that Declaration. It said:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.

It ended with this:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

And they gave their all. John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration, from New Jersey, ended up hiding in the woods that December of 1776, just a few months later, while the Hessian soldiers hunted him across the countryside. He died before the war’s end.

Richard Stockton, also of New Jersey, was so sorely pressed that he dragged from his bed, thrown into prison, and treated like a criminal. His home was looted, his fortune stripped away.

Thomas Nelson of Virginia: He commanded the militia and served as a Governor during the Revolution. He had to instruct the artillerymen to fire at his own house when the British started using it as their headquarters. Nelson had used his personal credit to raise money for the cause. The Revolution left him in distress, and he was unable to ever recover what he had lost.

Thomas Heyward, Arthur Middleton, and Edward Rutledge were three South Carolina signers who served in their State’s militia and were captured when the British captured Charleston. They spent the rest of the time in prison. They pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

By that December, when all of this was going on to all of these signers of the Declaration, Paine wrote again, and this time, he wrote directly to the patriots serving with George Washington. In the freezing winter, on December 23, 1776, Thomas Paine wrote these words:

These are the times that try men’s souls: the summerelier that the sunshine patron will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of [their] country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: It is dearness only that gives every [living] thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price on [human] life!—for Heaven only knows how to value a soul. What is life, if not a thing to be cherished and cared for, as if it were a precious jewel?

It is a good thing for us to be able to stop and reflect on these simple words: What we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly. Sometimes I am afraid that, as we approach the Fourth of July each year, we will have forgotten the sacrifices of previous generations.

In our time period and in this wealthy moment in our Nation’s history, we seem to esteem too lightly what was obtained too easily and we forget the great sacrifices of the past.

Generation after generation of American history has set an example of how to work for a more perfect Union. Generation after generation has served each other and the was children who have come after them so that they could have a better future. It is our generation’s turn. The generation that I speak of could have never dreamed of the Capitol that stands on this hill. The generation that I speak of could not have the brave 50 States that would cover this continent, but they did dream this, because it is in Thomas Paine’s introduction: “The cause of America is great and complex measure the cause of all mankind.”

This Fourth of July, we should recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom, the future of our Nation, and the service to our children and the children of the children. We have as a nation, conceived in liberty, born to greatness if we are willing to work and sacrifice and give for each other. No generation in the history of the world has inherited more than we have—no generation. We should not receive it too cheaply or hold it too lightly.

Ironically, as I end my story of an Englishman who became a writer and the inspiration of a nation, I must tell you the end. Thomas Paine died a bitter and broken man. He remained a revolutionary in the fight. He could never stop searching for the next revolution. He went off to France to support the French Revolution and almost lost his head for it. He ended up in prison there. He came back to America and determined that George Washington wasn’t as loyal as he was. He spent his last years writing against President Washington: that he was the real traitor and that he wasn’t strong enough. He ended up dying alone, isolated, re jecting his faith—and a bitter man.

My fellow Senators and fellow Americans, the war has been won. Freedom, that gift, has been passed on to us. Let’s protect it. Let’s cherish it. Let’s pass it on.

Each generation should be passionate about passing that on to the next generation. That is why, this Fourth of July, it is not just a day off; it is not just a day to be at the mall; it is not just a great day to be at a lake—it is a great day to contemplate how you will serve our Nation in the days ahead in this generation and how you can pass on the freedom that we have to our children.

Our Nation still needs people who will build on the forefront. We need writers and soldiers and farmers and moms and dads. We still need people who will run for city council and the school board, people who will pick up trash in the neighborhood, people who will march in a protest and then intentionally go love people and work for the reconciliation of broken relationships. We need people who will start new businesses, give to non-profits, get involved in their churches, and love their neighbors as themselves.

We are free, but as the Bible says in 1 Peter 2, we should live as free people but not use our freedom as a coverup for evil.

Those of us who have freedom should help others to live in the same freedom we have and to serve with joy. That is the legacy that was passed on to us. That is the legacy we should pass down.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO LYDIA JACOBY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is my favorite time
of the week. I get to come down to the Senate floor typically every Thursday and talk about Alaskans who are doing something amazing for their communities, their State, maybe even their country. Heck, this one is kind of doing something for the world, whom I refer to as this Alaskan of the Week. I love doing it.

We have a really special Alaskan of the Week this week whom I am going to talk about, Lydia Jacoby—a very special 17-year-old who is from Seward, AK. What we are going to talk about this.

Those of you who have been following our Alaskan of the Week speeches might notice that this is the first new poster board we have ever had. So this is the poster board of the Alaskan of the Week for Lydia because we are so excited about her.

Before I talk about Lydia, I always like to say a little bit about what is going on in Alaska. A lot of people always ask about the light. They are curious about the light in the summer, particularly as we just had our summer solstice. If you want to come up and really see it, come on up. We are open. We would love to have you—trip of a lifetime. If you are thinking about coming to Alaska, come to see it yourself this summer. Every American should come on up, but I will give you a hint. On the light that is happening right now, if you were in Seward, AK, where Lydia is from, the Sun will rise at 4:33 a.m. and set at 11:26 p.m., with a loss of just 36 seconds from the summer solstice, which occurred a few days ago. That is a lot of sunlight, and it doesn’t really even get dark when the Sun goes down. It does just for a little bit.

So it is a great time to be in the State. Come on up. It is a great time to be in Alaska, and I can’t wait to get home for the recess, our Fourth of July—lots of Sun, lots of excitement.

There is particularly a lot of excitement around this young, intrepid Alaskan, Lydia, who on Tuesday, in Omaha, NE, swam the second fastest time in the world in the women’s 100-meter breaststroke finals in the Olympic trials. She is the second fastest breaststroker in the world, and amazing people. So if you are visiting Alaska, you really need to go forward.

As she excelled at swimming, her parents continued to be, in their words, “surprised and amazed.” Obviously, she has a deep competitive streak, and you would not know it when you meet her. Her parents were surprised. “In the right setting, that streak can really be turned on,” Rich said. When she has a lousy race, she just shrugs it off. Her dad remembered one of her first swim meets when, halfway across the pool, sheinnacle came up. She jumped out and didn’t want to get back in. Well, she is back in. As her dad said, she has come a long way.

One of her coaches, Solomon D’Amico, describes her as “kind, quiet, confident.” He says she has an “intense fire,” and when she sets her mind to something, like the Olympics, she goes for it.

Now, neither of her parents pushed her too hard—they wanted the drive to come from within—but it certainly did come from her.

Solomon, her coach, is a former marine and athlete, Alaska is full of intense runs—marathons, ultra-marathons—but one of the most challenging is in Seward, AK. It is called the annual Mount Marathon Race, the Fourth of July, in Seward, a grueling 1.5-mile climb almost straight up and straight back down Mount Marathon. Her family has run this 23 years in a row. That is tough—Solomon, her coach.

Solomon really didn’t know much about swimming when he started coaching the small Seward swim team. In fact, Seward, AK, doesn’t even have an Olympic-size swimming pool, but they all worked hard. He encouraged them to be the best that they could be—to enjoy life but to also lift weights. Strength, Solomon said, is needed to excel in swimming, particularly at the breaststroke.

Lydia took to the weight rooms. She swims between 5 to 7 days a week, 1-hour to 90-minute sessions. She lifts weights about 3 hours a week. And as Solomon has said, “You want . . . athletes to be more process than outcome driven.”

Lydia fell in love with all the hard work. No one was ever going to give her a hard time if she missed a practice or a session, but every single opportunity she had to swim, she would be there.

Well, on Sunday, Lydia will head to Hawaii to train with Team USA. Then, a few weeks later, she will head to Tokyo.

Now, because of COVID restrictions, unfortunately, her parents won’t be there to watch in person. Her father said: “It’s a [bit of a] weird thing to send your kid across the world. But she’s an experienced traveler and there are great people involved with USA swimming.”

“We are over the moon proud of her,” her dad said.

So are we. We are so proud of you, Lydia. You are a role model for so many aspiring swimmers, not just across Alaska but across the country. So thank you for representing Alaska and our Nation so well.

Good luck in the Olympics. Congratulations on your success and congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, as my colleague from Oklahoma Senator LANKFORD just gave a wonderful speech on the Fourth of July, we are all focused on heading home for the Fourth of July, celebrating freedom, celebrating our independence, celebrating liberty.

And we all know that that freedom is not free. There is a saying at the Korean War Memorial, etched in stone, that says those very words: ‘‘Freedom is not free.’’

The sacrifices of our military are something that all of us are going to be thinking about over the course of the Fourth of July week, weekend, as we
celebrate and commemorate American liberty, American independence, and American freedom.

Our military has helped us provide that, both here at home but also, importantly, abroad. I had the opportunity to go on a congressional delegation—Senate delegation with two of my Senate colleagues, Senator Coons and Senator Duckworth, a couple weeks ago to Korea, South Korea and Taiwan. And wherever you are from in America, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, when you go overseas and you go to countries like that, countries and places that literally exist because of the sacrifice of the American military, it makes you humble, and it makes you proud.

South Korea and Taiwan—vibrant economies, vibrant democracies. And if you know the history, those two places wouldn't be that way if it weren't for the sacrifice, literally, of tens of thousands of Americans.

It is no exaggeration to say—whether it is in those places or in places at home or in Europe or in Asia—that the United States has been one of the most powerful forces for liberating human kind from oppression and tyranny than any other force in the world.

Think about it. Hundreds of millions of people across the world and in our own country, over the decades, have been liberated by men and women wearing the uniform of the United States.

As we contemplate the Fourth of July week, weekend, that is something every American can take pride in and should take pride in.

But as we all know, freedom is not free. Many of us think that defending our Nation should be our priority No. 1 as part of our job in the U.S. Senate. Budgets are a reflection of an administration's values and priorities.

And what this budget—this is the $6 trillion blowout budget of the Biden administration, where up here you have every single Federal Agency with double-digit—20-percent increases, 40-percent increases, 15-percent increases across the board.

The two Agencies charged with the national security of our Nation, the Department of Defense and Homeland Security, in terms of priorities for this administration, are dead last.

Adapt and adjust the budgets for inflation, these are cuts—almost 3 percent cut in our military budgets and probably close to 4 to 5 percent for Homeland Security.

Budgets reflect values of administrations and priorities, and this administration, right now, is prioritizing our military and our national defense dead last.

We had the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in front of the Armed Services Committee last week, and I showed them this chart, and I asked them: How can you tell the troops that you lead that this administration prioritizes our military and national defense over other missions of the Federal Government?

They couldn't give a really good answer because there is no good answer. If you look at this chart, if you look at the Biden administration's budget, they are prioritized at the bottom.

This is a battle of ideas, and when we come back from the Fourth of July recess, we are going to have this battle. I know I have colleagues, Democrats and Republicans—I have spoken to many on both sides of the aisle—who fundamentally disagree with this—fundamentally disagree with this.

You might remember last summer we had a debate when Senator Sanders brought forth his defund the Pentagon amendment. That is what he called it. At the height of defunding the police, we had Senators saying we are going to now defund the Pentagon—15 percent across-the-board cuts to the military. That is what Senator Sanders wanted. By the way, Senator Schumer was a cosponsor of that.

And now they are in charge here, the majority leader, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and in many ways they are getting what they wanted—almost 3 percent cut to our military.

I guarantee it is not what the American people want; it is not what my constituents want; and I don't think it is what the vast majority of U.S. Senators want.

So we are going to battle this. We are going to battle this, and I am going to ask my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this battle or reject this. We need to reject this. We shouldn't prioritize our military dead last, which is what the Biden administration and, unfortunately, some of my colleagues here are doing.

I would like to end by just noting that tomorrow is actually another anniversary. We were talking about the Fourth of July, but June 25 is the 71st anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war, which is 1950.

Unfortunately, not enough Americans, in my view, have a lot of knowledge of the Korean war. It is even called the forgotten war. I don't think it should be called the forgotten war. It should be called the noble war because Americans went to a place they didn't even know to defend freedom, which they did after a hard, difficult, violent struggle.

But in the summer of 1950, we lost thousands and thousands of young Americans, young American soldiers, young American servicemen. Why?

Because they were not prepared to fight. We went from 1945, having probably the most formidable military in America, 20 years later—because of defense cuts, because of lack of leadership by civilian and military leaders in the United States—a military that could not fight, a military where we lost thousands of young American soldiers because they weren't ready because budgets had been gutted.

We can never allow that to happen again, and as we head into the Fourth of July weekend to celebrate the Fourth of July and our hard-fought freedoms and liberty, we need to look at this budget, come back here and say to the President and others: We are not—we are not going to prioritize the national security of our Nation last.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. KING. Madam President, I rise to talk about a moral obligation and a national security obligation.

We are leaving Afghanistan after 20 years, the longest war in the country’s history. During the entirety of that 20 years, there were brave people in Afghanistan—Afghanistan people—who helped us, who were translators, who assisted us in the struggle against terrorism and in the struggle against the Taliban. And as we leave, those people are in grave danger. The Taliban has made no secret of the fact that they are in grave danger. They have already started killing them.

If we leave without providing for the safety of those people, providing them a way to maintain their lives, it will be a stain on this country that will exist for generations.

Not only is it a moral and ethical obligation, though, it is a national security obligation because if we don’t take care of the people who took care of us, who is going to come to the next time? Who is going to come to the aid of the Americans who turn their backs on those that risk their lives on behalf of this country? The answer is no one.

This is not only an ethical and moral obligation, this is a matter of national security in terms of our standing in the world and our ability to work with allies and others against adversaries of this country and other countries in the world.

The average time, I am told, it now takes to process the paperwork for one of the people whom we are trying to get out of Afghanistan through the special visa program is 600 days. We are going to have a military presence in Afghanistan less than 90 days. There is a mismatch there.

We have got to take steps to protect these people. Now, maybe its surgery—have talked about military surges; let’s surge some paperwork people to get this work done faster. But I don’t believe we are going to be able to do that.

Now, by the way, I am not saying we open the door to everyone—there are 18,000 people on their list; that is not to mention their families—that we just open the door and say everybody come here because, as we know, Afghanistan has been the home to very dangerous terrorist groups, al-Qaida, ISIS, and others.

So we do have to have some processing, but we have to be able to process these people in a way that protects...
us in terms of our national security but also gets them out of harm’s way. One possibility—and I am delighted that just a few hours ago, the President mentioned that he is going to be working with other countries to find a safe place that the people who are doing the processing, I think that is exactly what we have to do. We can’t just hope that when we leave in August or September 11, as the deadline the President has established, that we just hope that the Taliban won’t take over Kabul, that the Taliban won’t take over other regions of the country and start murdering people who helped us.

This isn’t a speculative problem. This isn’t something we think may happen. They have told us it is going to happen. And I have learned all my life, believe people when they tell you what they are going to do, and this is one of those situations. We know what is coming. If what ends up coming is a bloodbath, that blood is on our hands.

I hate to raise the national security, but I think, more important, this is a moral and ethical obligation to meet the safety needs of those people who have helped us. I have friends who have fought in Afghanistan, and they are agonized about this. They are agonized about what is going to happen to people that they know, that they have worked with, and that have put their lives on the line for America. What is going to happen to those people when we leave?

This is a moment of test for this country. This is a trial for us, and history is going to judge us as to how we meet this test. This isn’t something—we are not talking about landing a man on the Moon or some kind of terrible technological challenge; this is just putting resources in the right place and making the arrangements to take care of these people. It can be done. It can be done. And if it isn’t done, shame on us.

I know that is a phrase that is often used, but it fits in this case. If we don’t protect those who protected us, shame on us.

On December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln came to this Capitol to talk about the course of the Civil War and what was happening. And he was trying to move the Congress out of the politics as usual as they dealt with this extraordinary crisis. His final words echo over the last 100-plus years, and I think they apply exactly today. Here is what Abraham Lincoln said:

Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or the other of us. The fiery trial which we [now] pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

This is a test of the moral integrity of this country. We must—we must—defend those who have defended us from evil that we know is while the fiery trial which we [now] pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

This fiery trial through which we pass this summer, will light us down— we in the Congress and the administration, as Lincoln said, “will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me commend the stirring and thought-provoking words of my colleague from Maine, Senator King, about our responsibility with respect to those who aided and assisted us in Afghanistan and the status of this Special Immigrant Visa Program.

I think we have to begin with the decision to leave, which puts these individuals at risk. In many respects, President Biden’s hands were tied from the outset with regard to our policy in Afghanistan. He inherited a flawed agreement from the Trump administration, which required the United States to withdraw all military forces by May 1, in exchange for the Taliban’s agreement not to attack the U.S. and coalition forces and to constrain al-Qaeda from using Afghanistan as a safe haven.

It does not appear that the Taliban has observed many of the conditions of this agreement. United Nations observers have noted the condition of leaving promptly. The President originally set a date of September 11, but military personnel have been able to rapidly redeploy, and within weeks, we should be moving all of our military personnel out of the region.

The manner in which this agreement was reached was also deeply flawed. It was negotiated exclusively between the Trump administration and the Taliban, keeping our allies, even the Afghan Government, out. President Trump’s go-it-alone, rush-to-the-exits mentality led to a deal where the Taliban emerged as the key benefactor while the United States and our allies won very little. And while the Taliban has held the United States or its allies, as I indicated before, the remaining conditions were virtually unenforceable. By any measure, the Taliban has clearly violated the spirit of the agreement as overall violence inside Afghanistan has steadily increased over the last year. The Taliban has also not made clear that it will constrain al-Qaeda as required by the agreement.

During this transition period, the Taliban has maintained an enormous momentum on the battlefield. As the Washington Post recently reported, Taliban commanders, motivated by their battlefield gains, have “overrun a number of Afghan bases, even as U.S. air support for the Afghan army has dwindled, and set up numerous checkpoints along the main highways leading in and out of Kabul.”

At least 24 Afghan commandos and police officers were killed in an ambush by the Taliban in northern Afghanistan just last week.

It appears that the Taliban’s tactics will only continue to intensify as the transition of U.S. and coalition personnel continues, especially as our airstrike declines. According to the New York Times, there have been multiple instances where the Taliban, taking advantage of the situation, has been able to negotiate the surrenders of Afghan forces. By their count, since May 1, 2021, at least 26 outposts have surrendered after such negotiations.

Violence has increased against the civilian population as well, including a horrific attack against a school outside of Kabul, chillingly timed to target teenage girls leaving school.

The Taliban’s steady gains are contrasted with peace talks in Doha that appear to be going at a glacial pace. With these dynamics, the Taliban has no strategic interest to sit down and discuss power sharing. The government of Afghanistan appears to hold a much weaker hand in these negotiations, having proven unable to govern in a way that earns the confidence of the people.

These concerning political and security developments are playing out against the backdrop of regional players that should have high incentives to cooperate to ensure stability and security of Afghanistan. However, nations that attended the failed timelines in fact be working at cross-purposes to the U.S. interests, and others, such as Pakistan, could be using their influence in a much more constructive manner than they are today. Taken together, these dynamics create a highly challenging landscape.

If not addressed deliberately, they could cause a cascade of instability both inside Afghanistan and across the region. To mitigate such an outcome, we must exercise caution and plan prudently.

And again, echoing the comments of Senator King, this brings me to one of the most immediate and pressing consequences of the situation. How do we help those whose lives were put on the line because they assisted the United States?

There are many press reports of the Taliban threatening Afghan civilians who helped us. USA Today profiled one Afghan interpreter who explained: “If the U.S. forces leave Afghanistan . . . I cannot guarantee for one minute what’s going to happen with me, with my family.”

These threats cannot be ignored. We must demonstrate that we have the capability to protect those who are targeted on their backs because of their association with the United States. More than that, we must ensure that we continue to secure the irreplaceable assistance of the people who willingly risk their lives to help the United States. The next time our servicemembers are in a conflict in a distant land, we should set an example of leaving those who assisted us behind, who will assist us in the future?

Currently, the processing of Afghan candidates through Special Immigra
the backlog of candidates is 18,000 today, it is unclear how many potential SIV candidates will feel compelled to apply as conditions change on the ground. Processing applications has been further complicated by a long vetting process, declining security conditions, and a spike in COVID cases across Afghanistan, which has forced the Embassy to shut down visa interviews. In order to handle the demand, we must add at least 20,000 additional visas for the next fiscal year and do so immediately and find other ways to further streamline the process, as Senator King described.

We may also come to find that the SIV category does not encompass all those Afghans who would likely be targeted by the Taliban. We should be identifying others who may be at risk and start planning to ensure the safety of those who would seek asylum as a consequence of a potential Taliban takeover or if control of the country fractionates.

Now is the time to think about creative solutions and, importantly, understand what will be necessary to ensure that we live up to our moral obligations. I know full well that the United States cannot be everywhere, and we have publicly assured by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Milley, and Commander of Central Command, General McKenzie, that the military can carry out such an evacuation, if directed to do so. We have successfully evacuated refugee populations in the past, including a significant number of Vietnamese refugees in 1975, Iraqi Kurds in 1996, and Kosovo Albanians in 1999. It is imperative that we deliver upon our promises now.

Providing safe harbor for these Afghans who are most vulnerable is front of mind, but we must also ensure that there is a farsighted planning process across the board to ensure success following the transition and find other ways to mitigate the situation for the people of Afghanistan, and particularly that of women and girls.

Fifth, will NGOs be able to continue activities to benefit the people of Afghanistan? There appears to be a lack of coordination, including by the Department of State, to ensure that deconfliction methods are appropriately transitioned to the Afghan Government, which puts humanitarians at risk and could delay the delivery of lifesaving assistance to populations who are in need.

The time to address these challenges is now. I urge the Biden administration to continue to work through these pressing issues, and I call upon Congress to assist where we can. The consequences of inaction are too great to risk. We must rapidly increase the number of SIV visas, and we must, along with the administration, plan for all the contingencies that I have outlined.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise for the 15th time, today, to call for every Senator to have the opportunity to consider and cast their vote for the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. This bill would move serious crimes like sexual assault out of the chain of command and put them in the hands of the most capable people in the military: independent, impartial, highly trained prosecutors.

I began calling for the full floor vote on May 25. That was about a month ago. In that month, an estimated 1,736 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted. More will have been victims of other serious crimes. Many will not even report those crimes because they lack faith in the system where cases are decided by their commanders, not by trained lawyers. And yet this vote continues to be delayed and denied day after day, week after week.

I have heard proponents of this bill argue that we can’t make this change because the military lacks the lawyers necessary to carry out the work. Today, I would like to address this one unfounded claim.

Let’s look at the numbers. The Navy, for example, has an Active Duty population of just over 330,000 members. The military justice system has 935 district attorneys, or judge advocates known as JAGs. That number includes more than 100 special litigators and 85 at the 06-level JAG, which means the colonel or above commanders. And last year, they completed just 78 general courts martial, which are usually key cases involved in serious felonies that our bill discusses.

Now, let’s look at the civilian counterpart. Take the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office. San Diego County has a population of 3.3 million people. To serve that population, the DA’s office has just 300 prosecutors who handle 40,000 cases a year.

So the Navy has one-tenth of the population but three times the lawyers. Our armed services have just over 1.3 million members and more than 4,000 JAGs. The issue with our military justice system is not that it lacks the lawyers. It is that it does not entrust the most serious crimes to the people who are most professional and trained to address them.

I trust in those military lawyers’ ability to handle these cases because they are in fact already working on them. This reform would not give them more work. Instead, it would relieve them of the time-consuming work it takes to get a properly briefed case and make decisions on those cases instead of just making recommendations to commanders.

In short, making this reform would not require finding a host of new lawyers to do this work or to overtax the lawyers our military already has. Any claims otherwise are nothing more than a delay tactic.

The Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act will deliver results our servicemembers and their families deserve. It is supported by the experts, by servicemembers, and by a bipartisan, filibuster-proof majority of Senators, and it is time we bring this to the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of the bill, and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding
back of the time, the Senate votes on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, once again, I object to the Senator's request for reasons I have previously stated. But in addition, on Tuesday night, Secretary of Defense Austin released a statement stating that he had received the Independent Review Commission's recommendations and that the administration will work with Congress to remove the prosecution of sexual assault and related crimes from the military chain of command, a recommendation I agree with, made that clear for weeks now.

And this statement makes it clear that the argument before us is not about removing sexual assault or crimes connected to sexual misconduct from the chain of command. The argument is about removing felonies like barracks larceny, destruction of government property of a significant value, and crimes that have been handled by the military chain of command effectively for years and years.

In addition, Secretary Austin notably praised the comprehensive nature of the IRC's assessment across all four lines of effort, not just military justice reforms. He also pointed out that, as importantly, prevention, climate, and culture, and victim care.

The necessity to approach this issue in a holistic and comprehensive manner is vitally important if we want to actually reduce the incidence of sexual assault in the ranks. We would be naive to believe we can simply prosecute ourselves out of this problem. That isn't how this will work.

Accountability is important, but it must start with a larger reform, and I hope we can all agree that it is far preferable to prevent a sexual assault than simply to prosecute one.

Finally, I want to highlight Secretary Austin's statement that the Department will need new resources and authorities to implement these recommendations. It must work with Congress to secure additional authorities and relief where needed, as well as additional personnel, funding, and sufficient time to implement them.

And so, as I have said a number of times already, I intend to include the administration's recommendations that derive from the President's Independent Review Commission in the markup of the defense bill, subject to amendment.

Colleagues who have dedicated themselves for many years to issues of national defense and are knowledgeable of the UCMJ will have an opportunity to make amendments, to make suggestions, to debate this bill in detail, and then the result will be reported to the floor of the Senate, and all Senators will have such an opportunity. That is what we have done traditionally, particularly when it comes to significant changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

And with that, I would reiterate my objection to the Senator from New York's recommendation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I also commend General Austin on his recommendations. He is the first Secretary of Defense in the last 10 years—and in the last real 100 years—that has said that sexual assault and related crimes should be taken out of the chain of command, of which I agree completely. He has also acknowledged that it is not necessary for good order and discipline or command control that the convening authority be the commander. The convening authority can be the prosecutor, which is our bill.

The reason why we advocate for a bright line is because assaults are handled poorly within the military, so are other crimes when it comes to racial disparity. We have evidence that has been detailed and reported by the Department of Defense that if you are a Black servicemember, you are up to 261 times more likely to be prosecuted or punished for crimes due to racial bias within the military justice system.

So if we want a military justice system that is fair for everyone, both plaintiffs and defendants, we need a bright line around all serious crimes. I believe that if you allow trained military prosecutors the ability to review the case files for all serious crimes, more cases of sexual assaults will go forward and end in conviction, and then the bias that is seen in other cases will also be reduced.

So for the chairman to say that there is no evidence that the command hasn't been doing a good job in other crimes—of which that is not true. There is a great deal of evidence that there is racial bias in how our military justice system is used at the detriment to Black and Brown servicemembers.

Second, I would like to say that the commission's recommendations are expansive and excellent, and we look forward to receiving those recommendations. Those recommendations may well require additional personnel and additional resources because they are across many lines, not just about prosecution.

My bill, the Military Justice Improvement and Prevention Act, does not require more resources or more personnel because it is literally creating a bright line of felonies, and while those prosecutors are normally prosecuting those cases, the only change is they get to see the case file first. They get to make a judgment about whether there is enough evidence, and if there is not, it goes right back to where it was.

So I agree that General Austin's statements are important and meaningful. I agree that the commission's work is excellent, and I look forward to supporting them and turning them into law. But I disagree strongly that the broader reform of a bright line around felonies isn't needed because it is, and it shows in the prosecution of sexual assaults, and it shows in the racial disparity of convictions and prosecutions and nonjudicial punishment for Black servicemembers.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Biden announced that his administration would attempt to combat the alarming rise of violent crime unfolding in cities across our country by making it harder for law-abiding Americans to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms. And today our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee voted on the nomination of a person the President intends to lead the effort. David Chipman was tapped to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

If he is confirmed, this nominee would bring to the job a dangerous and unprecedented hostility to the Second Amendment. We know it from his record as an anti-gun extremist, and we know it from the reputation he earned among ATF veterans as an “activist” and “a rabid partisan.”

I would go so far as saying that these are exactly the wrong motivations to encourage at the helm of the Agency charged with firearms enforcement. Then again, it should also go without saying that responsible gun owners don’t cause surges in violent crime; they actually prevent them.

Unfortunately, Democrats’ latest bout of cognitive dissonance on crime didn’t begin just this week. Let’s consider what has unfolded the past year. Last summer, across America, peaceful protests were overtaken by lawless rioters. For nights on end, violence and looting left cities in flames, and in too many State capitals and city halls, local officials froze under pressure from the left and failed to protect their citizens, their homes, and their businesses.

In fact, at every level of government, elected Democrats instead rapidly embraced the radical cry of “defund the police.” To the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, they succeeded in gutting local law enforcement budgets and...
Justice cease its efforts to restrict the
mand publicly that the Department of
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defunding the police.
forts to pass police reform that empow-
and law-abiding Americans are paying
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ent voices on the left, including some
want to make gun ownership in Amer-
safety, Democrats here in Washington
and local level play politics with public
void. Against this backdrop, the Amer-
public safety. Violent crime filled the
years all-time record. In New York City, the
nation's sharpest 1-year increase in homi-
tions in decades. In New York City, the
murray rate jumped nearly 45 percent,
and in my hometown of Louisville, it is
already on pace this year to exceed last
year's all-time record.
Never have ares in communities
across the country, and as Democrats
flirted with their imagined future with-
out police, Americans did exactly what
you would expect of a free people: They
looked to their own defense and exer-
cised their Second Amendment rights
in record numbers.
The FBI processed nearly 40 million background checks on
gun purchasers last year, shattering previous records.
And, nationwide, 40 percent of the guns sold last year were
purchased by—listen to this—first-time
buyers. In particular, members of ra-
cial minority groups joined the ranks of
gun owners in record numbers.
So let’s review. In city after city, powerful Democrats vocally refused to
uphold their responsibilities to protect
public safety. Violent crime filled the
void. Against this backdrop, the Ameri-
can people chose to defend themselves
by exercising a core constitutional
right.
But now, as Democrats at the State
and local level play politics with public
safety, Democrats here in Washington
want to make gun ownership in Amer-
ica more burdensome than ever. Promi-
nent voices on the left, including some of
our colleagues, fanned the flames of a
dangerous Perry-land experiment in homel
and law-abiding Americans are paying
the price.
Here in the Senate, Republicans have
been focused all along on making
American communities actually safer.
It is the way we supported Tim Scott’s ef-
forts to pass police reform that empow-
ered law enforcement to do their jobs
very well rather than federalizing and
defunding the police.
It is the problem that Chairman
LINDSEY GRAHAM and 46 other Repub-
lican Senators joined me today to de-
mand publicly that the Department of
Justice cease its efforts to restrict the
use of common pistol-brace devices by
lawful gun owners. We are talking about
a plan that would turn millions of law-abiding Americans into crimi-
nals with a stroke of the pen. It would
be an outrageous violation, and we ex-
pect DOJ to withdraw this attempted
confiscation of law enforcement.
We should focus on the criminals
committing violent crimes in American cities,
not on law-abiding gun owners.
So Republicans will continue to
stand for Americans’ Second Amend-
ment rights, as a matter of public safety
and of basic freedoms.

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on
another matter, as the Senate headed
into the June work period, the Demo-
cratic leader laid out an agenda that
was transparently designed to fail, a
string of far-left proposals that were
cut intended to become law or to make
a difference in the lives of the Amer-
ican people. They were designed to fail
and provide political theater for liberal
activists.
And sure enough, the Senate did re-
ject Democratic efforts to attempt to re-
write the rules of American elections,
permanently, to their own advantage.
We did reject their bid to exploit the
cause of paycheck fairness to fill the
pockets of the trial bar. And other rad-
ical proposals, like the one to impose
crushing new taxes on middle-class
organiza-
tions that failed to conform to leftwing
social preferences, didn’t make it to
the floor.
But, let’s remember, this was never
just about policy. If our colleagues ac-
tually believed that the substance of
their plans were viable, they would
have submitted more to scrutiny in
committee. We know how things work
in this body when a narrow majority
actually wants to make a law. That is
not what we have actually seen.
So Senate Democrats weren’t out to
pass any legislation this month. Their
designed-to-fail agenda was supposed to
indicate that the institution of the
Senate itself was somehow broken. And
on this count, our friends across the
aisle failed spectacularly.
See, the Framers designed the upper
Chamber, our Chamber, to be a proving
ground, a place where good ideas would
rise to meet high standards and bad
ones would stay flat. So this month our
Senate colleagues proved that the Senate is working quite well.
We turned away an underhanded at-
tempt to open American employers to
a new form of unlimited predatory li-
ability and a hostile takeover of our
election system. And the whole time,
productive work continued on bipar-
tisan proposals that are actually—ac-
tually—intended to become law. From
infrastructure to agriculture, many of
our colleagues have been hard at work
thriving completely less
an agreement, the President took the ex-
ception, the White House.
Remember, at the first sign of an
agreement last night and then again
this morning, both the Democratic
leader and the Speaker of the House
made clear they would hold a bipar-
tisan agreement hostage, demanding
trillions of dollars in wasteful spending
and job-killling tax increases in return for
considering it. They did. Two Democrats literally pushed the rug out
from under their bipartisan negotiators
with these unseious demands before they
had even made it down to the
White House.
So President Biden’s show of support
earlier today appeared to be a major
breakthrough for earning Democrats’
support, but, alas, that optimism was
short-lived. Less than 2 hours after
publicly commending our colleagues
and actually endorsing the bipartisan
agreement, the President took the ex-
traordinary step of threatening to veto
it. It was a tale of two press con-
ferences—endorse the agreement in one
breath and threaten to veto it in the
next. Less than 2 hours. As I said, it almost makes your
head spin—an expression of bipartisan-
ship and then an ultimatum on behalf
of your leftwing base.
I have no doubt the President is
under enormous pressure from some on
the left to deliver on a laundry list of
radical climate demands. The Demo-
cratic leader and the Speaker have al-
ready made clear they will do whatever
it takes to keep their runaway spend-
ing train chugging along all summer,
and more and more Members of their
party are having to contort their posi-
tions to keep pace with the expecta-
tions of the Green New Deal fringe.
But actually caviling completely less
than 2 hours? That is not the way to
show you are serious about getting a
bipartisan outcome.
So, look, I hope our colleagues can
recover and get their good-faith efforts
back on track.
THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The
Democratic whip is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE
Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this
week marked the official start of sum-
mer, and by all means, it should be a

JUNE 24, 2021
I have visited schools across Chicago, and I have asked the students if they know someone who has been shot. In some neighborhoods, nearly every child’s hand goes up. In fact, 90 percent of Chicago’s homicides occur in neighborhoods where 60 percent of the city’s violent crime is reported. And when their parents or siblings are shot, it causes damage that, unlike a bullet wound, cannot heal with time alone. Science shows us that trauma rewrites children’s brains and produces changes that can last a lifetime.

I often ask audiences: Think about your youth. Think about one event in your life that you still remember to this day. I hope it was a happy one. I hope it wasn’t a sad one. But think about the fact that no matter how old you are, something that happened when you were a tiny kid is still very fresh in your memory.

Now think about a child who has witnessed a shooting or been the victim of violence. How do you help them learn to live with it for a lifetime unless we do something. Childhood trauma can make it harder for kids to learn and to form healthy relationships, and it can do serious harm to a child physically, mentally, and emotionally—harm that can change their lives.

But with the right care and support, kids and victims of gun violence can deal with trauma and rise above it. Across Illinois, I have seen programs in schools, community centers, and churches that provide the nurturing environments and treatments our children experience trauma need to thrive.

If we want to end the epidemic of gun violence, we need to invest in community-based solutions that end the cycles of trauma. Last week I joined Senators CAPITO, DUCKWORTH, and MURKOWSKI in introducing a bipartisan bill that will invest in those solutions: the RISE from Trauma Act. This bill would invest $1.2 billion over the next 8 years in community-based efforts to support children and families who have endured trauma.

This legislation would fund counseling for gunshot victims and expand our trauma-informed workforce—doctors, teachers, social service professionals, community leaders—to help kids who have experienced trauma. I believe the RISE from Trauma Act will help offer a long-term solution to the epidemic of gun violence, but we also need to protect our families and neighborhoods in the short term.

In addition to immediate steps it has taken, the administration is asking us to address violent crime. I have been working with leaders in my State to make additional resources available. Earlier this week, Senator DUCKWORTH and I sent a letter to Governor Pritzker highlighting effective strategies for how to use more than $120 million in American Rescue Plan funds to help support targeted violence intervention efforts. These funds, which will help protect Illinois—11 violent crimes are available now to help the police, to help the victims, to help the neighborhoods.

When we talk about really caring and really wanting to do something to make a difference, I think I have to remind the Senate that this bill, the American Rescue Plan, passed the U.S. Senate without a single Republican supporting it, not one—not one Republican voted for it.

To most effectively address the spike in gun violence, the Senate must also confirm the Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I should help but listen to the Republican leader who came to the floor to talk about David Chipman. He is a man who will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor.

It is no surprise that the Republicans opposed him, but let’s put it in context for a moment. How many times have you heard a gun debate and you heard someone say, “We don’t need any new laws, we just need to enforce the laws we have.” That’s going to burden someone who is an innocent, law-abiding gun owner, enforce the laws we have.”

So what Agency do we look to for that enforcement? Well, certainly, the Department of Justice. And where do they turn? They turn to ATF. That is the Agency that is supposed to keep an eye on how guns are being sold and whether the wrong people are buying them.

But a few years ago, let’s look at the leader of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Agency under President Trump. I would like to give you his name or her name, but I can’t because there was no leader. In 4 years, President Trump and Senate Republicans never put in place any single person to head this Agency. Was it an oversight, an accident? Far from it. Those who are on the side of law enforcement really want this Agency to go away.

David Chipman, a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency, he’s a man with over 20 years’ experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency.

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June 24, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S4761

Let me tell you about a couple of radical ideas he had. He believes that we should keep guns out of the hands of felons and people who are mentally unable. Well, there is a radical idea when it comes to gun safety, so radical that 94 percent of the American people—including 90 percent of the Republican people, including a majority of gun owners—support this idea, and so does Mr. Chipman. That makes him a radical in the eyes of some of our colleagues. To me, he is as mainstream as they get.

When it comes to assault weapons, for example, he believes there are some guns that really have no place in the ordinary self-defense, sporting, and hunting world and can only be used as machines for killing. Over half the American people happen to agree with him. I do too. For that reason, many Republicans oppose him. They say, “He’s a radical, he’s a zealot.” I have heard all these words.

He is the man who has lived his life through the ATF for more than 20 years. He has the support of law enforcement and deserves a chance to lead this Agency.

These ideas that he has—wouldn’t it be wonderful if the U.S. Senate—think about that—the U.S. Senate could pass legislation to require background checks to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons? The American people want it. We can’t touch it. You ask people on the committee, on the Republican side: What would you do about gun violence? They have got an answer. What is their answer? We need more guns in America. We need more people carrying guns in America. Two or three of the members of the committee today on the Republican side, Senate Judiciary Committee, were proud to speak about this issue of concealed carry. One actually said she carries a gun. I don’t know if she does it in the Capitol Building. That is her business. But that is how far it has come, this notion that the solution to gun violence is more guns when 109 people a day are dying in America from gun violence. This isn’t happening in other nations around the world. We are unique, and we should be embarrassed by this unique situation that we have so much gun violence and gun death in America.

President Biden made it clear yesterday as was his notion that he is for defending the police is ludicrous. He called yesterday for billions of dollars to our police to do their job more effectively, and I support it. I want to make sure that the police who receive these funds are well trained and administer justice in a fair way and without the abuses that we have seen with the death of George Floyd and other instances.

Yes, invest in that, but have the wisdom to understand that the police need help as well. The police would gladly give the issue of domestic violence to social workers and psychologists, who really could get into this situation and find an effective solution that doesn’t risk lives and doesn’t endanger the lives of the police. They need a helping hand, and we should give it to them.

When it comes to law and order, I hear the idea come to the floor and talk about the need for law and order, and I can’t help but think it was just 2 weeks ago when he was given a chance to support a bipartisan commission to look into the worst lawlessness we have seen in the U.S. Capitol since 1813.

On January 6, 2021, thousands coming from the speech by President Trump formed an insurrectionist mob and descended on this Capitol. I will never forget that day as long as I live, and, yes, we ought to get to the bottom of it. Who financed that? Who planned that? Who was behind that? There are serious questions to be asked and answered. Who stopped the bill with the filibuster for confirmation? Who was asking and answering those questions?

The same Senator who was coming here a few minutes ago giving a speech on law and order. It doesn’t follow. If Senator McConnell believes we should have law and order, it should start with the Senate Chamber and the Capitol Building. Isn’t that our first responsibility as elected Members? Of course it is. What happened January 6 cannot and should not be swept under the rug.

It is interesting to me, as I consider the nominees of the Biden administration and the reaction on the Republican side. Who was the latest victim of their attacks? Some on the political extreme even went so far as to doctor films so that it reflected the presence of Mr. Chipman at events he didn’t even attend, events he had no business with as a member of ATF. That is the extent they will go to undermine the Biden administration’s nominees.

And I can’t help but notice that when it comes to asserting women of color, that really Republicans to a level of rage. Vanita Gupta, Kristen Clarke. These women are extremely talented, professional women with amazing resumes who are now luckily serving this Nation because of a vote in the Senate, but the opposition to them went way beyond anything that was rational or explainable.

Senator MCOINNELL said we shouldn’t make ownership of guns more burdensome than is generally right, but if making sure that convicted felons don’t own guns is a slight burden on those who are legally entitled to own guns, I think it is not too much to ask.

I am also people exercising their Second Amendment rights to use guns safely, respectfully, follow the law, and store them, as well, in that same fashion, and to ask them to go through a background check to make sure they are qualified is not too much, and it saves lives in the process.

The gun lobby tries to stop the Senate from confirming the Director of the ATF, but we are going to move forward and do it. There wasn’t a Senate-confirmed Director under President Trump. In fact, there hasn’t been one since 2015. This man, Mr. Chipman, is extremely well qualified—25 years of experience. He worked in the field in New Hampshire and as a federal agent. He knows the Agency inside and out. He is the right person.

Background checks—is that too much to ask? I don’t think so. We should pass the bill. In March, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, a bipartisan bill to close the gaps in the background checks system. We ought to do the same.

Addressing gun violence is a top priority of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, the committee has already held four hearings on the topic. The first was the day after the mass shooting—the most recent mass shooting in Boulder, CO, that left 10 people dead. Sadly, unimaginably—listen to the number, Mr. President—that was just one of 299 mass shootings in America so far this year. That is more than one mass shooting every single day. What is going on? How can we tolerate that situation in our country?

During the first hearing on gun violence in our committee, one of the Republican members of the committee described the hearing as “ridiculous theater.” Ridiculous theater. Do you want to know what ridiculous theater looks like? It is filibustering a piece of gun safety reform like universal background checks supported by 90 percent of the people. It is calling for an enforcement of gun laws already on the books and blocking anyone from being confirmed who will do it. Ridiculous theater is tweeting slogans in response to a spike in gun violence rather than coming up with solutions.

The Presiding Officer knows as well as I do and maybe even better that there have been too many lives lost to the scourge of gun violence. Can we get serious for one moment on a bipartisan basis and dedicate ourselves to reducing gun violence and saving lives in America? We have a President who is ready to lead us in that direction. I hope my other colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join Democrats in enacting legislation to keep America safe. I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING FATHER RAY DOHERTY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are some people who leave an indelible mark on your life and your administration you meet them. On June 7, the Saint Michael’s College community lost one such person with the passing of Father Raymond Doherty. As an alumnus of Saint Michael’s College, I was shaped by the academic experience and lasting connections that College provides and will always feel a deep connection to the school. As a fellow alumnus, Father Doherty was a
pillar of the Saint Michael’s community and played a fundamental role in guiding and molding not only the College but its students for decades.

Raymond J. Doherty was born and raised in Newton, MA, and in 1948 he enrolled as a student at Saint Michael’s College in Colchester, VT, a journalism student and skilled pitcher on the varsity baseball team. Upon his graduation in 1951, Father Doherty served his country as a staff sergeant and combat correspondent in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War.

In 1953, Father Doherty returned to Vermont and joined the Society of Saint Edmund at the Edmundite Novitiate in Putney, where he took his first vows in 1954. Father Doherty was ordained into the priesthood in 1958 at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Burlington, VT. As an Edmundite priest, Father Doherty spent the subsequent decades working throughout Vermont, New England, and beyond. With Father’s 50th during the civil rights era, where he preached, served the community, and worked to further the cause of social justice.

Although his assignments pulled him to different corners of the globe, his home was always Saint Michael’s. After many terms as a member of the staff and Campus Ministry at Saint Michael’s throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Father Doherty returned permanently to Saint Michael’s in 1985. His career at Saint Michael’s spanned a variety of roles in the admissions office, athletics department, and as campus chaplain. Until his passing, Father Ray, as he was affectionately known, remained deeply involved on the Saint Michael’s campus and in the surrounding community.

He leaves behind a life and legacy that should be an inspiration to many. Father Ray, through his compassion, humility, and commitment to serving his community exemplified the meaning of a true Vermont and a true leader. He led by example and inspired his students and those around him to strive to understand and address the needs and circumstances of all, to lead with grace, and to tirelessly work to improve the lives of others.

Father Ray once told me that when the time came for him to be called home, he hoped to fall asleep here and wake up there. That stuck with me. It is a comfort to know that wish came true. Like the extended Saint Michael’s College community, I will miss Father Doherty. His legacy will live on in the students he taught, the lives he impacted, and the words he preached. Father Ray will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO BOB GRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of a long-time friend and advocate for dairy farmers in Vermont and across the country, Bob Gray. As he retires later this month, he leaves an enduring imprint on Vermont’s bedrock agricultural sector.

I first met Bob in 1978 when he joined the staff of Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, who passed away in 2014. Bob and Jim were an unstoppable force, pushing in the late seventies for Federal legislation that eventually became the 1981 federal Farmland Protection Policy Act. Bob understood the growing urgency of protecting the Nation’s working landscapes from development, fragmentation, and speculation—and especially for rural Vermont. He also understood that, so long as farmers had a voice and a seat at the table, conservation and agriculture could be mutually reinforcing, not adversarial.

Bob’s love for the land and those who steward it comes naturally, having been raised on a dairy farm in Cayuga County, NY. After earning his bachelor of science degree in animal science at Cornell University, he served the National Guard during the First Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, KS, before joining the New York National Guard and serving for 3 more years, rising to the rank of captain.

Since 1980, Bob has led the Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperative, a trade association representing dairy farmers in Vermont and the region. Throughout the decades of challenging policy discussions and many farm bills, I could always count on Bob to provide me with wise counsel, with a particular interest of Vermont’s dairy farmers first and foremost. That counsel has always been especially important to me during challenging years for dairy, like this one has been. Dairy farmers across the United States are much stronger than they would now be if not for Bob Gray’s work.

Bob’s immeasurable contributions to the dairy industry and our decades-long friendship are strong enough that I have welcomed him to join me on the varsity baseball team at Thunder Road, we Vermonters can always count on Bob to provide an order of fresh and interesting programming. That keeps us all smiling, engaged, and informed. While it is certainly challenging to catch a broadcast from here in the Nation’s Capital, I am eager to have him back in home in a few weeks’ time. Congratulations to WDEV and the team at Radio Vermont on 90 years of community radio. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to calling in soon.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. 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:

PN274, the nomination of David H. Chipman, of Virginia, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) (1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 nays.

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.
PRIDE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate Pride Month, I want to take a moment to acknowledge some of the trailblazers and pioneers in the LGBTQ+ community who have led the fight for equality.

Our Nation and the world—has come a long way since the first Pride parade was organized more than half a century ago. But that progress didn’t come about on its own. It demanded sacrifice, from activists like Marsha P. Johnson and the Stonewall Uprising in New York City, and leaders like Harvey Milk, who gave his life to advance LGBTQ+ equality. And it also demanded courage, courage that we see on display every day.

Just this week, a defensive lineman for the Las Vegas Raiders, Carl Nassib, became the first active NFL player to come out as gay. In a video he posted, Mr. Nassib said he hopes that “one day videos like this and the whole coming-out process are just not necessary . . . but until then I’m going to do my best and my part to cultivate a culture that’s accepting, that’s compassionate.” It’s really what Pride Month is all about, joining together to embrace our friends and loved ones exactly as they are and cultivating a culture that is more accepting and compassionate.

Carl Nassib’s announcement this week is yet another reminder of how far the movement for LGBTQ+ equality has come, in my lifetime and even during my time in Congress. The year I was elected, the U.S. Senate, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, a shameful piece of legislation that outlawed same-sex marriage. But less than two decades later, the Supreme Court corrected that mistake by holding that the whole country is who they are.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to send information to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA, June 24, 2021.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–36, concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $120 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–36
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: $45 million.

Other $75 million.

Total $120 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment:

1. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The AGM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II Air-Launched Missiles improve the U.S. Navy’s capability to respond to current and future threats by providing flexible solutions for air defense and coastal defense systems, coastal blockades, and amphibious assaults. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology: Technology:

1. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The AGM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II Air-Launched Missiles improve the U.S. Navy’s capability to respond to current and future threats by providing flexible solutions for air defense and coastal defense systems, coastal blockades, and amphibious assaults. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Philippines on a temporary basis for technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–36
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

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There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.
ARM SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification and related documents shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask that the letter and documents referenced in the RECORD be printed in the RECORD. The notification and related documents have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask that the letter and documents referenced in the RECORD be printed in the RECORD. The notification and related documents have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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deploy fighter aircraft with precision munitions in support of counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines, increasing effectiveness and minimizing collateral damage. The Philippines is committed to modernizing its military forces and will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft and services into its armed forces.

The proposed acquisition of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed-Martin Greenville, SC. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of U.S. Government and contractor representatives (fewer than 20) to the Philippines to provide technical support, maintenance operations, and to conduct flight and maintenance training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–14
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

Sensory and Information Technology:

1. The F-16 Block 70 weapon system is a fourth generation single-engine supersonic all-weather multirole fighter aircraft and features systems and subsystems that contains the General Electric F-110-129 engine, AN/APG-83 radar, digital flight control system, embedded internal global navigation system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCs) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tacker (HOIT) with Night Vision Device (NVD) capability, internal and external weapon (EW) system, Advanced IFF, LINK-16 datalink, operational flight trainer, and software computer programs.

2. General Electric F-110-129 engine is an afterburning turbofan jet engine which delivers 29,400 lb (131 kN) thrust.

3. Improved Programmable Display Generator (IPDG) and color multifunction displays utilize ruggedized commercial liquid crystal display technology that is designed to withstand the harsh environment found in modern aircraft. The display generator is the fifth generation graphics processor for the F-16. Through the use of state-of-the-art microprocessors and graphics engines, it provides high performance, high concurrency, high throughput, memory, and graphics capabilities.

4. Scalable Agile Beam Radar (SABR) APG-83 is an actively Electronically Scanned Array (AES) radar upgrade for the F-16. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing scanned array radars (e.g., APG-68). The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes.

5. Modular Mission Computer (MMC) 7000AH is the central aircraft computer of the F-16. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer.

6. The Embedded GPS/INS (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAAASM) is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, and long period time tagged coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAAASM enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) signal providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

7. The AIM-120 C7 Advanced Medium Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-to-air, all-weather, air-to-air (AA) missile, featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The missile employs active radar seeker, proportional navigation guidance, and active Radar Frequency target detection. It can be launched day or night, in any weather, and is specially designed to allow the pilot to disengage after missile launch and engage other targets. This sale will include AIM-120 Guidance Section spares. AMRAAM Enables the cockpit to launch multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying maneuvering targets.

8. LAU–129 Guided Missile Launcher is capable of launching a single AIM-9 (Sidewinder) family of missiles or AIM–129 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The LAU–129 launcher provides mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft.

9. Laser Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) (GBU-54/56) converts existing unguided freefall bombs into precision-guided munitions with a new tail section containing Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) guidance/Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance and adds a Semi-active Laser guidance flight software to support both LAU–129 and standard JDM weapon. The GBU–54/56 consists of a laser spot tracker (same size and shape as a DSU–33 proximity fuze), a cable connecting the bomb to JDAM guidance set, a cable cover, cable cover tie-down straps, modified tail kit door and wire harness, and associated modified JDAM adapter. GDAMS incorporates built-in software and guidance flight software to support both LAU–129 and standard JDAM missions. FMU–152A/B, FMU–139 (various) and dummy fuses are the standard fuses to be used with this weapon. The quantities in this notification are for testing and integration efforts.

10. Mk-62 Inert General Purpose (GP) bomb is a 500lb, inert, free-fall, unguided, low-drag weapon.

11. FMU–152 or FMU–139 fuzes are multi-delay sensors that set weapon guidance, kit, delay sensors compatible with weapon guidance flight software to support both LAU–129 and standard JDAM missions. FMU–152A/B, FMU–139 (various) and dummy fuses are the standard fuses to be used with this weapon.

12. Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP) or Litenning ATP is a single, lightweight targeting pod for military aircraft that provides positive target identification, autonomous tracking, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinate generation, and precise weapon guidance from extended standoff ranges. It incorporates a high definition, mid-wave, Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR), dual-modes laser, video Definition television (HDTV), laser spot tracker, video data link (VDL), and a digital data recorder.

13. Multifunction Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS–JTRS) is a four-channel software programmable radio for Link-16 digital voice communications and datalink, Tactical Air Command (TACOM) and Advanced Waveforms. Link-16 is a command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system that provides a multi-service/execution and interoperable threat data received over the aircraft interface to complex combat scenarios. Aircrews can launch the required aircraft, navigate, and interrogating Mode V. Mode IV and (CIT) is a system capable of transmitting point-to-point, full channel, and contact and management of the entire EW system. This system is anticipated to be internal to the aircraft, although mounted pod variants are used in certain circumstances.

14. Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIF) is a system capable of transmitting multiple launch against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying maneuvering targets.

15. AN/ARC–238 radio with HAVE QUICK II

16. Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIF) is a system capable of transmitting multiple launch against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying maneuvering targets.

17. Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) and avionics systems. The AN/ALE–47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interface to complex combat scenarios. Aircrews can launch the required aircraft, navigate, and interrogating Mode V. Mode IV and (CIT) is a system capable of transmitting point-to-point, full channel, and contact and management of the entire EW system. This system is anticipated to be internal to the aircraft, although mounted pod variants are used in certain circumstances.
24. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Philippines.

**ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification shall be completed by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423. Unless otherwise indicated, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**DEFENSE SECURITY CORPORATION AGENCY**

Hon. Robert Menendez, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Menendez,

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–23, concerning the Navy’s proposed letters(s) of offer and acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $42.4 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

AARON HARDING,
(For Heidi H. Grant, Director), Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–23
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $27.8 million. Other $14.6 million. Total $42.4 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
- Twenty-four (24) AIM–9X Block II Tactical Missiles.
- Six (6) Tactical Guidance Units.
- Ten (10) Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) Guidance Units.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers, support equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical data, software delivery and support, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and other related support, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (PI-PA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to Be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to Be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 24, 2021.

As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South East Asia. The proposed sale will improve the Philippines’ capability to meet current and future threats by enabling the Philippines to deploy fighter aircraft with a short range air-to-air missle capability. The Philippines Air Force is modernizing its fighter aircraft to better support its own air defense and maritime security needs. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems Company, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Philippines on a temporary basis for technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–23
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Missle represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM–9M and replaces the AIM–9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/ high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM–9X missile and include countermeasures and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cuing System.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific software code, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Philippines can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Philippines.

CONFIRMATION OF DAWN O'CONNELL

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I would like to talk about the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response or ASPR serves in a critical role to provide health emergency and serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary on these matters. This is not a political or a personal choice for any administration; it is the law. I know because I helped write it. It is a public health emergency. The ASPR coordinates the public health and medical response—whether that threat is a hurricane, a novel virus, or a chemical attack. The ASPR has the responsibility of overseeing the development, purchase, and deployment of lifesaving countermeasures, like the COVID–19 vaccine. The ASPR is also a policy job, assessing the threat landscape and adjusting our strategies to best position the United States for the threats we face today and in the future.

I am glad that today the Senate was able to confirm, by unanimous consent, Dawn O’Connell to be the ASPR. During Ms. O’Connell’s nomination process for the job, she repeatedly agreed that she is ready to serve both roles and that the ASPR is in charge during public health emergencies. I believe her current role as a Senior Counselor to the HHS Secretary for COVID Response and her previous roles at HHS and in Congress have provided her with the skills necessary to fulfill the role of the ASPR. I was disappointed that it took the administration so long to nominate someone for this critical role, but I am pleased that they picked someone of Ms. O’Connell’s qualifications. The ASPR will lead the Nation’s response and recovery to the COVID pandemic and preparing us against whatever comes next.
I helped orchestrate Ms. O’Connell’s confirmation today when I am also re-leasing a white paper from my role as lead Republican on the Senate HELP Committee about the role of the ASPR. We have learned from two responses under two different administrations—Ebola under Obama, and COVID under Trump—that despite Congress’s bipartisan intent that the ASPR be in charge in an emergency, that hasn’t worked quite the way we envisioned. So I have a series of recommendations to build the role of the ASPR and bring greater clarity to our government’s response for future emergencies. The ASPR needs to have strong, effective leadership and play a key role in coordinating the Federal Government response. The ASPR needs to have the authority and resources to strengthen public-private partnerships in our medical countermeasures, medical supply chain, and healthcare system. And the ASPR needs to leverage innovation to expand our preparedness to have the authority and resources to address the response to the pandemic, and these recommendations will see their way into that legislation this fall.

MASK MANDATE

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, if you have flown in the past year, you have heard the announcement at the beginning of every flight that says Federal law requires that passengers wear a mask. Well, the last I checked, we have a constitutional system, and Congress makes laws. Something is not required by Federal law unless Congress passes such a law and the President signs it. That is the only way something becomes a federal law in this country. We are coming through a pandemic, and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Over 150 million people in the United States are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Any American adult who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 can get vaccinated at this point, and the science should drive our decisions on how to open up. That is why today I introduced a resolution to encourage the CDC to review and update its guidance on wearing masks in confined spaces to clarify that people who are vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer need to wear a mask on public transportation in the United States, including at airports, on commercial flights, and on buses and rail systems, and for the Transportation Security Administration to update its travel guidance to track with the latest science. I was joined in this effort by Senators COLLINS, LUMMIS, WICKER, MORAN AND BLACKBURN, and I appreciate their support.

The CDC has been pretty clear that masks are not needed for people who are fully vaccinated. Science matters, and vaccines work. The mandate to wear masks on planes and on other modes of transportation—when they are no longer required in many businesses and restaurants for vaccinated people—is hurting the aviation industry. If the objective is to encourage people to be vaccinated, one way to do that is for there to be a real difference in what you can do after being vaccinated. Repealing this requirement to wear masks on airplanes, at airports, and on public transportation would increase demand, increase travel, and would underscore that this is a commonsense step to take, and I hope more of my Senate colleagues will join us in encouraging the CDC to follow the science.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAN HENDRIX

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dan Hendrix, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer of the World Trade Center Arkansas and associate vice chancellor of the Division of Economic Development at the University of Arkansas. Dan has been a leader in our state after a remarkable career dedicated to economic growth in the Natural State. Dan is a proud Arkansan who has spent his life demonstrating his commitment to the State and developing opportunities to help businesses grow and flourish. He learned the tools that helped him succeed at the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University, where he earned a bachelor of science in business administration with minors in marketing and management. He started his career at ABF Freight System, where he established the subsidiary Container Carrier Corporation to transport ocean containers and from major ports in the United States and then expanded internationally. Under his guidance, the company expanded import and export operations to U.S. ports of entry, and he served in several leadership positions within the company. He brought his skills to an Oklahoma Transportation Company in 1998. In 2001, Dan joined the University of Arkansas and established the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations, where, among other successes, he led efforts to raise more than $1 billion for the university as part of the institution’s Campaign for the Twenty-First Century.

As president and CEO of World Trade Center Arkansas, Dan has used his talent and experience to help connect businesses in the State with international opportunities to help businesses in 2007. His efforts have resulted in significantly increased exports of Arkansas goods and job growth. Today, businesses from all over Arkansas export products to nearly 200 countries and support 35,000 jobs in the State.

During Dan’s tenure as leader of the World Trade Center Arkansas, he has also educated university students in global commerce through the center’s student intern program. The center has hosted dignitaries from more than 50 countries and enhanced diplomatic relations between the State of Arkansas and the United States with a variety of nations and economic partners.

I applaud Dan for his outstanding leadership and accomplished career. He has led a life of service and deserves our thanks for his military service and vision for expanding Arkansas’s footprint around the globe. Dan is leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations of Arkansans, and I have been honored to work with him, and I appreciate his friendship. I know his wife Marilyn, children and grandchildren, who are very proud of him, are looking forward to spending more time together. I wish him the best on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DAN SEWELL

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career and service of a proud Ohioan, Dan Sewell, who will retire at the end of June, bringing an end to his 44-year career in journalism. Dan spent 39 of those years with the Associated Press, serving Americans, both by bringing them the news and by telling their stories—in Buffalo, Miami, San Juan, Atlanta, and Chicago. Today, Dan has served as a writer, editor, assistant bureau chief, and most recently in our home State, in Cincinnati, OH.

A native of Middletown, OH, Dan graduated from Edgewood High School. He got his start in journalism as a student journalist at Ohio University’s student newspaper, The Post. That is where Dan and I first met, when he interviewed me as the youngest member of the Ohio State Legislature. Dans like Dan play an important role in our democracy—they ask tough questions, they challenge special interests and uncover corruption, and they connect Americans with their communities and with the world. Whether it was the Grenada Invasion in 1983, Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, or the mass shooting in Dayton’s Oregon District in 2019, Dan has done vital work on the frontlines, covering stories that matter to people.

Not only has he made a difference through his writing, Dan also teaches as a part-time instructor of journalism at Miami University in Oxford, OH, helping mentor the next generation of journalists.

Dan is a devoted husband to Vicki, father of five, and grandfather of nine, and plans to spend time with them during retirement. And he will have more time to partake in his favorite hobby—attending Cincinnati Reds’ games.

On behalf of grateful readers in Ohio and around the country, I thank Dan Sewell for nearly 45 years of service in journalism, doing work that is important to the fabric of our communities and our country.
TRIBUTE TO JEFF KIGHTLINGER

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the long career of public service provided to the people of Southern California by Jeffery Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, who is retiring after a 15-year tenure.

I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what an extraordinary leader Jeff has been not just for Southern California but for the whole State. Like Jeff, I have always been up to the task, deeply able to chart our water future. For years I have turned to him for his always wise counsel on how to solve the next challenge. Over these many years, I have come to view Jeff as a friend and to value our friendship. I have also learned to value equal- ly his leadership abilities.

The treacherous politics of California water and the immense obstacles to getting anything done are legendary, but Jeff has always been up to the task. Jeff is one of the smartest people I know, but he has unparalleled ability to strategize how to approach a complex water negotiation. He has built deep and trusting relationships with many of the key players, not only in California but throughout the Colorado River Basin. Knowing the other parties as well as he does, Jeff is able to map out where there is the possibility of an agreement. He then is able to work steadily and patiently over months and years, gradually removing the obstacles until the parties can finally come together.

Many of Jeff’s greatest accomplishments have come in guiding major changes within the Colorado River Basin, helping to collaboratively negotiate landmark pacts among a truce among 7 States, two countries, and 10 Native American tribes. These include the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, significant revisions to the U.S.—Mexico water treaty, innovative storage programs in Lake Mead, and the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan. This has laid a solid foundation for longer term solutions to be negotiated over the next several years. Jeff has helped forge Metropolitan’s partnerships with agricultural districts that have replaced litigation with cooperation.

If you evaluate a leader by the results he or she achieves, what Jeff has achieved in preparing Southern California for drought is extraordinary. In a time when much of the California and the West is desperate for water, Southern California stands out for how well it is prepared. Millions of acre feet of water in storage ensures that the region can weather this drought even if it lasts for several more years.

It took a whole suite of actions for Jeff and Metropolitan to get to this place. Knowing that the climate is changing and droughts will worsen, Metropolitan has invested, planned, and prepared, resulting in record water storage, reduced water usage in the region, and unprecedented drought resiliency. This didn’t happen by itself. Metropolitan’s conservation programs, including $350 million in turf removal incentives, transformed the Southern California landscape as Southern Californians embraced conservation as a way to delay the life commonly lowered water demands. Metropolitan has also launched the Regional Recycled Water Program Advanced Purification Center, a 300,000-gallon-per-day demonstration facility that could ultimately serve some of the largest recycled water projects in the Nation.

Under Jeff’s leadership, Metropolitan weathered the great recession and stabilized its finances while investing billions in restoring its aging conveyance system and improving its water treatment methods, setting a national example for how an agency can meet its infrastructure challenges. His record of environmental stewardship includes installing solar power at Metropolitan’s water treatment plants and leading the organization’s first efforts to address climate change. Through apprenticeships, recruitment, and promotions, Metropolitan was able to transfer the specialized knowledge of graying workforce to a new, diverse generation of water leaders.

No history of 21st century water in California and the West would be complete without acknowledging the contributions Jeff has made as head staff, and those of numerous other Metropolitan with his expert analysis and advice that has informed our legislative work. His knowledge and counsel will be greatly missed. I ask our colleagues to join me in congratulating Jeff Kightlinger on his retirement and thanking him for his long career of public service to the people of Southern California.

RECOGNIZING RUSTIC ROOTS ON SECOND

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I will recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business, Rustic Roots on Second of Pikeville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Located in downtown Pikeville, Rustic Roots on Second opened its doors in 2015. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, founder and owner, Maura Minix, wanted to provide a place for Kentucky artisans to showcase and sell their work. Maura, who grew up in Prestonsburg, KY, saw an opportunity to set up a shop in neighboring Pikeville. She established Rustic Roots on Second, providing a retail outlet for Kentuckian and Appalachian artisans.

Today, Rustic Roots on Second continues supporting and promoting small businesses and artisans in eastern Kentucky. Over 30 local vendors sell their goods at the store, ranging from food and textile goods to artwork and furniture made from used bourbon barrels. Maura’s mother, Brenda Minix, is a key part of the operation, working as store manager and serving as the “face of the business.”

Customers are regularly greeted by name and treated according to the golden rule. Rustic Roots on Second also serves as an event venue, renting out its shop for celebrations, fundraising, and business events. The store works with local artisans to host classes and workshops, offering classes to meet community interest. From painting to dulcimer playing, teaching and celebrating the arts is a priority.

Like Jeff, I care deeply about our region and the Kentucky Appalachian region in particular. Rustic Roots on Second is a leader in downtown Pikeville’s business community. They regularly participate in local and regional events, including the Appalachian Vintage Street Market, Wine-Tasting, and Retailing, and Pikeville’s famous Hillbilly Days festival. Rustic Roots on Second is a member of the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and is involved with Shaping Our Appalachian Region—SOAR—Kentucky, which fosters entrepreneurship and innovation in the region. They are committed to revitalizing and promoting downtown Pikeville through their support of the Pikeville Main Street Program, Inc.

Like many small businesses, Rustic Roots on Second actively supports charitable and civic organizations. For several years, Maura and Brenda have teamed up with local businesses to host picnics and decorate their storefronts to thank police officers, firefighters, and first responders for their service. They regularly support fundraisers for clubs, churches, and sports teams and have sponsored silent auctions to benefit local schools. Rustic Roots on Second’s advocacy and community leadership has been recognized in local and regional publications.

When the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, Pikeville and Pike County leaned on Rustic Roots on Second. As a nonessential business, Rustic Roots on Second was impacted by the lockdowns. Maura and Brenda adapted, overhauling and expanding their online storefront to continue serving customers nationwide. As Kentucky reopened, Maura and Brenda worked with local small businesses to ensure downtown Pikeville reopened safely, welcoming locals and visitors alike to their vibrant community.

Rustic Roots on Second is an outstanding example of the critical role small businesses play in uplifting and advocating for their communities. Congratulations to Maura, Brenda, and the entire team at Rustic Roots on Second. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JASON SUSLAVICH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I would like recognize an important
Al Puerini was born, raised, and trained in Rhode Island. After graduating from his beloved Providence College and training in family medicine at Brown University, Al began his practice in Cranston, RI, in the early eighties. He excelled in his work. He soon began teaching family medicine at Brown’s Warren Alpert School of Medicine and was elected a fellow at the American Academy of Family Physicians. But his revolutionary work began in the mid-1990s, when Al helped to found and then lead the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation as it embarked on an important mission: to reimagine the way we deliver healthcare. Al and his RIPPCPC colleagues combined the talents of over 150 primary care physicians and over 200 specialists and negotiated new contracts with local health insurers. Individuals were able to share a common care “treadmill” that encourages doctors to shuffle as many people through their offices as possible, these new contracts rewarded providers for the health of their patients. They also aimed to increase collaboration and communication among specialists, providers, and hospitals to improve health outcomes. As these contracts proved effective, Al and his board decided to think bigger. In 2014, they joined with Care New England to help form Integra Community Care Network, the largest accountable care organization, ACO, in Rhode Island. The Affordable Care Act’s accountable care organizations take the principle that Al had pursued for years—paying providers based on the health of their patients—and put it to use in the Medicare Program. At Integra, primary care providers, hospitals, specialists, extended care providers, and others work together to achieve more coordinated, accountable care. As someone who fought for ACOs in the ACA, I was thrilled to see Rhode Islanders step up to that challenge. Integra now serves more than 1 in 10 people in Rhode Island. It has been a national success. Beyond Medicare patients, it works with major private insurers and Medicaid. It has earned a 95% percent quality rating from the Federal Government and saved over $20 million in healthcare costs since 2015. Integra now stands a model for ACOs across the country.

Even as he built a new national model of care, Al never stopped serving as a cheerleader, as his beloved alma mater, Providence College. He maintained his Cranston private practice for over three decades. He was recognized as Rhode Island’s “Top Doc” twice over that span. He was on the principle of Al had pursued for years—paying providers based on the health of their patients—and put it to use in the Medicare Program. At Integra, primary care providers, hospitals, specialists, extended care providers, and others work together to achieve more coordinated, accountable care. As someone who fought for ACOs in the ACA, I was thrilled to see Rhode Islanders step up to that challenge. Integra now serves more than 1 in 10 people in Rhode Island. It has been a national success. Beyond Medicare patients, it works with major private insurers and Medicaid. It has earned a 95% percent quality rating from the Federal Government and saved over $20 million in healthcare costs since 2015. Integra now stands a model for ACOs across the country.

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 11:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

S. 1340. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 482. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title X of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

H.R. 704. An act to amend section 708 of title 17, United States Code, to permit the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 961. An act to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1334. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2062. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

As 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 MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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.

Please join me in wishing Jason much success and happiness in the future.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today in appreciation of a lifelong Rhode Islander and a healthcare trailblazer, Dr. Al Puerini. We wish him well in the next chapter of life.

H.R. 2684. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2702. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2748. An act to provide for a Federal pilot program to promote the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Department of Commerce and the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively.


H.R. 2841. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2876. An act to amend title 7, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2881. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2922. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3182. An act to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3239. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 3241. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 3723. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to use artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively.

H.R. 3752. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

H.R. 3841. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3842. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 3916. An act to amend title 21, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission promulgate regulations to regulate any device that is used to obstruct or impair the airway of a sleeping person, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3918. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3919. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3921. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively.

H.R. 3922. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3923. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3924. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 462. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 961. An act to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1314. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing cribs with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1846. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright or right claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

EC–1274. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of State, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2021, to the Select Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and Foreign Relations.

EC–1275. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislation, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2021, to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

H.R. 3922. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government; and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress; to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4
Whereas, the Founders of our Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States provides that the states protect the liberty of our people—particularly for the generations to come—to propose amendments to the United States Constitution through a convention of states under Article V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power; and

Whereas, the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly of Missouri, First Regular Session, adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which contained an application for an Article V Convention to propose constitutional amendments identical to those proposed in this resolution, but provided that the application would expire five years after the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government; and be it further

Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby apply to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and reduce the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress; and be it further...
Resolved that the General Assembly adopts this application with the following understandings (as the term “understandings” is used within the context of “reservations, understandings, and declarations”):

(1) An application to Congress for an Article V convention confers no power on Congress other than to perform a ministerial function of calling a convention.

(2) This ministerial duty shall be performed by Congress only when Article V applications for substantially the same purpose are received from at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states.

(3) The power of Congress to “call” a convention solely consists of the authority to name the time and place for the initial meeting of the convention.

(4) Congress possesses no power whatsoever to name delegates to the convention, as this power remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states.

(5) Congress possesses no power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any state.

(6) Congress possesses no power whatsoever to determine any rules for such convention.

(7) By definition, a Convention of States consists of the authority to amend the United States Constitution, as this power remains exclusively within the states.

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has been composed of nine Justices for more than 150 years; and

Whereas, the President of the United States has been prohibited from undermining the independence of the Supreme Court by changing the number of Justices on the Supreme Court; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to resist any attempt to increase the number of Justices on the United States Supreme Court; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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 Mrs. SHAHADEN (for herself, Ms. CASEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. S. BENNET, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. F. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2203. A bill to amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the provision of virtual diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CAS- dyd, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2204. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2205. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse located at 201 South Evans Street in Greenville, North Carolina, as the “Malcolm J. Howard United States Courthouse”; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2206. A bill to protect Federal child savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2207. A bill to temporarily increase the availability of temporary nonimmigrant nonagricultural workers for the purposes of filling seasonal employment needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CAR- PER, Mr. TOSSOY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2208. A bill to require the United States International Development Finance Corporation to investigate tariff policies relating to foreign-trade zones; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. BEN- NET):

S. 2209. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HAS- san, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITE- house, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. WAR- ZENBERG, Mrs. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLO- BUCHEAR, Mr. BEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNock, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LUIJAN, Mr. HINCHCO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STA- BENOW, Mrs. FREI- NSTEIN, Ms. CASEY, Ms. CAR- DIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENEN- DEZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 2210. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2211. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of rule 10b-51 trading plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2212. A bill to amend the Robert T. Staff- ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with authority to restructure local governments or electric cooperatives for disaster relief and recovery purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2213. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Admin- istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Penascola and Perdido Bays as an es- tuary for national significance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2214. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase the ability of Medicare and Medicaid providers to access the National Practitioner Data Bank for the purpose of conducting employee background checks; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STA- BENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KLOBUCHEAR, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion from gross income of certain forgivable or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2216. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to develop a plan for the reintegration and admission to the United States of certain citizens of Af- ghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. KLO- BUCHEAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2217. A bill to increase the participation of historically Black colleges and universities in the National Science Foundation’s National Research Program on historically Black colleges and universities; to authorize the appropriation of funds; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2218. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the obligations of licensees under section 331 of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. CREUZ):

S. 2222. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for re- moving employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, Mrs. SHAHADEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the marketing loan program to communities in economic distress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CANT- WELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHEAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. S. SMITH, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2224. A bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2225. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to revise job classification and qualification standards for positions in the competitive service regarding educational requirements for those positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH (for herself, Mr. CRAM- ER, Mr. TETER, Mr. LUIJAN, Mr. WARREN, and Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO):
S. 2226. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. MORGAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2227. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2228. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to correct shortcomings in how that section addresses content moderation, content creation and development, and content distribution; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2229. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a highway formula study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BARR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2320. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to enhance the clean oxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2321. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guarantee program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2322. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to fund projects to restore and modernize National Laboratories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REEMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAIN):

S. 2323. A bill to establish a grant program for stabilizing, maintaining, and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MERCLEY:

S. 2324. A bill to make housing affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2325. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require physicians and other prescribers of controlled substances to complete opioid and other substance use disorder treatment for patients on an ongoing basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2326. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 56 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2327. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out and carry out two grant programs to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase graduation rates and transfer rates to 4-year institutions at community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KASICH):

S. 2328. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Access to Services Act for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RISCHEL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRUINER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ENZER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. LUMIS):

S. 2329. A bill to consolidate or repeal unnecessary agency major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 2400. A bill to establish a national and community service pay for results program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. VANDERHURST):

S. 2401. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to require States to consider measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURKAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZER, Mr. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. MARKEL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERCLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHREN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN; and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2402. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2403. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KAIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2404. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2405. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certain companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2406. A bill to provide grants to support the hiring of law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 2407. A bill to support Federal judges, Federal prosecutors, and Federal law enforcement officers from violence and doxing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2408. A bill to increase the penalties for making personal information about a Federal law enforcement officer or other Federal officer available to the public; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2409. A bill to increase the penalties for damage to Federal courthouses and unauthorized access to Federal judges work, reside, or visit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2410. A bill to extend concealed carry rights to Federal judges and prosecutors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2411. A bill to expand support for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2412. A bill to increase the penalties for ambush a law enforcement officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAYES:

S. 2413. A bill to establish a separate criminal offense for targeting an individual based on their status as a law enforcement officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2414. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2415. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month; considered and passed.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. STAHLKNECHT, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 2417. A bill to provide Federal support for nonprofit general and essential medicine and device manufacturers to increase the availability of drugs and devices in order to reduce drug or device shortages and device costs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2418. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Parks, Jobs, and Equity Program to support job creation, economic revitalization and park development for communities impacted by COVID–19; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2419. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to establish a Climate Change Resilience Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2420. A bill to increase the maximum penalties for assaulting Federal officers by 50 percent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2421. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase the Office of alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):
S. 2262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2269. A bill to secure the bulk-power system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 2270. A bill to provide for requirements for data brokers with respect to the acquisition, use, and protection of brokered personal information and data brokers annually register with the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 2271. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to entities that do not certify the entities will not perform, or provide any funding to any other entity that performs, an abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 2277. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the law, including those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. 2278. A bill to improve agency rulemaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

S. 2281. A bill to require all Federal contractors and grantees to enroll in, and maintain compliance with, the E–Verify Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

S. 2283. A bill to improve the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. 2286. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use discretionary funds for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 2287. A bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sex characteristics and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

S. 2288. A bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 2289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for direct-pay credit bonds in the case of certain bonds the proceeds of which are used for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2290. A bill to provide for requirements for data brokers with respect to the acquisition, use, and protection of brokered personal information; to the Federal Trade Commission.

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for production of electricity using nuclear power; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2294. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 2295. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain the Urban Water Federal Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 2296. A bill to authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to use discretionary funds for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 2297. A bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sex characteristics and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 2298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for direct-pay credit bonds in the case of certain bonds the proceeds of which are used for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2299. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide grants for eligible entities for activities designed to increase and sales and use of biofuels derived from agricultural feedstocks produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S. 2300. A bill to provide for requirements for data brokers with respect to the acquisition, use, and protection of brokered personal information; to the Federal Trade Commission.
in response to an unlawful network breach; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. Peters (for himself and Mr. Murphy), for a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the empowerment of institutions of higher education to address inequities in college student access and success, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 2392. A bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to assign certain functions to the Assistant Secretaries of Energy relating to energy resources and energy security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. Sasse:
S. 2303. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Warner (for himself and Mr. Kaine):
S. 2296. A bill to establish the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. Risch (for himself and Mr. Menendez), for a bill to improve global health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. Blumenthal (for himself, Mr. Booker, and Mr. Wyden):
S. 2298. A bill to amend section 1797 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights to reservists of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. Sullivan (for himself and Mr. King):
S. 2294. A bill to require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of Arctic Security Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Cronpo (for himself, Mr. Warner, Ms. Collins, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Daines, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Moran, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Brown, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Carper, Mr. Casey, Ms. Coons, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Durbin, Mrs. Feinstein, Mrs. Gillibrand, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Hickenlooper, Ms. Heron, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Markley, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Peters, Mr. Reed, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Shaheen, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Smith, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Warnock, Ms. Warren, Mr. Whitehouse, and Mr. Wyden):
S. 2295. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 2297. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove certain non-federal easements and title problems affecting the possession and enjoyment of the outdoors by the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 2298. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Sasse:
S. 2303. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include an appropriate disclosure of pricing information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Ossoff:
S. 2305. A bill to enhance cybersecurity education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. Cantwell (for herself and Mr. Murkowski):
S. 2306. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydropower dams and the removal of obsolete river obstructions to improve the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitat and increase clean energy production, public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. Braun (for himself and Mr. Young):
S. Res. 284. A resolution recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Indiana Veterans’ Home; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Menendez (for himself, Mr. Booker, Blumenthal, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Durbin, and Ms. Duckworth):
S. Res. 285. A resolution honoring the lives and legacies of the “Radium Girls”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Duckworth (for himself, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Cotton, and Mr. Sullivan):
S. Res. 286. A resolution urging the Biden Administration to work with Congress to ensure that the United States military has sufficient resources; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Thune (for himself and Mr. King):
S. Res. 287. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States must continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve significant reforms to the rules of the World Trade Organization in order to promote the advancement of truly developing countries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Hoeven (for himself and Mr. Cramer):
S. Res. 288. A resolution commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Sours River flood in Minot, North Dakota; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Daines (for himself, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Cramer, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Rubio, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Braun, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Horvén, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Tester, Mr. Leahy, Ms. Capito, Mr. Cassidy, and Mrs. Blackburn):
S. Res. 289. A resolution designating June 2021 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2021, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Cruz (for himself, Ms. Lummis, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wicker, Ms. Collins, and Mrs. Blackburn):
S. Res. 290. A resolution encouraging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update their guidance on mask wearing in confined places; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Inhofe (for himself and Mr. Lankford):
S. Res. 291. A resolution congratulating the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Tester (for himself and Mr. Burr):
S. Res. 292. A resolution designating July 9, 2021, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day” recognizing that preserving and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. Whitehouse (for himself, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Risch, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Tillis, Ms. Hassan, and Mr. Hirono):
S. Res. 293. A resolution designating June 26, 2021, as the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Menendez (for himself, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Luján, and Ms. Hirono):
S. Res. 294. A resolution recognizing the month of June as “Immigrant Heritage Month”, a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions immigrants and their children have made in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, and more prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Grassley (for himself and Mr. Blumenthal):
S. Res. 295. A resolution designating June 15, 2021, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Daines:
S. Res. 296. A resolution remembering, as the world acknowledges the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, the countless lives the Chinese Communist Party has destroyed and the people currently living in fear of its tyrannical ambitions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. Stabenow (for herself, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Casey, Mr. Risch, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Blunt, Ms. Smith, Mr. Young, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Thune, Mr. Peters, Mr. Lankford, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Portman, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Manchin, and Mr. Toomey):
S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities.
of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204
At the request of Mr. Schatz, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 335
At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

S. 522
At the request of Mr. Lankford, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 150-word plain language summary of the proposed rule.

S. 540
At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to report information related to allegations of misconduct of law enforcement officers to the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 561
At the request of Mr. Schatz, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 565
At the request of Mr. Braun, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Eniwetok Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 610
At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 673
At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummen), the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) were added as cosponsors of S. 673, a bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for publishers of online content to collectivly negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed.

S. 747
At the request of Mr. Padilla, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) 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. 828
At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and familial therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 916
At the request of Mr. Sanders, the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to provide adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes.

S. 927
At the request of Mr. Tillis, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 978
At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1061
At the request of Mr. Cruz, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1073
At the request of Mr. Portman, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Sullivan) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) were added as cosponsors of S. 1073, a bill to rescind each Medal of Honor awarded for acts at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29, 1890, and for other purposes.

S. 1136
At the request of Ms. Cantwell, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) were added as cosponsors of S. 1136, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1142
At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to require a determination as to whether crimes committed against the Rohingya in Burma amount to genocide.

S. 1295
At the request of Mr. Romney, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 1398
At the request of Ms. Warren, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) were added as cosponsors of S. 1398, a bill to establish universal child care and early learning programs.

S. 1404
At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarter Special Troops and the 319th Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a "Ghost Army" that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1588
At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1613
At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. Baldwin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a grant program for certain fitness facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1777
At the request of Mr. Graham, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. Romney) were added as cosponsors of S. 1777, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 1809
At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to pay a member in the reserve component of an Armed Force a special bonus or incentive pay in the same amount as a member in the regular component of that Armed Force.
At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Blunt) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1894, a bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummis), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman) were added as cosponsors of S. 2022, a bill to extend and modify the Special Immigrant Visa Program, to postpone the medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for such program, to provide special immigrant status for certain surviving spouses and children, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. Baldwin) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham) were added as cosponsors of S. 2095, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Manchin, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2097, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the 2026 World Cup unless the United States Soccer Federation provides equitable pay to the members of the United States Women’s National Team and the United States Men’s National Team.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) were added as cosponsors of S. 2000, a bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummis), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman) were added as cosponsors of S. 2177, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to ensure sufficient bonding and complete and timely reclamation of land and water disturbed by Federal and Indian oil and gas production, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2193, a bill to ensure that an employment relationship is not established between a franchisor and a franchisee if the franchisor engages in certain activities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rounds, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 212, a resolution establishing a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Senate.

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 275, a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the mistreatment of, and discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who served the United States in the Armed Forces, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy and I are reintroducing a simple bill that can have a big impact: the Know Your Social Security Act. The bill clarifies the law about congressional intent so that every worker over 25 receives a paper Social Security statement in the mail each year, unless the worker has declined or been told that they are otherwise eligible to receive the statement or have not heard from Social Security in the mail.

The story is well known in Social Security circles, but it bears repeating: the origin story of the Social Security statement all started with the “powerful” Committee on Finance. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan spelled out the reasoning: “All of us pay into Social Security but rarely, until we become beneficiaries, do we ever hear from Social Security... in every paycheck, we see money withheld for Social Security, but we hear nary a word from the Social Security Administration. Let us take this simple step [sending statements] to reassure Americans that Social Security will be there for them.”

After enactment and once fully phased in, every worker aged 25 and...
older received an annual statement from Social Security starting in the year 2000. After a few years, Social Security’s website allowed workers to access their statement online. At the time, that was a nice feature—and did not impact the mailing of statements. Later, due to more pressing needs—SSA viewed the online option as “providing” the worker with a statement and fulfilling the requirements of the law. SSA stopped mailing the statements in 2011 to everyone over 25. Currently, only individuals over the age of 60 who are not receiving benefits receive statements automatically through the mail.

Paper statements delivered through the mail are desirable because no action is necessary by the worker and the statement is a yearly reminder to the worker to think about the future. Research has shown that workers provided with statements are significantly more likely to save, more certain about retirement income, and have higher satisfaction with their finances relative to those who are not provided with any type of financial planning materials. Providing Social Security statement through the mail is a simple policy that could help many workers, hopefully leading to better decisions about their financial future.

Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman JOHN LARSON and Ways and Means Committee Member VERN BUCHANAN are reintroducing the Committee on the House of Representatives. The bill is endorsed by AARP, Alliance for Retired Americans, Envelope Manufacturers Association (EMAG), Justice in Aging, NAACP, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Social Security Works, Strengthen Social Security Coalition, The Arc of the United States, and The Senior Citizens League. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will join us and cosponsor this bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows—

S. 2207

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

SECTION 1. EXCEPTION FROM 214(g) NUMERICAL LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN FORESTRY CONSERVATION WORKERS.

(a) In General.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(12)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the numerical limitation under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to principal aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(H)/(ii)(b) who are employed or have received an offer of employment for the work of—

(i) orchard work and seed collection;
(ii) tree planting;
(iii) harvesting pine straw or other minor forest products;
(iv) forest management;
(v)fire prevention and fire management activities;
(vi) brush clearing and vegetation management;
(vii) maintenance of right of ways;
(viii) habitat protection and restoration;
(ix) watershed protection and restoration;
(x) land reclamation; or

(xiv) other activities with a direct forest health consequence.

(B) The exemptions described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to landscaping or groundskeeping.

(c) Sunset.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall remain in effect until the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. FEINSTEIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agri-

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2207. A bill to temporarily increase the availability of temporary non-immigrant nonagricultural workers for the purpose of restoring American forests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows—

S. 2207

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

SECTION 1. EXCEPTION FROM 1181(g) NUMERICAL LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN FOREST CONSERVATION WORKERS.

(a) In General.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(12)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the numerical limitation under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to principal aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(H)/(ii)(b) who are employed or have received an offer of employment for the work of—

(i) orchard work and seed collection;
(ii) tree planting;
(iii) harvesting pine straw or other minor forest products;
(iv) forest management;
(v) fire prevention and fire management activities;
(vi) brush clearing and vegetation management;
(vii) maintenance of right of ways;
(viii) habitat protection and restoration;
(ix) watershed protection and restoration;
(x) land reclamation; or

(xiv) other activities with a direct forest health consequence.

(B) The exemptions described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to landscaping or groundskeeping.

(c) Sunset.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall remain in effect until the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agri-

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2244. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, as career opportunities and the requisite skills
for success adapt to the demands of the 21st century, so too must the instruction and preparation educators receive. Educators are tasked with designing educational experiences that rise to the rigorous State academic standards and reflect the real-world and interdisciplinary nature of our Nation’s diverse student population. This past school year with the pandemic was even more demanding our Nation’s educators as they were faced with new teaching challenges and adapting to virtual or hybrid learning environments. Prior to the pandemic, school districts were faced with widespread teacher shortages, with nearly every State reporting shortages of teachers in high-need subjects like math, science, and special education.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education shows COVID–19 has only exacerbated those needs with 43 States reporting shortages in math teachers, 42 in science teachers, and 44 in special education. In the 2020–21 school year, we have seen this trend continue to worsen. We are working to undo decades of neglect for our domestic supply of manufacturing. It is why I am pleased to introduce today with my colleague, Senator Collins, the Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals Act, or PREP Act. As schools across our Nation continue to face growing class sizes, many are struggling with a shortage of qualified teachers. Communities in particular are experiencing a dearth of teachers equipped to meet their growing needs. The PREP Act aims to create high-quality teacher residency programs to develop a diverse workforce that is well prepared to provide the educational opportunities students need to be successful in the 21st century.

More specifically, this legislation would expand the definition of “high need subject area” under the Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA, to include those experiencing teacher shortages in rural communities and in areas such as special education, English language, science, technology, engineering, math, and CTE, to allow for access to additional support and improvement. It would also encourage school districts to establish partnerships with local community colleges and universities to ensure their education programs are developing future teachers in content areas currently experiencing shortages of educators. It would increase access to teacher and school leader residency programs and preparation training while requiring States to identify areas of teacher or leader shortages by subject across public schools and use that data to target their efforts. Additionally, the PREP Act bolsters support for teacher preparation programs at minority serving institutions, MSIs, historically black colleges and universities, HBCUs, to invest in a diverse and well-prepared educator workforce.

Improving our Nation’s educational system is contingent on our ability to prepare, support, and retain quality educators. Research shows that better prepared teachers stay longer in the profession and are more likely to remain in their roles and positively impact young people and their communities. As we continue to focus on restoring educational opportunities students of color were four times as likely to lose their jobs because of countries like China that cheat the rules. And it goes on: This is an economic problem and a China problem.

All of us, both parties, recognize the threat that countries like China pose to our economy. It’s why just two weeks ago, we came together and passed the Endless Frontiers Act on a broad, bipartisan basis: To secure and expand our domestic supply chains, to support R&D to ensure the next generation of manufacturing is developed in America, to secure America’s place in America, and to finally—finally—ensure that American taxpayers’ dollars are used to buy American products that support American jobs.

This should not be controversial. We are working to undo decades of bad trade policy with China, and decades of neglect for our domestic supply chains. That’s going to take years. We know corporations won’t stop outsourcing jobs on July 1st. We know China isn’t going to stop cheating and underpricing American industries on July 1st. And we know our manufacturers will still have to compete against governments that prop up their competitors on July 1st.

We owe it to workers, who we know are going to have their lives upended through no fault of their own to unfair trade, to do everything we can to ease the transition. Today, I’m not asking for a complete renewal of the program. I’m not even asking for an extra year of the program. I, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues and American workers, asked for unanimous consent from this body for a straight 3-month extension of TAA, so that we can keep having the conversations about how best to structure the program going forward. It appears that my friends on the other side would prefer a 1-month extension. I would like to extend this spirit of compromise—this beats the alternative—letting TAA expire and leaving workers in the lurch.

And while that dialogue continues, workers get the help they need. We know workers are losing jobs to China all over the country. Sadly, that happens every week, every day. By extending this program, service workers and people whose jobs get shipped overseas to countries without trade agreements will get help.

Training funds, will continue being provided, at a time when we need to train people for the new jobs that we want industry to create. We all want the U.S. economy to be more resilient in the face of economic shocks. We all want to see fewer communities devastated by unfair trade. We all want American workers’ hard work to pay off. TAA is part of that.

We came together to extend it in 2011. We came together to extend it in 2015. We must do the same today. If you love this country you fight for the people who make it work. That’s what we do with Trade Adjustment Assistance.

S. 2255
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 “Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION PROVISIONS.—Section 265 of the Trade Act of 1974 (22 U.S.C. 2315(a)) is amended by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “July 24, 2021” each place it appears.
(b) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2316(b)(1)) is amended by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “July 24, 2021”.
(c) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 246(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “July 24, 2021”.
(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the earliest of—
1. the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “July 1, 2021” and inserting “July 24, 2021”;
(B) in paragraphs (5) and (6), by striking “the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021” and inserting “the period beginning on July 24, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022”; and
(2) in subsection (b), by striking “July 1, 2021” each place it appears and inserting “July 24, 2021”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. bp...
The Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act would reauthorize EPA’s lead reduction grant program and increase the authorization to $4.5 billion per year for 10 years. It would prioritize disadvantaged communities and set a ten-year deadline for projects to complete the lead service line removal, and also guarantee that funded projects pay a prevailing wage.

Epidemiologic studies have consistently demonstrated that there is no safe level of exposure to lead. According to the EPA, lead is particularly harmful when ingested by pregnant women, fetuses, infants, and young children, because lead can harm the nervous system, learning disabilities, impaired hearing, impaired physical development, and impaired formation of blood cells. EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead can be harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels.

This problem is particularly prevalent in California’s Central Valley, where, for example, in 2017 approximately 25 percent of schools in Fresno County reported lead in their drinking water while statewide, almost 1 in 5 kids attended a school that served drinking water with lead contamination.

The Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act would protect public health by ensuring that all Americans have access to clean drinking water. By providing funding for grants and prioritizing disadvantaged communities, this legislation would also reduce disparities in access to clean water and ensure that the burden of paying for lead service line replacement does not fall on disadvantaged communities.

I thank my co-lead, Senator Sanders, for her tireless leadership fighting for clean water for her constituents in Michigan and all Americans. I also thank the cosponsors of this bill for championing this vital effort with us in the Senate.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the “Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act” as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KING):

S. 2304. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include an appropriate disclosure of pricing information; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 2304

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 “Drug-Price Transparency for Competition Act of 2021” or the “DPT Act.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE SENATE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription pharmaceuticals is legally permitted in only 2 developed countries, the United States and New Zealand.

(2) In 2019, pharmaceutical ad spending exceeded $5,046,000,000, a 4.8 percent increase over 2017, resulting in the average American seeing 9 drug advertisements per day.

(3) The most commonly advertised medication in the United States has a list price of more than $6,000 for a one-month’s supply.

(4) A 2021 Government Accountability Office report regarding the withdrawal of all direct-to-consumer drug advertising between 2016 and 2018 was concentrated among 39 brand-name drugs or biological products, about half of which were recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

(5) According to a 2011 Congressional Budget Office report, pharmaceutical manufacturer advertisements designed to confuse consumers in an attempt to boost demand for their products and thereby raise the price that consumers are willing to pay, increase the quantity of drugs sold, or achieve some combination of the two.

(6) Studies, including a 2012 systematic review published in the Annual Review of Public Health, have published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and a 2004 survey published in Health Affairs, show that patients are more likely to ask their doctor for a specific medication and for the doctor to write a prescription for it, if a patient has seen an advertisement for such medication, even if such medication is not the most clinically appropriate for the patient or if a lower-cost generic medication may be available.

(7) According to a 2011 Congressional Budget Office report regarding the withdrawal of all direct-to-consumer drug advertising was 9 times greater than the average for newly approved brand-name drugs and directly-to-consumer advertising.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the single largest drug payer in the United States. Between 2016 and 2018, 58 percent of the $560,000,000,000 Medicare spending was for prescribed drugs, and in 2018 alone, the 20 most advertised drugs on television cost Medicare and Medicaid a combined $34,000,000,000.

A 2021 Government Accountability Office report found that direct-to-consumer advertising may have contributed to increases in Medicare beneficiary use and spending among certain drugs.

(10) The American Medical Association has passed resolutions supporting the requirement for price transparency in any direct-to-consumer advertising with advertisements on their own “inflating the price for new and more expensive drugs, even when these drugs may not be appropriate”.

(11) A 2019 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that health care consumers dramatically under-estimate their out-of-pocket costs for certain expensive medications, but once they learn the wholesale acquisition cost (in this section referred to as the “WAC”) of the product, they are far better able to approximate their out-of-pocket cost.

(12) Approximately half of Americans have high-deductible health plans, under which they often pay the list price of a drug until their insurance deductible is met. All of the top Medicare prescription drug plans use co-insurance rather than fixed-dollar copayments for medications on nonpreferred drug tiers, exposing beneficiaries to WAC prices.

(13) Section 119 of division CC of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase the use of real-time benefit tools to lower beneficiary costs. However, there still remains a lack of available pricing tools so patients may not learn of their medication price after being given a prescription for the medication.

A 2013 study published in The Oncologist found that one-quarter of all cancer patients chose not to fill a prescription due to cost.

(14) The Federal Government already exercises its authority to oversee certain aspects of direct-to-consumer drug advertising, including required disclosures of information related to side effects, contraindications, and comparisons among similar medications.

(15) In the House, 112th Congress—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) A lack of transparency in pricing for pharmaceuticals has led to a lack of competition for such products, evidenced by a finding by the Department of Health and Human Services that “Consumers of pharmaceuticals are currently missing information that consumers of other products can more readily access, namely the list price of the product, which acts as a point of comparison when judging the reasonableness of prices offered for potential substitute products” (84 Fed. Reg. 20755); and

(2) In an age where price information is ubiquitous, the prices of pharmaceuticals remain shrouded in secrecy and limited to those who subscribe to expensive drug price reporting services, which typically include pharmaceutical manufacturers or other third-party industry entities and not the general public;

(3) Greater insight and transparency into drug prices will help consumers know if they can afford to complete a course of therapy before deciding to initiate that course of therapy;

(4) Price shopping is the mark of rational economic behavior, patients who operate more efficiently when consumers have relevant information about a product, including

The American Medical Association has passed resolutions supporting the requirement for price transparency in any direct-to-consumer advertising with advertisements on their own “inflating the price for new and more expensive drugs, even when these drugs may not be appropriate.”
its price, before making an informed decision about whether to buy that product;
(5) providing consumers with basic price information may result in the selection of lesser cost options, all else being equal, and is integral to providing adequate competition in the market;
(6) the WAC is a factual, objective, and uncontroversial definition for the list price of a medication, in that it is defined in statute, reflects an understood place in the supply chain, and bears the sole discretion of the manufacturer to set;
(7) there is a governmental interest in ensuring that consumers who seek to purchase pharmaceuticals of prescribed drugs for their health and safety understand the objective list price of any pharmaceutical that they are encouraged through advertisements to purchase, which allows consumers to make informed purchasing decisions; and
(8) there is a governmental interest in mitigating wasteful expenditures and promoting the efficient administration of the Medicare program by slowing the growth of federal spending on prescription drugs.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.

Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1150D. REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that each direct-to-consumer advertisement for a prescription drug or biological product for which payment is available under title XVIII or XIX includes an appropriate disclosure of pricing information with respect to the drug or product.

"(b) APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.—For the purposes of subsection (a), an appropriate disclosure of pricing information with respect to a prescription drug or biological product—

"(1) shall include a disclosure of the wholesale acquisition cost (as defined in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) for a 30-day supply of (or, if applicable, a typical course of treatment for) such drug or product; and

"(2) shall be presented clearly and conspicuously, as appropriate for the medium of the advertisement; and

"(3) may include additional qualitative or quantitative information regarding the price of such drug or product explaining that certain patients may pay a different amount depending on their insurance coverage.

"(c) ENFORCEMENT.—Any person who violates any of this section shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $100,000 for each such violation or to another enforcement mechanism determined by the Secretary.

"(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall determine the components of the requirement under this section, including the forms of advertising, the manner of disclosure, the appropriate sanctions, and the appropriate disclosure of pricing information.".
ranging between 120 to 265 residents from the 1970s to the present; 
Whereas the Home is operated by the State of Indiana to care for honorably discharged Indiana veterans and their spouses and Gold Star parents; 
Whereas there is no wartime service requirement in order to be eligible to apply for admission; and the Home accepts all periods of service; 
Whereas the Home is a full-service care facility, offering a complete array of on-site services for its residents; 
Whereas the Home currently boasts a small museum of historical artifacts related to various wars, as well as artifacts from the Home's history; 
Whereas the Home provides quality care for veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents; 
Whereas there are currently 3,000 graves in the Home's cemetery, which serves as the final resting place for its residents and their spouses who chose interment there; and 
Whereas the Home has played a vital role in assisting Hoosier Veterans and their families in their time of need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Indiana Veterans' Home has been, and continues to be, an example of Hoosier's dedication to its veterans, especially those who served in the Civil War; 
(2) the Indiana Veterans' Home, along with the other Gold-managed and managed war memorials throughout Indianapolis and Indiana, including the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, highlights Hoosiers' appreciation for the service of its veterans; 
(3) the Indiana Veterans' Home continues a strong tradition of providing care to Hoosier veterans at the beautiful property located in Tippécook County, Indiana, and offering a historical glimpse into the past with its museum and the notable nearby physical locations; and 
(4) the Indiana Veterans' Home should be recognized for its 125 years of care to the veterans of Indiana and their families at this beautiful and historically significant property in the State.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—HONORING THE LIVES AND LEGACIES OF THE “RADIUM GIRLS”
Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKETT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 285

Whereas Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium in 1898, sparking a craze for radium-infused consumer goods in the early 20th century; 
Whereas many entrepreneurs touted radium’s supposedly limitless curative properties, even as some scientists began to report and warn of dangerous hazards associated with the element; 
Whereas the “Radium Girls” were teenage girls and young women who, starting in 1917, worked in United States factories factories painting watch dials and airplane instruments using glow-in-the-dark, radium-infused paint; 
Whereas the early Radium Girls painted watch dials and instruments that United States troops relied on during World War I; 
Whereas the majority of the Radium Girls workers were from corporations located in Orange, New Jersey, Ottawa, Illinois, and Waterbury, Connecticut; 
Whereas the Radium Girls primarily came from working-class backgrounds and some were first- and second-generation Americans; 
Whereas, in several instances, the radium corporations claimed that the radium enterprise could be harmful to human health, but they did not inform the Radium Girls of the risks or implement basic safety standards; 
Whereas, in many cases, the radium corporations’ management encouraged the Radium Girls to keep their paintbrush tips moist and as fine as possible by putting the paint-covered brushes between their lips, a technique known as “lip-pointing”; 
Whereas, due to lip-pointing, many of the early Radium Girls ingested extremely harmful quantities of radium; 
Whereas the Radium Girls breathed in radium-infused dust and touched radium-infused paint, and they often glowed by the end of the workday due to the radioactive paint on their clothes and skin; 
Whereas many of the Radium Girls began to experience mysterious health problems, including necrosis (rotting) of the jaw, cancer, anemia, bone fractures, and infertility; 
Whereas many of the Radium Girls were eventually plagued by debilitating physical pain and severe disabilities; 
Whereas some physicians and dentists initially dismissed the Radium Girls' hypotheses that their illnesses were linked to their occupations; 
Whereas, in some cases, the radium corporations shunned by their communities for harming the reputation of a prominent local employer; 
Whereas many of the surviving Radium Girls volunteered to participate in scientific studies on the effects of radium on the human body; 
Whereas investigations of the Radium Girls' illnesses led to the creation of the new scientific field of human radiobiology; 
Whereas the Federal Government relied on data from the Radium Girls’ cases to develop safety standards for radium and other radioactive materials for factory workers, medical personnel, and scientists, including the workers and scientists of the Manhattan Project; 
Whereas some of the Radium Girls who challenged the radium corporations were shunned by their communities for challenging the reputation of a prominent local employer; 
Whereas many of the surviving Radium Girls volunteered to participate in scientific studies on the effects of radium on the human body; 
Whereas investigations of the Radium Girls’ illnesses led to the creation of the new scientific field of human radiobiology; 
Whereas the Federal Government relied on data from the Radium Girls’ cases to develop safety standards for radium and other radioactive materials for factory workers, medical personnel, and scientists, including the workers and scientists of the Manhattan Project; 
Whereas some of the Radium Girls who challenged the radium corporations were shunned by their communities for challenging the reputation of a prominent local employer; 
Whereas many of the surviving Radium Girls volunteered to participate in scientific studies on the effects of radium on the human body; 
Whereas some of the Radium Girls who challenged the radium corporations were shunned by their communities for challenging the reputation of a prominent local employer; 

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Radium Girls and their determination to seek justice in the face of overwhelming obstacles; 
(2) recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Radium Girls to developing modern workplace safety laws and standards; and 
(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to protecting the health and safety of all workers in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH CONGRESS TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES
Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 285

Whereas the United States faces numerous national security threats from around the world, including from the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic Republic of Korea, and international terrorist networks, as well as states’ enemies, such as the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; 
Whereas the United States is engaged in a Cold War with the People’s Republic of China, which is—

(1) building up its military to defeat the United States; 
(2) stealing United States intellectual property and jobs; 
(3) harassing neighboring Asian countries and United States allies and partners; 
(4) committing genocide against the Uyghurs; and 
(5) denying basic rights to the people of Hong Kong; 
Whereas the United States is focused on world domination through oppression and communist rule; 
Whereas, according to prominent research institutions, including the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the Chinese Communist Party has increased its defense spending by more than 700 percent during the last decade, with an additional 8.8 percent increase anticipated in the current fiscal year; 
Whereas security and foreign policy experts widely acknowledge that—

(1) the People’s Republic of China is not forthcoming or transparent with information related to military spending; and 
(2) China’s military spending may be considerably higher than its reported figures; 
Whereas the National Defense Strategy Commission, in its report, Providing for the Common Defense: The Assessment and Recommendation of the States, recommended, in accordance with the testimony of Secretary Mattis and Chairman Dunford in 2017, that “Congress increase the base defense budget at an average rate of three to five percent above inflation through the Future Years Defense Program and perhaps beyond;” 
Whereas, when considering the inflation crisis he has created, President Biden’s proposed defense budget would be insufficient to address—

(1) new and mounting threats to United States national security and to our allies; and 
(2) the need for sufficient military support to deter our enemies and maintain the most lethal fighting force in the world;
Whereas President Biden’s proposed budget request includes $715,000,000,000 for the Department of Defense, which is well below the funding needed to keep pace with inflation, while the President’s nondefense discretionary spending request represents an increase of almost 20 percent compared to the current fiscal year;

Whereas in the Department of Defense’s fiscal year 2022 Future Years Defense Program, the projected request for the Department of Defense in fiscal year 2022 was targeted at $722,000,000,000, which is $7,000,000,000 higher than President Biden’s actual defense budget request for fiscal year 2022;

Whereas President Biden’s defense budget—

(1) does not provide adequate resources to deter or defeat United States enemies; and

(2) does not even keep up with inflation; and

(3) does not restore our military readiness that was diminished by budget cuts and the sequester under President Barack Obama, which arbitrarily reduced defense spending across the board;

Whereas the lack of sufficient funding will require the Department of Defense to choose between—

(1) providing for United States servicemembers’ compensation and benefits; and

(2) providing for United States forces’ modernization and readiness needs; and

(3) any other priorities that the Biden Administration chooses to pursue; and

Whereas President Biden’s level of defense spending—

(1) harms the United States’ long-term strategic competition against the People’s Republic of China and other adversaries; and

(2) weakens our standing on the global stage; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the Biden Administration to work with Congress to ensure that the United States military has all the necessary resources to build and sustain the overwhelming military might that the United States expects and deserves.

SENATE RESOLUTION 287—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP TO ADVANCE REFORMS TO THE RULES OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF TRULY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. Res. 287

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although the United States finds value and usefulness in the World Trade Organization in fulfilling the needs of the United States and other free and open economies in the 21st century, significant reforms at the World Trade Organization are needed; and

(2) the United States must continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve reforms that restore the effectiveness of the rules of the World Trade Organization for special and differential treatment to ensure those rules promote advancement for truly developing countries, rather than becoming tools for globally competitive countries, such as the People’s Republic of China, to engage in protectionism and market distortions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 288—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOURIS RIVER FLOOD IN MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 288

Whereas, in late June 2011, the city of Minot, North Dakota, and surrounding communities were inundated by widespread flooding;

Whereas high soil moisture content, above-average snow pack, and persistent spring and summer precipitation produced record-level flooding throughout the Souris River Basin;

Whereas, in June 2011, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority informed communities downstream that “reservoirs [had] no capacity to store further inflows”; Whereas, on June 22, 2011, following continued releases from upstream reservoirs, water began to overtop levees in the city of Minot, resulting in a mandatory evacuation and the displacement of nearly 40,000 residents; and

Whereas nearly 11,500 acres in Ward County were covered in 2 to 15 feet of water, impacting nearly 4,800 structures;

Whereas according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the flood reached 27,000 cubic feet per second, resulting in almost as much water moving through Minot in June 2011 as in the entire year of 1976, which was the previous all-time annual flow record;

Whereas, on June 26, 2011, the river crested at 1,561.72 feet above sea level, a Minot record;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed 4,100 homes, 250 businesses, and numerous schools, parks, churches, and other public infrastructure at a cost of as much as $1,000,000,000;

Whereas changes in national security concerns by temporarily blocking access to some intercontinental ballistic missile facilities operated by personnel at Minot Air Force Base;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than 1,500 temporary housing units to address the agency’s third largest housing mission in its history to date;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities demonstrated resilience and unity and worked together to help their fellow neighbors in a time of need;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials and agencies coordinated to provide immediate recovery assistance;

Whereas Congress provided hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster relief and recovery funding to assist the city of Minot and the surrounding region;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities continue to deal with the effects of the flood, including efforts to construct permanent flood protection in the Minot area; and

Whereas 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota;

(2) expresses sympathy to people in the Souris River Basin and condolences to the families who lost their homes or businesses; and

(3) expresses the value of the role of the people in the Souris River Basin and their commitment to recovery and rebuilding; and

(4) expresses gratitude and appreciation to State and local leaders, first responders, and the North Dakota National Guard for protecting the people of the Souris River Basin.

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—DESIGNATING JUNE 2021 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH” AND JUNE 27, 2021, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BROWN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CAPETTI, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 289

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States—

(1) risk their lives to protect the freedom, health, and welfare of the people of the United States; and

(2) deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

Whereas, since the events of September 11, 2001, nearly 2,800,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas and served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of enduring traumatic combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to severe and chronic post-traumatic stress responses, which are commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”) or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas many men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, live with mental health needs from post-traumatic stress and remain at risk for responses to that stress;

Whereas many post-traumatic stress responses remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress, the associated stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of post-traumatic stress responses, including anxiety, depression, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide, especially if left untreated;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) between 11 and 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress in a given year;

(2) approximately 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War have post-traumatic stress in a given year; and

(3) approximately 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era had had post-traumatic stress in their lifetimes;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress as a mental health disorder create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and the private and public medical community have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;
Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help eliminate stigma attached to the mental health issues of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

(1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and

(2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a condition that is treatable;

Whereas timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress responses can diminish complications and avert suicides;

Whereas traumatic stress—

(1) can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, severe physical or emotional abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, natural disasters, or global pandemics; and

(2) affects approximately 8,000,000 adults in the United States annually;

Whereas traumatic events such as the COVID-19 pandemic could—

(1) increase the number of individuals impacted by post-traumatic stress; or

(2) exacerbate the responses of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas the diagnosis of PTSD was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately identify and treat survivors of physical and psychological trauma, including veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;

Whereas the word “disorder” can perpetuate the stigma associated with combat stress, so the more general term “post-traumatic stress” is often preferred; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day may help raise awareness about issues relating to post-traumatic stress, reduces the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, and helps ensure that individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the Secretary of Defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN’S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. INHOFFEN (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. Res. 291

Whereas, on June 10, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team (referred to in the preamble as the “Sooners”) won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;

Whereas, after losing the first game in the championship series, the Sooners won 2 consecutive games to beat Florida State University;

Whereas the Sooners, over the 46-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program—

(1) have won 5 Women’s College World Series championships, including 3 championships in the past 5 years; and

(2) have competed in 13 Women’s College World Series;

Whereas the 2021 national championship for the Sooners builds on the strong tradition of success for the University of Oklahoma athletics department, the teams of which have delivered 39 team national championships and 295 conference titles throughout the rich history of the department;

Whereas the Sooners were the best team in the United States during the 2021 season, having never lost consecutive games all season and maintaining a perfect record in their home stadium to finish the season with 56 wins and 4 losses;

Whereas, during the 2021 season, the Sooners set records for team batting average, team slugging percentage, home runs, runs scored, runs per game, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas Giselle “G” Juarez was named Most Outstanding Player of the Women’s College World Series, throwing 218 pitches and 2 complete games to sweep the Florida State Seminoles in the final 2 games of the championship series;

Whereas Jocelyn Alo was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Athlete of the Year, hitting .411 with 13 home runs and maintaining a 0.475 batting average during the 2021 season;

Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma, to the achievement of winning a national championship, and to the sport of softball, including—

Grace Lyons, Shannon Salle, Taylor Snow, Paige Knight, Olivia Rains, Kinnie Hansen, Nicole Mendes, Mackenzie Donihoo, Macy McAdoo, Brooke Cristal, Nicole May, Jana Johns, Grace Green, Lynnise Elam, Tiare Jennings, Jayda Coleman, Raylee Pogue, Zaida Punl, Giselle Juarez, Alanna Thiede, and Jocelyn Alo;

Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding leadership of the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

Whereas head coach Patty Gasso has become a distinguished coach and leader in the Oklahoma community, which is evidenced by her—

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) racking up more than 1,300 wins in her coaching career at the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas the second game in the championship series was viewed by more than 2,600,000 people, setting a new viewership record for the Women’s College World Series;

Whereas the Sooners bring pride to the State of Oklahoma and the entire softball community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(A) commends the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;

(B) recognizes the excellence and dedication of all coaches, support staff, and players whose contributions led to the victory in the 2021 Women’s College World Series;

(C) celebrates alongside the students and faculty of the University of Oklahoma and Sooners fans around the United States; and

(D) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma;

(B) Joseph Castiglione, Director of Athletics and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletic Programs of the University of Oklahoma;

(C) Patty Gasso, head coach of the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 290—ENCOURAGING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO REVIEW AND UPDATE ITS GUIDANCE RELATING TO MASK WEARING IN CONFINED PLACES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 290

Whereas individuals in the United States have sacrificed immensely since the beginning of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020, including by avoiding travel to see friends and family;

Whereas science shows that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are protected against asymptomatic infection, and thus very unlikely to spread the disease;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance relating to mask wearing in confined places for fully vaccinated individuals, allowing individuals to no longer wear a mask in such instances;

Whereas extending this mask guidance to allow fully vaccinated individuals to travel on public transportation networks throughout the United States, including through commercial aviation, without the need to wear a mask would be instrumental in helping the economic recovery of the United States by boosting travel and benefitting the travel and tourism industries without sacrificing public health;

Whereas allowing fully vaccinated passengers to travel, including by commercial
aviation, without wearing a mask would incentivize a greater number of individuals to receive the COVID–19 vaccine: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) encourages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review and update its guidance related to mask wearing in confined places to clarify that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID–19 no longer need to wear a mask on public transportation networks throughout the United States; and
(2) recognizes that the Transportation Security Administration should update its mask requirements, to be consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, to permit fully vaccinated individuals to travel on all transportation networks throughout the United States without wearing a mask.

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN’S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:
S. Res. 291
Whereas, on June 10, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Sooners”) won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;
Whereas, after losing the first game in the championship series, the Sooners won 2 consecutive games to beat Florida State University;
Whereas the Sooners, over the 46-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program:
(1) have won 5 Women’s College World Series championships, including 3 championships in the past 5 years; and
(2) have competed in 13 Women’s College World Series;
Whereas the 2021 national championship for the Sooners builds on the strong tradition of success for the University of Oklahoma softball program, the teams of which have delivered 30 team national championships and 285 conference titles throughout the rich history of the department;
Whereas the Sooners were the best team in the United States during the 2021 season, having never lost consecutive games all season and maintaining a perfect record in their home games whereas to finish the season with 56 wins and 4 losses;
Whereas, during the 2021 season, the Sooners set records for team batting average, team slugging percentage, on-base percentage, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;
Whereas Giselle “G” Juarez was named Most Outstanding Player of the Women’s College World Series, throwing 218 pitches and 2 complete games to sweep the Florida State Seminoles in the final 2 games of the championship series;
Whereas Jocelyn Alo was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Athlete of the Year, earning a tryout to the U.S. national team and a .475 batting average during the 2021 season;
Whereas the Sooners players should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma, to the achievement of winning a national championship, and for the sport of softball, including Rylie Boone, Kinsey Kneoltz, Grace Lyons, Shannon Salle, Taylor Snow, Paige Knight, Olivia Rains, Kinnie Hansen, Nicole Tortorella, Sydney Sherrard, Jackie McCauley, Brooke Vestal, Nicole May, Jana Johns, Grace Green, Lynnie Elam, Tiare Jennings, Jayda Coleman, Raylee Pogue, Zaida Punz, Giselle Juarez, Alanna Thiede, and Jocelyn Alo;
Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding leadership of the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Roche, JT Gasso, Erin Arrawalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;
Whereas head coach Patty Gasso has become a distinguished coach and leader in the softball community, which is evidenced by—
(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and
(2) racking up more than 1,300 wins in her coaching career at the University of Oklahoma;
Whereas the second game in the championship series was viewed by more than 2,600,000 people, setting a new viewership record for the Women’s College World Series; and
Whereas the Sooners bring pride to the State of Oklahoma and the entire softball community; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) commends the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;
(2) recognizes the excellence and dedication of all coaches, support staff, and players whose contributions led to the victory in the 2021 Women’s College World Series;
(3) celebrates alongside the students and faculty of the University of Oklahoma and Sooners fans around the United States; and
(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—
(A) Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma;
(B) Joseph Castiglione, Director of Athletics and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletic Programs of the University of Oklahoma; and
(C) Patty Gasso, head coach of the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—DESIGNATING JULY 9, 2021, AS “COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to;
S. Res. 292
Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that 209,000,000 individuals used illicit drugs worldwide in 2018, a 30 percent increase from 2009;
Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that 35,600,000 individuals globally suffered from substance use disorders in 2018;
Whereas the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration reported that, in 2019, 35,800,000 individuals aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the United States in the past month, and 21,600,000 individuals aged 12 or older needed substance abuse treatment in the past year;
Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) estimated that a record 91,862 individuals died from drug overdoses between October 2019 and October 2020;
Whereas, according to the CDC, opioids are the main driver of drug overdose deaths in the United States, with synthetic opioids, such as illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, causing approximately 73 percent of opioid-involved overdose deaths;
Whereas CDC data indicates that drug overdose deaths have increased during the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas the National Institute of Drug Abuse reports, the United States and drug use cost the United States $193,000,000,000 annually in healthcare costs, crime, and lost productivity;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration reports that drug trafficking fuels the drug overdose epidemic in the United States and can lead to violence in communities throughout the country and the world;

Whereas the Department of State reports that the illicit drug trade can undermine the rule-of-law and fuel corruption; and

Whereas the Immigration and National Assembly established June 26 as the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’’; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages access to prevention, treatment, and recovery programs for individuals with substance use disorders, including access to medication-assisted treatment;

(2) commends the efforts of law enforcement agencies and officers to detect, curtail, and prevent drug trafficking and production domestically and internationally;

(3) applauds the work of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges who work to connect individuals with a substance use disorder to treatment facilities;

(4) supports research into treatments for substance use disorders;

(5) encourages greater international cooperation to dismantle drug trafficking organizations and transnational criminal organizations involved in the illicit drug trade;

(6) supports efforts to unravel financial networks that enable the illicit drug trade;

(7) calls on other United Nations Member States to mark the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’’; and

(8) designates June 26, 2021, as the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’’;

SENATE RESOLUTION 204—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS ‘‘IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH’’, A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN HAVE MADE IN MAKING THE UNITED STATES A HEALTHIER, SAFER, MORE DIVERSE, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE FUTURE SUCCESSES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ, MASTO, Ms. WARNEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILIA, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S.Res. 294

Whereas the United States is stronger when all individuals have the opportunity to live up to their full potential;

Whereas about 15 percent of health care workers in the United States are immigrants, including, in order of highest percentage of health care workers who are foreign-born—

(1) 39 percent of physicians;

(2) 25 percent of nurses, psychiatric, and home health aides;

(3) 24 percent of dentists;

(4) 20 percent of pharmacists;

(5) 19 percent of dental assistants;

(6) 15 percent of medical assistants;

(7) 15 percent of nurse practitioners;

(8) 15 percent of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses;

(9) 12 percent of dieticians and nutritionists;

(10) 12 percent of optometrists;

Whereas immigrants working in a health care occupation range from those granted temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) or deferred action pursuant to the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’’ issued on June 15, 2012, (referred to in this preamble as “DACA’’) to naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas more than 12 percent of such immigrants (310,000 individuals) are humanitarian migrants, including refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and Cuban and Haitian entrants;

Whereas 50,000 DACA recipients perform critical roles in the health care industry;

Whereas immigrants in health care professions serve throughout the United States, and often in rural or underserved communities;

Whereas the medical students, residents, and physicians who rely on DACA for their ability to practice medicine provide medical care to approximately 4,600 patients a year;

Whereas immigrants have filled approximately 1/5 of physician roles in the United States each year for the 10 years prior to 2021;

Whereas the Association of American Medical Colleges attested to the Supreme Court that the health care system of the United States relies on immigrant health care providers;

Whereas, in response to COVID-19, immigrants are putting their own lives on the line to save lives every day, working as diagnostic and treatment practitioners, physicians, nurses, health aides, nursing assistants and orderlies, health care technicians, medical students and residents, and health technologists and technicians;

Whereas more than 5,200,000 undocumented immigrants work in food supply for the United States during the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas undocumented immigrants alone contribute an estimated $228,000,000,000 of spending power to the United States economy, after the payment of $49,000,000,000 of combined Federal, State, and local taxes each year;

Whereas the majority of farm workers in the United States are immigrants, and regardless of politics, have been deemed “essential workers’’ in order to maintain a safe food supply for the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the founding of the United States, as well as in every major conflict in the history of the United States, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas immigrants have put their lives on the line to protect the ideals of the United States and defend as well as save the lives of the people of the United States, by serving as translators and interpreters for the Armed Forces, and performing sensitive and trusted activities for military personnel stationed with the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas immigrants who serve in emerging and legacy conflicts with partner nations overseas in the United States, such as artificial intelligence, that rely on science, technology, and engineering (referred to in this preamble as ‘‘STEM’’ skills), not only bolster the economy but also enhance national security and global leadership;

Whereas when immigrants have a trusting relationship with local law enforcement, they have reported crime and have worked with police on neighborhood crime reduction strategies;

Whereas more immigrants reside in the United States than any other country in the world, contributing to the rich diversity in the United States of people, cultures, cuisine, literature, art, language, academia, music, media, fashion, and more;

Whereas the United States is more diverse than ever before in its history, with greater share of immigrants from countries such as India, China (including the territories of Hong Kong and Macao, but not Taiwan), the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, South Korea, and Guatemala, and an increase of 79 percent since 2000 of Black immigrants from across the African continent, the Caribbean, Jamaica, and Haiti;

Whereas Black immigrants and their children make up roughly 1/5 of the overall Black population in the United States (18 percent);

Whereas in response to recent civil unrest in the United States, immigrants of all backgrounds have pledged their support to fight racial injustice, hand-in-hand with Black immigrants, to fight for accountability from law enforcement and the criminal justice system and to demand that law enforcement protect people, regardless of their skin color;

Whereas celebrating the racial, linguistic, and religious differences of immigrants has resulted in a unified, patriotic, and prosperous United States;

Whereas immigration has long been one of the greatest competitive advantages of the United States;

Whereas immigrants of all skill levels have helped make the economy of the United States the strongest in the world, complementing existing businesses in the United States in times of need and founding successful businesses of their own;

Whereas, although only accounting for 13.7 percent (nearly 45,000,000 people) of the total population of the United States, more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, which has created $4,200,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ millions of people of the United States;

Whereas 64.5 percent of immigrants aged 16 and older were employed, as opposed to 60.0 percent of native-born people of the United States;

Whereas immigrant businesses provide jobs across the United States, creating
new more jobs through entrepreneurial activity than they fill:
Whereas immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than native-born people of the United States;
Whereas the high-skilled immigration system of the United States has not been updated in more than 25 years and is now outdated and overburdened, putting global leadership at risk;
Whereas national security experts agree that it is essential for the United States to maintain its military exceptionalism by being the leader in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber, quantum, robotics, directed energy, and hypersonic weapons, which are all STEM fields where immigrants fill dangerous labor shortages in the United States;
Whereas due to population aging and longer life expectancy of the population in the United States requiring an increase in health care workers, immigrants are expected to fill approximately 55,000,000 new jobs, keeping the health care of the United States, keeping the people of the United States healthy;
Whereas in just 20 years meaningful immigration policy reform could reduce the Federal deficit by $1,000,000,000,000, contributing to greater economic stability and safety;
Whereas over the course of the next decade, immigration policy reform would result in the United States gaining over 10 million new jobs, keeping the United States more economically sound;
Whereas future population growth in the United States will require increased immigration, and by increasing immigration substantially, will keep the United States economically competitive with China and other global economies, and reduce future fiscal imbalances for popular programs like programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.); and
Whereas continued integration of immigrants from around the world that encourages and facilitates a pathway to citizenship, economic and social mobility, and civic engagement, will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States and its history;
Whereas the high-skilled immigration system of the United States is at risk; and
(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors to help the health, safety, diversity, and contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the health, safety, diversity, and prosperity of the United States throughout its history;
(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, each State;
(3) welcomes immigrants presently in the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the diversity, and civic engagement, will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States and its history;
Whereas the high-skilled immigration system of the United States is at risk; and
(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors and colleagues to advance the current and future well-being of the United States; and
(5) commits to working with fellow Members of Congress, the executive agencies that administer immigration laws and policies, and the President to promote smart and just immigration policy for immigrants presently in the United States, their families, and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States in the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2021, AS "WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY" AND THE MONTH OF JUNE AS "ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:
S. Res. 295

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 55,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 6 individuals, have attained the age of 65;
Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, such as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;
Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;
Whereas more than 1 in 10 individuals in the United States over the age of 60 have been subjected to abuse each year, with many such incidents occurring in multiple forms, according to the American Journal of Public Health;
Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) recognizes June 2021 as "Immigrant Heritage Month" in honor of the contributions immigrants and their children have made to the United States throughout its history;
(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, each State;
(3) welcomes immigrants presently in the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the diversity, and civic engagement, will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States and its history;
(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors and colleagues to advance the current and future well-being of the United States; and
(5) commits to working with fellow Members of Congress, the executive agencies that administer immigration laws and policies, and the President to promote smart and just immigration policy for immigrants presently in the United States, their families, and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States in the future.


Mr. DAINES submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:
S. Res. 296

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party will observe its centenary on July 1, 2021, with a series of celebrations commemorating
its history and accomplishments toward improving the standing of China as a world power;

Whereas untold millions of Chinese citizens became casualties of the Chinese Communist Party’s quest for power, enduring severe loss and suffering in what amounts to humanity’s worst atrocities since World War II;

Whereas, during the Yan’an Rectification Movement from 1942 to 1945, more than 10,000 people were killed as the Chinese Communist Party sought to attack and repel intellectuals with people who supported the Communist ideology;

Whereas, during the Sufan Movement from 1949 to 1953, an estimated 4,700,000 landowners were murdered in order to redistribute land to peasants;

Whereas, during the Anti-Rightist Campaign in 1955 and the Five-anti Campaign in 1952, Mao Zedong humiliated, terrorized, exiled, imprisoned, and killed thousands of political opponents and capitalists, weakening the economies of the major urban centers of China;

Whereas, during the Sian Movement from 1955 to 1957, the Chinese Communist Party carried out a purge of hidden counterrevolutionaries, arresting an estimated 214,000 people and executing approximately 53,000 people;

Whereas, during the Anti-Rightist Campaign from 1957 to 1959, approximately 550,000 people suffered exile, imprisonment, and execution as Mao Zedong conducted a purge of “rightists,” credited for creating the modern one-party state of China;

Whereas, during the Great Chinese Famine from 1959 to 1961, an estimated 30,000,000 people died as a result of the policy of the Chinese Communist Party, which prioritized industrialization over agriculture, remembered today as one of the greatest man-made disasters in human history;

Whereas, during the Socialist Education Movement from 1963 to 1965, an estimated 5,000,000 people were persecuted and 77,560 were executed for their political beliefs;

Whereas, during the Tiananmen Square Massacre on June 4, 1989, an estimated 10,000 protestors were arrested or killed by the People’s Liberation Army after the Chinese Communist Party issued a martial law;

Whereas, since the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997, the Chinese Communist Party has increasingly undermined the autonomy and judicial independence of Hong Kong, resulting in a series of deadly protests and demonstrations;

Whereas, as of June 2021, an estimated 1,000 Uighur people are subject to mass detention and torture, including electric shock, waterboarding, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, forced prostitution, stress positions, forced administration of unknown medication, cold cells, and organ harvesting in re-education camps in the Xinjiang province of China;

Whereas, as of June 2021, an estimated 150,000 Tibetan Buddhists live in exile in India and Nepal, 62 years after their leader, the Dalai Lama, sought refuge from a Chinese uprising in Tibet; and

Whereas, as of June 2021, the Chinese Communist Party exerts increasing political, military, and social pressure on Taiwan in order to undermine its freedom and independence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the fraternal benefit society model is a successful private sector economic and social support system that helps meet needs that would otherwise go unmet;

(2) the provision of payment for life, health, accident, or other benefits to the members of fraternal benefit societies in accordance with section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is necessary to support the charitable and fraternal activities of the volunteer chapters within the communities of fraternal benefit societies;

(3) fraternal benefit societies have adapted since 1909 to better serve their members and the public; and

(4) the exemption from taxation under section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of fraternal benefit societies continues to generate significant returns to the United States, and the work of fraternal benefit societies should continue to be promoted.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2120. Mr. DURBEN (for Mr. KELLY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew; as follows:

In the fourth clause of the preamble, strike “lightening” and insert “lightning.”

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2120. Mr. DURBEN (for Mr. KELLY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet at
during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9:30 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 Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 11 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 Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until 1 p.m. on June 25, 2021: Jacob Neer, Lindsey Cox, Nancy Beaulieu-Dufresne, Raymond Villalobos, and Kaylan Privette.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Carolina Young, of my staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brittany Fifer, a Coast Guard fellow in my office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would also ask unanimous consent that Savannah Johnston, an American Political Science Association fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor until we recess in August.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote en bloc on the nominations, without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that all statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency; Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs); Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection); Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Dawn Myers O’Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services; Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency; Christine Abizaid, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife; Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services; and Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, all en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 201 through 228, with the modification at the desk, and all nominations placed on the Secretary’s Desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (ih) Robert T. Clark
Rear Adm. (ih) Nancy S. Lacore
Rear Adm. (ih) Theodore P. LeClair

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David R. Storr

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Michael J. Schwerin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Bradley D. Dunham
Capt. Mark F. Haigis
Capt. Scott W. Huston
Capt. Douglas W. Sasse, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Dennis E. Collins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624, 7037, and 7064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Alison C. Martin
Col. David E. Mendelson
Col. George R. Smawley

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Eugene D. Cox
Col. Clinton K. Murray
Col. Deydre S. Teyhen

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:


The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:


The following named officer for appointment as the Judge Advocate General, United States Army, and for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned as position under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601, 7037 and 7064:

Maj. Gen. Stuart W. Risch

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Maj. Gen. Matthew G. Glavy

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Chamberlain

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

Rear Adm. Francis D. Morley

June 24, 2021
IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

To be lieutenant general


NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN583 AIR FORCE nomination of Whit A. Collins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN584 AIR FORCE nomination of Timothy E. Holloway, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN585 AIR FORCE nomination of Karl J. Vogel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN602 AIR FORCE nomination of Nicholas R. Reynolds, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN586 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeannette M. Watterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN587 AIR FORCE nomination of Jason O. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN588 AIR FORCE nominations (131) beginning CONNIE IRENE ARMSTRONG, and ending KEVIN S. YOKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN589 AIR FORCE nominations (63) beginning ERIC P. AHNFELDT, and ending DENTONIO WORRELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN590 AIR FORCE nominations (22) beginning RAMIE K. BARFUSS, and ending BRIAN L. SCHULZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN591 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael R. Bean, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN592 AIR FORCE nomination of Curt C. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN593 AIR FORCE nomination of David R. Evans, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN594 AIR FORCE nomination of Timothy J. Redhair, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN595 AIR FORCE nominations (211) beginning BRYCE E. LIVINGSTON, and ending JEREMY D. SCHMITZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN596 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jordan James Livingston, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN597 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph L. Gill, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN598 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph E. Hedrick, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN599 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph L. Gill, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN600 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jocelyn E. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN601 MARINE CORPS nominations (37) beginning KEVIN B. BITTLE, and ending MICHAEL P. AIENA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

IN THE NAVY

PN516 NAVY nominations (4) beginning PATRICIA H. AJOY, and ending JEREMIAH T. HOFFMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN517 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JEREMIAH T. HOFFMANN, and ending JEREMIAH T. HOFFMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN518 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JEREMIAH T. HOFFMANN, and ending JEREMIAH T. HOFFMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.
PN529 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JODIE K. CORNELL, and ending JOSHUA A. FREY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN530 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JEFFREY N. DUGARD, and ending MARVIN D. HARRIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN531 NAVY nominations (2) beginning KENNETH T. ALLISON, JR., and ending OMAR S. MARTINEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN700 NAVY nomination of Andrew S. Foor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN701 NAVY nomination of Kevin M. Bacon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN702 NAVY nominations (10) beginning ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM, and ending CHANKANG S. PARK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN703 NAVY nominations (17) beginning CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER, and ending JERRY R. TOFTE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN704 NAVY nominations (50) beginning MICHAEL J. ARNOLD, and ending TAMARA J. WOHLTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN705 NAVY nominations (20) beginning CASEY J. BURNS, and ending KIRSTIN C. WIER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN706 NAVY nominations (19) beginning TIMOTHY D. BARNES, and ending JACQUELINE P. VANMOERKERQUE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN707 NAVY nominations (7) beginning DEREK BUTLER, and ending BRENT E. TROYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN708 NAVY nominations (21) beginning ACCURSA A. BALTASSANO, and ending JACQUELINE R. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN709 NAVY nominations (27) beginning ANTHONY P. BANNISTER, and ending MICHAEL R. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN710 NAVY nominations (12) beginning JENNIFER D. L. CHABONNIE, and ending DAVID A. STROUD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE SPACE FORCE
PN302 Senate confirmation nominations (765) beginning HEATHER J. ANDERSON, and ending CRAIG M. ZINCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2021.

PN711 SPACE FORCE nominations (20) beginning EDWARD G. FERGUSON, and ending KIMBERLY A. TEMPLET, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN712 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning JAMES J. WATSON, and ending LINCOLN K. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: PN 357, as modified by the items that are in the list; that if the nominations be confirmed; that the matter be recommitted with instructions that the nominations be disposed of and may be considered laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

PN713 A nomination of Ashley S. M. McAbbe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN714 A nomination of Steven Mooser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN715 A nomination of Andrew S. Foor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN716 A nomination of Kevin M. Bacon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record ofJune 15, 2021.

PN717 A nomination of Anthony P. Bannister, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN718 A nomination of Michael J. Arnold, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN719 A nomination of Tamera J. Wohlton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN720 A nomination of Casey J. Burns, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN721 A nomination of Kirstin C. Wier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN722 A nomination of Jacqueline P. Vanmoerkerque, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record ofJune 15, 2021.

PN723 A nomination of Timothy D. Barnes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record ofJune 15, 2021.

PN724 A nomination of David A. Stroud, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN725 A nomination of Heather J. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2021.

PN726 A nomination of Craig M. Zinck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2021.

PN727 A nomination of Edward G. Ferguson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN728 A nomination of Kimberly A. Templet, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDENT. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1662) was passed, as follows:

S. 1662

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 “Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act”.

SEC. 2. REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION AND FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

(a) REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION FOR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.—Section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmeti-
cine (21 U.S.C. 377a(n)) is amended by striking “$500,000 and not more than $1,250,000” and inserting “$1,250,000 and not more than $5,000,000”.

(b) FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—Section 499(l) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b(l)) is amended by striking “$500,000 and not more than $1,250,000” and inserting “$1,250,000 and not more than $5,000,000”.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 76, of 1662, Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be considered made and laid upon the table.

Without objection, it is so ordered.
TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2255, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 2255) to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2255) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2255

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 “Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Budgeting Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(C) If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget maintains a public website on the budget justification materials, the website shall include—

(A) the name of the agency;

(B) a unique identifier that identifies the agency;

(C) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are first submitted to Congress;

(D) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are made available under section 3 of the Federal Budgeting Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

(E) the uniform resource locator where the budget justification materials are published on the website of the agency; and

(F) a single data set that contains the information described in paragraphs (A) through (E) with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for which budget justification materials of the agency are published on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subparagraph (B).

(b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to add the following:

2. (A) Each agency that submits budget justification materials shall make the materials publicly available on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under paragraph (B).

(B) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish policies and data standards for agencies relating to making available materials as described in paragraph (A), which shall include standards for making budget justification materials available in a format aligned with the requirements of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Budgeting Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) and using a uniform resource locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the format of ‘agencyname.budget.justification’.
There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution. 

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 268) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2120) was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 270) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2120) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

(1) The sixth deadliest firefighter tragedy in the history of the United States; and (2) the greatest loss of life for fire services in the United States since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and (3) commends the bravery and sacrifice made by these fallen wildland firefighters in the service of their communities.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 279.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 279) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2120) was agreed to as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 279) designating June 21, 2021 through June 25, 2021, as “National Cybersecurity Education Week”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 279) was agreed to.

Whereas, on June 30, 2013, 19 firefighters of the Granite Mountain Hotshots gave their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Yavapai County, Arizona, including—(1) Eric Marsh, 43, who served as the superintendent of the Granite Mountain Hotshots;

(2) Jesse Steed, 36;

(3) Clayton Whitted, 28;

(4) Robert Galland, 23;

(5) Travis Carter, 31;

(6) Christopher MacKenzie, 30;

(7) Travis Turbyfill, 27;

(8) Andrew Ashcraft, 29;

(9) Joe Thurston, 32;

(10) Wade Parker, 22;

(11) Anthony Rose, 23;

(12) Garret Zipperer, 27;

(13) Scott Norris, 28;

(14) Dustin DeFord, 24;

(15) William “Billy” Warneke, 25;

(16) Kevin Woyjeck, 21;

(17) John Percin, Jr., 24;

(18) Grant McKee, 21; and

(19) Sean Misner, 26.

Whereas the Yarnell Hill Fire resulted in—(1) the largest wildland firefighter loss of life in 80 years;
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions submitted earlier today: S. Res. 284, S. Res. 292, and S. Res. 293.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered laid and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

COLONEL JOHN M. MCHUGH TUITION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1095 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1095) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-state tuition rate for purposes of Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2441) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study to assess the availability of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MAX VEKICH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 28, 2024, VICE ISMAEL N. AHMED, TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2025, VICE STEVEN H. COHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

M. CAMILLE CALIMIL-TOUTOON, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE JAMES E. HUBBARD.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHRISTI A. GRIMM, OF COLORADO, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE MELINDA A. LUSKIN, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MAX VEKICH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 28, 2024, VICE ISMAEL N. AHMED, VICE STEVEN H. COHEN.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STACEY MICHELLE BRANDENBURG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FELLOW, VICE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWSHIP, TERM EXPIRED.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 28 at 9 a.m.; Thursday, July 1 at 11 a.m.; Monday, July 5 at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday, July 8 at 12 noon. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 8, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, July 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Zeya nomination; finally, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CONSTANCE HESS WILLOWS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICEBAR-BAIRA RISSENT FREY. TERM EXPIRED.

KATHLEEN FOHR, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE LEE GREENWOOD. TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ROBERT GARCIA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2023, VICE JAMES L. HENDERSON. TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

HUA HUA, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE DAVID MAUSUMOYI. TERM EXPIRED.

CHRISTOPHER KAI MORGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE DEVIN M. MAYFIELD, JR. TERM EXPIRED.

FIONA WHITOL PEHN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE DIANE HILTON ROGY. TERM EXPIRED.

JAKE SHIMAUKURO, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE RICK LOWE. TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LAURA DANIEL-DAYES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE JOSÉ BALSALúa. RESIGNED.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

CATY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2023, VICE ANNE MARIE WAGNER. TERM EXPIRED.

CATY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD, VICE SUZAN THI GRUNDLAM. RESIGNED.

RACHEL J. LAVIN, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2023, VICE MARK A. ROBBINS. TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE YODIT A. WILLIAMS.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DIANNA HANRE ARDEEN AND ENDING WITH ELLEN K. TANNOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 12, 2022.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 24, 2021

THE JUDICIARY

CANDACE JACKSON-ATWOOD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FARAI AMIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

PATRICIA L. BOSS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SHANNON A. ZETTEL, OF NEVADA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CARLOS ALIBERTO MONJE, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DAVID MYERS C. O’CONNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

SHILA S. DEFLINHE—RATTN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROBIN C. ASHTON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANN MILGRAM, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

BRAD A. D. (LH) NATHANIEL S. MALOY
BRAD A. D. (LH) NANCY S. LACORE
BRAD A. D. (LH) THEODORE P. LECLAIR
BRAD A. D. (LH) EILEEN H. LAUBACHER
BRAD A. D. (LH) HELEN R. LAUBACHER
CAPT. DAVID R. STORR
CAPT. MICHAEL J. SCHWEBER
CAPT. BRADLEY D. DUNHAM
CAPT. SCOTT W. EUSTIS
CAPT. DOUGLAS B. LARKIN III
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WINSLOW
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. MERLINO
BRIG. GEN. KIPLING V. KAHLER
BRIG. GEN. KEITH W. FRAZER
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. JENKINS
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN W. GALLAGHER
BRIG. GEN. HENRY S. DIXON
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH R. BALDWIN
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL N. ADAME
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY J. MAY
BRIG. GEN. ROGER A. BRESLAY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JERRY F. PROCHASKA
BRIG. GEN. JAVIER A. REÑA
BRIG. GEN. ADAM R. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WINSLOW
THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

MAJ. GEN. JON W. MILLER
CAPT. (RETIRED) JUDITH L. WHITE
CAPT. (RETIRED) SHAWN D. MICHELSON
CAPT. (RETIRED) ERIK J. BAIRD
CAPT. (RETIRED) SEAN D. LANE
CAPT. (RETIRED) ANTHONY A. LAUSEY
CAPT. (RETIRED) JUAN R. VARGAS
CAPT. (RETIRED) DAVID L. TRUMAN
CAPT. (RETIRED) CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER
CAPT. (RETIRED) ROBERT J. COX
CAPT. (RETIRED) ROBERT J. COX
CAPT. (RETIRED) ANDREW R. HOLLAND
CAPT. (RETIRED) KATHERINE A. ALLARD
CAPT. (RETIRED) JAMES W. SMITH
CAPT. (RETIRED) ROBERT W. RUTHERFORD
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) ANTHONY A. LAUSEY
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) ERIK J. BAIRD
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) JUAN R. VARGAS
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) SEAN D. LANE
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) SHAWN D. MICHELSON
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) JON W. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) ROBERT J. COX
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) ROBERT J. COX
BRIG. GEN. (RETIRED) ANTHONY A. LAUSEY
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
CAPT. (RETIRED) WILLIAM J. WEAVER
CAPT. (RETIRED) JAMES W. SMITH
IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND

IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

COL. TERI D. WILLIAMS
COL. JEFFREY WATKINS
COL. BENJAMIN S. VALENTINE
COL. JAMES H. TREECE
COL. TYSON Y. TAHARA
COL. WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
COL. GARY A. ROPERS
COL. MOSES P. ROBINSON II
COL. MILLARD G. REEDY IV
COL. JOHN R. PIPPY
COL. DAVID M. PIDONE
COL. ROBERT W. O'CONNELL
COL. JEFFREY A. NORRIS
COL. JASON P. NELSON
COL. PATRICK R. MONAHAN
COL. ROBERT A. MITCHELL
COL. LOUIS B. MILLIKAN
COL. KEVIN D. MCMAHAN
COL. ELIZABETH B. MCLAUGHLIN
COL. DAVID D. MCGRAW, JR.
COL. TOMMY C. LEEPER
COL. STEPHEN P. JONES
COL. MICHAEL A. IZZO
COL. JOSEPH M. HUSS
COL. ROBERT W. HUGHES, JR.
COL. JAMISON A. HERRERA
COL. KEVIN T. HAMM
COL. JOSEPH W. GREEN
COL. RODNEY K. GINTER
COL. GREGORY D. FIX
COL. TOD M. FENNER
COL. MICHAEL D. EVANS
COL. JONATHAN J. ERICKSON
COL. JONATHAN S. EBBERT
COL. JAMES W. BIBB
COL. LAVETTA L. BENNETT
COL. FREDERICK W. BATES V
COL. ANDREW C. ANDERSON
COL. DEREK L. ADAMS
COL. CRISTINA M. MOORE
COL. WARNER A. ROSS II
COL. WALTER D. WATTERSON, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY


IN THE NAVY


ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GALION J. BERRY AND ENDING WITH JOE E. MURDOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID B. BRADHAM AND ENDING WITH DAMIEN J. WATTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS P. ABOTT AND ENDING WITH STEPHEN V. YENIAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIELLE B. BRAHAM AND ENDING WITH RICHARD E. SCHMITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL P. AINSWORTH AND ENDING WITH TYSON V. VOUGTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHD B. CASSIDY AND ENDING WITH JOHN L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATALIE W. MOORE AND ENDING WITH JAVIER A. NAVARRE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATION OF ASHLEY S. M. MCABEE, TO BE COMMANDER.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD S. CHRETZMAYER AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL P. WOLFKEIRL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATION OF PATRICK L. GERMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.


NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD S. CHRETZMAYER AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL P. WOLFKEIRL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.


NAVY NOMINATION OF PATRICK L. GERMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.


HONORING AVERY FRENCH OF TURKEY HILL SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and her community. I thank Avery French for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

HONORING THE 175 INVENTORS INDUCTED AS THE 2020 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

HON. KATHY CASTOR
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175 inventors who will soon be inducted as the 2020 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in an induction ceremony in Tampa, FL that will feature a keynote address by U.S. Commissioner for Patents, Andrew Hirshfeld. To be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development and welfare of society.

Collectively, this elite group holds nearly 4,800 patents. This year’s class of Fellows includes individuals from 115 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning across the United States and the world. The now 1,403-member group of Fellows is composed of more than 165 presidents and senior leaders of research universities and non-profit research institutes, nearly 600 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; 45 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 63 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and U.S. National Medal of Science, 40 Nobel Laureates, 392 AAAS Fellows, 264 IEEE Fellows and 184 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, among other awards and distinctions. The NAI was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

We are greatly indebted to innovators such as the ones being inducted this month for their contributions to society’s inventions. I commend these individuals, and the organizations and taxpayers that support them, for the work they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future generations to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2020 NAI Fellows include: JD Albert, University of Pennsylvania; Naofal AdDahr, The University of Texas at Dallas; Khalil Amine, Argonne National Laboratory; Ananth Annapragada, Bayer College of Medicine; Samuel Asvinsathav, Mayo Clinic; William Bachovchin, Tufts University; George Barany, University of Minnesota; Randall Bateman, Washington University in St. Louis; Eric Beckman, University of Pittsburgh; Gary H. Bernstein, University of Notre Dame; Matt A. Bernstein, Mayo Clinic; Vaungh Betz, University of Toronto; Bir Bhanu, University of California; Riverside Venkat Bhethanabotla, University of South Florida; Ronald Biediger, Texas Heart Institute; Alexandra Boitasseva, Purdue University; Donal D.C. Bradley, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Bruce Brancaud, University of Oregon; Daniel Brown, Northwestern University; Susan K. Brown, Cornell University; Scott P. Bruder, Case Western Reserve; University Irwin Chaiken, Drexel University; V. Chandrasekar, Colorado State University; Chih-hung Chang, Oregon State University; Hsueh-Chia Chang, University of Notre Dame; Ramalingam Chellappa, Johns Hopkins University; Kuan-Neng Chen, National Chiao Tung University; Jianjun Cheng, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ming Chiang, Purdue University; Ki Chon, University of Connecticut; Keith E. Chugg, University of Southern California; Mark Clarke, University of Houston; Jason (Jingsheng) Cong, University of California, Los Angeles; Liming Dai, University of New South Wales; Rajesh Dave, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Valina Dawson, Johns Hopkins University; Nancy DeMore, Medical University;
of South Carolina; Reza Derakhshani, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Robert Desnec, Mount Sinai Health System; Michael Diamond, Washington University in St. Louis; Steven Esrich, H. Lee Mott Cancer Center & Research Institute; Gary Evans, Southern Methodist University; Nabil Jayyousi, The Ohio State University; Charles Glabe, University of California, Irvine; Martin Geave, The University of British Columbia; Michael Goldfarb, Vanderbilt University; Carol Greider, Johns Hopkins University; Paul Hansma, University of California, Santa Barbara; Joseph Harding, Washington State University; William Harris, Massachusetts General Hospital Research Institute; Jibo He, Wichita State University; Sidney Hecht, Arizona State University; Richard Heller, University of South Florida; Paul Hergenrother, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; James Hickman, University of Central Florida; Rodney JY Ho, University of Washington; Eric Holmes, Florida State University; David Horsley, University of California, Davis; Tony Jun Huang, Duke University; Scott Hultgren, Washington University in St. Louis; Davi Huhn, The University of Texas at Arlington; Laurence Hurley, The University of Arizona; Louis Ignarro, University of California, Los Angeles; Bahram Jalali, University of California, Los Angeles; Susan James, Colorado State University; Nabil Jayyousi, Georgia Institute of Technology; Michael Jewett, Northwestern University; Liza Kurian John, The University of Texas at Austin; Henry Kaptayn, University of Colorado Boulder; Thomas Katsouleas, University of Connecticut; Mark Kay, Stanford University; Michael Keidar, The George Washington University; Mark Kendall, Australian National University; Michael Kessler, North Dakota State University; Nicholas Kotov, University of Michigan; Konstantin Kousoulis, Louisiana State University; Boris Kovatchev, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Kay-Chieh "Jay" Lee, University of Southern California; Hoi-Sing Kwok, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Michael Libbey, Glyndwr University in Wales, UK; Pooi See Lee, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Xiuling Li, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lany James, Emory University; James Lillard, Morehouse School of Medicine; Chwee Teck Lim, National University of Singapore; Julia Ljubimova, Terasaki Institute for Medical Innovation; Laurie Locascio, University of Maryland; Gerald Loeb, University of Southern California; Davide Luazzi, Northeastern University; Hongbin Ma, University of Missouri-Columbia; Anant Madabhushi, Case Western Reserve University; Duncan J. Maitland, Texas A&M University; Tadeusz Malinski, Ohio University; John Mauro, The Pennsylvania State University; Bill McCartney, Texas A&M University; Donald McDonnell, Duke University; John McGlone, Texas Tech University; Richard Melker, University of Florida; Anton Middelberg, University of Adelaide, Australia; Richard Miles, Texas A&M University; Charles Mistretta, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jin Kim Moon, New York University; Margaret Murane, University of Colorado Boulder; Mitzi Nagarkatti, University of South Carolina; Vijaykrishan Narayanan, The Pennsylvania State University; Denise Ney, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Robert A. Norwood, The University of Arizona; Thomas O’Halloran, Northwestern University; Ann Palmenberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Eleftherios Papoutsakis, University of Delaware; Keshab Parhi, University of Minnesota; Norbert Pecl, Stanford University; Vr. V. Phoha, Syracuse University; Peter Picdoe, Virginia Commonwealth University; Leonard Pinchuk, University of Miami; Ralph Pollier, Louisiana State University; Behnam Pourdeyhimi, North Carolina State University; David Puleo, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; David Putnam, Cornell University; Si Zhao (Joe) Qin, City University of Hong Kong; Tariq Rana, University of California, San Diego; Thomas Ranney, North Carolina State University; Vipanpran Ravi, California Polytechnic State University; E. Premkumar Reddy, Mount Sinai Health System; Elsa Reichmanis, Lehigh University; Martin Richardson, University of Central Florida; Nappathil Rische, Florida International University; Michael A. Rogawski, University of California, Davis; Jannick Rolland, University of Rochester; Jose Francisco Rosasgol, University of South Florida; Ashutosh Sabharwal, Rice University; Joshua Sakon, University of Arkansas; Ravi Sandhu, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Edward Schuchman, Mount Sinai Health System; Gregory Schultz, University of Florida; Yang Shao-Horn, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Arlene Sharpe, Harvard University; Rahul Shrivastav, University of Georgia; Sachdev Sidhu, University of Toronto; Larry Sklar, The University of New Mexico; Daniel K. Sodickson, New York University; David Stephens, Emory University; Szymon Suckewer, Princeton University; TimothySwager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Nongjian Tao, Arizona State University; Nitish Thakor, Johns Hopkins University; Abil E. Titus, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York; John Trent, University of Louisville; Van N. Truskett, The University of Texas at Austin; Din-Ping Tsai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Ranji Vaidyanathan, Oklahoma State University; George Varghese, University of California, Los Angeles; John Volakis, Florida International University; Luis Von Ahn, Carnegie Mellon University; Bipin Vora, Illinois Institute of Technology; Haiyan Wang, Purdue University; Lihong Wang, California Institute of Technology; Joyce Y. Wong, Boston University; Neal Woodbury, Arizona State University; Han-Chung Wu, Academia Sinica; Changhuei Yang, California Institute of Technology; Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary; Ling Zang, The University of Utah; Feng Zhang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Yi Zhang, University of California, San Diego; Jia Zhou, The University of Texas Medical Branch; MengChu Zhou, New Jersey Institute of Technology; S. Kevin Zhou, Chinese Academy of Sciences & The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

DOO WOP DRIVE-IN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about the nostalgic Doo Wop Drive-In and its founder, Jason Kramer. Doo Wop Drive-In is located in Wildwood Crest, South Jersey and was established last year. I had the pleasure of meeting Jason a couple of weeks ago, and his hard work and dedication to his theater should be an inspiration to all. Jason had the idea of owning a drive-in theater since he was a kid. He loves movies and remembers the good times of going to a drive-in with his family. Jason closes off the parking lot for the drive-in and people will bring chairs, blankets, coolers, and anything else that will make their experience special. Doo Wop Drive-In allows people to bring their own food and drinks, but the movie is free, and popcorn is also provided. Jason wanted to open a drive-in so it could be enjoyed by his community. He wanted to make the experience very affordable and a fun place for families to bring their children. It is people like Jason who make me proud to be from South Jersey and proud to have the opportunity to represent the South Jersey community. God Bless Jason and his family and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING FRICION SCIENCE, INC. AND GOODYEAR BRAKE’S SUPPORT OF “BUY AMERICAN”

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Friction Science, Inc. and Goodyear Brakes’ contribution and support to a thriving domestic manufacturing sector and the “Buy American” initiative.

With 50 years of service, Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Science Inc., headquartered in Tappahannock, Virginia employs more than 150 local residents and contributes significantly to the local economy. Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Sciences Inc. continue to do their part to ensure a strong domestic manufacturing workforce.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in congratulating Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Science Inc. on their monumental effort to build brake pads and shoes in the United States and support the goal of “Buy American.”

RECOGNIZING THE MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASE-BALL TEAM AND COACH THOMPSON

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the McLennan Community College baseball team recently won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Championship. The Highlanders capped their season with a victory over reigning champion Central Florida by a score of 8-2 at Suplizio Field in Lake Butler since he was a kid. He loves movies and remembers the good times of going to a drive-in with his family. Jason closes off the parking lot for the drive-in and people will bring chairs, blankets, coolers, and anything else that will make their experience special. Doo Wop Drive-In allows people to bring their own food and drinks, but the movie is free, and popcorn is also provided. Jason wanted to open a drive-in so it could be enjoyed by his community. He wanted to make the experience very affordable and a fun place for families to bring their children. It is people like Jason who make me proud to be from South Jersey and proud to have the opportunity to represent the South Jersey community. God Bless Jason and his family and God Bless America.
Texas, this was the team’s first appearance in the finals since 2015 and its second national championship in baseball, with the first coming in 1983. The Highlanders are led by head coach Mitch Thompson, my brother-in-law. For Thompson, who has had a long and distinguished baseball career, this was his first national championship. Thompson played college baseball at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, where he twice earned academic all-conference honors and served as team captain as a senior. Following his graduation from Fort Hays and Thompson started his coaching career. Prior to being named the head coach at McLennan in 2013, Thompson served as an assistant at Mississippi State University, Radford University, Auburn University, and Baylor University. Additionally, he was a scout for the Kansas City Royals organization in 2013. Throughout his coaching career, Thompson has become widely respected as a recruiter and evaluator of talent. I want to congratulate Coach Thompson and his team on their fantastic season. Coming off a year in which the baseball season was cut short, this season provided unique challenges and was unlike any other the players had previously experienced. I am proud of the McLennan team and all that the Highlanders accomplished this year by bringing home the top prize in junior college baseball.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE KERR FROM WHEELER MISSION

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader Steve Kerr. Steve is retiring after 28 years of service to Wheeler Mission, a ministry that has been serving Hoosiers for over 128 years, including two locations in my district.

Steve has been with Wheeler since November 22, 1993. He began his role as the Capital Campaign Director and then moved into the Director of Development role. He has built a strong legacy that has impacted thousands of lives, went from three staff members to now twenty-two who make sure the needs of residents, staff, donors and volunteers are met daily. In 2003 Steve had the vision to bring run-walk events to Wheeler Mission, and the lives he has and will continue to impact due to his legacy.

HONORING AVERY ALIVES OF TURKEY HILL SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony and parade to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit artwork that reflects the special meaning of Memorial Day. One of these submissions is chosen as the cover art for the community’s Memorial Day program. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the artwork by Avery Alives of Turkey Hill School, the student whose artwork was selected for the program cover. I only wish that I could submit the actual artwork. Avery did a wonderful job and I will try to do it justice with this description. On a white background, blue block letters spell out “Orange, CT”; in black just below “Memorial Day”; block red letters spell “Parade”; at the center of the page is a beautifully rendered bald eagle clutching an American flag in its talons; just below scripted in black are the words “Never Forget” and the final line, once again blocked in blue lettering, is “E’er Honor.” For one so young, Avery’s artwork is a stirring reminder of why we gather each year to pay homage to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Avery Alives for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

DEKON FASHAW, SR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about an inspiring citizen of Cape May, New Jersey—Dekon Fashaw, Sr. Back in February, he became the first Black police chief for the City of Cape May. Before becoming police chief, Dekon was with the Cape May Police Department for 22 years. Throughout his career, he longed to be a police officer because he felt that it was important for a man of color to be in the esteemed position to look after his community. Dekon has the support of many behind him, including his predecessor, Anthony Marino. The City of Cape May Mayor Zack Mullok also emphasized how Dekon has brought the community together and desirous to care for people. I have no doubt that Dekon will serve and protect the City of Cape May. He is an exceptional man who has dedicated his life to public service. God Bless him and God Bless America.

HALBERT SULLIVAN

HON. CORI BUSH OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Halbert Sullivan, founder and CEO of Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) who passed away on April 15, 2021. Mr. Sullivan is a shining personification of triumphing over mistakes and using them as a catalyst for change. As the founder of FFSC, Mr. Sullivan was continually recognized for his groundbreaking work in the community, including being awarded with the Gold Pin for the President’s Volunteer Service Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Partnership of Community Leadership, multiple honors from the NAACP, Missouri Association of Social Welfare, Washington University, and many others. In 2017, Mr. Sullivan was also named St. Louis’ Nonprofit Executive of the Year. He was unquestionably a change agent whose work and impact reverberated in the lives of every person he touched. St. Louis has been made lastingly better because of his legacy and he will be sorely and widely missed.

HONORING SHERIFF JOHN ROBERTSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff John Robertson and to recognize his extensive contributions to our community through his leadership in law enforcement.

A California native, Sheriff Robertson was born and raised in Burlingame, California. He went on to attend San Diego State University, where he received his degree in Criminal Justice. Sheriff Robertson began his accomplished career in Law Enforcement at the San Mateo Police Department in 1981. It was there that he established his expertise in Hazardous Materials, Explosives, and Incident Management. Since June 1991, Sheriff Robertson has been with the Napa County Sheriffs Office, where he established himself as a natural leader and resource to the Napa community. Soon after, he began teaching at the Police Academy and Criminal Justice Training Center, where he instructed both Academy Cadets and law enforcement officers on a wide variety of topics.

He became Sheriff of Napa County in 2012 serving for 11 years, including during the terrible earthquake in 2014 and the apocalyptic fires in 2017, 2019, and 2020. Sheriff Robertson’s leadership and innovation has recently led to a pilot program utilizing the European “Hi-Lo” siren in patrol cars for use during evacuations. As a result, departments across California began participating in this program, leading to the passage of Senate Bill 909, which amended the California Vehicle Code to
allow for Sheriff Robertson’s idea to become an industry norm nationwide.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Robertson has never lost sight of the importance of Community Policing. He has tirelessly advocated for programs to improve his community, including bicycle patrols in jurisdictions like Yountville and Sheriff’s Activities League programs in Napa and American Canyon. Serving under the mantra “The less you say, the more people listen,” Sheriff Robertson has established himself as a leader in his community and continues to be a resource to elected officials and department directors alike. His extensive legacy will be continued by his son, Jack, who is serving as Deputy Sheriff in Solano County. I wish my friend, colleague, and cycling partner well in his retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is no doubt that Sheriff Robertson’s achievements will leave a tremendous impact for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CARLA DOLES

HON. JIM BANKS OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Carla Doles. Carla just retired after 44 years of service as a public school teacher and show choir director. All 44 of her years as a teacher were in northeast Indiana.

She was a beloved figure of her community, wielding a profound and lasting influence upon students across two school districts for more than two generations. 27 years of her career were spent at Carroll High School in Fort Wayne; the other 17 at Norwell High School in Ossian.

Carla’s love for her vocation and devotion to her students’ future was evident every single day. That love and devotion inspired the confidence of many of her students to compete in choral and other national competitions across the country.

It was also evident in her desire to create new opportunities for students. Carla helped found the small mixed (men & women) division of show choirs.

I wish Carla the best for all that she has done after a long and distinguished career. This is a testament to her service and selflessness for which Fort Wayne, Ossian and the entirety of our region is grateful.

DANIEL LEVINE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize Daniel Levine, a Mansuia Township Eagle Scout who achieved Scouting’s highest rank. Daniel is a senior at Gloucester County Institute of Technology and is enrolled in their Performing Arts Academy. In the fall, Daniel will be attending Rowan College of South Jersey. For his Eagle Scout Project, Daniel created a sensory path by the playground at Sewell Elementary School. This project provided the children who attended the elementary school the opportunity to do fun activities and work on their gross motor skills. During his time as a Scout, Daniel served as both his Patrol Leader and a Son Chief. Daniel has also earned 35 merit badges as his time as a Scout. Daniel has excelled throughout his time as a scout, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the future.

God Bless Daniel and God Bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JODY HUBBARD

HON. MIKE LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jody Hubbard, a former Encinitas city councilmember, who passed away on June 7, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jody’s life-long dedication to the environment pushed her to serve her community, first as an engaged citizen, then as a Planning Commissioner, and finally as an elected City Council Member and Deputy Mayor of the City of Encinitas from 2018 to 2020. She led the fight for city transportation projects, including a new protected bike lane along Coast Highway 101. She leaves a personal legacy of popular spaces where people walk, run and bike safely, including the Coastal Rail Trail and Leucadia Streetscape.

She was an avid bodysurfer and cyclist, especially around her community of Cardiff by the Sea, along the scenic northern coast of San Diego County. She had an infectious smile and was a crucial member of the Encinitas community.

A Southern California native, Jody started her career as a certified public accountant with large public accounting firms followed by fifteen years as a chief financial officer and vice president of finance in the construction and mortgage industries. She then began her own business to provide long-term care planning to serve families in providing for the care of parents and grandparents.

Jody Hubbard will be long remembered by her mother Joanne, her many friends, and everyone she touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNY JACKSON OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I was absent from one vote on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 176.

HONORING ARMAAN SHRIVASTAV OF RACE BROOK SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community’s three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony.

I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year’s winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Armaan Shrivastav, a student at Race Brook School submitted the following essay:

Why is Memorial Day Celebrated? Unreasoning leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to desire for power. Power leads to war. For war, we need soldiers. So many soldiers die serving their nation. Memorial Day is for remembering those brave soldiers who gave up their lives for their fellow citizens.

Memorial Day is when we honor and remember the brave soldiers. We celebrate Memorial Day to show respect for them. We must thank these soldiers who sacrificed themselves for the country. Memorial Day is a day to bow to them. Many people celebrate this day by going to their family’s graves together and hold a gathering or participate in a parade. New York is the birthplace of Memorial Day. After the Civil War, which claimed many lives, people started decorating graves with flowers. This came to be known as Decoration Day. Since then, people have started giving more importance to this day by visiting soldier’s graves every year, so the government officially announced the last Monday of May as Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of May. This year Memorial Day is on 31st May. We should all honor these brave soldiers, offer flowers to them and remember their selfless service for the nation and what they did for us.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Armaan Shrivastav for his very special contribution to Memorial Day and his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I voted NAY on Roll Call 180 (Passage of H.R. 2062, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021) when I meant to vote YEA. I would like to clarify that my intention was to vote YEA on Roll Call 180.
BROADWAY SCOPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of Broadway Scoops in Pennsville, South Jersey. At the opening, I met Gary and Sabrina Green who opened Broadway Scoops' doors after finding inspiration through their love for ice cream. The entire shop was constructed by local small businesses and the supplies were sourced from local small businesses as well. Gary and Sabrina wanted to create a place where their local community could come in with their families and have a space to try ice cream and relax outdoors. There are picnic tables, checkers, corn hole, and various other games that patrons can come and enjoy free of charge. Gary and Sabrina told me how the support from their local community has been overwhelming and friends and family have traveled across the country to support their business. It is amazing to see South Jersey small business prosper, and I wish Gary and Sabrina the best of luck in their new venture. God Bless Gary and Sabrina and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call vote No. 180 on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021, RC No. 180.

The Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act would overturn a 2009 Supreme Court ruling on the basis that the decision negatively impacted age discrimination cases; however, there is no data to support that claim. In fact, this legislation would eliminate the carefully balanced standard Congress adopted when it passed the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and result in frivolous litigation against small businesses.

Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: represent Hoosiers of the 6th District.

GO FOR BROKE STAMP

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to recognize and honor . . . a stamp.

A stamp just issued by the U.S. Postal Service that, with stunning simplicity, remembers, recognizes and honors one of the most remarkable and inspirational stories in the whole of our country’s history.

A story of tragedy, perseverance and triumph that is so quintessentially American, that goes so deeply to our essence, that offers the most fundamental lessons that we must never forget.

And that is the point of this stamp: that we never forget the story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War Two and their famous motto which is its own lesson: Go For Broke.

For many of us, the story is well known and has instructed and inspired our own lives. But for a growing number of our fellow citizens of our country and world it is not, and so permit me a brief retelling.

The story originates in Japan in the late 1800s when largely rural poverty and lack of opportunity drove emigration to the United States, mainly Hawaii and the West Coast, until the Exclusion Act of 1924 ended any substantial further immigration. This first generation, or Issei, were excluded by reason of their race and origin from citizenship, yet they worked and sacrificed and persevered to provide a better life for their children, the second generation, or Nisei, born American citizens.

As World War Two loomed, Americans of Japanese Ancestry were beginning their third generation, or Sansei, in substantial communities, yet they remained largely marginalized because of race. In my Hawaii, they constituted over one third of our population, yet largely still labored on plantations or worked in small businesses. The same was true on the West Coast, from Washington through Oregon to San Diego. Some Nisei saw war with Japan coming and sought to enlist in our armed services, but they were largely denied out of race and suspicion and sought to prove themselves through service in the guard or, in Hawaii, the Varsity Victory Volunteers.

Pearl Harbor changed everything. Infamously, over one hundred thousand Japanese were interned for their race, an indelible stain on our national fabric. And after years of Japanese Americans pushing to be allowed to prove their loyalty by enlisting and fighting, the military finally relented with the 100th Infantry Battalion (the One-Puka-Puka), the 442nd regimental Combat Team (“Go For Broke”), the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th General Headquarters Special Troops.

The rest, as they say, is legend. The 100th and 442nd, after enduring great discrimination and great kindness in mainland training camps where Jim Crow was still very much alive, and even as their parents and brothers and sisters were incarcerated by their government, shipped out and fought their way with the U.S. Army from Africa up through Sicily and Italy and the Rhone and into France and the famous Battles of the Yosges and the Bulge and then into German itself where they liberated the concentration camps of the Third Reich.

When it was all over, they had lost so many comrades and had become the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in our nation’s history.

But it was not just for their wartime service that they are remembered, but their faith in and dedication to their country upon their return, itself marked even after all that by racism and discrimination. Many of them went on to careers in public service, like U.S. Senator and Medal Of Honor winner Daniel Inouye and U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga, and many more in business and careers and back in their communities where they quietly fought for the principle that the American dream belonged to all Americans.

What an American story, and for all this we honored them in 2010 with our Congressional Gold Medal. But was that enough; would it all be remembered?

Three Japanese American women in California who themselves had been incarcerated—Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira and Aiko King—thought not, and in 2005 they launched Stamp Our Story to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp in honor and remembrance of the Japanese American soldiers of World War Two. Sixteen long years later, through continued advocacy led in Congress by my Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and my colleagues here now and before—especially U.S. Congressman Mark Takai, himself a Japanese American veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, tragically lost to us—this beautiful and moving stamp, impeccably designed by Antonio Alcala, was issued just weeks ago.

The design is taken from a 1944 photograph in the field of 442nd Private First Class Shiroku ‘Whitey’ Yamamoto, a Nisei born and raised in the plantation village of Ninole on the Hamakua Coast of my home island of Hawaii. His service included the famous rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion in the Vosges, when the 442nd’s casualties far exceeded the number of their mostly white comrades rescued. Legend has it that the motto “Go For Broke”—or in our pidgin go fo broke—originated in Hawaii gambling slang for going big against all odds. The soldier’s face speaks of fatigue, of questions, but above all of Gaman, of perseverance through great adversity to a better place. Such a fitting tribute, so appropriate. And made possible by so many, including colleagues who are here with me today to contribute their own thoughts.

Madam Speaker, we are all grateful for the opportunity to remember and retell the American story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II and to celebrate the lessons of their service and lives through their stamp. To close, I’d like to recite the 442nd’s special song:

Four Forty Second Infantry
We are the boys of Hawai'i nei
We will fight for you
And the red, white and blue
And will go to the front
And back to Honolulu-ulu-ulu
Fighting for dear old Uncle Sam
Go for broke we don't go till we win a damn!
We will round up the huns
At the point of a gun
And the victory will be ours!
Go for broke! Four Forty Two!
Go for broke! Four Forty Two!
And victory will be ours.
Mahalo.

COMMENDING FOURTH DISTRICT STUDENTS ON 2021 UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN
OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two exceptional students of Arkansas’ Fourth Congressional District. These two young men recently accepted appointments into United States Service Academies,
COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEVATION OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. DARIN LAHOOD OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on the historic 30th Anniversary of his election on October 22, 1991, and his elevation on November 2, 1991, as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born in the village of Zeytinli on the island of Imbros to Christos and Merope Archontinos. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew belongs to the historically indigenous Rum people, descendents of the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire Greek community in Turkey. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized in the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world peace, greater religious understanding, and respect for the Earth’s environment. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, with a significant population here in Illinois and the City of Chicago. On his first official visit to the United States in 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the Congressional Gold Medal, presented by the United States on behalf of Congress in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace. His Holiness was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for a very small number of world leaders. I am grateful for all the good that His All Holiness does for Americans and those around the world. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew serves as a reminder to us all that the positive efforts of just one person can be beneficial to countless lives of others.

CLARIFICATION TO REPRESENTATIVE LIZ CHENEY’S COMMENTS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I think, and what I think the record will establish as errors pertaining to my inquiry into circumstances surrounding the killing of Ashli Babbitt. There are rules of decorum in the House of Representatives. In debate, members are to “avoid characterizing another Member’s personal intent or motives or discussing personalities.” Another rule is that members are to “refrain from speaking disrespectfully of the Speaker, other Members.” When made on the floor, such disrespectful behavior and boorish conduct is subject to objection to take down the words. But no such process applies when made on a separate video. In that case, injudicious and baseless statements are made about one member by another off the floor. So, I take this opportunity now to address and correct the incorrect statements tendered by Rep. LIZ CHENEY, the now former conference chair. On June 16, 2021, Rep. CHENEY Tweeted the following: “On January 6, as the violent mob advanced on the House chamber, I was standing near @RepGosar and helped him open his gas mask. That led us to safety. It is disgusting and despicable to see Gosar lie about that day and smear the men and women who defended us.” First, I did not wear a gas mask on January 6. Second, at no time have I “smearred” any of the men and women who defended us” nor did I “lie about that day.” What I have done is ask questions and demanded transparency. I did express concerns over the actions of one Capitol Police officer, the one who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt. Merely questioning the actions of one officer does not equal to questioning (much less “smearing”) “all the “men and women who defended us”, as stated by Ms. CHENEY. This is a false comparison and not true at all. I will not be intimidated by false implications. I will continue to seek transparency and find out why, who, and how the officer that killed Ashli Babbitt did what he did. There could be good, solid reasons for using lethal force at that moment. Perhaps he thought Ashli was armed with a knife, a bat, or a gun. Maybe he simply panicked. Unfortunately, with the evidence currently released, we have one video (taken by a CNN collaborator who, while filming for CNN, urged people to “burn” the Capitol and that video does not show a gun, a bat, or any weapon whatsoever. The video simply shows an unarmed woman starting to climb a window. If there is evidence to the contrary, I have called for its immediate release. I call for all the evidence, all video from that day, whether it incriminates or exonerates. The goal, my goal, is truth. I have maintained my demand for release of all surveillance video. As it stands, all the American public has, in terms of evidence, is that (1) Ashli Babbitt was in the process of a misdemeanor (entering federal property without permission); (2) Ashli was unarmed; (3) Ashli was a 14-year military veteran who loved her country, the Constitution, and wanted election integrity; (4) no verbal instructions or warnings were given; (5) no escalation of force continuum was considered or used prior to using lethal force; and (6) no aid was rendered by the officer once he killed Ashli. All of these factors suggest an unlawful use of force, and the American public has a right to find out if that is true. Getting to the bottom of this incident is not an indictment of all Capitol police officers and such a suggestion is not logical or fact based. I have spoken to law enforcement experts. I have watched the only video that is publicly available of the shooting of Ashli Babbitt. The officer that shot Ms. Babbitt is seen on the video hiding in a vestibule. All that can be seen are his hands holding a loaded side arm pointing at Ms. Babbitt. For approximately 14 seconds. The only video available shows no verbal or non-verbal warnings. No effort to tell Ms. Babbitt not to climb through the window. No effort to push her back or use non-lethal force of any type. Rather, after hiding in a vestibule and aiming for Ms. Babbitt, the officer fired a round from the side, killing Ms. Babbitt. Thus, this officer went from “officer presence” straight to lethal control, and skipped verbal commands, soft controls, hard controls.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes because I was under medical care. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 173, YEA on Roll Call No. 174; NAY on Roll Call No. 175; NAY on Roll Call No. 176; NAY on Roll Call No. 177; NAY on Roll Call No. 178; YEA on Roll Call No. 179; and NAY on Roll Call No. 180.
and intermediate weapons. The jump to lethal force needs to be fully reviewed and investigated. At present, it does not appear justified. If there is justification, release the evidence investigated. At present, it does not appear justified. If there is justification, release the evidence needed to review and investigate the circumstances.

One law enforcement expert I talked to described this as lying in wait to shoot someone and a criminal offense. This was not acceptable police work. I reject the comment that one must either support every police officer 100 percent of the time or be “against” law enforcement, or to quote my colleague, to “smear” all police officers everywhere. Such notions are not worthy of serious discussion. I put my record of support for law enforcement up for comparison to anyone. But support need not be blind . . . or stupid. I can take issue with a bad cop. I can take issue with a bad killing. To see this swept under the rug under some false pretext of “he was protecting Congress” is as ridiculous as it is insulting. Using that logic, no police officer would ever be challenged on any killing—“He was trying to uphold the law.” Using this logic, that would end the inquiry. That is not how our laws work.

Life is not that simple. The law of self-defense and the defense of others is based on the circumstances. Was the attacker armed? Did the officer have time to use non-lethal force? Was there backup? Was the suspect warned or commanded? What exactly was the risk? Trespassing is different than a risk of assault or murder. In this case, Ashli may or may not have been trespassing. I say this only because depending on what door she went through, or where she was in the Capitol on January 6th were literally invited in by the guards. But assuming she was trespassing, did she pose an imminent risk of death to the officer or someone else? This unarmed 110-pound woman, who was draped in a flag and adorable and visit as many national parks as possible. The Hamden Heroes Committee decided to pay tribute to the frontline workers in their community—our police, fire and emergency medical response personnel; our health department and public works employees; our teachers, nurses, and doctors; our gas station attendants, grocery workers, and convenience store workers; our certified nurse assistants and all those who provide care for those in the community who are older; our childcare providers who help struggling families to make ends meet; and our farmers and food distribution staff who literally are the ones putting food on our tables. Despite the risks, these frontline workers showed up and did their jobs while many of us worked comfortably from home.

These past fifteen months have been extremely challenging, but their dedication to their jobs and the Hamden community never wavered. Every day, they got up and committed their time and talent to serve the people of Hamden. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. They have my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all they do, and we are deeply grateful for all their sacrifices. Their selfless and courageous service helped make it possible for us to get through these tough times. For that, and so much more, we thank them.

At the conclusion of the event, the Hamden Heroes Committee honored the elected officials that attended the event. They asked for the day to be declared “Hamden Heroes Day” and their elected leaders help spread the word to other communities in the hopes that they too will join in thanking the essential workers. It is my hope that by honoring Hamden Heroes Day, I can do some small part in encouraging communities across the Nation to come together as well.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF KATHLEEN “KITTY” HILL KUNZ OF BOISE, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathleen “Kitty” Hill Kunz. Kitty worked as my regional director in Pocatello, Idaho. Kitty always had a smile and a compliment for everyone. She was cheerful and hard working even as she battled an incurable cancer for many years. Kitty raised five beautiful children with her husband Kent Kunz in Pocatello and later they moved to Boise.

She was politically active and her love for our country ran deep. She worked for three Congressmen, ran numerous campaigns, and served as an attaché at the Idaho State Legislature. She was active in Republican groups both in Pocatello and Boise and served for a decade as the secretary of the Idaho Republican Central Committee. She also served faithfully as president of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women. She helped found the Connor Academy in Pocatello, which is named after her grandson, and served as a member of the Idaho Charter School Commission.

When she was diagnosed with cancer, she said she wanted to get a red Mustang convertible and visit as many national parks as possible. Kitty did just that and she and Kent visited almost every national park in the western United States.

Her cheerful disposition, smile, laugh, and hugs will be treasured memories for all who knew her. She served her family, country, and the second congressional district of Idaho for many years.

My wife, Kathy and I, offer our deepest sympathies to Kitty’s family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. I will forever be grateful for Kitty’s tireless service. Truly, so many of us are better people for having known Kitty Kunz. We will miss her, but know her good work continues in heaven.
CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I’m proud to join my fellow members of the Equality Caucus in celebrating Pride Month and the progress our country has made in securing equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As we recognize our progress, we must keep fighting because the LGBTQ+ community has yet to be granted full equality.

Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising, the now-famous targeting of the gay community at the Stonewall Inn by police in New York City in June 1969. In the subsequent four decades since Stonewall, LGBTQ+ individuals can serve openly in the military, same-sex couples can wed, and the Supreme Court has upheld certain federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Much work remains to be done. Transgender individuals still face high levels of violence. Federal, state, and local laws still allow many forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. And just last week in Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, the Supreme Court found that anti-LGBTQ+ religious objections can override a government agency’s policies to ensure equality. While the case focused on same-sex couples adopting children, it could have much broader ramifications.

For all these reasons, I’m proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which extends anti-discrimination provisions in federal law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. I’m proud that the House passed this legislation on a bipartisan vote of 224 to 206 on February 25, 2021. I urge the Senate to take up this legislation and send it to the President’s desk as soon as possible.

As we celebrate Pride Month, let us also remember the victims of anti-LGBTQ+ hate, mourn the loss of loved ones whose lives were lost in the battle against HIV/AIDS, and reaffirm our commitment to fighting for an America where all are equal, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California’s 24th Congressional District. She is a community member like Sojourner that make Santa Barbara County special, and it is hard to put into words all of her contributions to our community. She is a poet, playwright, environmental educator, and cultural and peace activist. She is known for her work raising awareness of our diverse cultural history throughout the county and is heavily involved as a guiding elder for Juneteenth Santa Barbara and Healing Justice Santa Barbara organizations.

In 2015 Sojourner was named Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara and served a two-year term. As a self-defined “public poet,” she is invited to compose and present poems for numerous special occasions. She is a two-time recipient of the California Arts Council’s Artist-in-Residence program and for nearly 30 years has led poetry workshops throughout the West Coast. Since 1997, she has engaged young poets through her “Song of Place Poetry Project” and her work with the City at Peace, Speak for the Creeks, California Poets in the Schools, Poetry OutLoud, and the MLK Poetry and Essay Contest.

Sojourner is the glue that connects community members. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice with emphasis in Juvenile Delinquency and a J.D., but she is a teacher at heart, always ready to teach and inspire the community at large. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Sojourner for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of Santa Barbara County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California’s 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California’s 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

Tribute to Sojourner Kincaid Rolle—California’s 24th Congressional Women of the Year

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Woman of the Year Award recipient, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, of Santa Barbara, California.

It is community members like Sojourner that make Santa Barbara County special, and it is hard to put into words all of her contributions to our community. She is a poet, playwright, environmental educator, and cultural and peace activist. She is known for her work raising awareness of our diverse cultural history throughout the county and is heavily involved as a guiding elder for Juneteenth Santa Barbara and Healing Justice Santa Barbara organizations.

In 2015 Sojourner was named Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara and served a two-year term. As a self-defined “public poet,” she is invited to compose and present poems for numerous special occasions. She is a two-time recipient of the California Arts Council’s Artist-in-Residence program and for nearly 30 years has led poetry workshops throughout the West Coast. Since 1997, she has engaged young poets through her “Song of Place Poetry Project” and her work with the City at Peace, Speak for the Creeks, California Poets in the Schools, Poetry OutLoud, and the MLK Poetry and Essay Contest.

Sojourner is the glue that connects community members. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice with emphasis in Juvenile Delinquency and a J.D., but she is a teacher at heart, always ready to teach and inspire the community at large. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Sojourner for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of Santa Barbara County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California’s 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary for her years of service. St. Louis has been enriched because of your contributions.

HON. CORI BUSH
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary Johnson, a recently retired educator. Ms. Johnson has led a life of service and true love of community. She has spent several successful years teaching and serving in administrative roles in schools around the region. Shortly after beginning her teaching career, Johnson enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

In 1994, Ms. Johnson ran for the Jennings School Board on the platform that children needed to receive breakfast at school. She was successfully elected and has now just completed her 27th and final year on the board. Jennings Junior High was recently renamed Johnson Jennings Junior high school in her honor.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California’s 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I had the honor to meet Anthony and Michael Zeg, two gay teenagers from New Jersey. Both Anthony and Michael were awarded their Eagle Scout rank this year, and I had the privilege of attending their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. In order to meet the rank of Eagle Scout, they must participate in community service for their Eagle Scout project. Anthony and Michael Zeg completed their project at the American Legion Post in Atco, NJ where each of them spent over 100 hours repairing and painting the building. Anthony is a senior in high school and is attending Gloucester County Institute of Technology studying HVAC and also interns for two different HVAC companies. Michael plans on attending college to study engineering and will be interning for an engineering company this summer. Both of these boys have a bright future ahead of them and I wish them nothing but success. God Bless Anthony and Michael and God Bless America.

HON. ROSE MARY JOHNSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary Johnson, a recently retired educator. Ms. Johnson has led a life of service and true love of community. She has spent several successful years teaching and serving in administrative roles in schools around the region. Shortly after beginning her teaching career, Johnson enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

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Ms. JOHNSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary for her years of service. St. Louis has been enriched because of your contributions.

HON. HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I had the honor to meet Anthony and Michael Zeg, two gay teenagers from New Jersey. Both Anthony and Michael were awarded their Eagle Scout rank this year, and I had the privilege of attending their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. In order to meet the rank of Eagle Scout, they must participate in community service for their Eagle Scout project. Anthony and Michael Zeg completed their project at the American Legion Post in Atco, NJ where each of them spent over 100 hours repairing and painting the building. Anthony is a senior in high school and is attending Gloucester County Institute of Technology studying HVAC and also interns for two different HVAC companies. Michael plans on attending college to study engineering and will be interning for an engineering company this summer. Both of these boys have a bright future ahead of them and I wish them nothing but success. God Bless Anthony and Michael and God Bless America.

HON. HON. TROY HOLLINGSWORTH
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, in honor of President Michael McRobbie’s upcoming retirement from Indiana University, I am proud to recognize his outstanding record of leadership and service to higher education. Serving nearly 14 years as president, McRobbie is among the country’s longest-serving presidents of a public higher education institution. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

Throughout his tenure, President McRobbie has worked to ensure IU remained an academically competitive and excellent institution. Under his leadership, President McRobbie prioritized building curriculums that were highly responsive to the evolving needs of its students, the Hoosier state, and industries.

HON. HON. MICHAEL M CROBBIE
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CROBBIE. Madam Speaker, in honor of President Michael McRobbie’s upcoming retirement from Indiana University, I am proud to recognize his outstanding record of leadership and service to higher education. Serving nearly 14 years as president, McRobbie is among the country’s longest-serving presidents of a public higher education institution. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E695

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Milton V. Peterson of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Peterson passed away on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the age of 85 surrounded by his family. The founder of Peterson Cos., Mr. Peterson will long be remembered for his outsized impact on developing numerous major projects across the Washington, D.C. region. He developed some of the most successful and award-winning mixed-use retail, residential and office developments in Northern Virginia. In addition to being a visionary developer, Peterson and his wife, Carolyn established the Peterson Family Foundation, donating more than $100 million to area charities.

Mr. Peterson was a thoughtful, hardworking, and passionate individual who greatly contributed to countless lives in Northern Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in memory of Mr. Milt Peterson. He will be profoundly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I missed Roll Call vote 180. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 2062.

CONGRATULATING THE PROSPECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROŠA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members gathered to add my congratulations to the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, Connecticut as they mark the 75th Anniversary of this very special organization.

Incorporated on September 11, 1945, the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department was founded and continues today as an all-volunteer effort. Over the course of its history, the department has grown and re-shaped itself to meet the changing needs of the community, but at its core has always been dedicated members of the community answering the call and living up to their motto—"neighbors helping neighbors." Indeed, many of those who volunteer today are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations of the Department’s original members.

And it is not just their volunteer efforts when it comes to combating fires. From the dollars raised to buy their first fire truck to the construction of the Department’s first building, to their most recent equipment purchases, the Department and its volunteer members depend more on the generosity of their neighbors and their community than they do on the annual town budget. As their written history accounts, “from the first dances at the old Chapel School House, through suppers, fire-sales, “dollar a month club”, Clyde Beatty Circus, and Carnival, the department has earned its own way. While a small amount of the expenses has been born by the town, fire coverage to equal that furnished by the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department would have cost the town thousands of dollars."

It is that spirit and deep sense of community that is what makes the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department such a unique and special organization. As the Prospect community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Prospect residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today’s celebration marks the 75th Anniversary of the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. This courageous and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what they do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

ABSECON DOG SHOW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize a group of innovative children in South Jersey who thought of and started the Absecon Dog Show. In 2018, Grace Marzick came up with the idea to create a dog show for mixed breeds. Grace then told her friend Zoey about her idea, so Zoey decided to form a committee with a group of their friends. On May 23rd, they held their 3rd annual dog show. Grace, Zoey, and their friends went around town and received sponsorships from local businesses to help fund the event. They even made posters and hung them up all over Absecon in South Jersey to advertise the event. This year’s event had the largest turnout with 51 dogs making an appearance in the show. All of the proceeds raised from the Absecon Dog Show are donated to the Humane Society of Atlantic County. For their first event in 2018 they raised $600, in 2019 they raised $2,100 and so far this year they have raised $2,500. These students are remarkable, running this event solely by themselves. This group of extraordinary students have a bright future ahead of them and I commend them on their dedication and community service. God Bless Grace, Zoey, and their friends, and God Bless America.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MILT PETERSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members gathered to add my congratulations to the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, Connecticut as they mark the 75th Anniversary of this very special organization.

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Today’s celebration marks the 75th Anniversary of the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. This courageous and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what they do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING MENDENHALL HIGH SCHOOL AS THE MISSISSIPPI 2020 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), which is part of the ACT’s Center for Equity in Learning, is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. About 3.7 million students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have been served, submitting nearly 6 million college applications since the campaign’s inception in 2005.

ACAC gives a School of Excellence award for each state, and I’m proud to recognize Mendenhall High School as the 2020 School of Excellence award winner for Mississippi. Mendenhall High School was selected “based on its demonstrated commitment to student success, timely submission of data, and serving as an exemplary model for our state’s application campaign,” according to ACAC.

As its selection for this prestigious award demonstrates, Mendenhall High School creates unique opportunities that have positive and lasting impacts on the lives of its students. Because of the hard work of teachers, staff, and administration, Mendenhall High School students are better equipped to pursue higher education or become leaders in their communities in the future.

I am personally thankful for Mendenhall High School’s efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, who are the future leaders of our state and country, is a crucial component of our society. I congratulate Mendenhall High School once more on being selected for this outstanding award and encourage the school’s administration to continue this wonderful work, which is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

CONGRATULATING THE PROSPECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROŠA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many
Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community’s three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year’s winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Chloe Chang, a student at Peck Place School submitted the following essay:

We dress in red, white, and blue, attend parades, and honor the men and women who have fallen in the Civil War. This holiday has been around for 182 years, and we still donate money, coupons, and flowers to the perished soldiers. Their sacrifices have allowed them to serve their country, putting the welfare of others before their own. How can we repay them? We can give a moment of silence, visit their burial ground, and learn about their history.

The holiday started in 1868, where North America was fighting to end slavery, and South America was fighting to preserve slavery. The war to end slavery lasted for over 4 years, and Robert E. Lee finally capitulated the last Confederate Soldiers to General Ulysses S. Grant. “Decoration Day” was declared by General John A. Logan in 1868. In “Decoration Day”, flowers are laid on war graves in honor of the deceased. Memorial Day holiday was declared a national holiday in 1971 to honor those who have died in all American wars.

The Union Army has contributed immensely to our lives, and the least we can do is say a little thank you. The invaluable changes they made upon our history is indescribable, and we are forever indebted to them. These brave men and women have done much for their fatherland by sacrificing their own lives, and we continue to honor them on May 31, Memorial Day.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Chloe Chang for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.
Thursday, June 24, 2021

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1251, Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S4735–S4799

Measures Introduced: One hundred four bills and fourteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2203–2306, S. Res. 284–296, and S. Con. Res. 10.

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 67, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison.

S. Res. 107, expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the 10th anniversary of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

S. Res. 165, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 176, urging all parties in Georgia to seek prompt implementation of the agreement signed on April 19, 2021, and reaffirming the support of the Senate for Georgia, the territorial integrity of Georgia, and the aspirations of Georgians to join the Euro-Atlantic community, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 14, to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate foreign persons engaged in grand corruption for inclusion as specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 65, to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 89, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 93, to amend the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to modify the foreign persons subject to sanctions and to remove the sunset for the imposition of sanctions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 189, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment.

S. 1041, to advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1061, to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2000, to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.
Measures Passed:

Growing Climate Solutions Act: By 92 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 251), Senate passed S. 1251, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to reduce barriers to entry for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain voluntary markets, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Rejected:

By 11 yeas to 89 nays (Vote No. 250), Lee Amendment No. 2119, in the nature of a substitute.

Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act: Senate passed S. 1662, to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act: Senate passed S. 2255, to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month.

Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act: Senate passed S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

CASA/GAL Volunteers’ Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 219, designating May 18, 2021, as “CASA/GAL Volunteers’ Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

National Dairy Month: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 268, expressing support for the designation of June 2021 as “National Dairy Month” to recognize the important role dairy plays in a healthy diet and the exceptional work of dairy producers in being stewards of the land and livestock, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Honoring the Memory of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Durbin (for Kelly) Amendment No. 2120, to amend the preamble.

National Cybersecurity Education Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 279, designating June 21, 2021 through June 25, 2021, as “National Cybersecurity Education Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Indian Veterans’ Home 125th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 284, recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Indiana Veterans’ Home.

Collector Car Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 292, designating July 9, 2021, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day” and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Senate agreed to S. Res. 293, designating June 26, 2021, as the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking”.

Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1095, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program, and the bill was then passed.

Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act: Senate agreed to S. Res. 285, recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Indian Veterans’ Home.

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public-Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senators Rubio, Lankford, Cotton, and Daines.

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the
following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 11 a.m.; Monday, July 5, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 8, 2021, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Zeya Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, June 24, 2021, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021; and that cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Su Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 252), Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Dawn Myers O’Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

Christine Abizaid, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection).

Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services.

134 Army nominations in the rank of general.
2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
13 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

David Uejio, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

M. Camille Calimlim Touton, of Nevada, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

Christi A. Grimm, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Ismael N. Ahmed, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Kinan Azmeh, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.
Stacey Michelle Brandenburg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2025.

Constance Hess Williams, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Kamilah Forbes, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Robert Garcia, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023.

Huascar Medina, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Christopher Kauai Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Fiona Whelan Prine, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Jake Shimabukuro, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Laura Daniel-Davis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Raymond A. Limon, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2025.

Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Privileges of the Floor: Page S4789
Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—252) Pages S4739–40, S4748
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:34 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page (S4796)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Thomas W. Harker, Acting Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES
Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration on atomic energy defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, and Charles Verdon, Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, National Nuclear Security Administration, both of the Department of Energy.

HOUSING LEGISLATION
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine bipartisan bills to increase access to housing, including S. 1991, to authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children, S. 1820, to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program, S. 1614, to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, S. 2049, to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking, S. 2092, to
permanently authorize the Native Community Development Financial Institutions lending program of the Department of Agriculture, S. 2131, to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, S. 2182, to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a national evictions database, S. 2179, to provide grants to owners of intergenerational dwelling units, S. 2190, to establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis, S. 1860, to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and S. 598, to authorize additional monies to the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Lisa Mensah, Opportunity Finance Network, Nan Roman, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and Howard Husock, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

**NOMINATIONS**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, who was introduced by Senator Blumenthal, Karen Jean Hedlund, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Robert Cornelius Hampshire, of Michigan, and Carol Annette Personek, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

**ENERGY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the infrastructure needs of the U.S. energy sector, western water, and public lands, including an original bill to invest in the energy and outdoor infrastructure of the United States to deploy new and innovative technologies, update existing infrastructure to be reliable and resilient, and secure energy infrastructure against physical and cyber threats, after receiving testimony from Kathleen Hogan, Acting Under Secretary, Office of Under Secretary for Science and Energy, Department of Energy; Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior; Christopher French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Collin O'Mara, National Wildlife Federation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Mark P. Mills, Manhattan Institute, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

**NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES IN WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS**

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of natural and nature-based features in water resources projects, after receiving testimony from Todd S. Bridges, Senior Research Scientist, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; Gerald E. Galloway, University of Maryland, and Julie A. Ufner, National Waterways Conference, both of Arlington, Virginia; Chett Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Cut Off, Louisiana; and Richard M. Johnson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento, California.

**NOMINATIONS**

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sarah Bianchi, of Virginia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Africa, Investment, Services, Textiles, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador, Jayme Ray White, of Washington, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Labor, and Environment), with the rank of Ambassador, and Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was introduced by Representative Neal, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

- S. 65, to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, with an amendment;
- S. 1061, to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Eugene S. Young, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Todd D. Robinson, of
New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), and Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

- S. 807, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings;
- S. 818, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; and
- The nominations of Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and Margaret Irene Strickland, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 56 public bills, H.R. 4112–4167; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 497–498 were introduced. Pages H3131–33

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3135–36

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Gallego to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3085

Recess: The House recessed at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H3091

Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative McCarthy, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following member to the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council: Mrs. Jackie Walorski of Elkhart, Indiana. Page H3094

Recess: The House recessed at 2:47 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. Page H3114


H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.


H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act: The House passed H.R. 239, to amend title 38,
United States Code, to provide for limitations on co-payments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 184.

H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

Senate Referrals: S. 2184 was held at the desk. S. 1251 was held at the desk.

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3094.


Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**Committee Meetings**

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE’S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Department of Defense’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget”. Testimony was heard from Michael J. McCord, Under Secretary of Defense and Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense; and Vice Admiral Ronald A. Boxall, Director of Force Structure, Resources and Assessment (J8), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense.

**EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education”. Testimony was heard from Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education.

**EMPOWERED BY DATA: LEGISLATION TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Empowered by Data: Legislation to Advance Equity and Public Health”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**NATO 2030: A CELEBRATION OF ORIGINS AND AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE**

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber; and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly held a joint hearing entitled “NATO 2030: A Celebration of Origins and an Eye Toward the Future”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**ADVANCING AND PROTECTING LGBTQI+ RIGHTS ABROAD**

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Advancing and Protecting LGBTQI+ Rights Abroad”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**VOTING IN AMERICA: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO VOTE, METHODS OF ELECTION, JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES, AND REDISTRICTING**

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled “Voting in America: A National Perspective on the Right to Vote, Methods of Election, Jurisdictional Boundaries, and Redistricting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 3843, the “Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021”; H.R. 3460, the “State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021”; H.R. 3849, the “ACCESS Act of 2021”; H.R. 3826, the “Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021”; H.R. 3816, the “American Choice and Innovation Online Act”; and H.R. 3825, the “Ending Platform Monopolies Act”. H.R. 3843, H.R. 3460, H.R. 3849, H.R. 3826, H.R. 3816, and H.R. 3825 were ordered reported, as amended.
LEADING BY EXAMPLE: THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PAID LEAVE FOR THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND BEYOND

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Leading by Example: The Need for Comprehensive Paid Leave for the Federal Workforce and Beyond”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING RESEARCH: MOVING FROM STAGGERING STATISTICS TO SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “Plastic Waste Reduction and Recycling Research: Moving from Staggering Statistics to Sustainable Systems”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CMMC IMPLEMENTATION: WHAT IT MEANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “CMMC Implementation: What It Means for Small Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST: AGENCY POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES (PART I)

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request: Agency Policies and Perspectives (Part I)”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; Jaime A. Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of the Army; Jeff Lyash, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority; and Daniel Avila, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Sector, International Boundary and Water Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3967, the “Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021”. H.R. 3967 was ordered reported, as amended.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “National Security Agency Budget Hearing”. Testimony was heard from General Paul Nakasone, Director, National Security Agency, Department of Defense. This hearing was closed.

RETHINKING CONGRESSIONAL CULTURE: LESSONS FROM THE FIELDS OF ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Rethinking Congressional Culture: Lessons from the Fields of Organizational Psychology and Conflict Resolution”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D668)

H.R. 711, to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act. Signed on June 23, 2021. (Public Law 117–18)

H.J. Res. 27, providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Signed on June 23, 2021. (Public Law 117–19)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Next Meeting of the Senate
9 a.m., Monday, June 28

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
9 a.m., Friday, June 25

Program for Friday: Consideration of S.J. Res. 14—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ‘Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review’.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Hollingsworth, Trey, Ind., E689, E694
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