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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG STANTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

WHO PAYS FOR THE WOKE?

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, during the Trump administration, Republicans passed one of the biggest tax cuts in American history and the largest regulatory relief ever. Together, they produced the biggest economic expansion in our lifetimes.

Before the lockdown left took a wrecking ball to our economy, Americans were prospering with the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, the lowest poverty rate in 60 years, and the fastest wage growth in 40 years. For the first time in decades, the income gap was narrowing.

Well, Joe Biden and the Democrats have reversed these policies with reckless abandon, and it is no coincidence that real wages for Americans have declined every single month since he took office.

History is crystal clear on this point: No country has ever taxed, spent, and borrowed its way to prosperity, but many have done so to their ruin.

Brian Riedl tallied up the total cost of the Democrats' new spending bills for the New York Post today and estimates $8 trillion over the next 10 years, more than $60,000 per family. Joe Biden and the Democrats tell us it won't cost you a penny. It will all be paid by somebody else.

But here is the dirty little secret of government spending. Government cannot put a dollar into the economy that it hasn't first taken out of the same economy. Every dollar it gives to you, it must take from you, and there are only three ways to do that: through current taxes, which rob you of your current purchasing power; through borrowing, which robs you of your future purchasing power; or by printing money, which robs you every time you go shopping by reducing the value of your earnings, while it silently hollows out your savings and retirement funds.

Don't fall for their lie that their taxes will only fall on businesses. Businesses don't pay business taxes; you pay business taxes. You pay them as a consumer through higher prices; you pay them as an employee through lower wages; and you pay them as an investor through lower earnings. That is your retirement fund.

You know they are coming after working families because they want to hire 87,000 new IRS agents—87,000 new IRS agents. That is every man, woman, and child living today in Miami Beach, Florida, or Ogden, Utah. Imagine the entire population of one of those cities hired to go after every taxpayer in America.

And get this: The Democrats' so-called American Families Plan will require your bank to report every one of your private transactions over $600 to the IRS—every transaction you make over $600 automatically reported to the IRS.

Does that sound like they are coming after the Biden family? No, they are coming after your family.

If you are typical, you already paid more in taxes last year than you paid for food, clothing, healthcare, and entertainment combined. Yet, according to the Democrats, that is just not enough.

What else do you get for your $60,000 of new taxes and inflation and tax-driven price increases? Well, you get amnesty, legal permanent residence, and a fast track for citizenship for 8 to 10 million foreign nationals who illegally entered our country and demand to stay.

Now, let's just take the lower number, 8 million. That is the entire population of Wyoming, Alaska, Vermont, South Dakota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Montana, and Maine combined—this at a time when real family earnings are declining, crime is increasing, homelessness is rampant, and mounting debt is killing the American Dream of a better future for our children.

Explain to me how American workers are helped by flooding the labor market with low-wage labor.

Of course, the woke ruling class makes out very well. That $60,000 taken from your earnings over the next decade will, for example, pay bonuses of up to $50,000 each for reporters and bloggers across the country who so shamelessly do the Democrats' bidding. There are lavish handouts to Ivy

Printed on recycled paper.

League universities and the fashionable elite who buy $82,000 Teslas.

There is even a new civilian climate corps, presumably filled with officious little climate pioneers ever eager to report whose chimney is smoking, who is watering the lawn on the wrong day, and who is spreading forbidden climate disinformation.

It is easy to make fun of all this until you realize this is about to become law. America, for God's sake, wake up. Our country is on the precipice.

I have just one question for my Democratic colleagues: What makes you think socialism will work any better here than everywhere else it has been tried?

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, my constituent, who was killed in action on August 26, 2021, while serving our Nation in Afghanistan.

Today, I humbly rise to honor his memory in the hope that Americans across the country and future generations will come to know his story.

Corporal Lopez was a selfless young man with an infectious smile who truly lived his life with a larger purpose in mind. That purpose was serving our country and contributing to something greater than himself.

He was born in Palm Springs, California, on January 15, 1999. Growing up in Indio, he possessed a passion for service from a young age. His parents, Herman and Alicia, both public servants with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, instilled in him the courage, kindness, and resolve that led him to join the Marine Corps.

Corporal Lopez was a history buff, an ambitious student, and an avid Star Wars fan with an affinity for quizzing his friends and family on the movie series' trivia.

He was also incredibly thoughtful. He was the kind of person who would take the time, while serving overseas, to write letters to his grandparents in their native Spanish, despite not being fluent himself, just because he knew they would appreciate it.

Corporal Lopez always strived for excellence, and his determination to succeed motivated his friends and those around him to reach their full potential.

After graduating from La Quinta High School and achieving the rank of captain as an Explorer Scout with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Corporal Lopez joined the Marine Corps, where he served for 4 years.

His first 3 years were with the Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Company A, 5th Platoon, before he joined the 2nd Battalion 1st Marine Division, Golf Company, 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad.

It was with the 2nd Battalion that Corporal Lopez served in Operation Allies Refuge, contributing to the largest airlift in history and aiding the evacuation of over 120,000 of our fellow Americans, allies, and Afghan partners, a truly heroic and historic effort.

On August 26, 2021, Corporal Lopez was stationed at the airport in Kabul. That day, under the blazing sun, Corporal Lopez and his fellow marines worked tirelessly to evacuate the thousands of women, children, and families who came to the airport desperately seeking safety, protection, and refuge.

Striving to bring calm to a panicked crowd, Corporal Lopez put the safety of others above his own. As the crowd grew more intense, Corporal Lopez and his fellow marine, Sergeant David Traylor, spotted two young girls, trapped under the weight of a fleeing crowd, about to be crushed.

The two marines successfully pulled the children to safety, saving their lives. They gave each other a fist bump, a very small celebration for an incredible task that they had just achieved. And then the explosion happened.

That day, Corporal Lopez gave his life to save the lives of others. I can't think of anything—anything—more noble than that.

Corporal Lopez saved two lives at the Kabul airport, and because of him, two children now have a future and the promise of a new life, many others reached safety, and many others have a reason to hope.

We lost Corporal Lopez and 12 other servicemembers on August 26. Each and every day since then, the Lopez family and the families of all our Nation's fallen heroes continue to feel their loss. They feel the loss of a loved one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, and they feel the loss of a hero who died serving a purpose larger than themselves.

To the Lopez family, parents, Herman and Alicia; sister, Trinity; and brother, Owen: You are in our constant prayers, and our entire Nation grieves your loss, stands with you, and supports you.

We will continue to tell the story of Hunter's remarkable service, compassion, strength, and valor so that his legacy will live on for generations to come.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague, my Democrat colleague: From west Texas, our heartfelt condolences to Corporal Lopez and his family for that ultimate sacrifice.

I am about to really launch into the debate over the tax-and-spend bill, but we stand united for our troops and for those who are willing to give up their tomorrow, or their today, so that we can have a future in this country.

God bless the Lopez family, and I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

CONGRATULATING WYLIE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a few outstanding members of the next generation of west Texans.

The Wylie Little League baseball team from Abilene, Texas, represented not only District 19 well but the whole State of Texas in the Little League World Series there in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

This team knows what it is like to compete in true west Texas fashion. The success of this team is unprecedented, winning against teams from Washington, New Jersey, and Nebraska.

To the Wylie All-Stars, their proud parents and coaches, and especially Manager Reggie Regala, west Texas is so proud of you, all of your achievements, and your outstanding representation of west Texas and Congressional District 19. Thank you.

Go All-Stars. And God bless west Texas.

A TAX ON EVERY AMERICAN

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, we are, as a Nation, looking down the barrel of the largest tax-and-spend proposal in the history of the United States, this while our Nation suffers from a recession and major runaway inflation on account of policies from my Democrat colleagues to sideline labor by paying people more to be on unemployment than to go to work. So you have labor sidelined, which distorted supply and demand.

You also had a bill that was $2 trillion, with the flag of COVID relief wrapped around it, to bail out union pensions and blue States and blue cities that were broke before COVID ever hit our shores. This has created inflation, a tax on every American.

The answer from my Democrat colleagues is to tax the middle class, to chase jobs back overseas. After the tax cuts lifted 6 million people out of poverty, gave us the largest wage increase in 20 years, the largest household income increase on record, we want to tax our job creators. We want to load the working man and woman and families with lower wages, with higher cost of goods and services. That is what the tax will translate into for these folks.

This is not only the largest tax increase; it is not only the largest spending boondoggle; it is the largest redistribution of wealth, the largest expansion of government, the most radical reimagination of our government's role in the American people's lives in the history of our country. I believe that. I don't think that is hyperbole.

□ 1015

What are we taxing? To make America less competitive and to put more burden on the American people? To what end? To pay for the green new

disaster, in my humble opinion, their extreme environmental policies based on the premise that we will have an apocalyptic end of the Earth in 10 or 15 years, trillions of dollars, while we cede economic leadership to the likes of China and Russia. We give them the keys to the kingdom, and we end up defaulting our energy independence, which is such an important part, not only of our economic prowess, but of our national security. We are racking up debt that is completely unsustainable.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents $27,000 per household on top of $200,000 per household already of the $28 trillion in debt. This bill will not be paid for. We continue to put a deferred tax on our grandchildren, and we rob them of their freedom and their future in this great country. All of this is because of an income inequality crisis or a climate crisis. Before, it was the COVID crisis.

Let me tell you the crises the American people are concerned about: the chaos and lawlessness at the southern border, along the border of my home State.

They are concerned about the runaway inflation and the crisis of being able to make ends meet.

They are concerned about the crisis of the debt that will be borne by their children and grandchildren.

They are concerned about the sustainability of the safety net for our seniors, Medicare and Social Security. Both are insolvent in less than 10 years, and my Democrat colleagues didn't spend a dime, not a dime, of the trillions of dollars, to make sure that wasn't the case and that we could fulfill that promise.

IT IS TIME TO DELIVER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, believe it or not, yet again, it is infrastructure week here.

For decades, our country has been calling for investment to bring our infrastructure into, not just the future, but at this point, the present.

For months, we have been meeting, both Democrats and Republicans, to get this bill to work for all of us. Now, it is time to take action and pass it for the American people. The stakes could not be higher.

Nevada, where I am from, has been ground zero for this pandemic. We are ground zero for the effects of climate change. But, more importantly, we are ground zero for the promise and the economic opportunities in this bill.

Roads, bridges, access to broadband, electric vehicles, electric buses, clean energy, water solutions for the West, all of this is needed and all of it will benefit my State and every corner in this country. That is why we have to put politics aside, come together, and pass this legislation now.

I came to Congress because I was tired of the bickering and the dysfunction and the gridlock. I was tired of politics as usual.

Safer roads and bridges, these are not partisan political issues. We have the opportunity to pass these investments for every single American and create millions of good-paying jobs and strengthen our recovery and get our economy back on track. The time to deliver solutions is now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY LARSON

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of a devoted public servant, Ray Larson of Lexington, Kentucky.

Ray served as assistant deputy attorney general for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but later, for 32 years, Ray was one of the most consequential Commonwealth's attorneys in our great State's history, dedicated to our community and the rule of law.

He was an outstanding prosecutor, always laser focused on deterring crime, relentlessly pursuing justice, advocating for victims' rights, and keeping central Kentucky families safe.

Ray was an unapologetic and principled fighter, leading by example and advancing the cause of law and order. He believed in defending, not defunding, the police.

Ray was a faithful member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, where he served as a Eucharist minister and taught high school Sunday school for over 30 years.

On a personal note, Ray was a dear friend and an important mentor to me.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Larson was a great American patriot who made a positive difference, and he will be deeply missed. God bless him and his family, and I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to a great American.

IRS FINANCIAL INSTITUTION REPORTING MANDATE

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Biden administration's proposal to mandate banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions to report the inflows and outflows of customer bank accounts to the IRS.

Think big government has too much of your personal data now? Just wait until the Biden administration and congressional Democrats require banks to submit the financial transactions of millions of Americans to the IRS.

Let me repeat that. For the Americans watching on C–SPAN right now, President Biden, as part of his massive job-killing tax increase, wants the IRS to have unfettered power to spy on your bank accounts, your deposits, your withdrawals, and your payments.

While I was pleased to see that the Ways and Means Committee did not include this provision in their bill during markup, news reports suggest there are still negotiations with the administration for its inclusion. A higher account threshold or other minor policy shifts will not solve the fundamental flaws with this proposal.

The mandatory reporting of Americans' transactions violates their privacy and puts an undue burden on financial institutions that could cripple community banks that helped get government aid to struggling small businesses during the pandemic, and it is predicated on the Biden administration's assumption that every American is somehow a tax cheat. How offensive. This is a disgusting example of Big Government overreach, and I am sounding the alarm.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to actively oppose this misguided and dangerous proposal.

IRRESPONSIBLE VOTE TO INCREASE THE DEBT CEILING WITHOUT FISCAL REFORMS

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Financial Services Committee in strong opposition to the Democrats' reckless and irresponsible vote to increase the debt ceiling without any fiscal reforms and provide a blank check for the Democrats' socialist tax and spending spree, which they intend to ram through Congress later this week or in the coming weeks.

Everybody understands we cannot default on our debt. But don't let the Democrats and their allies in the media fool you. This debt limit increase does not cover funds already spent. The ceiling suspended in 2019 accommodated 100 percent of the spending under the previous administration, including five bipartisan COVID response bills and then some.

But Democrats chose to pass, on a partisan basis, $2 trillion in new spending, less than 10 percent of which actually responded to COVID, and that is what has brought us to this new debt limit. Republicans did not vote for that $2 trillion, and now President Biden and Democrats want an additional $5.5 trillion, $4.3 trillion of which has zero Republican support. So it is Democrat partisanship that has resulted in a partisan debt limit vote.

Let's be clear. This debt limit vote enables massive amounts of new spending, not old spending. Even with the largest tax increase in American history, a tax increase that would make the tax burden on American businesses higher than in communist China, this is a bill that will add at least $2.4 trillion to the national debt, even with all of those new historic tax increases.

And the hypocrisy of those who criticize the job-producing and revenue-producing Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, claiming that it would massively increase the deficit, where are they now? The hypocrisy is breathtaking. These are the same people who support adding trillions to the national debt.

I came to Congress to save this country from bankruptcy, and I will not stand idly by as such dangerous legislation is pushed on a partisan basis through the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, oppose this tax and spending spree.

IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE DEBT CEILING

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have often turned to Lincoln. My good friends on the other side of the aisle have tried to be Lincolnesque, but I don't think they have dug deep into the virtues of Abraham Lincoln. They didn't delve deeply into his sense of courage and integrity.

We know that his ultimate goal was to preserve the Union, as it should have been. He was, in fact, the President of the United States of America, not of the Union States, not of the Confederate States. But often as they pretend Lincolnesque, it is abandoned along the trash heap of highways of despair.

First of all, the Build Back Better Act is paid for over 10 years, in contrast to the debacle voted on, to a one, by my friends on the other side of the aisle, of the Trump tax cut, 83 percent for those who were already flourishing in dollars, while it left the bus drivers and teachers and paramedics, nurses and emergency room doctors, along the highway with tin cups.

Any plan for embellishing, staffing—and that is what it is—for the Internal Revenue Service, of which we should continue to have oversight, is to ensure that those who have paid not a dime—not a dime—not a dime, Mr. Speaker—pay their fair share.

Do you think any American is against that? I have seen Republicans, Democrats, and Independents who are crucially asking the question: Am I carrying the entire burden?

My friends stand stalwart, the Republicans; they are not going to raise the debt ceiling. First of all, it is the full faith and credit of the United States. Read the Constitution. It is to ensure that America's bills, money already spent, are paid.

Just like you use your electricity, you are paying ahead of time; you are paying for the bill already spent. The electricity, the light was on for 20 days. You are paying for that light to be on.

I am sad to say that there are so many who can't make ends meet, can't pay the light bill. I have heard it often. Can't pay rent; can't pay the water bill.

So I am going to start with two icons from different eras about the word ''courage.''

Abraham Lincoln eloquently spoke in 1862—he was a most visionary writer—''The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.'' All that we talked about, all the contentiousness of yesteryear, you need to put it aside. ''The occasion is piled high . . .''—this day, this month, this 2021, this in the midst of a national health emergency, is piled high ''. . . with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so must we think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.''

Is anyone here willing to save their country? Are they willing to join as Americans to save the country?

I know 2022 is coming. Great campaign ads about what Democrats did. I am glad that my terminology will be what an American did by the name of SHEILA JACKSON LEE. What did she do?

''Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently,'' said the iconic and late Maya Angelou, who I had the privilege of teaching me. What a great memory I have of her being my professor.

So I want to speak this morning on the cruciality of moving forward on the INVEST Act and the Build Back Better Act. Without a doubt, I want to be able to not give short shrift to the 2 years of free pre-K and 2 years of free community college, paid for, giving Americans the front-end and giving the opportunity to be able, for some, to be in college for the first time. They are moving on to historically Black colleges of their choice or other colleges of their choice.

What about the Federal Medicaid program, when 12 States failed to opt in during the Affordable Care Act and left a trash heap of desperate people. Not the people desperate, but on the heap of despair, no healthcare, because they were below the threshold. Our friends as well decided not to do anything.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, how important it is to have the INVEST Act, with making sure we have broadband and making sure that we have high-speed internet as well as highways that work not against us but for us.

Let's do the right thing and have the courage of Americans. Let's stand for America.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN JOHNSON

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district for his work to keep both Iowans and Americans healthy.

Alan Johnson, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa, has been selected for the 2021 Excellence Award for Hypertension Research by the American Heart Association's Council on Hypertension.

This award by the American Heart Association is given to members of the scientific community who have had a major impact in research that has contributed to better understanding the causes and effects of hypertension.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a common cardiovascular condition that affects millions of Americans a year and is a major contributor of both strokes and heart attacks.

I am proud of Professor Johnson for his decades of research into the effects, causes, and treatments of this condition, and I congratulate him for earning this prestigious award.

THANK YOU TO STEAD FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to thank my district for their work in treating and researching childhood cancer.

A staple to my district and to the Iowa City community is the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, located right across the street from Kinnick Stadium. You all might know it well from the ''wave,'' one of college football's greatest traditions.

The Stead Family Children's Hospital specializes in treating pediatric patients, winning several awards for their specialties in not only pediatric cancer but also orthopedics and cardiology, among others.

Our gratitude for helping these children extends beyond the staff of Stead Family Children's Hospital. Many University of Iowa students and members of the Iowa City community use their free time to volunteer just to brighten a child's day.

Thank you to the men and women in Iowa who are working to treat and research childhood cancer and to those who use their time to comfort children who are currently battling it, a disease no child or parent should face alone.

HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS AWARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of childhood education and how a school in my district is taking extra strides to ensure their students' success.

At Hills Elementary School in Hills, Iowa, one out of four students are in the process of learning English as their second language. This is far higher than the average rate in Iowa being 12 percent.

Though many might see this language disparity as a barrier to student achievement, this year, Hills Elementary was selected as one of 325 schools to win a National Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education, with 81 percent of students at the school showing improvement in their academics.

Beginning in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon School Award has been used to recognize American schools for their academic excellence.

I couldn't be prouder of both the students and faculty at Hills Elementary,

and I wish the best for them as they continue their journey of academic achievement.

I would also like to take a moment to wish a happy belated birthday to my legislative assistant, Kendyl Willox, and a happy belated birthday to my good friend and colleague, enthusiastically, the gentleman from Long Island, Representative ANDREW GARBARINO.

IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a historic investment that will create millions of good-paying jobs and support America's future global competitiveness.

This bill will do so much to repair our ailing infrastructure and will create two million labor-friendly jobs each year for a decade.

Florida has 408 bridges and more than 3,564 miles of highway that are in poor condition.

Through this bill, Florida will receive $13 billion for federal-aid highway programs and $245 million for bridge repair.

Florida will also receive $2.6 billion for public transit systems and $1.2 billion for airport development.

To further help us cut down on transportation emissions, the bill will provide Florida with nearly $200 million to support the expansion of an electric vehicle charging network.

I have also heard, Mr. Speaker, from so many municipalities throughout south Florida who are struggling with obsolete water infrastructure. Thankfully, this bill provides Florida with $1.6 billion to get rid of lead pipes and improve water infrastructure.

For Florida's highways and byways, which are some of the most dangerous in the Nation, this legislation will usher in a ''Safe Streets for All'' program to help reduce crashes and fatalities.

Also important for Florida, this bill provides the Army Corps of Engineers with $1.9 billion for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

The Florida delegation expects the Corps to use a large portion of this money on Everglades restoration to bolster the funding we already secured through the regular appropriation process and get the project back on track.

This bill is a big investment in surface transportation and hard infrastructure, but it is only a segment of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda.

I am looking forward to passing the revolutionary climate and resiliency programs in the Build Back Better Act.

For my own constituents and the children and grandchildren of everyone in this Nation, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this important bill and the Build Back Better Act. That will allow us to truly rebuild our working class and set us on a path to prosperity.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Hispanic trailblazers in Omaha—Robert, known as Bob, Campos and Dr. James, known as Jim, Ramirez—for their generous contributions to our community.

After growing up together in the same working-class South Omaha neighborhood, Bob and Jim each went on to lead extraordinary, successful lives, and they have made a huge difference in our community.

Bob Campos was born in 1938 to Mexican immigrant parents in South Omaha, a neighborhood long regarded as a melting pot of multicultural immigrant families. Growing up, his large family shared only a one-bedroom home. So when Bob was only 8 years old, he went to work at the neighborhood grocery store to earn some extra income for his family.

At 16 years old, Campos dropped out of high school and attempted to enlist in the United States Marines but was unsuccessful after falsifying his age in his application. Shortly after that, he fulfilled his desire to serve his country by joining the U.S. Coast Guard.

After his military service, Bob moved back to Omaha and worked at the Kiewit Construction Company. After 15 years at Kiewit, he started his own business, Campos Construction, on January 1, 1977. Starting his business with only $500 and a pickup truck, Campos grew his company to become the largest minority-owned construction company in Nebraska.

Bob's reputation for excellence led him to take on high-profile projects, to include painting the home of President Abraham Lincoln in Illinois and building the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha.

In 2003, Bob leased the land to build community soccer fields in South Omaha, personally mowing and tending to the property now known as the Bob Campos Soccer Complex.

Bob also fosters educational leadership opportunities for Hispanic high school students through the Grassroots Leadership Development Program.

Dr. Jim Ramirez was born in 1934 to Mexican immigrant parents who worked in the meatpacking plants of South Omaha.

During high school, Dr. Ramirez faced repeated discrimination and was told by guidance counselors and peers that Latinos such as himself did not belong in college. So after graduation, Jim joined his father at the Nebraska Beef packing plant, where arduous work motivated him to pursue higher education and a better life.

For 18 years, Ramirez worked the slaughterhouse in the day and took classes at night; graduating in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Nebraska Omaha. He went on to earn his master's degree in guidance and counseling from UNO in 1974 and, ultimately, a Ph.D. in adult continuing education in 1984.

Having witnessed discrimination throughout his years as a student, Dr. Ramirez made it his life's mission to promote pathways to higher education for Omaha's Hispanic community.

In 1972 Dr. Ramirez was selected to chair UNO's Committee on Mexican-American Affairs, upon whose recommendation the University hired more Hispanic faculty, administrators, and staff.

After earning his doctorate, Dr. Ramirez was hired by UNO as a professor and counselor, where he spent decades mentoring countless Hispanic and minority students.

Dr. Ramirez went on to work as a human relations specialist at Omaha Public Schools, where he recruited Hispanic teachers from across the country to teach and mentor Omaha's Latino students.

Additionally, today I would like to recognize the Latino Center of the Midlands for celebrating 50 years of serving Omaha's Hispanic community.

The Latino Center is an education and social service nonprofit located in South Omaha, the heart of Omaha's Latino community.

Founded officially in 1971 as the Chicano Awareness Center, their work is rooted in advocacy for and service to Omaha's Latino community. Their three major programs, Family and Community Well-Being, Pathways to Success, and Workforce Education and Innovation impact over 2,500 individuals and families a year. Currently it is led by Albert Varas.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, no other two individuals and organization are deserving for our recognition than Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center. Together they demonstrate for all Americans, especially Latino Americans, that through hard work, perseverance, and faith, anything is possible.

I am pleased to announce that Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center of the Midlands have been selected as the inaugural inductees to the Nebraska Hispanic Hall of Fame, established this year by the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with my office, where their stories and many others will be shared for centuries to come.

Thank you, Bob and Jim, and the Latino Center, for making a difference in our great community.

AMERICA CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passing the historic bipartisan infrastructure bill on Thursday.

In August, all 220 House Democrats came here on the floor and voted to support opening debate and to vote on this once-in-a-century bipartisan infrastructure bill this week. Why? Because America simply can't afford to wait any longer.

In New Jersey, our roads are the third worst in the Nation. One-third of our bridges are considered unsafe. Our transit has the worst on-time record in the country. Our train tunnel, which is critical between New York and New Jersey, 20 percent of the GDP runs through that corridor, yet the tunnel is 113 years old and literally crumbling. Moms and dads wait hours in delays to get home every night. It is affecting our businesses and our productivity.

Hurricane Ida and climate change destroyed so many family homes in my community just weeks ago.

The unfortunate reality is this: We just haven't made the investments we need in this country in infrastructure.

China last year spent $3.7 trillion outside of China on infrastructure, and yet here we are year in and year out calling for infrastructure week and to get it done, and nothing happens. Now is our opportunity to get something done for our country.

This historic bill, $1.2 trillion, will turn that around and put two million hardworking men and women of labor to work every year for the next decade. It will invest in electric vehicle infrastructure and the Gateway Tunnel, in rebuilding that. The tunnel I talked about that is crumbling, this is going to help fix it. It invests in roads and bridges and transit. Clean water to make sure that we get lead water out and forever chemicals out. It invests in broadband.

After the Problem Solvers Caucus, which I proudly co-chair, worked for months with our Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle—and so many of us worked on it here in this House—50 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate voted for this bill. Everyone from BERNIE SANDERS to JOE MANCHIN to MITCH MCCONNELL all voted for it and sent it to us early last month.

It is critical to the rest of the country and to New Jersey that we get it done. Not only because it makes these historic investments but because it is about the country coming together, Democrats and Republicans, to show that we can govern.

We need to get everyone on board this week, Democrats and Republicans, because this bill is simply too important for our country and our future. There is nothing partisan about fixing our roads and our bridges and tunnels. There is nothing partisan about investing in fighting climate change, which this bill does. There is nothing partisan about making sure that we have the resources we need for our economy to run and for people to get to work every day.

I urge my colleagues, every one of them, to come to this Chamber Thursday and to vote for this critical legislation. I know that working together, our best days as a country will always be ahead of us here in the greatest country in the world. And infrastructure is the best place to start; for our President, for our country, and for all of us.

STEVE HOWARD IS A HARDWORKING LEADER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Howard of Woodbine, Georgia, on his appointment to the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy, & Land Use Steering Committee.

Known as an intensively hardworking leader, Steve's accomplishments are impressive. Over the past several years, Steve has led one of the most innovative and economic development projects in Georgia and throughout the country.

He has shown exceptional leadership in the Spaceport Camden project that is a tremendous opportunity for Georgia's First Congressional District. The project encompasses many of the aspects of the committee, making his expertise invaluable.

There is no county administrator who has as much knowledge in energy, environment, and land use as Steve. I know he will be an amazing resource for counties across the Nation. I am proud to see Steve represent our district with the National Association of Counties.

I would like to congratulate Steve on his appointment and thank him for his years of service to Georgia's First Congressional District.

SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS AN AWARD-WINNING FACILITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for being awarded the second-best domestic airport in the United States.

Complemented by an amazing staff, this airport has shown exemplary service to its customers since 1929.

For the past 5 years, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has ranked in the top 10 of best domestic airports in the United States.

This award highlights their hard work and dedication to ensure safety and security, while offering the best customer service.

Savannah's airport has been a tremendous economic contributor to Georgia's First Congressional District, supporting the community with over 20,000 jobs. Although small in size, the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport has had a lasting impact on the people visiting the great State of Georgia.

I want to extend my congratulations to the great staff, TSA workers, and Savannah Airport Commission for their great work.

I look forward to the continued success of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.

□ 1045

REMEMBERING AND HONORING DEBORAH SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Deborah Smith of Wayne County, Georgia, who, sadly, passed away on September 12, at the age of 51.

Debi devoted her life to improving her community and the lives of others. Debi loved volunteering and helping people.

Debi's love for her community was apparent during her time as the CEO of United Way of South Georgia, where she served eight counties and 26 agencies.

A giant in her local community, Debi also served as the president of the Rotary Club of Jesup and on the board of the Downtown Development Authority.

Debi was recognized by the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce as Ambassador of the Year for her selfless sacrifice toward her community.

I am thankful for the immense impact that Debi had on Georgia's First Congressional District, and I know her legacy will remain.

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

RECOGNIZING JEFF LUREY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jeff Lurey for his long and accomplished pharmacy career.

Jeff discovered his passion for helping others during his time at the University of Georgia's School of Pharmacy. Following graduation, Jeff bought his first pharmacy in 1973 and would go on to own five other pharmacies.

Jeff's accomplishments are nothing short of extraordinary.

From starting the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation to his service on the Georgia Pharmacy Association, Jeff's leadership has been felt throughout the great State of Georgia.

During his accomplished career, Jeff served in numerous leadership positions within the Georgia Pharmacy Association.

Jeff has received numerous awards throughout the State of Georgia for his immense contributions to the pharmacy community.

While Jeff's work with the Georgia Pharmacy Association is coming to an end, I am confident that his service to pharmacists will continue.

I am truly grateful for Jeff's contributions, and I thank him for his years of service.

SOLUTIONS TO SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, in her attempt to deflect from the Biden administration's complete and utter devastation at our southern border, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said: ''There are a lot of Republicans out there giving speeches about how outraged they are about the situation at the border, not many are putting forward solutions or steps that we could take.''

Well, she got one thing right: We are outraged.

We are outraged because, every single day, we hear from constituents who are dismayed, angry about this administration's complete lack of concern for the safety and well-being of our Nation at the southern border.

They resent the fact that, on his first day in office, the unity President gave up on border security and hung a welcome sign in our border communities. Biden sent a very clear message to the world that our rule of law would not be enforced under his administration.

Jen Psaki now has the audacity to complain about Republicans highlighting a crisis that they themselves created and claims she hasn't heard solutions. Jen, if you haven't heard solutions, circle back and listen.

To start, the biggest thing the Biden administration needed to do to protect our country was nothing at all. The former administration had laid out a clear and effective border security measure that safeguarded our communities, protected public health, and incentivized legal pathways to citizenship.

Yet, Biden has systematically unraveled all of the former administration's effective policies in the name of lawlessness just to score political points with the radical and progressive left.

I cannot fathom how anyone in a position of authority—Jen Psaki, President Biden, Vice President HARRIS, Secretary Mayorkas—would spend more time ignoring our laws than correcting the crisis that they created.

So, Biden administration, now that we have gotten your attention, please listen to how you fix this crisis.

Number one, enforce the laws that are written. Don't undermine our national security with political pandering.

Two, complete border construction. Right now, there are millions of dollars' worth of building material rusting in the desert because Biden put a halt to the Congress-approved and paid for border construction. This is a disastrous waste of taxpayer dollars and a tragedy for our border security.

Number three, reinstate the remain in Mexico policy so that those seeking asylum can be processed orderly, without putting our borders at risk. We had the buy-in and cooperation of all the Central American countries. Biden threw that cooperation out the window.

Number four, require a negative COVID test before entering into the southern United States to actually protect public health. The Biden administration's current COVID policy is hypocrisy. Right now, international travelers who fly into the United States must show proof of vaccination or a negative test, while illegal immigrants can walk across the border without any public health requirements.

I mean, hell, in the midst of the fourth worst COVID surge, Secretary Mayorkas himself confirmed that none of the 15,000 Haitians brought into this country from under the bridge were tested for COVID.

The absence of accountability and urgency in this matter is shameful. The hypocrisy is disastrous.

Number five, quit encouraging people to make the disastrous trek to America. Just last week, we saw thousands of Haitians and their families make the treacherous journey to our border, many suffering from heat-related injuries and other diseases. Then, Mayorkas finally admitted that over 10,000 Haitians were brought into this country without being vetted.

Number six, promising amnesty, tax remittance, healthcare, and sanctuary cities to illegals, stop it. Again, these liberal policies are enticing people to break our laws.

So next time, before Jen Psaki or anyone in the Biden administration criticizes House Republicans for talking openly about how to combat a national security crisis of their own making, I suggest she circle back and revisit all that we have said in the preceding months.

The great hidden provisions in the new reconciliation package present the most disastrous immigration policies in our Nation's history. I don't envy Jen Psaki's job of having to defend the destruction of this country.

Mr. Speaker, we are a country of laws. Our laws need to be enforced. I continue to fight for the security of this Nation and our southern border.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

REMEMBERING INNOCENT LIVES LOST ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 TERROR ATTACKS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we remembered the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. I rise today to remember the innocent lives that we lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 flew into tower one of the World Trade Center. Not long after, Flight 175 roared over lower Manhattan into tower two.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that had just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon, the center of our Armed Forces and national defense.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, originally headed to San Francisco, was hijacked and made the abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C. But because of the brave passengers and crew members who attempted to take back the plane, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Now, I had the humbling opportunity to join over 450 family members of United Flight 93 passengers and crew members at the memorial site on the 20th anniversary of that tragic day. During the ceremony, we heard from Captain Kurtz, USS *Somerset*; Governor Wolf; Gordon Felt, brother of Edward Porter Felt, who perished in the crash; Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS; and former President George W. Bush.

The ceremony was a chance to reflect on the events of that fateful day and to honor the lives lost and the heroes that united us.

In the days, weeks, months, and now two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down.

We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and -women who joined the fight to protect our freedoms. We must remember the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and the first responders and their families every day since.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we, as Americans, are resilient. We will continue to fight the evil and terror that exists today, and we will continue to be a beacon of freedom to the world.

Let us reflect on the gift of life so tragically lost at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Let us honor the memory of every American who perished on that fateful day. Their legacies will be forever entwined with the strength and courage that define our great country.

We will never forget, not 20 years later, not ever. May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all those who keep us safe.

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 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Return to us, O God; dwell in the midst of us, in this place, in our cities, neighborhoods, and Nation, that we would again acknowledge You. May You see reason to call us faithful, and may we reflect Your glory to all who would see.

In You, may both youth and those of age find reason to be joyful. May all marvel at Your handiwork, Your steadfast love, and Your saving mercy.

Cause our hands to be strong to do the work You have set before us. Sow Your peace in the fields of our hearts and bring forth Your fruit in the garden You have called us to attend. Give increase to our fellowship and pour out on Your house a spirit of compassion and mutual concern.

We give ourselves over to Your instruction to speak truth to one another, to render judgments that are true, and to find solutions which lead to peace.

May we not harbor ill will in our hearts against each other, but may we be intentional in making this a time of cooperation and kindness.

In You do we find truth and hope, and in Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING JESUS ''CHUY'' NEGRETE

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life of a community icon, an incredible storyteller, and a powerful voice of the Latino and labor rights movement, my dear friend Jesus ''Chuy'' Negrete.

Chuy was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, but grew up in Chicago's southeast side.

Through his corridos, or folk songs, Chuy elevated the work of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers and national Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Whether he was in the back of a pickup truck or in a parking lot, he would be there and he would play his heart out.

His music resonated with the Mexican-American community because it reflected the daily struggles of workers and immigrants.

Chuy loved to add humor to his lyrics, because he understood the power of making people laugh, especially during the toughest times.

He believed in the importance of honoring your roots and heritage, encouraging youth to learn about their culture and history, reminding them of its riches.

I thank Chuy for his music, for always conveying a sense of courage, giving us animo, giving us resolve, and encouraging us to stick together.

Rest in power, my friend.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE IS A TOP PRIORITY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, since I came to Congress 3 years ago, I have made it a top priority to work toward improving our Nation's infrastructure. I have repeatedly advocated and testified for repairing and expanding our roadways and bridges across the Sixth District, including Interstate 81, the economic backbone of the Sixth Congressional District.

But the Senate agreement up this week allocates just $110 billion for roads and bridges, less than 15 percent of the total bill's funding.

Further, House Democrats are tying its passage to the $4.3 trillion tax-and-spend boondoggle they call human infrastructure.

The bill includes $7.5 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corps to promote the Green New Deal, $80 billion for the IRS to double the number of agents that will target American families and businesses, and provides a zero percent increase for Homeland Security as the Biden border crisis continues to worsen.

Additionally, the bill provides $42.3 billion in tax credits for the wealthy, while at the same time raising $2.1 trillion in higher taxes on the middle-class families and job creators.

With inflation on the rise and unprecedented levels of government spending driving up our national debt, we cannot afford this loaded legislative package.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose both of these bills when they come before the House.

HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic exposed the fragility and disparities of the American healthcare system, particularly in underserved communities.

Through the American Rescue Plan, Congress is seeking to close these disparities to make healthcare more accessible, with greater quality, through Federally Qualified Health Centers.

The American Rescue Plan funding released this week builds on this model, supporting improvements to facilities across the Nation, including $2.2 million in new funding for western New York.

Health centers serve as trusted messengers and providers to connect with hard-to-reach patients. Investing in these health clinics' infrastructure will deliver healthcare savings, better health outcomes, and overall healthier communities throughout America.

SUPPORT FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS REFORM CAUCUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Bureau of Prisons Reform Caucus and my thanks to Chairman FRED KELLER.

Earlier today, I participated in a meeting discussing the important issues and the goals of the caucus, which are aimed at improving and enhancing the existing relationship between Congress and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. This is done through increased communications, transparency, and efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I represent two Federal prisons: Federal Correctional Institution Loretto, located in Loretto, Pennsylvania, and Federal Correctional Institution McKean, located in Lewis Run, Pennsylvania. It is critical Congress continues to support these hard-working men and women at these Federal institutions.

As a member of the Bureau of Prisons Reform Caucus, I will work to oversee the implementation of the programs laid out in our legislation.

From improving staffing conditions to implementing the First Step Act to expanding current technical educational opportunities for inmates as they look to find a better place in society, it is important we understand the actions taking place in our Federal prison system.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this caucus continues to meet and improve the relationship between Congress and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Build Back Better Act, which makes critical investments to green our economy and protect our environment.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform's portion of this bill provides nearly $12 billion to transition Federal fleets, including the Postal Service, to electric vehicles, making the United States a leader on climate change by building an environmentally friendly fleet of the future.

I am especially pleased that we have included dedicated funding for implementation of the President's Justice40 Initiative, a commitment to ensure that at least 40 percent of the benefits of infrastructure investments go to communities most impacted by environmental injustice.

The Build Back Better Act is a crucial piece of legislation that will promote equity and protect our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN SUPPORT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STUART SCHELLER

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

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Scheller is an American patriot who dared to speak the truth.

He knew that a 4-minute and 45-second video could bring his storied 17-year career in the United States Marine Corps to a screeching halt, but he did not care.

He laid it all down and spoke truth to power.

He said what every other servicemember knew in their heart was true: The incompetence of the Biden White House cost American lives.

Their sin was unpardonable and deadly. Lieutenant Colonel Scheller called them out, but they couldn't handle the criticism.

He was ordered to undergo mental health screening because he stood up to incompetence. Today, right now, this very second, he sits behind bars in my home State of North Carolina, shackled in a military brig, while those who orchestrated Biden's incompetent Afghanistan withdrawal walk free.

Mr. Speaker, this is a stain on our Nation's conscience. Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Scheller must be released.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan infrastructure package.

We have heard the stories of cracked roads, crumbling bridges, flooded farm fields, even kids doing homework from fast food restaurants so they can glom onto the internet access.

Sadly, this isn't the exception. It is the status quo, and it is time to fix it.

In my corner of Illinois, 1 in 10 bridges is classified as structurally deficient, 1 in 3 roads is rated in poor or mediocre condition, and 1 in 4 households don't have internet access of any kind.

Our communities deserve much better than this. Americans deserve much better than this.

Now is the time to think boldly in this once-in-a-generation investment in rebuilding America. Now is the time to create millions of good-paying union jobs. Now is the time to lay the foundation for the economic opportunity for years to come.

There is plenty of work left to do. But if we do it together, we can get it done.

CONSTITUENTS WILL REMEMBER THE RESULTS, NOT THE PROCESS

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days and weeks, the Democratic Caucus will have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make transformative change for our children. But if you turn on the news, you will see, instead, a narrative about winners and losers within our party.

This is not about winners or losers in the Democratic Party. It is about delivering together on our bold vision. Our constituents are going to remember the results, not the process.

That is why we have to come together to make good on our commitment to address the climate crisis, to invest in infrastructure and create jobs, and to lower costs for working families through tax cuts, support for early education, and healthcare.

We have an obligation to pass both the Build Back Better Act and the bipartisan infrastructure framework, and we are going to get both done, strengthening our country and creating a better future for our children.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2021.

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 received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 28, 2021, at 9:38 a.m.:

Appointment:

Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Council.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

□ 1215

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will redesignate the Senate amendment and redesignate the motion to concur.

The Clerk redesignated the Senate amendment and redesignated the motion to concur.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each have 10 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and, more importantly, I thank him for his tremendous leadership. His understanding of infrastructure in our country and the way to build it in a green way to honor our commitment to our children is something that is a blessing to the Congress.

For decades he has served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and he has done so in a way that has taken us into the future.

But we haven't had a bill in a while, and so I thank him for his INVEST in America Act that he had earlier that is not all reflected here, but nonetheless hopefully we will see some provisions in the Build Back Better Act.

I rise in support of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which is about jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. Support for this legislation is bipartisan, bicameral, and respectful of the needs of workers and communities across the country.

Following the vision of President Biden, the bipartisan infrastructure bill addresses a great need in America which has been neglected for decades, as I mentioned. Our roads, bridges, and water systems are crumbling. Some water systems are over 100 years old, Mr. Speaker, made of brick and wood.

Our electric grid system is vulnerable to catastrophic outages.

We must not only rebuild the infrastructure for the 21st century economy, we must rebuild the middle class, creating good-paying American jobs and turbocharging American competitiveness and growth. These are connected.

Again, I thank President Biden. He said: I am happy to work in a bipartisan way in order to have an infrastructure bill where we come to agreement, but I will not confine my vision to that piece, that legislative piece. We must build back better.

I think it is very important to note for people across the country who have seen infrastructure in the past come in and divide their communities, perpetuate injustices, environmental injustice in their communities, that it is necessary for us to build back better in a way that empowers.

When I say ''rebuild the middle class,'' it is about jobs, but it is about jobs in a new way; more inclusive for women, for people of color, for younger people to be engaged and trained with workforce training to participate in the new economy. With jobs and justice.

In the past our infrastructure bills have reinforced that environmental injustice and divided communities. The Build Back Better Act will undo that. With the passage of this bill, accompanied by the Build Back Better legislation, with its equity piece, much of that injustice, as much as possible, will be reversed.

It is about building up. It is not about trickle-down: Oh, this is what we are going to do and a lot of people will benefit and maybe you will get some of it. No. It is about meeting the needs of people, both for the water needs or transportation needs or infrastructure needs in many ways, but also that starts and then builds up.

Along with the Build Back Better Act, this prioritizes some aspects of justice and opportunity.

Let me be clear. While the investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill are strong, historic down payments to build back better, we are not confining our vision—as the President has said, he is not confining his—for rebuilding infrastructure to this legislation.

We all know that we have to build back in a responsible way to meet our green climate initiatives, our goals, and our responsibilities in that regard.

Passing an infrastructure bill is always exciting for what it means in terms of jobs and taking our country into the future, and it has always been bipartisan over the years here. Not for a while because there was resistance when President Obama was President. We passed a bill, but it was not of the magnitude that we needed.

This is a step closer to a once-in-a-generation investment in our infrastructure, as the Conference of Mayors have said. Now we must go further to build back better.

I urge strong bipartisan support for this legislation.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his leadership on this extremely important issue.

I want to expose for my constituents the real truth about the so-called infrastructure portion of the Democrats' destructive $5.5 trillion package.

You can read for yourself in the bill that only a fraction of the funds go to roads, bridges, broadband, and other things people outside the swamp would generally consider infrastructure, a true and embarrassingly small drop in the bucket, considering the current state of Michigan's infrastructure. By the way, our roads still haven't been fixed.

But more importantly, I am asking you to read between the lines to understand that this package will stretch the long, intrusive arm of the Federal Government into your life, more than ever before. Your energy bill, your taxes, your job, your Nation's borders, your economic freedom.

As your Representative, I can't let this happen, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds. The gentleman once again conflates, confuses, confabulates. The bill before us is a bipartisan bill from the Senate, $550 billion of new spending on top of the expected income. It is not $3.5, $4.5, $5 trillion and doesn't include all those other things. It does include roads, bridges, highways, transit, water, wastewater, drinking water, lead pipes, ports, airports, and broadband, which I think his constituents want.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the majority whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this very, very important piece of legislation.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make critical investments, not just in roads and bridges. This legislation will also invest in transit, rail, electric vehicle charging stations, electric buses, airports, ports, water, energy, environmental remediation, and high-speed broadband internet. I will focus on this last category, the $65 billion for broadband.

Millions of Americans are not connected to the internet. In my home State of South Carolina, nearly 1 in 10 households lack access to an internet connection, and even more cannot afford service. As a result, they cannot work remotely, cannot learn remotely, and cannot access telehealth. The internet is as essential to the 21st century as electricity was to the 20th century, and far too many Americans are left out.

That is why I worked closely with the House Rural Broadband Task Force, Chairman PALLONE, and members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to craft comprehensive legislation to make high-speed broadband accessible and affordable for all. Our bill passed the House last Congress as part of the Moving Forward Act.

While the legislation we are considering today doesn't include that bill in its entirety, and more action will be required, it does incorporate many of our bill's essential principles. It gives preference to future-focused infrastructure, prioritizes persistent poverty communities, and includes oversight and accountability mechanisms.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also invests in affordability and adoption. It requires an affordable option to be offered on newly-funded networks, extends the monthly discount on internet bills, and funds digital equity and inclusion projects.

Throughout our Nation's history, communities in most need of Federal funds have all too often been the last in line.

Together with the Build Back Better Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make America's greatness accessible and affordable for all Americans. I urge passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank probably the most knowledgeable Member of Congress about infrastructure in this country and our needs, Mr. DEFAZIO, the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

He and his committee, Mr. Speaker, and members of his staff have worked very long and very late hours over the past 2 years—and, frankly, longer than that, going back to the 116th Congress and the 115th Congress—to produce the legislation that served as a basis for this bipartisan bill. I also thank Chairman PALLONE and the members and the staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who contributed a great deal as well.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, during the course of the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump said he was going to invest a trillion dollars in infrastructure—a trillion dollars. In 2017, he became the President of the United States, and in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, no trillion-dollar infrastructure bill was offered to this House or to the Congress.

Mr. DEFAZIO, myself, the Speaker, and other leaders went down and met with President Trump. Mr. DEFAZIO was talking about the trillion dollars that the President talked about. He really thought there was probably more needed, but he was talking about the trillion dollars. The President said dismiss that, that is too little. It is not enough. We need at least $2 trillion—President Trump, 2019.

What we have before us today, Mr. Speaker, is a product that reflects the needs of our economy, an infrastructure system in dire need of upgrade and expansion, and addresses some, but by no means all, of the realities of the climate crisis we face.

In fact, a bill which did a much better job passed this House, led by Mr. DEFAZIO. Unfortunately, it was not subject to conference, which is what the process ought to be.

However, this bill would enable our businesses to seize on the opportunities presented by those challenges and to create millions of good, new jobs in the process.

And I thank Mr. DEFAZIO for his leadership and advocacy.

We have before us legislation that will invest more than $1 trillion in transportation networks—half of what President Trump said we ought to be doing, but a very significant step nonetheless—in expanding broadband access, in addressing climate change, and in helping our communities build back better and more resilient.

It would enact a major component of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. This is part and parcel of the whole. This is a segment of what the President has rightfully called generational, transformational change.

I hope we can come together and pass this legislation, Mr. Speaker, with strong support from Democrats and Republicans. The Republicans have been browbeaten into opposing this bill, not because of substantive reasons, but for political reasons so that President Biden will not have a victory. But that perspective is incorrect. The people who will not have a victory are the American people.

I hope we come together, as I said, to pass this legislation in a bipartisan fashion to help our businesses and working families make it in America. I use those words on purpose because I have been talking about making it in America for over a decade.

I have been proud, for many years, to lead House Democrats' Make It In America plan for jobs and opportunities, a plan with three core components: infrastructure, this bill; and education, the bill to come, although this has significant training in here for workers to get good jobs and good-paying jobs. It is a plan with also another core, and that is entrepreneurship.

Infrastructure has been central to our Make It In America plan since I first put it on the table in 2010. That is because momentum has been building for these investments in infrastructure for many years. As a matter of fact, then-candidate Joe Biden called me up and said: I want to talk to you about Make It In America.

We talked about it, and it is in our Democratic platform, Make It In America.

I don't know anybody who is not for making it in America, either manufacturing, even if it is zeros and ones, or succeeding, making it in America.

Businesses, labor, economists, and State and local leaders have been clamoring for Congress to do exactly what we are about to do today with this vote. And when I say ''exactly,'' they would like more. I think they would have liked the House bill, Mr. DEFAZIO's bill, much better. But none of us get perfect, and this is a bipartisan bill.

Our Make It In America plan has called for multiyear, fully funded authorizations to address the backlog of projects both for transportation and for water infrastructure, and that is what Mr. DEFAZIO has been leading on.

This bill includes a 5-year, $110 billion authorization for highways, roads, and bridges; $39 billion for transit; and $55 billion in water infrastructure to literally get the lead out and make our water safe to drink.

It calls for making our electricity grid more resilient and more reliable, which we included in Make It In America. This bill invests $78 billion to do exactly that and creates a new grid deployment authority to promote innovation and smart-grid technologies. That is about our national security. That is a national security demand on us.

In the Make It In America agenda, we challenged Congress to promote a modern energy infrastructure that reduces waste and incentivizes storage and alternative forms of energy for vehicles. That is what Mr. DEFAZIO did in the bill that we passed. It is not as good, I think, but that is what is in this bill.

The $7.5 billion included in this legislation for building an electric vehicle charging infrastructure in America, particularly in rural, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities, meets that challenge. That is why 40 percent of the Republicans in the United States Senate voted for it.

When House Democrats traveled across the country listening to the American people over the last few years, we heard what they need to make it in America. We heard about the need to expand access to high-speed internet, including deployment of 5G wireless infrastructure. That is what Mr. DEFAZIO did, and that is what this Senate bill does. This bill achieves those goals by including $65 billion to bring broadband access to nearly all Americans by auctioning new spectrum for 5G wireless. That is what Whip CLYBURN was talking about, making sure that all of us can make it in America because we have access to the internet.

It is also about education, and we have called for reforms that allow for stackable credentials for students preparing for the workforce as well as those already in the workforce looking to get ahead by learning new skills.

This bill before us today includes provisions that provide States with flexibility in how they use funding to strengthen workforce development. We all talk about that. It helps more people train for in-demand skills, such as engineering.

In so many ways, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a product of House Democrats—Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NEAL—and, yes, many Republicans who have also talked about making it in America.

We have been united in promoting this agenda for 10 years, and now we have the chance to effect a large portion of it.

Mr. Trump talked about it; he just didn't do it.

This legislation, of course, is just one-half of an even larger effort, as I said, by President Biden and Democrats to achieve that objective of helping our people make it in America.

The other piece is the Build Back Better Act. That legislation, which is progressing steadily toward consideration on the floor, would enact the remainder of President Biden and Democrats' domestic agenda, including major efforts to address the climate crisis and reforms that will help millions of American families achieve economic security.

We all talk about being pro-family. That is pro-family. Childcare is pro-family. Earned income tax credit is pro-family. Expanding Medicaid is pro-family. So much. And if we are pro-family, we need to support those items.

While the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act makes investments toward tackling the climate crisis, the Build Back Better Act will take the steps needed to transition our economy to clean energy in line with the President's commitment to the Paris climate agreement and Mr. DEFAZIO's bill that we passed through this House.

Where this legislation today invests in our Nation's physical infrastructure, the Build Back Better Act makes investment in America's human infrastructure.

When I go to a building and cut a ribbon at some base or whatever, I say that is very nice, this physical structure, but if we build great bricks and mortar but don't have people who can do the job, we build in vain.

In our working families, in our communities, that is what we invest in, in opportunities for hardworking Americans to get ahead.

We are moving steadily ahead with that bill, and I am hopeful that we are nearing the finish line. I look forward to bringing that bill, the Build Back Better Act, to the floor soon.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Democrats will demonstrate unity on both pieces of legislation as we put President Biden and congressional Democrats' agenda into action. Let's get it done. Vote ''yes.''

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This body could and should have worked together on bipartisan legislation to improve our roads and our bridges, wastewater infrastructure, and other vital infrastructure components. But instead, the majority preferred to put us through a very highly partisan

messaging exercise. And for what? The majority leaders' grossly mismanaged process.

I have no doubt that they thought that their ''my way or the highway'' approach reflected all their progressive priorities, and they were mighty proud of it. But it led to the House, both Republicans and Democrats, being completely sidelined in this process. And we knew that this was the most likely outcome.

I want to highlight two key points.

The first is that today's legislation is one of the largest infrastructure bills ever before the House, but because of the Speaker's mismanagement of this entire process, the House failed to be taken seriously and failed to have any input into this bill.

The second point is that this bill is a Trojan horse for reconciliation. We all know that. Voting for this bill is a vote for Speaker PELOSI's $3.5 trillion spending spree, and there is no way to separate the two. Even the Speaker acknowledges this, and many others as well.

Lost among all of these poor decisions is the absolute necessity to address America's real infrastructure needs. I firmly believe that the work we do on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is critical to the economy and to the lives of all Americans, and if the House process was bipartisan from the very start, this conversation would have been much different, but here we are. Instead of zeroing in on real infrastructure, the majority is talking about spending trillions and trillions of dollars on everything that they can think of, and I have to ask: When does it end?

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we could have perhaps had a bipartisan bill out of the House, except for the unified rejection of climate change on the other side of the aisle.

Transportation is the largest single emitter of CO_2 pollution in the country. This is a critical threat to our country, to the world, and we have to deal with it.

The bill we wrote and passed would have dealt with that very meaningfully and moved us into 21st century infrastructure. This bill contains some of those elements that even the Republicans on this side would not support. EV charging, nope, not in their bill. Electric buses, nope, not in their bill. Electric school buses, nope, not in their bill. None of those things were in their bill.

In fact, their alternative, which they didn't even offer on the floor, by the way—so they don't really have an alternative—was $350 billion for highways, status quo, with an increase in spending. No changes in policy except for the one, RODNEY DAVIS' thing, which is in the Senate bill, to gut NEPA. Then, transit flatlined over 5 years, and rail, zero—goose egg, zero.

□ 1245

No wastewater, no reconnecting communities, no drinking water, no lead pipes. And by the way, every billion we spend on wastewater or drinking water creates 20,000 good-paying jobs. No broadband in their bill. And the list goes on and on.

So we don't have a real alternative on that side of the aisle. And should they help to vote this down, they oppose it, then they have no answer. The answer is a continuing resolution, status quo, funding, flat funding.

Not dealing with the 400,000 bridges in America that need substantial repair or replacement. The 40 percent of the National Highway System which has deteriorated to the point where it has to be rebuilt from the roadbed up. The $100 billion-dollar backlog in transit, a decrepit rail system—we just had a derailment; people died—and they are going to put zero dollars into rail in their bill.

Wastewater systems that back up into basements or flow into rivers, and water mains that burst, I mean, we have to deal with these things. It didn't used to be partisan. The problem is we also believe in dealing with climate change, and they can't admit to climate change because Donald Trump says it's a myth. And you can't defy Donald Trump on that side of the aisle. That is very, very sad.

At least these 19 Republican Senators nodded toward it. They included money for EV charging, electric buses in the bill—at least a little tiny nod. They did take up our mandatory greenhouse gas reduction program. They did take out our critical fix-it-first principles, but we will improve on the bill with new, novel programs in the reconciliation process yet to come and deal with some of those issues, deal with the greenhouse gas reductions, deal with more transit, more rail, more wastewater—in different ways. Drinking water, lead pipes, all those things will be in the reconciliation bill yet to come.

But plain and simple, the bill before us today is the infrastructure bill, the only option.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all my staff. There are too many to list in the time that I have remaining, so I include in the RECORD a list of their names.

CONCLUSION

Before I conclude, I want to take a moment to thank my staff—especially those who drafted the INVEST in America Act. They have spent countless days, nights and weekends working on a transformational surface transportation bill over the past two years.

I wish we were considering that bill today. But, without their hardwork and dedication we wouldn't be here and about to deliver for the America people the most significant investment in our nation's infrastructure in decades.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

Helena Zyblikewcyz–Staff Director
Jackie Schmitz
Garrett Gee
Brittany Lundberg
Chris Bell
Zan Guendert

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Auke Mahar-Piersma–Staff Director
Andrea Woehbler
Frances Bourne
Katherine Ambrose

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, they did an absolutely phenomenal job putting this whole package together—twice, two Congresses. Real legislative process on this side of the Hill. Even though the Republicans lost, they participated in the process—not so much on the other side. Some day we might get back to regular order.

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues from Maryland, Representatives HOYER and RASKIN. Our State of Maryland has a proud history of innovation in satellite technology and space exploration. Greenbelt, Maryland is home to Goddard, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's first Space Flight Center. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which operates a fleet of weather satellites, has its headquarters in Silver Spring. Additionally, the largest provider of residential satellite broadband service, Hughes Network Systems, is headquartered in Germantown. Hughes serves consumers in some of the most rural, hard-to-reach areas of the country.

As the House considers the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we join our colleague, Sen. BEN CARDIN (D–MD) in expressing our support for satellite technology, which offers an opportunity for helping achieve our broadband deployment goals. Satellite innovators in Maryland and elsewhere have designed measures to reduce latency by using a mix of communications platforms, including low-earth orbit satellites and fixed wireless networks.

The infrastructure bill provides broadband grants for service providers that meet a ''real-time, interactive'' standard for permissible latency. We believe that residential satellite broadband service providers could potentially meet this standard by using a mix of geostationary and non-geostationary satellite networks or fixed wireless networks. Satellite broadband service providers that are able to meet the standard for permissible latency should be considered for broadband grants provided in the infrastructure bill. We look forward to working with our colleagues and the Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration staff on this important issue.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I have one question. Why are we using an infrastructure bill to write the rules for new technology?

That's exactly what's happening today.

The cryptocurrency tax reporting provision in this bill will have long-lasting and harmful implications for innovation here in the U.S.

So, we need a fix. The ''fix'' debate started in the Senate. But it didn't go anywhere. And I said in August, if the Senate can't get it done, we'll fight it out in the House.

So, I'll be introducing a bill to put the guardrails in place to clarify the scope of the new reporting requirements.

We need to keep America at the forefront of innovation.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 601, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ELIMINATING A QUANTIFIABLY UNJUST APPLICATION OF THE LAW ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1693) to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1693

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 ''Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act of 2021'' or the ''EQUAL Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF INCREASED PENALTIES FOR COCAINE OFFENSES WHERE THE COCAINE INVOLVED IS COCAINE BASE.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The following provisions of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) are repealed:

(1) Clause (iii) of section 401(b)(1)(A) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(A)).

(2) Clause (iii) of section 401(b)(1)(B) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(B)).

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—The following provisions of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) are repealed:

(1) Subparagraph (C) of section 1010(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(1)).

(2) Subparagraph (C) of section 1010(b)(2) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(2)).

(c) APPLICABILITY TO PENDING AND PAST CASES.—

(1) PENDING CASES.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any sentence imposed after the date of enactment of this Act, regardless of when the offense was committed.

(2) PAST CASES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a defendant who, on or before the date of enactment of this Act, was sentenced for a Federal offense described in subparagraph (B), the sentencing court may, on motion of the defendant, the Bureau of Prisons, the attorney for the Government, or on its own motion, impose a reduced sentence after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(B) FEDERAL OFFENSE DESCRIBED.—A Federal offense described in this subparagraph is an offense that involves cocaine base that is an offense under one of the following:

(i) Section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(ii) Section 1010 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960).

(iii) Section 404(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 844(a)).

(iv) Any other Federal criminal offense, the conduct or penalties for which were established by reference to a provision described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii).

(C) DEFENDANT NOT REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT.—Notwithstanding Rule 43 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the defendant is not required to be present at any hearing on whether to impose a reduced sentence pursuant to this paragraph.

(D) NO REDUCTION FOR PREVIOUSLY REDUCED SENTENCES.—A court may not consider a motion made under this paragraph to reduce a sentence if the sentence was previously imposed or previously reduced in accordance with this Act.

(E) NO REQUIREMENT TO REDUCE SENTENCE.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require a court to reduce a sentence pursuant to this paragraph.

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. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1693.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1693, the Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act of 2021, or the EQUAL Act, would eliminate the unjust sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses.

This long overdue bipartisan legislation would allow defendants who were previously convicted or sentenced for a Federal offense involving crack cocaine to petition for a sentence reduction.

In 1986, Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, which created mandatory minimum penalties for drug offenses and introduced the 100:1 sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses. This meant that a person who distributed 5 grams of crack cocaine received the same 5-year mandatory minimum sentence as a person who distributed 500 grams of the powder cocaine.

A person who distributed 50 grams of crack cocaine received the same 10-year mandatory minimum sentence as a person who distributed 5,000 grams of powder cocaine. It soon became evident that this sentencing disparity also created a significant racial disparity.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years after Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, the average Federal sentence for Black defendants was 49 percent higher than the average sentence for White defendants. In the ensuing decades, the Sentencing Commission and many members of the law enforcement community strongly and repeatedly criticized the 100:1 ratio and urged Congress to address the disparity.

As early as 1995, the Sentencing Commission began urging Congress to rectify this unfairness. Besides the troubling racial disparities in sentencing, the Commission also expressed concern over the significant differences in punishment between street-level dealers of crack cocaine and the powder cocaine suppliers who sold the cocaine in the first instance.

Unfortunately, Congress failed to act on the Commission's proposed amendment to the sentencing guidelines to equalize the penalties for crack and powder cocaine.

From 1997 to 2007, the Commission continued to warn Congress about the unjustified ratio, noting that ''there is no legislative history that explains Congress' rationale for selecting the 100:1 drug quantity ratio for powder cocaine and crack offenses.'' It provided evidence for its findings that the penalties exaggerated the relative harmfulness of crack cocaine, swept too broadly, most often applied to lower-level offenders, and mostly impacted communities of color.

Congress, however, took no action, prompting the Commission to pass an amendment to the sentencing guidelines in 2007 as a partial and modest remedy to the ''urgent and compelling'' problems associated with the ratio. In doing so, the Commission ''unanimously and strongly urged'' Congress to take actions on its recommendations and to provide a comprehensive solution.

In 2010, Congress finally acted by passing the Fair Sentencing Act, which did not eliminate the disparity, but which significantly reduced the ratio from 100:1 to 18:1. But the Fair Sentencing Act applied only to pending and future cases, leaving thousands of incarcerated people without a path to petition for relief. The First Step Act of 2018 made the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive, providing a pathway to relief for some, but not all, individuals affected by the sentencing disparity.

It is now past time to finish the job. The crack cocaine and powder cocaine disparity has greatly contributed to the rise of mass incarceration, devastated communities of color, and severely undermined public confidence in our criminal justice system.

The EQUAL Act would finally equalize the treatment of powder cocaine and crack cocaine—two forms of the same drug—by eliminating the sentencing disparity. It would also provide a path to retroactive relief from a disparity that is not rooted in science, does not promote public safety, and fosters racial disparities.

I commend Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES, BOBBY SCOTT, KELLY ARMSTRONG, and DON BACON for introducing this important bipartisan legislation, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s, as Representative NADLER said, Congress enacted harsh penalties for Federal drug offenses, including mandatory minimum sentences. In the 1986 act, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, it did create 100:1 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, meaning an individual convicted of selling 5 grams of crack cocaine would receive the same sentence as someone convicted of selling 500 grams of powder cocaine.

Earlier, years before, Representative Dan Lungren—he had been here in the eighties—in 1986, when this was passed, said that Republicans were told in 1986—with a Democratic majority—by Representative Charley Rangel, that if they did not support the huge disparity, then they did not care about Black neighborhoods and the scourge that crack cocaine was creating and how it was ruining Black neighborhoods. So it easily passed because in 1986, no one wanted to be called a racist. This law contributed to the growth of the U.S. Federal prison population from the 1990s through 2000s.

In 2010, Congress passed the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine from 100:1 to 18:1. And as I recall, at the time, I thought it would be good to go 1:1; that is what we did in Texas when I was a judge. But if I recall correctly, there were some Republicans that said we can't go all the way to 1:1, but we will agree to 18:1. If that is not right, the chair can correct me, but that is what I recall. Because I didn't see why we didn't go ahead and go 1:1 back then and just fix it.

But that was what happened. It went from 100:1 to 18:1 disparity. But in 2018, Congress passed—President Trump signed—the First Step Act, which made the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive. This law allowed those sentenced for Federal drug offenses relating to cocaine prior to the passage of Fair Sentencing Act to move for a resentencing under the new law.

The EQUAL Act before us today truly lives up to the name of equalizing sentences for similar crimes and would eliminate the Federal sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine and allow those convicted under the prior law to move for resentencing under this new standard.

At the State level, more than 40 States do not treat crack and powder cocaine differently in their sentencing structures. Passage of the EQUAL Act now would align Federal sentencing laws with the vast majority of States.

And I would like to also say in a prior hearing Mr. JEFFRIES indicated that he intended to go forward and would try to push a bill, as the chair also had hoped, that would finally eliminate the sentencing disparity and go 1:1.

In that hearing, I made the comment that if Mr. JEFFRIES would draft a bill that did just that, then I would support that. And I am very pleased that Mr. JEFFRIES, who is a man of his word, he did exactly what he said. He prepared a bill that fixed this problem.

I am pleased to agree and to be part of what Mr. JEFFRIES prepared and what the chairman has seen through our committee, and glad we are finally going to deal with this problem and do right by the people that are sentenced under it.

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

□ 1300

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair of the House Judiciary Committee, JERRY NADLER, for yielding, and for his extraordinary leadership in moving this important piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank KELLY ARMSTRONG, who is the lead Republican who has sponsored this legislation, for his advocacy and his efforts to advance this critical piece of legislation. And I thank my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who indicated that we had had a previous conversation with then-Congressman Cedric Richmond at a Judiciary Committee hearing about his willingness to be supportive of moving forward with a bill to deal with the sentencing disparity that relates to crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1693, the EQUAL Act, legislation that will finally eliminate the Federal crack and powder cocaine sentencing disparity, which has devastated lives and families and communities throughout the country.

As has been indicated, in 1986, shortly after the tragic death of basketball star, Len Bias, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act established a 100:1 disparity in sentencing for crack cocaine and powder cocaine. As a result, 500 grams of powder and 5 grams of crack triggered the same 5-year mandatory prison sentence.

Yet, there is no policy justification for punishing crack cocaine offenses more harshly than the same offense involving powder cocaine. And there is no pharmacological difference between how the body processes crack cocaine and how it processes powder cocaine, notwithstanding the thinking at the time.

Where there is a difference is the law's impact on communities of color. The burden has disproportionately fallen on African-American communities. 77.1 percent of the crack cocaine offenders convicted were Black, while most powder cocaine traffickers are non-Black.

There was an overall impact as well. Our system of mass incarceration costs us at least $180 billion per year, money that could otherwise be invested in the well-being of everyday Americans in inner-city America, rural America, suburban America, small-town America, Appalachia as well.

Policy and this failed war on drugs has not resulted in improved public safety, which is why the EQUAL Act is supported by law enforcement groups like the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and perhaps most importantly, the National District Attorneys Association.

Recognizing the sentencing disparity as a failure, Congress has acted several times to incrementally address this disparity. In 2010, with passage of the Fair Sentencing Act, the disparity was reduced from 100:1 to 18:1, in legislation signed into law by then-President Barack Obama. In 2018, with the First Step Act, legislation signed into law by then-President Donald Trump, that 18:1 sentencing disparity was made retroactive. And now Congress has an opportunity to finish the job.

Today, the House of Representatives is poised in a bipartisan way to get that done.

Fifty years ago, the failed war on drugs was first launched when the President at the time declared drug abuse public enemy number one. At the time there were less than 300,000 people incarcerated in America. Today, 2.3 million—disproportionately Black and Latino, many of them nonviolent drug offenders—who instead of receiving incarceration should have received drug treatment.

It was a failed policy then. And we can't repeat that policy today, as so many folks are dealing with the scourge of opioid addiction. That is why I am so thankful that we are coming together to pass the EQUAL Act to end the disparity and to address the error of mass incarceration.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend Mr. JEFFRIES mentioning Cedric Richmond and also KELLY ARMSTRONG who were such an important part of bringing this bill to this place.

Of course, Congressman Cedric Richmond has passed on to his just reward.

Of course, that means going to the White House to work. Mr. ARMSTRONG is still here laboring in the field. He was unable to be here and asked that I read this statement from him into the RECORD.

He said: ''I wish I could be here today, but I am grateful to Representative GOHMERT for sharing my remarks with the Chamber.

''I am proud to support passage of the EQUAL Act, which will finally provide sentencing parity for Federal crack and powder cocaine offenses.

''This bill will also provide relief to those who have been sentenced under the previous unequal guidelines. In 1986, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act created a 100:1 sentencing disparity for crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses. For instance, the law created a 5-year prison sentence for distribution of 5 grams of crack cocaine. At the same time, an individual would need to possess 100 times that amount of powder cocaine to receive the same sentence.

''The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 reduced the disparity from 100:1 to 18:1. The First Step Act of 2018 was supposed to make the 18:1 change retroactive. The EQUAL Act not only provides sentencing parity for crack and powder cocaine offenses, it also solves the retroactivity and implementation issues.

''This is not being soft on crime. It is being smart on crime. Many Americans struggling with addiction are no stranger to the Federal prison system. We know that addressing substance use disorder and mental health challenges are the most effective way to help these individuals as well as improve our communities.

''The answer isn't to lock people up for crimes of addiction. We tried that method for decades, it does not work. In an increasingly partisan time, the EQUAL Act is an example of how commonsense legislation can receive bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. You don't have to look further than the prime sponsors of this bill.

''I am a conservative Republican from North Dakota. Congressman JEFFRIES is a Democrat from New York City. We disagree on a lot of issues, but we have come together to support this bill because it is the right thing to do. It is also why this bill has broad support from across the ideological spectrum.

''The House Judiciary Committee reported the EQUAL Act favorably by a vote of 36–5. The bill also is supported by dozens of group ranging from the ACLU to Americans for Prosperity.

''Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to bring us to this point. I urge everyone to support the EQUAL Act.''

That ends the statement by Mr. KELLY Armstrong.

Let me just say in conclusion—and I appreciated the comments of Mr. JEFFRIES regarding treatment—what I saw during my decade on the bench was, whether it was crack cocaine or powder cocaine, it was incredibly additive. And every now and then somebody might be able to deal with their addiction in a 30-day program, but normally it took a lot longer than 30 days.

Something I thought Texas did right was have an up to 12 months substance abuse felony punishment facility. Some thought it was strange that a strong conservative, like myself, used that as much as I did. I saw that this is so additive and it needs a length of time to help people change their lives for such a time that they have got a better chance of making it out, understanding just how addictive those substances are, all coming from cocaine.

I know the second checks act dealt with some of those issues, but it might be something else we can do in the future, where if you are convicted of an offense where you are an addict, then a long-term substance abuse facility where you are only with people with your same problem. And it is a lockdown facility, you don't have a choice of going anywhere.

And as I have sat and watched some of the encounters in the meetings, like AA, that you have there in those facilities, boy, they have a BS-detector. They don't let people get away with anything. They have been there. They know, and it had a better success rate than any other program that I had seen.

So this is a great start toward getting the right thing done, and I appreciate Mr. JEFFRIES, and in the past, Mr. Richmond—I know it was his desire—and Chairman NADLER, for making this happen.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the EQUAL Act which eliminates the discriminatory sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine.

I want to thank Chairman NADLER for his leadership in bringing this bill before our committee and its quick passage. And, of course, I thank Chairman JEFFRIES and Mr. ARMSTRONG and Chairman SCOTT for their leadership on this issue.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago, Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, which created this drastic sentencing disparity between two types of cocaine; the same substance, just in a different form. And as has been explained, under the disparity you needed 100 times the amount of powder cocaine than crack cocaine to get the same sentence.

There was no scientific basis for this, no empirical evidence that there was any difference. The harm that this caused was devastating to so many. For more than three decades defendants have suffered under this disparity with highly disproportionate impacts on communities of color. That has led to mass incarceration and, as I said, the destruction of so many lives unnecessarily.

In 2010, Congress changed the sentencing disparity from a 100:1 to 18:1. And while that was some progress, in 2018, we improved on that even more under the extraordinary leadership of Mr. JEFFRIES by making it retroactive. But while it was a step in the right direction, making the disparity smaller did not make the sentencing fair. And today we finally do that.

I served as a public defender and a criminal defense lawyer for many years, and I have seen, unfortunately, how often our criminal justice systems fails to deliver justice. And this disparity is just one of those examples. This vital legislation will at last fully resolve the discriminatory sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine and correct this injustice for so many.

Our prisons are overcrowded and lives are unfairly harmed every day, especially in communities of color, because of unjust and discriminatory sentencing laws resulting in mass incarceration and other harms.

The EQUAL Act is one important step of so many that we have to take to end this cycle. I want to end again by thanking Mr. JEFFRIES for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. I thank Mr. NADLER for bringing this bill to the floor, and I am delighted it is bipartisan.

And if Mr. GOHMERT is right, that Texas did this some years ago, 1:1, I will say words that I never expected to say on the House floor in my life: We need to follow the lead of Texas.

□ 1315

Mr. GOHMERT. I continue to reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee for yielding and with the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, Judge GOHMERT knows, and we know that Texas knows how to lead. So I thank them so very much for bringing that to our attention.

Let me take just a moment to turn and say thank you to Chairman JEFFRIES for leading us on and providing the energy and the engine for doing something that is and will continue to be lifesaving.

It is my life's work to use the criminal justice system as a reform mechanism to save lives and to ensure that it is not a system that unequally prides itself on supporting the rights sometimes of the offender without acknowledging the rights of the victim.

In many instances in addiction, Mr. Speaker, you will find persons who go awry of the criminal justice system as victims because they then are not given the treatment that they should get, or they are not given the recognition of the question of how you can

fairly address these laws. They are, in fact, becoming victims. They are victims of the system. They become incarcerated. They lose their right to vote. Their families are separated from them. They are stigmatized. They may lose their life's dream of being a teacher or a police officer or a lawyer.

We don't know what lives we lost in the so-called war on drugs and how many fell by the wayside. So I am proud to support H.R. 1693, the EQUAL Act of 2021, which will finally eliminate the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses and provide retroactive relief to thousands of people who received harsh and unfair sentences based on this disparity.

The crack and powder cocaine sentencing disparity is another byproduct of our country's failed war on drugs. I have long championed for the equalization of crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses. The evidence of the statement of support and comments of our co-manager, Mr. GOHMERT from Texas, and as well the letter from Mr. ARMSTRONG showed the bipartisan recognition of where we are today.

I want to thank the members of the Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee who collectively have had a vision along with all the members of the Judiciary Committee.

What are we doing there?

Yes, we are there to uphold laws to promote the legal process under the system called criminal justice, but we are surely there to ensure that criminal justice works.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Beginning in 2007 I introduced legislation that would have ended the disparity, because we had learned that most of the assumptions on which the 100-to-1 ratio was based turned out to be unfounded. Those unfounded assumptions damaged communities of color for generations. A higher percentage of Black Americans are convicted of crack cocaine versus powder cocaine offenses and receive significantly longer sentences for comparable offenses, and the percentage of individuals serving unreasonably long sentences is because that disparity exists.

Let me also indicate, I was happy to introduce an amendment to allow the courts to grant sentence reductions absent the defendant's presence as required today. This will eliminate the court's logjam, and some of these individuals are, in fact, incarcerated still. Individuals like William Underwood, Matthew Charles, and Cynthia Shank all testified before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees about the devastating impact that sentencing disparity and mandatory minimum laws have had on them, their families, and countless others.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue. I am excited that the introduction of my legislation now today will become reality, and I am excited to be a partner and working with Chairman JEFFRIES on this important legislation.

Finally, to conclude, I want just to say that race has been a factor, and we are glad that we are moving beyond that. We must pass the EQUAL Act.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as someone who grew up in a community on the front line of the racist so-called war on drugs, I am proud to stand here today in support of the EQUAL Act to eliminate racial disparities in crack and powder cocaine possession.

The war on drugs was designed as a racist project to target Black and Brown Americans—my neighbors—and the obvious racial disparities in enforcement show us that it still is at its core a racist effort targeting communities of color through over-policing, criminalization, and mass incarceration.

Simply put, addiction is a health condition not a crime. Giving incarcerated people an opportunity to be resentenced will transform lives immediately. We need to be doing more to make reparations to those impacted by the so-called war on drugs. While this bill is a great step on the road to comprehensive drug and criminal justice reform, we must go further. Our goal must be to end this country's militarized ''jail first, ask questions later'' approach to addiction and stop trying to solve social problems with policing.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Michigan an additional 1 minute.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to supporting the future legislation aimed at comprehensive decriminalization of possession for personal use of these substances and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

Lastly, it is a personal honor to support and uplift Kandia Milton who approached me about this bill and who is with Dreams Corps JUSTICE in Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Kandia's work. It allows me to also fight for all of us today.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's efforts in regard to this bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the EQUAL Act of 2021 represents an important step in our efforts to reform the criminal justice system. I thank Representatives JEFFRIES, SCOTT, ARMSTRONG, and BACON for their leadership in introducing this important legislation and for assembling a broad and bipartisan coalition of stakeholders in support of the bill, including the Department of Justice and advocacy groups that span the entire ideological spectrum.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1693, the EQUAL Act, which would eliminate the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine. I would like to thank my colleagues Representatives JEFFRIES, BACON, and ARMSTRONG for their work to bring this bill to the floor today.

In 1986, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act created a 100-to-1 sentencing disparity between the amount of crack cocaine that triggered an automatic 5-year mandatory minimum sentence and the amount of powder cocaine that would trigger the same punishment. This sentencing disparity had a racially disparate impact on Black communities, did nothing to change personal behaviors, and has been a tremendous waste of taxpayer money and resources. There are no pharmacological differences between these two substances. Yet more than 80 percent of people convicted in federal court for crack offenses are Black, while only 27 percent of those convicted of powder cocaine offenses are Black.

The crack cocaine sentencing disparity has forced judges to impose higher penalties for very small amounts of crack cocaine. This also had the bizarre effect of punishing those individuals lower in the drug distribution chain much more severely than the actual drug kingpins for two reasons: the kingpins generally distribute powder from which the crack is produced, and lower level defendants often lack information on the drug operation that they can turn over to prosecutors in order to obtain sentencing credit for cooperation.

Mandatory minimums, whether they are equal or not, must be eliminated. The ''tough on crime'' policies based on slogans and sound bites have failed, and mandatory minimums have been studied extensively—they fail to reduce crime, they waste taxpayers' money and often require judges to impose sentences that violate common sense. Instead of arguing about whether someone should receive a five-year mandatory minimum, we should be investing in early education, workforce training, and our communities.

The EQUAL Act is the next step on the long road toward eliminating this unfair sentencing disparity. In 2009, I led the effort in the House to eliminate this disparity in the Fairness in Cocaine Sentencing Act. That effort eventually led to the 2010 passage of the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the crack/powder cocaine disparity from 100:1 to 18:1. That was a hard-fought compromise, and the EQUAL Act will finally end this disparity. This is an important step toward fixing our criminal justice system and making it fairer. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and hope the Senate moves quickly to send this bill to the President's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1693, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4981) to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4981

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

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING.

Section 7221(f)(2) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (133 Stat. 2273) is amended by striking ''270 days'' and inserting ''390 days''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4981.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4981, a bill to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking.

I want to thank my colleague and friend, Mr. TRONE from Maryland, for authoring this bipartisan bill. Mr. TRONE has been an invaluable voice in Congress for combating our country's opioid crisis. Far too many families in my community, Pennsylvania's greater Lehigh Valley, have endured indescribable heartbreak and loss as a result of this crisis.

When I first started serving in Congress back in 2018, I made a solemn commitment that I would do everything within my power to end the devastation of the opioid crisis once and for all. I am dedicated to keeping that promise.

Earlier this year, I was proud to see Mr. TRONE elected as Democratic co-chairman of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking. Mr. TRONE, working alongside his co-chair, Senator TOM COTTON, in a bipartisan manner is developing a strategic approach to combat the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control released data indicating that the surge in overdose deaths from 2018 to 2019 was the greatest year-over-year increase. Tragically, far too many Americans have witnessed the horrific effects of this opioid crisis.

Just as we must also take on the greed of the pharmaceutical industry—which has done a great deal to lead us to this point domestically when it comes to the opioid crisis writ large—most of the fentanyl consumed in the United States is manufactured outside of the country, so it is crucial that we engage closely with our international partners to address this scourge. The Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking aims to do just that.

Synthetic drugs, unlike plant-based drugs such as cocaine or heroin, are not limited by climate-growing restrictions. Any country can produce synthetic drugs, and according to a January 2020 Drug Enforcement Administration report, this may lead to a rapidly diversifying list of synthetic drug-producing countries and suppliers.

With such an imposing task ahead of us, strong, bipartisan cooperation is critical. We must work together to do what is right and find a solution that can help save countless American lives.

This bill will amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to extend the amount of time granted to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking. The commission was originally slated to start in 2020 but could not get underway until March of this year. It is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to get this right.

I thank Mr. TRONE again for being a strong champion for bipartisan collaboration in the fight against opioid abuse.

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

□ 1330

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the bill to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act. Across our Nation, Americans are increasingly becoming exposed to the impact of the illicit distribution of fentanyl. Our local news is reporting on another overdose caused by a lethal dose of illicit fentanyl with increased frequency. This synthetic opioid is making its toxic presence known in our communities.

Fentanyl is similar to morphine but almost 100 times more potent. It is manufactured at a low cost in labs overseas, primarily in China. It is then smuggled into the United States through Mexico.

In cases of overdose, the individual is not aware that it contains a lethal dose until it is too late.

This body recognizes that the People's Republic of China is failing to effectively regulate and implement illicit trafficking of fentanyl.

In December 2019, we called for the establishment of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking. Specifically, this Commission was designed to work with the executive branch in developing a consensus on a strategic approach to combating the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

The underlying bill recognizes the importance of this Commission and the work that is still needed.

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the author of this bill and a champion in combating the opioid crisis.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WILD very much for her kind words.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass my bill to extend the work of the National Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking so, together, we can complete the Commission's important work in a timely manner.

As many of you know, my mission in Congress is to end the opioid epidemic in this country. This bipartisan Commission will help us do just that.

Thanks to the leadership of Senate Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER and our former congressional colleague, Max Rose, this bipartisan Commission was established by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020. I was honored that Speaker NANCY PELOSI appointed me to the Commission, and that my colleagues on the Commission voted to elect me co-chair, along with Senator TOM COTTON.

The goal of the Commission is to develop a strategic approach to combating the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States, but my goal for the Commission is much more simple. It is simply to save lives—save lives, period.

Last year, we saw more than 93,000 people die of a drug overdose in this country. We set a new record, a record we never wanted to set. In Maryland alone, we lost nearly 2,500 to opioids.

After we made progress in the fight against overdoses in 2019, the numbers are continuing to rise due to the pandemic. As overdoses continue to rise in communities across the country, we have our work cut out for us in this

fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are among the deadliest illicit substances in the drug industry today. In my home State of Maryland, fentanyl was involved in 93 percent of all opioid deaths in 2020, and opioid-related deaths were up 46 percent in western Maryland in 2020, compared to the same time last year.

We need to act now if we are going to put an end to these senseless deaths, and we cannot do it alone. That is why I am so grateful for the work of the bipartisan Commission.

The Commission's membership includes the best of the best. From the administration, we have representatives from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, DEA, DHS, DOD, Treasury, State, and the Director of National Intelligence.

In Congress, Republican Congressman FRED UPTON and Democrat Senator ED MARKEY, two champions in the fight against addiction, are working alongside Senator COTTON and me.

We have a number of experts from outside government, including Karen Tandy, Sandy Winnefeld, and other distinguished individuals. We are grateful that Kemp Chester, from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, guides our work as executive director. We are lucky to have the expertise of the experts at RAND working to find solutions for this incredibly difficult challenge.

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to begin our work as soon as we would have liked. For that reason, we must pass this simple but crucial bill to extend the work of the Commission until February of next year.

This extension will allow us to continue our important work and produce a report with actionable steps that will combat the flow of synthetic opioids into our country and, most importantly, save lives.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) for the work that he is doing.

Having served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and now serving on Judiciary as the chair of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee, I can affirmatively say that fentanyl kills. It kills people. It kills our children, our mothers, our fathers. It kills the family's infrastructure and system.

So let me just simply indicate that the idea of having an extension of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking to join in the thoughtful discussion of what we are attempting to do on drugs that kill.

We in the Judiciary Committee have been working and secured an extension of fentanyl sanctions, and it was in acknowledgment that the community is suffering by the harmful effects of fentanyl abuse and usage. It was acknowledging that it is imperative that we find a thoughtful resolution to address the grave tragedies that plague communities like mine and those throughout the country.

Earlier, I mentioned names of individuals who were on the other side in terms of incarceration because of the imbalance in drug enforcement. But, again, we say that fentanyl kills.

Given the importance of getting this right, I am in support of extending the measure in Judiciary, but I am in support of having the opportunity for thoughtful discussion to deal with what our next steps are.

Any way that we can come together to address the loss of life and, of course, the acceptance that fentanyl kills, and other opioid substances as well, used and abused, then I can assure you that we are doing the right thing as Members of Congress.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as noted, the battle we wage against the illicit distribution of fentanyl is ongoing. Extending the time allows the Commission to provide us a better understanding of the challenges we face and includes a strategy to address it. The valuable work of this Commission is critical to addressing this poison in our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

According to the National Institutes of Health, in 2018, 128 people died each day from opioid overdoses. We must not lose sight of the devastating toll these drugs are taking on our country. We need to tackle the opioid crisis from every angle. I am hopeful that passing this bill will take us one step closer to ending this epidemic.

I again thank Mr. TRONE for authoring this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4981, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4981.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

WAR CRIMES REWARDS EXPANSION ACT

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4250) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4250

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 ''War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Paragraph (10) of section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended by striking ''defined under the statute of such tribunal;'' and inserting the following: ''defined under—

''(A) the statute of such country or tribunal, as the case may be; or

''(B) United States law;''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4250.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4250, the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act, authored by Representative FOXX.

The bill broadens the State Department rewards program for individuals or whistleblowers who come forward with and provide information on genocide or war crimes. It clarifies that the rewards can also be provided for prosecutions that fall under domestic law, including American law or the law of another nation, in addition to international law.

We have seen, time and again, that whistleblower programs are the most effective type of compliance mechanism, and the State Department rewards program itself is a proven tool for bringing the perpetrators of atrocities to justice.

The United States must continue to demonstrate that we are steadfast in our commitment to holding war criminals accountable and that the mechanisms we have in place to bring about their arrest are flexible and robust.

This bill is straightforward. By expanding the scope of what rewards can be paid for information, we will incentivize more individuals to come forward and gain more information with which to find and prosecute these criminals.

This legislation has passed the House in previous Congresses, and we hope

this bill can make it across the finish line this time around.

This is an important measure. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act.

Sadly, we live in a world where crimes against humanity still occur. We have seen three declared genocides in just the last 20 years: in Darfur in 2004, by ISIS in 2016, and the one in Xinjiang that was formally declared by Secretary Mike Pompeo before he left office earlier this year.

We have, of course, also seen the horrific ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya in Burma. We have seen atrocities committed by Assad against his own people in Syria.

But bringing the criminals behind these massacres to justice can be difficult. That is why, 35 years ago, we enacted the State Department rewards program. It authorizes the Secretary of State to offer rewards for the arrest or conviction of some of the most dangerous people in the world.

□ 1345

Originally written to be used against international terrorists, this successful program has since been expanded to include drug traffickers, war criminals, and perpetrators of genocide.

As the world changes and as international criminals evolve, we need to make sure this important program evolves with them.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act. This bill makes clear that these rewards are not just meant to support international tribunals. They can also be used to bring these dangerous criminals to justice here in the United States under United States law.

I want to thank the author of the bill, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX, for her work on this bill.

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

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

Mrs. KIM of CALIFORNIA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the author of the bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding.

I want to thank especially the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. RASKIN, for his support on this bill as well as my other colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bipartisan bill, which will enhance the domestic prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Though we often think of these atrocities as being tried at international tribunals, there are many domestic statutes as well that criminalize genocide and war crimes. It is important that we can apply domestic law in the prosecution of these criminals, and this bill allows the State Department's War Crimes Rewards Program to offer rewards for the arrest or conviction of perpetrators of these atrocities.

Earlier this month, we witnessed our domestic justice system prosecuting war crimes and acts of terrorism. One of the now infamous associates of Jihadi John just pled guilty to all eight counts against him in a U.S. district court. He played a leading role in the ISIS plan to kidnap, hold for ransom, and ultimately behead four American hostages. Domestic prosecution can bring swift justice and allows nations to hold perpetrators more directly accountable to those that they have wronged, such as the victims' families.

With passage of the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act, we can see even more perpetrators of atrocities against Americans brought to justice.

During just the last 20 years, we have witnessed three declared genocides: Darfur in 2004, ISIS in 2016, and the Xinjiang province in 2021. We want those who commit these atrocities and heinous crimes to feel the weight of the law pressing in on them and feel that America is hunting for them. We want them never to feel safe, never find rest, and we know we will not rest until they are brought to justice.

This bill will help make America safer and bring perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

Mrs. KIM of CALIFORNIA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Department of State's rewards program serves an important purpose by turning the tables on dangerous foreign terrorists and human rights violators so they face the justice they so rightly deserve.

I want to thank Dr. FOXX for her work on this bill and Chairman MEEKS for bringing this bill to the floor and giving us the opportunity to clarify this important authority.

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act would broaden the State Department's rewards program by clarifying that rewards can also be provided for prosecutions that fall under domestic law, whether it be American law or the law of another nation. This would further incentivize individuals to come forward with valuable information, leading to the arrest and prosecution of some of the worst perpetrators of human rights abuses and war crimes.

I thank Representative FOXX for authoring this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4250.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

LIBYA STABILIZATION ACT

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1228

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Libya Stabilization Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings; statement of policy.

TITLE I—IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES TO STABILITY IN LIBYA

Sec. 101. Report on activities of certain foreign governments and actors in Libya.
Sec. 102. Report of Russian activities and objectives in Libya.
Sec. 103. Determination of sanctionable activities of the Libyan National Army with respect to Syria.

TITLE II—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

Sec. 201. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons leading, directing, or supporting certain foreign government involvement in Libya.
Sec. 202. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons threatening the peace or stability of Libya.
Sec. 203. Sanctions with respect to foreign persons who are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in Libya.
Sec. 204. Sanctions described.
Sec. 205. Waiver.
Sec. 206. Implementation and regulatory authority.
Sec. 207. Exception relating to importation of goods.
Sec. 208. Definitions.
Sec. 209. Suspension of sanctions.
Sec. 210. Sunset.

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR LIBYA

Sec. 301. Humanitarian relief for the people of Libya and international refugees and migrants in Libya.

Sec. 302. Support for democratic governance, elections, and civil society.
Sec. 303. Engaging international financial institutions to advance Libyan economic recovery and improve public sector financial management.
Sec. 304. Recovering assets stolen from the Libyan people.
Sec. 305. Authority to expand educational and cultural exchange programs with Libya.
TITLE IV—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS
Sec. 401. Determination of budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The stability and territorial unity of Libya is critical to the security of the United States, Europe, North Africa, and the Sahel, as well as maritime routes in the southern Mediterranean Sea.

(2) United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) has identified containing instability in Libya as one of its six main lines of effort in Africa and works to support diplomatic efforts to reconstitute the Libyan State and to disrupt terrorist organizations that impede that process or threaten United States interests.

(3) According to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Islamic State in Libya (ISIS-Libya) is ''degraded''. However, AFRICOM continues to ''keep pressure on ISIS and other violent extremist organizations as they seek to take advantage of the security vacuum created by the civil war in Libya''.

(4) According to the United Nations, since April 2019, the conflict in Libya has led to the deaths of more than 500 civilians and the displacement of more than 200,000 people.

(5) Parties to the conflict in Libya have killed civilians, committed torture and abuse, committed mass extrajudicial killings, requisitioned the houses of civilians, targeted medical facilities, and blocked humanitarian access to food, health, and other life-saving services, worsening humanitarian conditions.

(6) According to the United Nations, as of November 2020, more than 574,000 migrants and refugees remained in Libya and the ''continued arbitrary detention of migrants and refugees in formal detention centers and at informal smuggler sites remains a critical concern in Libya''. Migrants and refugees, including women and children, are routinely subjected to discrimination, arrest, arbitrary detention, torture and other human rights violations and abuses. The United Nations has called for the immediate release, evacuation, and protection of refugees and migrants detained in conflict zones.

(7) In November 2019, the Government of the National Accord (GNA) and the Government of Turkey signed a Memorandum of Understanding on maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea.

(8) The Department of State's 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report states with regard to Libya ''Trafficking victims—including men, women, and children—are highly vulnerable to extreme violence and other human rights violations in Libya by governmental and non-state armed groups, including: physical, sexual, and verbal assault; abduction for ransom; extortion; arbitrary killings; inhumane detention; and child soldiering. . ..Migrants in Libya are extremely vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking [and . . .] are vulnerable to exploitation by state and non-state actors, including employers who refuse to pay laborers' wages.''.

(9) A November 2020 Department of Defense Inspector General report estimated there are approximately 2,000 mercenary forces affiliated with the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company, as well as approximately 2,000 Russian-backed Syrian fighters, advanced equipment, and advanced capabilities supporting Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) and Russian objectives in North Africa.

(10) The most recent AFRICOM posture statement claims, ''Russia continues to harvest benefits from the instability in Libya—its military meddling has prolonged the conflict and exacerbated casualties and humanitarian suffering.''.

(11) The Department of Defense Inspector General reported that, ''Turkey has hundreds of regular military personnel deployed to Libya in order to train GNA-aligned militias and to operate Turkish military equipment'' and sent thousands of Syrian mercenaries to Libya in support of the GNA.

(12) On January 19, 2020, at a peace conference in Berlin, representatives of the Governments of Algeria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Turkey, the Republic of Congo, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as regional and multilateral organizations, agreed to refrain from interference in Libya's internal affairs, abide by the United Nations arms embargo, and advance a 55-point communique to resolve the conflict in Libya.

(13) On February 13, 2020, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2510, which endorses the Conclusions of the International Conference on Libya held in Berlin, affirms the need for a lasting ceasefire, demands full compliance by all member states with the United Nations arms embargo, and expresses unequivocal support for the United Nations Special Representative and the ongoing United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)-facilitated intra-Libyan dialogue.

(14) On October 23, 2020, the warring parties in Libya agreed a ceasefire, which called for the withdrawal of all armed forces from conflict lines and the departure of all mercenaries and foreign fighters within three months, and was hailed by United Nations Secretary General António Guterres as ''a fundamental step toward peace and stability in Libya''.

(15) On January 19, 2021, United Nations Secretary General Guterres recommended that regional and international powers ensure the ''departure of all foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya and full and unconditional respect for the Security Council arms embargo'' and urged the Security Council to ''give UNSMIL a clear but flexible mandate to enable the Mission to support the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism''.

(16) On January 21, 2021, the United States joined the Governments of France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom to remind all Berlin Conference participants of the need to ''continue to support a ceasefire, restore full respect for the UN arms embargo, and end the toxic foreign interference that undermines the aspirations of all Libyans to reestablish their sovereignty and choose their future peacefully through national elections''.

(17) On March 11, 2021, the United States joined with France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom to welcome Libya's Government of National Unity and reiterate it will ''have the primary tasks of organizing free and fair elections on December 24, 2021, followed by a transfer of authority to Libya's democratically chosen leaders''.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to advance a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Libya through a United Nations-mediated Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process as the best way to secure United States interests and to ensure the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of Libya;

(2) to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), which established an arms embargo on Libya, and subsequent resolutions modifying and extending the embargo;

(3) to enforce Executive Order 13726 (81 Fed. Reg. 23559; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of persons contributing to the situation in Libya (April 19, 2016)), designed to target individuals or entities who ''threaten the peace, security, and stability of Libya'';

(4) to oppose attacks on civilians, medical workers, and critical infrastructure, including water supplies, in Libya, and to support accountability for those engaged in such heinous actions;

(5) to support Libya's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2510 (2020) and all predecessor resolutions with respect to Libya, including by—

(A) taking action to end the violence and flow of arms;

(B) rejecting attempts by any party to illicitly export Libya's oil; and

(C) urging the withdrawal of foreign military and mercenary forces;

(6) to leverage diplomatic relations to convince the parties to the conflict in Libya to maintain the current ceasefire and persuade foreign powers to stop providing personnel, including mercenaries, weapons, and financing that threaten to reignite the conflict;

(7) to support the Libyan Political Dialogue and advance the inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process, including elections planned for December 2021;

(8) to support a negotiated and peaceful political solution that includes a single, unified, inclusive, and effective Libyan Government approved by the Libyan House of Representatives, the end of a transitional period achieved through free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections planned for December 2021, a fair and transparent allocation of resources, interim security arrangements, and a process for the reunification of Libyan government ministries and Libyan sovereign institutions, including the Central Bank of Libya, the National Oil Corporation, and the Libyan Investment Authority;

(9) to help protect Libya's civilian population and implementing humanitarian and international organizations from the risk of harm resulting from explosive hazards such as landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and unexploded ordnance (UXO);

(10) to support constant, unimpeded, and reliable humanitarian access to those in need and to hold accountable those who impede or threaten the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(11) to seek to bring an end to severe forms of trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation, including with respect to migrants;

(12) to advocate for the immediate release and safe evacuations of detained refugees and migrants trapped by the fighting in Libya;

(13) to encourage implementation of UNSMIL's plan for the organized and gradual closure of migrant detention centers in Libya;

(14) to support greater defense institutional capacity building after a comprehensive political settlement;

(15) to support current and future democratic and economic development; and

(16) to discourage all parties from heightening tensions in the region, through unhelpful and provocative actions.

TITLE I—IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES TO STABILITY IN LIBYA

SEC. 101. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND ACTORS IN LIBYA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a description of the full extent of involvement in Libya by foreign governments, including the Governments of Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, China, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, including—

(A) a description of which governments have been linked to drone and aircraft strikes since April 2019;

(B) a list of the types and estimated amounts of equipment transferred by each government described in this paragraph to the parties to the conflict, including foreign military contractors, mercenaries, or paramilitary forces operating in Libya;

(C) an estimate of the financial support provided by each government described in this paragraph to the parties to the conflict, including foreign military contractors, mercenaries, or paramilitary forces operating in Libya; and

(D) a description of the activities of any regular, irregular, or paramilitary forces, including foreign military contractors, mercenary groups, and militias operating inside Libya, at the direction or with the consent of the governments described in this paragraph;

(2) an analysis and determination of whether the actions by the governments described in paragraph (1) violate the arms embargo with respect to Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2473 (2019) and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

(3) a list of the specific offending materiel or financial support transfers provided by a government described in paragraph (1) that—

(A) violate the arms embargo with respect to Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2473 (2019) and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

(B) contribute to civilian death, harm, or other violations of international humanitarian law; or

(C) involve weapons of United States origin or were in violation of United States end user agreements;

(4) a description of the activities of affiliates of ISIS, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and Ansar al-Sharia, in Libya;

(5) a description of efforts by the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Arab League, and their respective member states, to—

(A) enforce the arms embargo with respect to Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2473 (2019) and other relevant Security Council resolutions;

(B) facilitate a ceasefire;

(C) monitor a ceasefire; and

(D) support forthcoming elections;

(6) a description of any violations of the arms embargo by European Union member states; and

(7) a description of United States diplomatic engagement with the European Union, NATO, and the Arab League regarding enforcement of the United Nations arms embargo, ceasefire monitoring, and election support.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 102. REPORT OF RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES IN LIBYA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) General Stephen Townsend, Commander of United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), warned in January 2020 that in Libya, Russia seeks to ''demonstrate itself as an alternative partner to the West'' and seeks to position itself alongside the southern flank of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(2) AFRICOM has also stated that the Russian military presence in Libya threatens future United States military partnerships and counterterrorism cooperation by impeding United States access to Libya.

(3) AFRICOM has reported that the Government of Russia deployed 14 MiG-29 and Su-24 aircraft, SA-22 air defense equipment, and mine-resistant ambush protected armored vehicles to Libya to support Russian state-sponsored private military contractors, including the Wagner Group.

(4) In January 2021, United States officials told the international press that mercenaries affiliated with the Wagner Group were constructing sophisticated defensive fortifications in central Libya.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains an assessment of Russian activities and objectives in Libya, including—

(A) the potential threat such activities pose to the United States, southern Europe, NATO, and partners in the Mediterranean Sea and North African region;

(B) the direct role of Russia in Libyan financial affairs, to include issuing and printing currency;

(C) Russia's use of mercenaries, military contractors, equipment, and paramilitary forces in Libya; and

(D) an assessment of sanctions and other policies adopted by United States partners and allies against the Wagner Group and its destabilizing activities in Libya, including sanctions on Yevgeny Prigozhin.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 103. DETERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE LIBYAN NATIONAL ARMY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a list of members of the Libyan National Army (LNA), and details of their activities, that the President determines are knowingly responsible for sanctionable offenses pursuant to—

(1) section 7412 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note; 133 Stat. 2292); or

(2) Executive Order 13582 (76 Fed. Reg. 52209; relating to blocking property of the Government of Syria and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to Syria (August 17, 2011)).

TITLE II—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

SEC. 201. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS LEADING, DIRECTING, OR SUPPORTING CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN LIBYA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each foreign person who the President determines knowingly engages in an activity described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person engages in an activity described in this subsection if the person leads, directs, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support to, or knowingly engages in a significant transaction with, a non-Libyan foreign person who is—

(1) in Libya in a military or commercial capacity as a military contractor, mercenary, or part of a paramilitary force; and

(2) engaged in significant actions that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya.

SEC. 202. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THREATENING THE PEACE OR STABILITY OF LIBYA.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each foreign person on the list required by subsection (b).

(b) LIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of—

(1) foreign persons, including senior government officials, militia leaders, paramilitary leaders, and other persons who provide significant support to militia or paramilitary groups in Libya, that the President determines are knowingly—

(A) engaged in significant actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Libya, including any supply of arms or related materiel in violation of a United Nations Security Council resolution with respect to Libya;

(B) engaged in significant actions or policies that obstruct, undermine, delay, or impede, or pose a significant risk of obstructing, undermining, delaying, or impeding the United Nations-mediated political process that seeks a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Libyan crisis;

(C) engaged in significant actions that may lead to or result in the misappropriation of significant state assets of Libya;

(D) involved in, or has been involved in, the significant illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya, including the significant illicit production, refining, brokering, sale, purchase, or export of Libyan oil;

(E) significantly threatening or coercing Libyan state financial institutions or the Libyan National Oil Company; or

(F) significantly responsible for actions or policies that are intended to undermine efforts to promote stabilization and economic recovery in Libya;

(2) foreign persons who the President determines are successor entities to persons referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1); and

(3) foreign persons who the President determines—

(A) own or control, or are owned or controlled by, a person referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2); and

(B) have provided, or attempted to provide, significant financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, a person referred to in

any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) for purposes of engaging in any activity listed in such subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

(4) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years; or

(B) as new information becomes available.

(5) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 203. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTED IN LIBYA.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose each of the sanctions described in section 204 with respect to each foreign person on the list required by subsection (b).

(b) LIST OF PERSONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of foreign persons, including senior government officials, militia leaders, paramilitary leaders, and other persons who provide significant support to militia or paramilitary groups in Libya, that the President determines are knowingly responsible for or complicit in, or have directly or indirectly engaged in, gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in Libya.

(2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years; or

(B) as new information becomes available.

(3) FORM.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 204. SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.

(a) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be imposed with respect to a foreign person under section 201, 202, or 203 are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person who meets any of the criteria described section 201, 202, or 203 is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A foreign person subject to section 201, 202, or 203 is subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(b) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations issued under section 206(2) of this Act to carry out subsection (a)(1) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person who commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Sanctions under subsection (a)(2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States.

(d) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL SECURITY.—The following activities shall be exempt from sanctions under this section:

(1) Activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.).

(2) Any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

SEC. 205. WAIVER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive, for one or more periods not to exceed 90 days, the application of sanctions imposed on a foreign person under this title if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than the date on which such waiver will take effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for such waiver.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 206. IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

The President—

(1) is authorized to exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this title; and

(2) shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 207. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means an individual or entity who is not a United States person.

(3) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term ''foreign government'' means any government of a country other than the United States.

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'' with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) an individual who is a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

(6) GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.—The term ''gross violations of internationally recognized human rights'' has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

SEC. 209. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend in whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this title for periods not to exceed 90 days if the President determines that the parties to the conflict in Libya have agreed to and are upholding a sustainable, good-faith ceasefire in support of a lasting political solution in Libya.

(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President makes a determination to suspend the imposition of sanctions as described in subsection (a), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of the determination.

(c) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions suspended under subsection (a) shall be reimposed if the President determines that the criteria described in that subsection are no longer being met.

SEC. 210. SUNSET.

The requirement to impose sanctions under this title shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2026.

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR LIBYA

SEC. 301. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA AND INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LIBYA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should—

(A) continue senior-level efforts to address Libya's humanitarian crisis, which has been exacerbated by the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic;

(B) leverage diplomatic relations with the warring parties to guarantee constant, reliable humanitarian access by frontline providers in Libya;

(C) leverage diplomatic relations with the warring parties, the United Nations, and the European Union to encourage the voluntary safe passage of detained vulnerable migrants and refugees from the conflict zones in Libya; and

(D) support efforts to document and publicize gross violations of internationally recognized human rights and international humanitarian law, including efforts related to severe forms of trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation, and hold perpetrators accountable; and

(2) humanitarian assistance to address the crisis in Libya should be targeted toward those most in need and delivered through partners that uphold internationally recognized humanitarian principles, with robust monitoring to ensure assistance is reaching intended beneficiaries.

(b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State, should continue to support humanitarian assistance to individuals and communities in Libya, including—

(1) health assistance, including logistical and technical assistance to hospitals, ambulances, and health clinics in affected communities, including migrant communities, and provision of basic public health commodities, including support for an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) services, such as medicines and medical supplies and equipment;

(3) assistance to provide—

(A) protection, food, and shelter, including to migrant communities;

(B) water, sanitation, and hygiene (commonly referred to as ''WASH''); and

(C) resources and training to increase communications and education to help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 and to increase future vaccine acceptance; and

(4) technical assistance to ensure health, food, and commodities are appropriately selected, procured, targeted, monitored, and distributed.

(c) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy on the following:

(1) How the United States, working with relevant foreign governments and multilateral organizations, plans to address the humanitarian situation in Libya.

(2) Diplomatic efforts by the United States to encourage strategic burden-sharing and the coordination of donations with international donors, including foreign governments and multilateral organizations to advance the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Libya and international migrants and refugees in Libya.

(3) How to address humanitarian access challenges and ensure protection for vulnerable refugees and migrants, including protection from severe forms of trafficking in persons such as slavery, forced labor, and sexual exploitation.

(4) How the United States is mitigating risk, utilizing third party monitors, and ensuring effective delivery of assistance.

(5) How to address the tragic and persistent deaths of migrants and refugees at sea and human trafficking.

(d) INTEGRATION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE-LED STABILIZATION EFFORTS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, working with United States allies, international organizations, and implementing partners, including local implementing partners, to the extent practicable, should continue coordinated international stabilization efforts in Libya to—

(A) build up the capacity of implementers and national mine action authorities engaged in conventional weapons destruction efforts and mine risk education training and programs; and

(B) conduct operational clearance of explosive remnants of war resulting from the 2011 revolution and current military conflict in Libya, including in territory previously occupied by ISIS-Libya, and particularly in areas where unexploded ordnance, booby traps, and anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines contaminate areas of critical infrastructure and large housing districts posing a risk of civilian casualties.

(2) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, humanitarian assistance authorized under subsection (b) and the strategy required by subsection (c) shall take into account and integrate Department of State-led stabilization efforts—

(A) to address—

(i) contamination from landmines and other explosive remnants of war left from the 2011 revolution and current military conflict in Libya, including in territory previously occupied by ISIS-Libya; and

(ii) proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons resulting from such conflict and the destabilizing impact the proliferation of such weapons has in Libya and neighboring countries; and

(B) to mitigate the threat that destruction of conventional weapons poses to development, the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the safe and secure return of internally displaced persons.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 302. SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, ELECTIONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate United States Government efforts to—

(1) work with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the transitional Government of National Unity in Libya to prepare for national elections in December 2021, as called for by the Libyan Political Dialogue, and a subsequent political transition;

(2) support efforts to resolve the current civil conflict in Libya;

(3) work to help the people of Libya and a future Libyan government develop functioning, unified Libyan economic, security, and governing institutions;

(4) work to ensure free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections in December 2021 organized by an independent and effective High National Elections Commission in Libya, including through supporting electoral security and international election observation and by providing training and technical assistance to institutions with election-related responsibilities, as appropriate;

(5) work with the people of Libya, nongovernmental organizations, and Libyan institutions to strengthen democratic governance, reinforce civilian institutions and support decentralization in order to address community grievances, promote social cohesion, mitigate drivers of violent extremism, and help communities recover from Islamic State occupation;

(6) defend against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in Libya, including by supporting efforts to document such violations;

(7) to combat corruption and improve the transparency and accountability of Libyan government institutions; and

(8) to support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information with the Libyan people.

(b) RISK MITIGATION AND ASSISTANCE MONITORING.—The Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that appropriate steps are taken to mitigate risk of diversion of assistance for Libya and ensure reliable third-party monitoring is utilized for projects in Libya that United States Government personnel are unable to access and monitor.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the activities carried out under subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 to carry out subsection (a).

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Any expenditure of amounts made available to carry out subsection (a) shall be subject to the notification requirements applicable to—

(A) expenditures from the Economic Support Fund under section 531(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346(c)); and

(B) expenditures from the Development Assistance Fund under section 653(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2413(a)).

SEC. 303. ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO ADVANCE LIBYAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to support, in a way that is consistent with broader United States national interests, a Libyan-led process to develop a framework for the economic recovery of Libya and improved public sector financial management, complementary to United Nations-led peace efforts and in support of the future establishment of a sovereign state with democratic institutions and the rule of law in Libya.

(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—To the extent consistent with broader United States national interests, the framework described in subsection (a) shall include the following policy proposals:

(1) To restore, respect, and safeguard the integrity, unity, and lawful governance of Libya's key economic ministries and institutions, in particular the Central Bank of Libya, the Libya Investment Authority, the National Oil Corporation, and the Audit Bureau (AB).

(2) To improve the accountability and effectiveness of Libyan authorities, including

sovereign economic institutions, in providing services and opportunity to the Libyan people.

(3) To assist in improving public financial management and reconciling the public accounts of national financial institutions and letters of credit issued by private Libyan financial institutions as needed pursuant to a political process.

(4) To restore the production, efficient management, and development of Libya's oil and gas industries so such industries are resilient against malign foreign influence and can generate prosperity on behalf of the Libyan people.

(5) To promote the development of private sector enterprise.

(6) To improve the transparency and accountability of public sector employment and wage distribution.

(7) To strengthen supervision of and reform of Libyan financial institutions.

(8) To eliminate exploitation of price controls and market distorting subsidies in the Libyan economy.

(9) To support opportunities for United States businesses.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In supporting the framework described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to encourage the institution to consult with relevant stakeholders in the financial, governance, and energy sectors.

(d) DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—In this section, the term ''international financial institution'' means the International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Development Association, International Finance Corporation, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, African Development Bank, African Development Fund, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa, and Inter-American Investment Corporation.

(e) TERMINATION.—The requirements of this section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2026.

SEC. 304. RECOVERING ASSETS STOLEN FROM THE LIBYAN PEOPLE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General should, to the extent practicable, advance a coordinated international effort—

(1) to carry out special financial investigations to identify and track assets taken from the people and institutions of Libya through theft, corruption, money laundering, or other illicit means; and

(2) to work with foreign governments—

(A) to share financial investigations intelligence, as appropriate;

(B) to oversee the assets identified pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(C) to provide technical assistance to help governments establish the necessary legal framework to carry out asset forfeitures.

(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The coordinated international effort described in subsection (a) should include input from—

(1) the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes of the Department of the Treasury;

(2) the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury; and

(3) the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 305. AUTHORITY TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH LIBYA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should expand educational and cultural exchange programs with Libya to promote mutual understanding and people-to-people linkages between the United States and Libya.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The President is authorized to expand educational and cultural exchange programs with Libya, including programs carried out under the following:

(1) The J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program referred to in paragraph (1) of section 112(a) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)).

(2) The International Visitors Program referred to in paragraph (3) of such section.

(3) The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Student Leaders Program.

(4) The Youth Exchange and Study Program.

(5) Other related programs administered by the Department of State.

TITLE IV—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 401. 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. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. 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 H.R. 1228, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Libya Stabilization Act, H.R. 1228, sponsored by Congressman TED DEUTCH and Congressman JOE WILSON, chairman and ranking member respectively, of the Middle East, North Africa and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

This important legislation responds to years of instability and violence created by the conflict in Libya, which has laid the groundwork for the proliferation and growth of violent extremist groups. As various powers converge on Libya to expand their influence in the country and across North Africa, the lives of the Libyan people are at stake. Far, far too many have seen their fundamental rights and dignity trampled as a result of the chaos unleashed on the country over the past decade.

The neocolonialist mindset that treats countries as pawns on a geopolitical chess board must end. No country has the right to unleash violence and chaos on another or to seize resources that belong to the Libyan people. This bill is not yet another attempt to infringe on the sovereignty of the Libyan people; rather, it is an effort to protect that sovereignty.

Today, though a nascent ceasefire facilitated by the U.N. has held and Libya continues on its path to building democratic institutions and constitutional reforms, violence and impunity for past and current human rights violations continue. Dangerous militia groups remain prevalent throughout the country.

The bill addresses such threats by sanctioning outside actors who fuel the growth of the conflict or are perpetrators of human rights abuses.

The bill also directs additional U.S. support to humanitarian relief and assistance efforts to help strengthen democratic governance, build a better, peaceful future for Libya, and ensure the security of the U.S. and our allies.

Such assistance and important measures are even more important as Libya faces a critical moment for its transitional path with presidential and parliamentary elections approaching this December.

Libya cannot be allowed to continue to spiral into lawlessness. A vacuum of leadership in Libya gives way to further extremism, which poses threats to the United States and our allies and partners.

I thank Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON for their work on this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2021.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1228, Libya Stabilization Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 1228 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on Financial Services conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2021.

Hon. GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 1228, the ''Libya Stabilization Act,'' that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 1228, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2021.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1228, Libya Stabilization Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 1228 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Libya Stabilization Act.

After years of civil war and violence, there are finally glimmers of optimism in Libya. Elections are scheduled for December. We hope these elections will help Libya continue on the path to democracy.

Unfortunately, as we have seen many times in this conflict, there is still the possibility that spoilers could upend this peace process.

We need to incentivize all parties to embrace a productive political track to establish stable governance in Libya and end the violence. That is the purpose of the legislation before us today.

Under this bill, if individuals are threatening the peace, security, and stability of Libya, they will be subject to sanctions.

Throughout this conflict, violent militias and foreign actors have threatened Libya and its citizens.

Russia is using the chaos in Libya to its advantage. As AFRICOM publicized last year, Russia deployed high-performance fighter aircraft to Libya.

Through this bill, we are turning up the pressure to ensure that Russia and other unhelpful foreign actors withdraw from Libya and to incentivize Libyan actors to support the emerging political process and a peaceful future for the people of Libya.

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the author of this bill and chairman of the Middle East, North Africa and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today in support of this legislation, H.R. 1228, the Libya Stabilization Act.

This bipartisan bill, which I introduced with my friend, ranking member of the Middle East, North Africa and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee, JOE WILSON, clarifies and strengthens American policy in support of a peaceful diplomatic resolution to the Libyan conflict.

The United States cannot afford to ignore this conflict. For years, fighting in Libya has undermined the stability of North Africa, exacerbated a humanitarian crisis, put the human rights of civilians—Libyans as well as migrants in Libya—in jeopardy, and it has impeded a return to U.N.-sponsored peace talks. Foreign interference has only escalated the conflict.

The Libya Stabilization Act will deter foreign interference in Libya by placing sanctions on those who deploy mercenaries, support militias, violate the U.N. arms embargo, and commit human rights violations in Libya.

It authorizes U.S. support for efforts to strengthen good governance, promote anticorruption efforts, support free and fair elections, and foster economic recovery.

The Libyan people deserve a future free from foreign meddling, from conflict and corruption, and from economic turmoil. They deserve to choose their leaders in free and fair elections.

That is why the United States must establish a clear and principled policy towards Libya. That is why I was proud to introduce this legislation in the 116th Congress and again in this Congress, to clarify U.S. policy towards Libya and empower the United States with sanctions authority to revitalize diplomacy, secure our national interests, stabilize Libya, and provide peace and opportunity for the Libyan people.

I have been heartened to see the Biden administration take a more active role in U.S. diplomacy over Libya, which is a primary goal of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the Libya Stabilization Act is a critical demonstration of Congress' interest in ending foreign intervention and consolidating Libya's political gains, both before and after the December elections. It is a demonstration that the United States is ready to play an active, engaged role in achieving long-term peace and stability in Libya.

That is why this bill is so important, and that is why I am proud to stand here in support of H.R. 1228. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation.

□ 1400

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for their leadership on this bill, and I urge all Members to support this legislation.

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

It is vital that Libya's path toward rebuilding democratic institutions, after years of conflict, is not upended by those who seek to fuel violence and instability.

H.R. 1228 sanctions outside actors responsible for human rights abuses and creating conflict as well as directing additional United States' assistance efforts to strengthen Libya's democratic governance.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1228, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

CAMBODIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2021

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4686) to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4686

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 ''Cambodia Democracy Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power in Cambodia since 1985 and is the longest-serving leader in Southeast Asia. Despite decades of international attention and assistance to promote a pluralistic, multiparty democratic system in Cambodia, the Government of Cambodia continues to be undemocratically dominated by the ruling Cambodia People's Party (CPP), which controls every agency and security apparatus of the state.

(2) The Government of Cambodia has taken several measures, particularly since 2017 and during the COVID–19 pandemic, to restrict Cambodia's space for civil society and media environment, especially through politicized tax investigations against independent media outlets.

(3) On September 3, 2017, Kem Sokha, the President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), was arrested on politically motivated charges and faces up to 30 years in prison. On November 16, 2017, Cambodia's Supreme Court dissolved the CNRP, eliminating the primary opposition party. While Kem Sokha is no longer in prison, his movements are restricted, he is prohibited from engaging in political activity, and his charges remain pending. The CNRP's previous leader, Sam Rainsy, remains in unofficial exile, and has been prevented from returning to the country.

(4) Since the CNRP's dissolution, the Government of Cambodia has arrested, imprisoned, or brought politically motivated charges against CNRP leaders and activists. Starting in November 2020, the Government of Cambodia has held a series of mass trials for over 100 individuals affiliated with the CNRP.

(5) Since 1991, the elections that have taken place in Cambodia were conducted in circumstances that were not free, fair, and credible or were marked by fraud, intimidation, violence, and the government's misuse of legal mechanisms to weaken opposition candidates and parties.

(6) The United States is committed to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia. The United States continues to urge the Government of Cambodia to immediately drop charges against Kem Sokha, reinstate the political status of the CNRP and restore its elected seats in the National Assembly, and support electoral reform efforts in Cambodia with free, fair, and credible elections monitored by international observers.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS RELATING TO UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA.

(a) DESIGNATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate and transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of—

(A) each senior official of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia who the President determines has directly and substantially undermined democracy in Cambodia;

(B) each senior official of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia who the President determines has committed or directed serious human rights violations associated with undermining democracy in Cambodia; and

(C) entities owned or controlled by senior officials of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) on each foreign person designated pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) UPDATES.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees updated lists under paragraph (1) as new information becomes available.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person designated under subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person designated under subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A foreign person designated under subsection (a) is subject to the following:

(i) IN GENERAL.—The foreign person is subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(C) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this paragraph shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a foreign person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a person designated under subsection (a) if the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

(e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

SEC. 4. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) SUSPENSION.—The sanctions described in section 3 may be suspended for up to 1-year upon certification by the President to the appropriate congressional committees that Cambodia is making meaningful progress toward the following:

(1) Ending government efforts to undermine democracy.

(2) Ending human rights violations associated with undermining democracy.

(3) Conducting free and fair elections which allow for the active participation of credible opposition candidates.

(b) RENEWAL OF SUSPENSION.—The suspension described in subsection (a) may be renewed for additional, consecutive-day periods if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Cambodia is continuing to make meaningful progress towards satisfying the conditions described in such subsection during the previous year.

SEC. 5. 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.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) PERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''person'' means—

(i) a natural person; or

(ii) a corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, financial institution, insurer, underwriter, guarantor, and any other business organization, any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group, and any governmental entity operating as a business enterprise or any successor to any entity described in this clause.

(B) APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—The term ''person'' does not include a

government or governmental entity that is not operating as a business enterprise.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction of the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4686, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4686, Cambodia Democracy Act of 2021, introduced by Representative STEVE CHABOT, ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation.

The situation in Cambodia has been alarming for several years now. We have witnessed the widespread suppression of democracy and human rights in the country, as the Cambodian Government places severe limits on fundamental freedoms of the press, speech, and association.

In 2017 the president of the opposition party, the Cambodian National Rescue Party, CNRP, Kem Sokha, was arrested and indefinitely imprisoned on spurious and politically-motivated charges. Kem's arrest was followed by a government decision to dissolve the opposition party on fictitious claims that it was colluding with the United States Government to overthrow the Cambodian Government. The unprecedented move crippled the only viable opposition ahead of nationwide elections.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party, under the leadership of Hun Sen, continues to erode Cambodia's democracy by ordering the arrest and harassment of hundreds of CNRP leaders, civil society leaders, prodemocracy activists, and government critics.

We must demonstrate our support to the Cambodian people as they fight against the growing authoritarianism in their country and struggle for the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights.

With the passage of this legislation, the House sends a strong, bipartisan message raising the costs on Cambodian officials who continue to suppress freedoms and undermine democracy of Cambodia.

Congress must take concrete steps to hold the Cambodian Government accountable for its backsliding of democracy and human rights and steer the country back on the path towards free and fair elections.

This is an important measure. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2021.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4686, the Cambodia Democracy Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4686 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2021.

Hon. JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YARMUTH: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4686, the Cambodia Democracy Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Budget under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 4686 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on the Budget conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in strong support of the Cambodia Democracy Act, which was introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

As a cosponsor and as an advocate for the Cambodian community in southern California, I am especially proud to speak on this measure today.

The people of Cambodia have been living under the iron-fisted rule of Hun Sen for decades. Under his reign, he has denied Cambodians almost all of their political rights and prevented free and fair elections from taking place. In recent years, Hun Sen has resorted to violence and attacked peaceful protesters. He has undermined Cambodia's democracy by dismantling the country's only viable opposition party.

The work of NGOs has also been limited, and critical media outlets have been shut down. Like many other dictators, he fears the day when he will no longer be in power.

As the beacon of hope and freedom to the rest of the world, a key pillar of our foreign policy must be to support the expansion of democracy in other countries.

The Cambodia Democracy Act will help push back on Hun Sen's regime by applying asset blocking and visa sanctions on any government officials or security forces who have undermined the democratic process or committed human rights abuses.

The strong bipartisan bill has passed the House in successive Congresses and is a touchstone of congressional support for the people of Cambodia and their desire to democratic governance.

Members of both parties have long supported this important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to continue that support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation, and the author of this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her unyielding commitment to freedom and democracy across the globe. She has been a tremendous addition to this House of Representatives.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4686, the Cambodia Democracy Act. This is bipartisan legislation that I introduced, along with my Democratic colleague, ALAN LOWENTHAL. He and I are co-chairs of the Cambodia Caucus, and we were pleased to champion this legislation. I want to note that our colleague, Ted Yoho, from Florida originally introduced this a few years back, but of course he has since retired from this great institution.

This legislation is a response to Prime Minister Hun Sen's ongoing

crackdown on his political opponents, which began in the runup to the Cambodian elections back in 2018. He arrested Kem Sokha, the leader of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, on bogus charges, and then proceeded to ban the whole party, and then persecute other leaders of that party. Hun Sen also shut down NGOs and independent media, including the National Democratic Institute and Radio Free Asia.

Unfortunately, four years later this crackdown hasn't let up. Hun Sen has kept the bogus charges hanging over Kem Sokha's head and prohibited him from participating in any political activity. He has also continued to target opposition politicians as well as civil society activists and journalists. In fact, starting last November, mass trials were held against opposition party members.

As a result, next year's commune elections will not have viable opposition party representation, which means that once again Cambodia's elections will be neither free nor fair.

Sadly, this latest crackdown is nothing new. Hun Sen has ruled Cambodia since 1985, 36 years, making him the longest-serving head of state in Southeast Asia.

To date, Hun Sen hasn't really faced any stiff consequences for this behavior from the United States, and that is embarrassing. That is why the Cambodia Democracy Act imposes sanctions on those who participated in Hun Sen's illegal, arbitrary attempt to smother democracy.

By targeting those directly responsible and holding them accountable, it is our hope that we can get Hun Sen and his cronies to realize that the only path forward for that country is to allow free and fair elections. We must not forget that the principal victims of Hun Sen's repression are the Cambodian people themselves.

Next month we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords, which clearly promises them democracy. So I would urge all my colleagues to help make good on the pledge made in the Paris Accords a long time ago by joining me to support this legislation and help put Cambodia back on the path to democracy.

I once again want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for her leadership in this effort.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I have no speakers, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Congressman CHABOT for introducing this bill and for all of his work on behalf of the Cambodian people.

I would also like to thank Congressman BERA for supporting this bill as the lead Democrat sponsor.

Helping restore Cambodia's democracy is in line with the American values that we all share. It is also a good national security strategy, as holding Hun Sen's regime accountable will pressure him to stop serving as a willing puppet of the Chinese Communist Party.

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

For many years now, Cambodians have struggled under an increasingly authoritarian and undemocratic regime. H.R. 4686, introduced by my colleague Representative STEVE CHABOT, would direct the President to impose sanctions on Cambodian officials who are responsible for acts that undermine democracy in Cambodia.

This bill sends a strong and unequivocal message that the United States stands firmly with the Cambodian people in their struggle for democracy and human rights. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4686, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

ELIMINATING A QUANTIFIABLY UNJUST APPLICATION OF THE LAW ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1693) to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 361, nays 66, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—361

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young

NAYS—66

Aderholt
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Banks
Biggs
Boebert
Buchanan
Buck
Cammack
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cline
Cloud
Duncan
Fallon
Fischbach
Franklin, C. Scott
Garcia (CA)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Greene (GA)
Guest
Hagedorn
Harris
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jackson
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Long
Luetkemeyer
Mast
McClain
Miller (IL)
Moolenaar
Mullin
Nunes
Obernolte
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Stauber
Steube
Tenney
Van Drew
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Hartzler
Kustoff
Lesko
Lieu

□ 1444

Messrs. NUNES, BANKS, BUCHANAN, CLINE, ADERHOLT, OBERNOLTE, Ms. TENNEY, Messrs. FALLON and PFLUGER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mrs. SPARTZ changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed, as amended.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BUSTOS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4981) to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 14, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 298]

YEAS—410

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—14

Biggs
Boebert
Clyde
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Mast
Miller (IL)
Norman
Roy

NOT VOTING—7

Brady
Carl
Garbarino
Kustoff
Lesko
Lieu
Omar

□ 1501

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

WAR CRIMES REWARDS EXPANSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4250) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 9, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 299]

YEAS—412

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—9

Biggs
Cammack
Casten
Gaetz
Garcia (TX)
Greene (GA)
Massie
Roy
Waters

NOT VOTING—10

Brady
Cawthorn
DesJarlais
Gonzalez (OH)
Kustoff
LaMalfa
Lesko
Lofgren
McClintock
Nadler

□ 1517

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

LIBYA STABILIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya, as amended, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 35, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 300]

YEAS—386

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga

Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—35

Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bowman
Buck
Burchett
Bush
Cammack
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Davidson
Donalds
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Harris
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Mace
Massie
Miller (IL)
Norman
Ocasio-Cortez
Perry
Rice (SC)
Rosendale
Roy
Tlaib

NOT VOTING—10

Brady
Cheney
Jordan
Kustoff
LaTurner
Lesko
Lofgren
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Nadler
Yarmuth

□ 1534

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Rescenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

CAMBODIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4686) to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 17, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 301]

YEAS—403

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (CA)
García (IL)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—17

Biggs
Buck
Bush
Casten
Comer
Escobar

Gaetz
Garcia (TX)
Gohmert
Greene (GA)
Harris
Higgins (LA)
Massie
Rosendale
Roy
Tlaib
Waters

NOT VOTING—11

Bice (OK)
Brady
Cheney
Jordan
Kustoff
Lesko
Lofgren
McClintock
McGovern
Nadler
Price (NC)

□ 1551

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 297, "yea" on rollcall No. 298, "yea" on rollcall No. 299, "yea" on rollcall No. 300, and "yea" on rollcall No. 301.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn
(Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 848) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, 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 motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 16, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 302]

YEAS—406

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—16

Biggs
Boebert
Clyde
Duncan
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Massie
Miller (IL)
Norman
Rosendale
Roy

NOT VOTING—9

Brady
Davidson
Kustoff
Lesko
Lofgren
McHenry
Meeks
Nadler
Perry

□ 1608

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 302.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn
(Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1154) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 36, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 303]

YEAS—391

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne

Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—36

Allen
Biggs
Boebert
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Davidson
Donalds
Fallon
Fulcher
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jordan
LaMalfa
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Moore (AL)
Norman
Perry
Posey
Roy
Steube
Tiffany

NOT VOTING—4

Houlahan
Kustoff
Lesko
Rogers (AL)

□ 1625

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 10, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 304]

YEAS—414

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)

Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—10

Arrington
Biggs
Donalds
Gaetz
Greene (GA)
Harris
Higgins (LA)
Johnson (LA)
Massie
Roy

NOT VOTING—7

Estes
Houlahan
Kinzinger
Kustoff
Lesko
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)

□ 1644

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Jackson)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Cárdenas (Correa)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Reschenthaler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Latta (Walberg)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
McCaul (Kim (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Waltz)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 6

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.J. Res. 6.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

INVESTING IN GREEN ENERGY

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

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, the climate crisis is a ticking time bomb. The country that figures out how to defuse it will get huge returns on their investments.

That is why our global competitor nations are investing in green energy. They know that the economy that learns how to manufacture in the cleanest way possible will secure thousands of jobs for its workers. These are jobs in manufacturing and also in research, engineering, and education.

In short, the country that best understands green energy today will have the strongest economy tomorrow. That can and should be the United States.

I am proud to represent the scientists at the University of California Irvine who are doing cutting-edge research on fuel cell energy storage, energy conversion, and more. We have to support the work of their peers.

To have a strong, stable, and globally competitive economy, we need green energy. For Orange County, for the United States, and for our planet, we cannot continue to rely on the technology of yesterday.

CELEBRATING OKEFENOKEE SWAMP PARK'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Okefenokee Swamp Park.

The Okefenokee Swamp Park opened their doors 75 years ago. Since then, people from across the world have visited one of Georgia's most desirable destinations. Each year, over 500,000 people visit the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

As one of the largest intact freshwater wetlands in North America, the Okefenokee is home to various threatened and endangered species. More than 600 plant species have been identified at the Okefenokee.

This anniversary is not only a celebration of 75 years of preserving history and wildlife but also as a beacon of what is to come in the next 75 years.

I, along with the First District of Georgia, thank the staff at Okefenokee Swamp Park for their stewardship of this beautiful park. I am proud to represent parts of the Okefenokee, and I am excited for the future.

RECOGNIZING KELLER, TEXAS' MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the city of Keller in becoming the most family-friendly city in the State of Texas.

This community of over 45,000 residents sits in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and prides itself on pairing big city comforts with small town charm.

Its history is rooted in the perseverance of frontier settlers in the golden age of railroads. That spirit lives on today in a community of incredible entrepreneurs and small business owners, beautiful parks and trails, excellent schools, and award-winning city facilities and programs.

Often listed among the safest and best places to live in America, this city strives to serve its citizens at every stage of life, from young families buying their first homes to empty nesters who could not imagine living anywhere else.

In that effort, Keller City Council recognizes the importance of fighting on behalf of taxpayers, attracting exceptional economic development, prioritizing the community's roads and sidewalks, and ensuring public safety by supporting its unparalleled first responders.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the city of Keller and their shared vision of becoming Texas' most family-friendly city. I look forward to seeing the incredible progress that this community will see working together.

REPUBLICAN IDEAS ON BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the other day, we saw the press secretary for President Biden, Jen Psaki. She was complaining and tired of Republicans talking about the border and not having any ideas.

Well, we have ideas. They don't always get publicized. Here are some of them right here: enforce our laws; enforce our laws as written; complete the border fence and complete all border construction; the remain in Mexico policy, why don't we reinstate that? It worked pretty well without people rushing the border before.

Require negative COVID tests before entering our country. Wouldn't that be something since we are telling all of our citizens we have to do the same to go to a simple thing like a restaurant or a ballpark?

Maybe we could shut off the green light inviting people and sending people the message, incentivizing the dangerous trek to come to America.

Lastly, stop the benefits from hardworking U.S. taxpayers. Stop promising amnesty, tax remittances, healthcare, and sanctuary cities to illegal immigrants.

These are the messages Republicans have been conveying all along, so I invite Jen Psaki to listen up.

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I live in southwestern Connecticut, which is on an artery of this Nation's commerce and economy, and that artery is clogged. I spend hours when I am traveling around my district in traffic or worrying that the trains, which move more slowly than they moved 75 years ago, won't get me to where I need to go.

We have an opportunity in this Chamber, sometime in the next week or so, of passing a major infrastructure bill, which will alleviate those problems in my district and around the United States.

The problems in my district are hardly unique, and it is not just about growth, though every business leader in my district says that transportation infrastructure is their number one or number two problem. It is about quality of life.

This infrastructure bill is perhaps a once-in-a-career opportunity to address and make better the challenges that face each and every one of our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I urge a vote for the infrastructure bill. It is a jobs bill. It is a future economic bill. And, of course, it is going to repair and improve the quality of life for the constituents of everyone in the Chamber.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STRICKLAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, House Democrats are delivering for the people, and let me explain to you how they are doing so.

Under President Biden's leadership, our economy is growing at nearly the fastest rate in over 40 years. The child tax credit is cutting taxes for hard-working middle-class families across the country. And by putting more of working people's own money back into their pockets, it is generating $20 billion in spending in local economies, supporting local businesses and jobs.

Now, Madam Speaker, we are hard at work to deliver even more for working families through the Build Back Better plan and the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

But while House Democrats are delivering for the people, unfortunately, some on the other side of the aisle are promoting misinformation about the coronavirus and opposing overwhelmingly popular vaccine mandates that will save lives and keep our schools open. Some of them, Madam Speaker, have even spread false narratives about the attack on our Capitol and on this Chamber nearly 9 months ago.

As The New York Times reported earlier this month: ''A growing number of Republicans and their media allies have downplayed the riot. Some have begun to treat it as a heroic act.''

Madam Speaker, this dangerous rhetoric from Republicans continues as Senate Leader MITCH MCCONNELL now threatens the full faith and credit of the United States, and Senate Republicans refuse to do their job to ensure that America can pay its bills on time.

Let's be clear, Madam Speaker, raising or suspending the debt limit does not authorize new spending. It is about meeting obligations that the government has already made, including the bipartisan COVID relief package passed last year in December and vital payments to Social Security recipients as well.

In fact, much of the debt was accumulated under President Trump. The massive tax giveaways for millionaires and billionaires that Republicans pushed through under President Trump added $1.8 trillion to the national debt, and a full 97 percent, Madam Speaker, of the total debt subject to the limit was accumulated before President Biden took office.

Madam Speaker, it is no surprise that congressional Republicans voted three times—not once, not twice, but three times—to suspend the debt limit under President Trump.

□ 1700

Leader MCCONNELL and congressional Republicans know what is at stake. In 2019, MITCH MCCONNELL himself said that raising the debt ceiling, and I am going to quote, Madam Speaker, ''ensures our Federal Government will not approach any kind of short-term debt crisis in the coming weeks or months. It secures our Nation's full faith and credit and ensures that Congress will not throw this kind of unnecessary wrench into the gears of job growth and a thriving economy.''

Not my words, Madam Speaker, MITCH MCCONNELL's words. He said it himself. This is about supporting American jobs and our economy. This is about doing our job for the American people.

We urge Leader MCCONNELL: Stop playing games with the full faith and credit of the United States. Stop playing games with American jobs. Do your job to ensure that America can pay its bills on time by addressing the debt limit.

Now, I think it is important for the American people to understand why we are here standing up for the credit of the United States, and I can think of no one better to help explain precisely that than my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

It is true. Today, in the Congress, the Treasury Secretary of the United States, Janet Yellen, testified that we will run out of borrowing ability on October 18, next month. What this is, is a pernicious, dangerous threat to the United States of America that is happening right now. A lot of people don't realize it because, as Mr. NEGUSE just mentioned, extending or suspending the debt limit has been a routine, a normal thing for us to do, something that, in the words of Senator MCCONNELL himself, is essential for keeping our economy moving, protecting American jobs, and preserving the livelihoods of many, many Americans.

So the question is, what are we doing? Why do we have to do this? Why do we have to stand here tonight and stand up for the full faith and credit of the United States?

It is because the economy depends on it, not only the economy of America, but the economy of the world depends on the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Credit is vital to the operation of any economy. Any businessperson knows that. Every businessman, every businesswoman knows that his or her business runs on their credit and their credit rating. They know that credit, every loan, every loan decision, is based on the strength of the promise to repay, and that is what we are talking about here.

If a promise to repay a loan isn't strong, that loan is not made. If the strength of the promise to repay a loan is not there, then either the loan is not made or they have to charge a much higher interest rate to reflect the extra risk in getting repaid. It is all about repaying your loans.

If there is one thing that has been a constant in these United States, and something that we have been really proud of in our Nation for generation after generation, it is that if there is one rock-solid, dependable promise in the world, it is that the United States of America will pay its bills. That is a rock-solid promise, and it is something that reverberates in the world's economies.

That is why we have such a strong economy and a base from which to grow it. That is why we are able to run a government and build bridges and roads, and why we are able to maintain armed services in this country. It is why we are able to function as a nation and as an economy.

It is the foundation for our country's credit and financial systems. It is the source of confidence that powers our national economy. It is what makes our American dollar the currency of the world.

To threaten that by threatening to crash our obligations, to default on the obligation of the United States, it is the most irresponsible thing that I have heard of, even in the words of Senator MCCONNELL himself, who, hours after Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen testified that October 18 is the day when we default on our obligations, hours after that, Senator MCCONNELL over in the Senate whipped a ''no'' vote on suspending the debt limit, doing exactly what he said must not be done, endangering jobs, endangering our economy, threatening Americans savings.

What will happen? We will talk about this a little bit later.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his comments. He couldn't be more right.

He raises a real salient point, which is the hypocrisy of the minority leader in the United States Senate and the position that he is taking today in threatening the full faith and credit of the United States of America juxtaposed against the position that he took a mere year ago.

But it just so happens that we have several distinguished colleagues from the State of Pennsylvania who know a thing or two about the debt ceiling, and that includes our prestigious colleague on the Ways and Means Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), who does a wonderful job, as well as my friend, my fellow Pennsylvanian, Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

I am glad to be here in this good fight with them, but I wish we didn't have to be here fighting this fight. I mean, why do we do this to ourselves?

Here is what I mean. Congress does a lot of dumb things, historically, year in, year out. I think most people would agree on that.

But of all the dumb things Congress does, this repeated political food fight over the debt ceiling is without question the dumbest, the most unnecessary, and the potentially most dangerous.

Now, I want to point out, for the record, almost no other country on Earth even has this concept of the debt ceiling. In the few that do, none of them—none of them—have this sort of political fight where a figurative sword of Damocles is hanging over the entire country and its economy. It makes no sense, and there is no benefit to it, none.

Now, year in, year out, when we have this, again, dumb and unnecessary debate over the debt ceiling, a lot of people, especially people who have been in town for a while, will say, somewhat cynically: Well, you know, eventually, they are going to raise it. What is the fuss? Eventually, they are going to raise it.

Sure enough, every single time, it has finally been raised. But that kind of fight over seeing which side will give in first, that sort of political game of chicken, has a real cost.

I want to cite this figure. It was 10 years ago, almost exactly 10 years ago, that we came the closest to not raising the debt ceiling. It was in the summer, late summer of 2011. The GAO found that that delay in raising the debt limit, that sort of uncertainty as we approached the deadline, that increased the Treasury's borrowing costs by $1.3 billion.

Just imagine what we could do right now with $1.3 billion, what that would mean for my constituents in Pennsylvania or constituents in Colorado or in any State or any district in the country.

This has a real cost and, of course, if we were to ever go over the edge and fall off, the effects, not just for the United States but for the worldwide economy, would be devastating.

On the Ways and Means Committee, I have had the opportunity to interrogate a number of Treasury Secretaries over the years. Whether it was Trump's Treasury Secretary, Mr. Mnuchin, or President Biden's Treasury Secretary, Ms. Yellen, both have given almost verbatim answers when I asked them about what the consequences would be if we actually did ultimately default.

Here we are again at this point. Madam Speaker, what I want to do then is solve this problem, not just for this latest instance, but for all future ones. So I am introducing legislation this week, along with Budget Committee Chairman YARMUTH, the two of us.

Our bill works like this. It would give to the Treasury Secretary, now and in the future, the ability to raise the debt ceiling. If Congress disagreed with that decision, Congress could always overrule it by passage in the House and the Senate. But the authority would rest where it should, with the Treasury Secretary. This just makes sense.

It would eliminate, once and for all, this dumb political food fight. It would also ensure that this is taken out of the political realm and put where, frankly, it should have rested back in the beginning, over at Treasury.

Now, I have had a bill for years now, in many different sessions of Congress, to just scrap the debt ceiling altogether. The way it is practiced today was in no way envisioned when it came into existence almost 80 years ago.

But I understand the practical political realities of that, so we are pragmatically putting in this alternate approach, this different piece of legislation.

I would urge those in the House and Senate for whom raising the debt ceiling might be a politically difficult vote to consider this piece of legislation so that you, yourself, don't have to vote to raise the debt ceiling, but that the appropriate official, the head of Treasury, would have that authority, again, still reserving for Congress the ability to intervene if, for some reason in the future, we were to ever disagree with the decision of a future Treasury Secretary.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an op-ed that I wrote on this subject just about a month or two ago, and I would urge all colleagues of mine, in the House and the Senate, to stop playing politics with this issue.

THE DEBT CEILING: A BROKEN MECHANISM

Why do we keep doing this to ourselves?

Congress finds itself in an all too familiar position: working against the clock to reach a deal on the debt ceiling. Failure to raise the debt ceiling would bring default on our nation's debt, and likely worldwide economic collapse.

I can't help but feel a sense of déjà vu as I remember this scene unraveling two years ago, and too many times to count before that.

The debt ceiling was created to put a cap on what the government can borrow—in order to pay its own bills. The government issues debt. Congress sets that debt limit. This explains why the debt ceiling needs to be raised or suspended continuously. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the government currently is $28.5 trillion in debt within this self-imposed limit. When the limit is reached, the Treasury Department can no longer pay its bills and risks defaulting on its own debt obligations.

Looking back at its own history, the debt ceiling has been raised over 100 times. What once may have been a helpful lever that could be used in a thoughtful way is no more. That noble function, if it ever existed, is but a thing of the past.

Instead, it has become highly politicized, costly, and downright dangerous.

Even if the debt ceiling is ultimately raised, just the uncertainty alone is costly. During the 2011 debt ceiling negotiations, in which a compromise was struck only two days before Treasury's borrowing authority would be exhausted, the GAO found the delay in raising the debt limit led to an increase in Treasury's borrowing costs of $1.3 billion.

The debt ceiling does nothing but create pointless panic, harming workers and businesses that fuel our economy. Factoring in our current recovery from the pandemic economy only exacerbates this self-inflicted Crisis.

Many people have lost jobs or seen household incomes drastically cut. The June 2021 data from the Census Bureau revealed there are 25 million people who are unemployed, or who live with an unemployed family member. There is a lot at stake out there.

It's clear we need to do everything we can to protect the integrity and fabric of our economy. Our current process of ''governing by a deadline'' does the opposite. The debt ceiling, and the recurring havoc it brings, is a completely broken mechanism.

With Democrats in full control of the White House and Congress, we must seize the opportunity to finally fix this flawed policy—by simply getting rid of it. This is why I have introduced legislation, House Resolution 1041, to kill the debt ceiling once and for all.

The time is now to make this commonsense change. We cannot wait a few more years. We need to work together to implement smart fiscal policies that grow our economy, and don't threaten to destroy it.

It is long past time to permanently retire this sword of Damocles.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks and for showing once again the innovative and creative problem-solving that the good State of Pennsylvania is so well-known for, with respect to the legislative solution that he has proposed.

I certainly agree with his admonition that it is time for our political leaders to stop playing politics with respect to the debt ceiling. I hope our colleagues in the upper Chamber, including the minority leader, are listening.

I do want to zero in on one particular thing that my colleague from Pennsylvania referenced, which is the consequences, right? What happens if, in fact, the United States Government defaults?

I think a lot of folks watching at home are asking themselves that same question, so I would pose to my other colleague from Pennsylvania that same question.

What happens, as a practical matter, if we, God forbid, were to default?

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Sure. That is really the big question here tonight.

Before I get to that, I want to commend my colleague from Pennsylvania for that excellent and well-thought-out legislation. If I can, I want to ask Congressman BOYLE a question.

Your legislation that would vest the decision on the debt limit in the Treasury Secretary, would that apply to both Democratic and Republican Treasury Secretaries?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Yes, that is correct. It would apply to the Treasury Secretary, who currently is a Democrat, but also in the future, for years and years to come. So, inevitably, over the course of the decades and centuries, there would be plenty of Democratic and Republican Treasury Secretaries who would equally have that ability.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. When you asked her, Secretary Yellen, about what would happen if we turned our back on our national debt, defaulted on our promises, just went back on our promise to pay, when you asked her that, did she talk about what could happen to the stock market?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. If you don't mind, I want to answer in a slightly different way your question. I will tell what you Secretary Mnuchin said because that answer is more memorable to me.

This was a couple of years ago, obviously. It was at least a couple of years ago now, and he was testifying in front of the House Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve.

□ 1715

He was testifying in front of the House Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve. And I asked him: What would the specific tangible consequences be if we failed to raise our debt ceiling?

For a couple of seconds, he just kind of paused, and he said: Congressman, the consequences would be so dire, just so unimaginable, that it is really hard to articulate just how bad it would be.

So even he had difficulty going into the sort of ramifications that it would have.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I am not surprised. Go ahead.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. I was going to remind everyone—of course, as the gentleman knows—this was President Trump's appointed Treasury Secretary who was saying this.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Sure. Well, it is pretty obvious that every economist that you talk to finds it unthinkable that our Nation would turn its back on our obligations. When you ask them, What happens if we do? The first thing they say is that the stock market crashes.

In fact, it would be so bad that the stock market would crash more than 20 percent. 20 percent is the level at which—if it comes down 20 percent, they have to halt trading in New York on the stock market. It is such a catastrophe. That would happen.

Now, we have stock market crashes, and then there are other stock market crashes, but this is the kind of stock market crash that would be caused by an undermining of the confidence and the faith in the United States economy and the Government's ability and willingness to pay its debts. That rock solid promise that the world economy relies on would be gone. And so much of what drives an economy and makes it strong is confidence in governments and confidence that promises to pay will come true.

If that happens, that would be the kind of stock market crash that would presage not only a recession but a great depression. The last time we had that kind of a stock market crash was in 1929, and it led to a great depression that led to unemployment rates of over 15 and up to 20 percent of this country. It was unbelievable how bad the depression was. It lasted for over a decade.

It would be a catastrophe in this country of a magnitude we can't imagine. Nobody in our generation has had to live through something like that.

As a result, we have to talk about these things as if they would actually happen. If the country defaults on its debt, there will be a stock market crash, and it would be followed by a great depression, which is horrible, horrible damage that would be caused by nothing more than a political stunt by Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

Mr. NEGUSE. Well, I would just simply say what is so striking about the consequences that you described, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and that Mr. BOYLE described, in terms of the warning that was given by Secretary Mnuchin years ago, is that congressional Republicans back then did the right thing. They heard the same warnings that Representative BOYLE described, and they voted to increase the debt limit. They did it not once, not twice, but three separate times during President Trump's administration.

What has changed? That is the question that I wish the minority leader of the United States Senate would answer.

But I think we know the answer, that this is ultimately politics and gamesmanship. I would hope that for the good of the country, he and his colleagues would reach the same conclusion that they reached literally less than a year ago.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), because his experience on the Ways and Means Committee, I think, is instructive with respect to how we dispose of this particular question and issue.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, one thing I want to make clear, as Mr. NEGUSE very eloquently did, is that the position on this side of the aisle has been completely consistent, regardless of the political party of the occupant of the White House.

I voted every single time to raise the debt ceiling while Donald Trump was President. I have served for 7 years, so 4 of those years under a Republican President, 3 of those years under a Democratic President. In fact, the majority of the votes I have cast to raise the debt ceiling have been under a Republican administration. For many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, they can say the same thing.

So I am being completely consistent; those of us on this side of the aisle are being completely consistent. It is the other side, especially in the Senate, that is playing this political game that is so dangerous and so unnecessary.

Mr. NEGUSE. Well, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. Again, he couldn't be more right in terms of the hypocrisy of some on this particular issue and the adherence to, I think, the morally correct and economically correct position that so many on this side of the aisle have taken year after year after year. Our hope is that our colleagues in the upper Chamber will do the same.

Don't you agree, Mr. CARTWRIGHT?

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I would hope that, but my hopes have been dashed before. We have seen this story before in different aspects.

In fact, we are approaching the 8-year anniversary now of what happened when I was a freshman Representative in 2013. It was October 1. The government shut down. At that time, the debate of the day was the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and there was the demand by the Republicans in the Senate that we repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and if we didn't, they were going to shut the government down.

Madam Speaker, they did shut the government down. They shut it down for 16 days in October. And I can tell you, when they do these things, they do damage the economy and they did damage the economy in 2013 in the fall.

In fact, in my own district, we actually measured how much damage was done to the economy in northeastern Pennsylvania. We have this marvelous asset, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, that had to shut down because of that government shutdown.

Now, this happened the first 16 days of October, which always is a very lucrative tourist season in northeastern Pennsylvania. The people are out to see the beautiful resplendent colors of the fall in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Because the national park had to shut down for those 16 days, leaf peeper season went out the window. And all of the little businesses ringing that national park in Pike County and Monroe County, Pennsylvania, the restaurants and the motels and the gas stations and all of the little businesses that survive off the tourism every year, they got murdered during that shutdown. In fact, we measured that per day. That damaged our economy to the tune of $400,000 a day in my district alone.

The question is: Would MITCH MCCONNELL go ahead and damage our economy purposely to make a political point? The answer is, yeah, he probably would. It looks like he is doing it, and they have done it before, and they don't care.

So it is a sad answer, I know. But the truth is, they would rather score a political point and do harm to our Nation's economy than stick up for the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman couldn't be more right. And certainly, the good news, for those that are watching, is that House Democrats are committed to doing everything that we need to do to ensure that the full faith and credit of the United States is not threatened or undermined.

We have a colleague who has joined us who has spent her entire career ensuring precisely that, and that is the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Texas.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for her to address this Chamber on this subject.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am most grateful for the opportunity to join the gentleman from Colorado, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

I have just finished with a conference call with the director of the CDC, but I just could not miss the opportunity, because I am almost in a deja vu, having been here for—even shocking myself, because when you are enjoying serving, you don't count the years—but more than two decades. I have seen the dastardly results of government shutdown. So I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it is always important to know who governs and how we are governed and what document do we yield to in terms of being governed. And I heard my friend from Colorado make the point that Democrats are ensuring that this government is governed.

This morning I was on the floor, and I made the point that I don't stand here as a Democrat or a Republican but as an American, an American that has the responsibility of government. And that means that all of the shenanigans in the other body should be immediately dispensed with.

One point of the Constitution that I always like reading is: We, the people of the United States, in order to create or to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare. This was the very premise that the Founding Fathers—and everyone knows the Constitution missed some elements on those who were slaves, missed elements on women. They missed some elements; they missed some issues. But the premise was that we gather for the general welfare, uniquely grounded in some values of European principles but uniquely American.

Why did we form this government?

So having lived through government shutdowns, let me just, for a very brief moment, capture the horrors of a government shutdown, which is tied to ultimately the CR, but the effort that we, as Democrats, our leader, our Speaker, our leadership, rightly so, were acting not as Democrats but they were acting as leaders of this Nation, protecting those who are most vulnerable.

So the full faith and credit is not something to dismiss. Let me say, over and over again—I know it has been said on this floor—we are paying bills. As I said, if you had the light on for the last 20 days, you have a bill.

So to lift the debt ceiling—and I would like to characterize it some other way—to provide the mechanism to pay your bills. If you had the cable on for the last 20 days, you are paying your bill. So we are simply paying the bill.

The lack of responding to paying bills creates inflation, puts a damper on the view of America as an international destination for businesses. It, in fact, crumbles the economy on the most vulnerable, the hardworking bus driver, union worker, teacher. Because what you have done is, you have not given their dollar substance. That is how they make a living; that is how they pay for their responsibilities of a quality of life.

I always think of the persons who cannot speak for themselves who are doing great work. Teachers are doing great work; paramedics are doing great work; nurses are doing great work. I always think of bus drivers, because I think of school bus drivers. There is a shortage of school bus drivers. They are all doing great work.

So let me say that I came on the floor because I clearly wanted to emphasize the eloquent and important points that you are making, that it is tomfoolery to make political points about the debt ceiling, which is a responsibility that cannot be gotten rid of.

So it would be okay if I said: Well, we would want to say that. When I say that, if you are playing politics, you say we don't want to do that either, meaning those of us who are governing. But it is an obligation of governing and governance, and it is constitutionally vested not only in the language of full faith and credit but in the opening statement of the Constitution. If we don't take care of the general welfare, then who will?

I am grateful, as I close, to say that I support the INVEST Act and one bill, the Build Back America Act. That is how I would proceed on the unifying of those. The reason why I connect that, again, is to make the point that, as I have read line by line of the Build Back—and I am on the Budget Committee, and we sat on a Saturday to bring this bill forward to you-all. And rightly so; we make no complaint about that. But to get this bill here. It is ready. We passed it out of the Budget Committee.

□ 1730

But as I looked at it, I have not deflected the gentleman here, deflected families. But it is a justice for women act. It is finally penetrating where women are in America, in terms of the care economy, in terms of pre-K, in terms of child care, in terms of family responsibilities. It is a bill that gives justice to women.

And so tie it to our responsibilities of governing, to lift the debt ceiling for payment of our bills, and also this book, the Constitution, doing our duty to create this Union that has been created to ensure general tranquility and the general welfare of the American people. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and his leadership.

Mr. NEGUSE. I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks. Those of us who have had the privilege to work with the gentlewoman from Texas know that her ability to speak truth to power really is second to none, and I think her argument is as compelling as it is straightforward. General welfare. Full faith and credit. Pay your bills.

And so I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber and in the upper Chamber, it is time for you to do your job. Let's address the debt ceiling and let's get on with the business of this Congress in promoting and protecting the general welfare of our wonderful country.

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

ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE

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. Madam Speaker, we discussed last week some of the issues that are of significance, and I don't think the press is paying enough attention to them.

We just had a little bit more progress toward the development of fenofibrate, which is a generic drug, which some researchers from Israel have had some success on in curing COVID. I want to talk about these successes and then talk what is going to be necessary to have happen to get this potentially lifesaving drug in the mainstream.

Two researchers from Israel found 15 people who were on oxygen and had pneumonia; and of the 15 people, after giving them fenofibrate, a generic drug available for very little, they got out of the hospital in 5 days. The other took, I think, it was 14 days.

That is pretty incredible stuff. If it could be used routinely, it would dramatically have reduced the number of deaths in this country.

Right now there are a variety of people around the world trying to do research on this topic, including the University of Pennsylvania, and they are grateful they got some money from the U.S. Government. But given the promise of this drug, I think they should have gotten a lot more money to deal with it quickly.

I have talked to the researchers, and they think they will be able to get together. I guess they need 700 patients before they can make a determination. They think they will be able to make a determination that this is a good drug by the end of March. That is not quick enough.

If they had more money and more push, they would be able to get more potential patients, and I would like to think get a final determination by the end of December.

So I am calling on my colleagues in Congress, as well as the NIH and the CDC, to highlight fenofibrate. It is also known as Tricor. It has been around a long time without dangerous side effects. Maybe there will be side effects with COVID, but there wasn't dangerous side effects otherwise. It has been used by millions of people. I am going to be circulating a letter, hoping that the administration wakes up and does something and does something quickly.

And by the way, this doesn't only cure it, but one of the underpublicized problems with COVID is that if you get it, it can result in long-lasting problems, problems to your lungs, problems to your organs. It appears, tentatively, that fenofibrate will clear up those problems quicker and not as many people will have those problems.

I am afraid from what I read that COVID is going to be around a long time. I know people who have gotten it after being vaccinated; not as bad, I guess, but they have gotten it. So again, I hope that this institution moves, and I hope the administration moves and hope we can move at warp speed and get a final determination on fenofibrate by the end of December.

I would also like to address, given what has happened over the last week, what I believe is the biggest crisis facing the country today, and that is the problem at the southern border.

The numbers are well known. Last July 8,000 people crossing the border, staying in the country. This year, 105,000, and a lot of people think that is a low number. The increase, the percentage increase wasn't quite as great in August. But, again, it was a substantial increase at a time of year where it is very hot and normally people aren't crossing the border.

We know the effects. I also don't think it has been as publicized as it should be. The huge number of people who are dying of illegal drugs, clearing 90,000 in a year for the first time in this country. When I first got this job, 45,000 a year was a lot. Every politician had to say we wanted to do something to fight illegal drug use.

Now that we have fentanyl, an especially dangerous drug, we have more than doubled the number of people dying. Politicians barely talk about it. But obviously that situation has been exacerbated at the southern border.

My local sheriffs are saying, ''Glenn, why aren't they doing anything to stop this coming across the southern border?'' Think of all the families, the people who have died from illegal drug use.

You think of all the humanitarian problems in addition to the huge financial impact this is going to have on America.

I have been down at the border looking at the little children in pens, under 8 years old, unaccompanied by parents, staying there. What is going to become of these children? Apparently we don't care. We continue to let the system go on. We continue to allow the word go out around the world, not just Central America, but South America, Asia, everywhere, Russia, Cuba, Haiti, more and more people coming in this country. And every day we don't do something, the word gets out and the number continues to go up.

But what I would like to address is how have some Members—I hope not that many. But currently the reconciliation bill that is under consideration, you read about it in the paper, how do they respond? Do they respond with more Border Patrol agents? No, we are going to keep the Border Patrol understaffed.

Do they respond with a wall? Which whenever anybody thinks about it, whenever I am on the border talking to local law enforcement, talking to the Border Patrol, all thought the wall was a good idea. No, we are not going to respond that way.

We are going to look at the crisis and change immigration law to dramatically increase the number of people coming here, whether it is increasing the number of green cards, increasing chain migration. Right now, and something that I think would end the United States as we know it, if this reconciliation bill passes, it will result in a dramatic increase in immigration.

So instead of doing what anybody with an ounce of common sense would say, and let's hire more Border Patrol agents for the border, we go the other way and say we don't have enough people in this country. We are near record levels of the number of current Americans who have been born abroad. Immigrants are fine. I think in 2018 we swore in, I believe, 830,000 new citizens.

But to respond to the crisis at the border, all the Haitians being let in, all the people from around the world to say let's change immigration law and let's dramatically increase the number of people who are coming here legally, to boot, is just crazy.

It is unfair to all the people who have done things right. And it is up to us to make sure that in the future, people who come here have their years in doing jobs, are appropriately vetted, and make sure they are good citizens. Not to slap dash say, as scandalous as things are at the border, let's let in a lot of new people here as chain migration relatives or that many more green cards as well.

So I beg this body to wake up. I beg the press corps to wake up as far as what is going on at the border, as well as what is going on in the reconciliation bill, and let the American public know what is going on.

I realize that the reconciliation bill is long and complicated. We can't cover it all. But at least the American public ought to know what we are voting on before we destroy America. In addition to the generosity that is in the bill as well that further serves as a carrot to bring people here.

We have a provision in there to give free Pell grants, free scholarships to people who are coming here illegally. Which, of course, will further encourage more people to come here. I still find that hard to believe. That if that bill passes as is, the average middle-class American will be expected to owe $20,000, $40,000, $50,000 in debt and may or may not get something available at the university. But if you show up at the southern border because you don't have a lot of money and are considered poor, you will get free college. I mean, no wonder people are coming here when they see the type of bills that our Congress propose.

But above all, the other provisions are going to result in huge increases in immigration, and I beg the press corps to cover that.

I would like to thank you for giving me this time to address these two problems, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first, second and third quarters of 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT C. ''BOBBY'' SCOTT, Sept. 14, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS, Sept. 2, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Sept. 8, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Sept. 8, 2021.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2243. A letter from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a transaction pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2244. A letter from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a transaction pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2245. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Requirements Related to Surprise Billing: Part 1 [CMS-9909-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AU63) received August 31, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–2246. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program; Payment for Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Related Accessories (Including Seating Systems) and Seat and Back Cushions Furnished in Connection with Such Wheelchairs [CMS-1748-F, CMS-1687-IFC, and CMS-1738-F] (RIN: 0938-AU38, 0938-AT21, and 0938-AU17) received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–2247. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2022; and Technical Correction to Long-Term Care Facilities Physical Environment Requirements [CMS-1746-F] (RIN: 0938-AU36) received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–2248. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; FY 2022 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System and Quality Reporting Updates for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2021 (FY 2022) [CMS-1750-F] (RIN: 0938-AU40) received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–2249. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; FY 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Hospice and Home Health Quality Reporting Program Requirements [CMS-1754-F] (RIN: 0938-AU41) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DEUTCH: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Al Green (Rept. 117–131). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. DEUTCH: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (Rept. 117–132). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. MRVAN:

H.R. 5390. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to extend the premium assistance for COBRA Continuation Coverage for individuals and their families; 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. MANN:

H.R. 5391. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to prohibit emergency temporary standards with respect to vaccines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mrs. STEEL, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. STEWART, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 5392. A bill to amend the Military Selective Service Act to allow women to elect to register for the draft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 5393. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for mandatory cable carriage of low power television stations sharing facilities of certain full power commercial VHF stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 5394. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a new program which ensures meaningful access to claims data by clinician-led clinical data registries, 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. DELGADO (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5395. A bill to strengthen Buy American requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. DINGELL (for herself and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 5396. A bill to amend title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to establish standards of liability for harassment on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5397. A bill to amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. POSEY, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina):

H.R. 5398. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to make using critical race theory or critical race pedagogy in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance a violation of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 5399. A bill to prohibit certain actions that impede border security on certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Homeland Security, 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. HAYES (for herself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 5400. A bill to amend the Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act to further exempt the Universal Service Fund from certain title 31 provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 5401. A bill to establish a task force on the implications of amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to remove exemptions from environmental laws for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to allow for consent-based siting of geologic repositories; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma):

H.R. 5402. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to implement a record of housing history for members of the Armed Forces who reside in housing provided by the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 5403. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide medical providers of the Department of Defense mandatory training with respect to the potential health effects of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. COLE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5404. A bill to impose sanctions on persons engaging in transactions in Afghanistan rare earth minerals; 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. SWALWELL:

H.R. 5405. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947, to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit a biennial report on the biodefense activities and duties of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 5406. A bill to require the development of a plan for the establishment of an interagency biodefense task force on the attribution of certain biological events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Homeland Security, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, the Judiciary, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. DEAN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 5407. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.J. Res. 59. A joint resolution to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of veterans of the Vietnam war and formally apologize for the treatment they received upon returning home; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LONG, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr.

SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CORREA, Ms. WILD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DEAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H. Res. 686. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 28, 2021, as ''National Voter Registration Day''; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 687. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2021 as ''National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. FERGUSON introduced A bill (H.R. 5408) for the relief of Michael Janssen and Steven Passantino; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 5390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 5391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the President ''. . . shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 5392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 5393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 5394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. DELGADO:

H.R. 5395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 5396.

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 Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 5398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

14th Amendment to the Constitution

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:

H.R. 5399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 5400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 5401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 5402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 16 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 5403.

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. STEUBE:

H.R. 5404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation In all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

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. SWALWELL:

H.R. 5405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 5406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article l, section 8

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 5407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

Mr. FERGUSON:

H.R. 5408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.J. Res. 59.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

Article I, section 8 of United State Constitution, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and provide for organizing. arming, and disciplining the militia.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 217: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 228: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 364: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 421: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 431: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 465: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 611: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 623: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MANN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 628: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 911: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1023: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 1041: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 1185: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1255: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1275: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 1282: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 1297: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1344: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1384: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MOULTON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1456: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1581: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BASS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1593: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1626: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 1680: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1716: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 1774: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1931: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 1946: Mrs. STEEL and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1959: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1990: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2037: Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 2038: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2076: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
H.R. 2116: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LIEU, Mr. RYAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2120: Mr. STEWART and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2161: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2193: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2216: Mr. JONES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 2244: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2283: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2310: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2335: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2455: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2558: Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 2586: Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2698: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2734: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2748: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2764: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2811: Mr. CARSON and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 2840: Mr. STANTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. JONES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2860: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 2873: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 2883: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 2891: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2903: Mr. BACON, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2930: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3085: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3100: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 3140: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 3148: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 3150: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 3259: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3281: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3304: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3305: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3335: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. JONES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 3344: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3355: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. JONES, Mr. STANTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3402: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3446: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3537: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 3541: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3575: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3577: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3617: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 3657: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3665: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3685: Mr. MANN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3785: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3807: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 3849: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3857: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3868: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3946: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 3988: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4050: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 4065: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4071: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 4134: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4151: Mr. KILMER and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4198: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4390: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4441: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 4445: Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 4450: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4571: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4601: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 4722: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 4728: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4747: Mr. LIEU and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4761: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4762: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4785: Mr. MEIJER, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 4833: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4842: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 4871: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4893: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 4938: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4943: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4944: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4980: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 4986: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 4996: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5048: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 5055: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 5096: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 5127: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 5136: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 5167: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5170: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5193: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5220: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 5236: Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 5254: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5298: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5300: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 5314: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5318: Mrs. WALORSKI and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 5326: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 5333: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 5338: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5342: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 5360: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 5361: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5375: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5379: Mr. GOSAR.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. FERGUSON.
H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 117: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. NORMAN.
H. Res. 119: Mr. KAHELE, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SOTO.
H. Res. 404: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. CALVERT.
H. Res. 415: Mr. JACKSON.
H. Res. 471: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. WILD.
H. Res. 512: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 558: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. GARBARINO.
H. Res. 565: Ms. OMAR.
H. Res. 590: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 631: Mrs. LURIA and Mr. CASE.
H. Res. 653: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 665: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 676: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H. Res. 679: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H. Res. 680: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.J. Res. 6: Mr. FERGUSON.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-66. The SPEAKER presented a petition of from Illinois State Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas, relative to bringing attention to Illinois Senate Resolution 168 which encourages Congress to expand the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to include farming as an applicable career for loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Agriculture.

PT-67. Also, a petition of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, CA, relative to Resolution No. 395-21, urging the Federal Government to cancel student loan debts; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

PT-68. Also, a petition of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San

Francisco, CA, relative to Resolution No. 393-21, urging President Joe Biden to fully lift Title 42 restrictions at the United States-Mexico border to allow vulnerable and exploited people seeking asylum, including single adults, LGBT couples, and families, to enter the country and to ease the growing humanitarian crisis at the border caused by policies hostile to migrants; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 No. 169

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, accept our praise and thanksgiving. You have been better to us than we deserve, for Your goodness and mercy pursue us each day. Great is Your faithfulness.

Lord, increase the faith of our lawmakers. Inspire them to believe that You can empower them to succeed in their striving to keep our Nation strong. Fill them with reverential awe as You thwart the schemes of the enemies of freedom. May our Senators comprehend the fact that Your intentions will prevail.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen Erika Donfried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs and Eurasian Affairs).

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

DEBT LIMIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, Senate Democrats blocked a vote on a clean government funding piece of legislation. Senator SHELBY and I put forward legislation that could pass the Senate easily and keep the government open. We were ready to avoid a shutdown, get urgent relief to Louisiana, help vetted Afghans who helped America, and continue supporting Israel's Iron Dome, which saves innocent lives.

Senate Republicans were ready, and House Democratic leaders say they will act on whatever CR we send them. But Democrats blocked the Senate from even considering our legislation. Instead, the Democratic leader held a vote that he knew would fail on a bill he knew was a nonstarter—game-playing instead of governing.

So look, Mr. President, for more than 2 months—2 months—Republicans have explained that the unified Democratic Party government will not get bipartisan support for a debt limit hike while they write a partisan taxing-and-spending spree behind closed doors. It is as simple as that.

Bipartisanship isn't a light switch that Democrats can switch on when they need to borrow money and flip off when they want to spend money. If Democrats want to use fast-track, party-line procedures to ram through trillions more in inflationary socialism, they will have to use the same tools to handle the debt limit. They have known this for more than 2 months. I made it perfectly clear 2 months ago.

The debt suspension that expired in August covered all the debt that had been actually accumulated by that date. Let me say that again. The debt suspension that expired in August covered all the debt that had been accumulated by that date. This is an argument not about the past but about the future, a future that Democrats have willfully decided they want to own on a party-line basis.

There is no constant tradition that says one-party governments get bipartisan help with the debt limit. That has been said over and over by the press, by the Democrats. Let me make it clear. There is no constant tradition that says one-party governments get bipartisan help with the debt limit.

Just between 2003 and 2010, there were five—five—occasions when the party in power had to get a debt limit hike through the Senate by themselves—five times. Interestingly enough, then-Senators Biden and SCHUMER voted no on raising the debt limit under President Bush 43 and made the united Republican government do it by themselves.

So, look, it is time for our Democratic colleagues to stop dragging their heels and get moving. They have had more than 2 months to accept it. Secretary Yellen just announced a new estimate that action on the debt limit may be necessary as early as October 18. Democrats will need to handle the debt limit before then.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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But Democrats in Congress don't seem to be acting with any urgency. The Senate spends day after day on midlevel nominations, and our colleagues spend all their time in backroom talks over partisan plans while their basic duties sit here in limbo. So far, Democrats' partisan ambitions have taken precedence over basic governance. That needs to change. According to their own Treasury Secretary, they have a few weeks to finally get moving.

BUDGET

Mr. President, now, on a related matter, while Washington Democrats neglect basic governance, they are still trying to write another reckless taxing-and-spending spree behind closed doors. Many details are still fuzzy, but one basic truth is very clear: Their far-left wish list will hurt families and help China—new pain and new burdens for American families, and new advantages for competitors like China.

Take, for example, the Democrats' radical anti-energy agenda that is downstream from the Green New Deal. This sprawling plan for more Washington intrusion into families' everyday lives is set to upend the reliable and affordable domestic energy that literally drives our country. The Democrats' effort to enforce elite liberal fashions would directly target the jobs and the industries that support some of the hardest working blue-collar communities in our country.

Some families would lose their livelihoods altogether. Many more would face higher heating bills, higher electric bills, and higher prices to put gas in their cars. Democrats want to tear a big hole in Americans' wallets, right where they can least afford it.

Right now, as we speak, many of our allies in Europe are preparing for major energy disruption this coming winter. Here are a few recent headlines:

Europeans brace for hard winter as energy price surge hits households.

Empty shelves, gasoline shortages and sky-high energy prices? Britain is facing a 'difficult winter.'

Germans' Green Energy Resolve Faces Pain in Post-Election Winter.

And from just yesterday:

Europe's Energy Crisis Is Coming for the Rest of the World, Too.

This is no time for America to declare war on our own independence, on the affordable forms of energy that power our country. The rest of the world is battening down the hatches for a global natural gas crunch that could leave entire countries rationing winter heat, and President Biden wants to let radical progressives declare war on American fossil fuels? Really? Is this a joke?

The latest taxing-and-spending spree would open multiple new fronts in the Big Government war on fossil fuels. It would make our electricity grid more like California's: higher costs, less reliability, and more blackouts. It would slap countless new costs and fees on domestic production and ban important prospects for U.S. drilling. It would double down on the Obama administration's ham-fisted effort to police emissions that was so legally bizarre it couldn't get past the Supreme Court.

American families and American workers benefit from energy that is affordable and abundant. Washington Democrats are pursuing far-left policies that would reduce supply and jack up prices.

So Democrats' plans would have American families hurting badly, but it is not even like all this sacrifice would buy us some big national advantage. It is just the opposite. Their proposals would be a huge gift—a huge gift—to adversaries like Russia and China. They would set the United States back on the global stage.

To give just one example, the Democrats are drafting blunt mandates for more solar panels. Somebody should tell our colleagues that China currently supplies about three-quarters of the world's solar panels. They have also largely cornered the market on some of the necessary raw materials and critical minerals.

So, look, we are going to borrow money from China to send a windfall right back to Chinese miners and manufacturers? Is that the master plan? I am not sure any of these ideas have received more than 5 minutes of thought, but in a matter of days they want to turn all these hair-brained schemes actually into law, and the Chinese solar bailout is just one example.

Let's look at the big picture. Countries that wish us harm will be thrilled to see America make ourselves less competitive and more reliant on imports. They will go roaring by us, increasing their prosperity and emissions, no matter what we do. It hurts families. It helps China.

A war on American energy just as the rest of the world is steeling for shortages—this is just one piece of the Democrats' reckless taxing-and-spending spree, along with historic tax hikes, more intrusion into family lives, and new IRS snooping in every citizen transaction over a few hundred dollars—hurting families and helping China.

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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, last night was a low point in the recent history of this Chamber. With the government shutdown only days away and a default crisis coming in a matter of weeks, the Senate was faced with a simple and urgent question: Shall the Members of this Chamber allow the Federal Government to pay its debt and stay open, or will its Members accelerate our country toward a shutdown and a first-ever default?

Yesterday, we got our answer. Republicans voted unanimously—unanimously—to block legislation to keep the government open and prevent an unnecessary default on our debt.

Republicans are now the official party of default, the party that says America doesn't pay its debts; the party that runs up the balance on the credit card, receives an invoice in the mail, and sends the bill straight to the shredder.

No average family could get away with what the Republicans are trying to do; that is for sure. But Republicans here shrug their shoulders and say: We incurred the debt, but we don't have to pay it. Republicans would let the country default for the first time in history, and it will be the American people who pay the price.

Now, Republicans have said for weeks—for weeks—that the United States must never be allowed to default. They said the debt ceiling, of course, needed to be raised. They said to do so otherwise was to play with fire. But when given the chance to actually put the fire out, Republicans chose to spray it with gasoline instead. And now our country is staring down the barrel of two Republican-manufactured crises: a government shutdown and a default on the national debt.

But, fortunately, there is an easy way to stave off disaster. Last night, the Republican leader—I believe he did again this morning—last night and this morning, the Republican leader cited an example from the 2000s, during which Republicans held unified control of government and provided the votes to increase the debt limit. The Republican leader said that example was ''exactly the situation we are in now.''

What Leader MCCONNELL conveniently left out is that back then, there was a consent agreement, requested by the Republican majority leader, that cleared the path for the Senate to vote to increase the debt limit at a majority threshold—only one party—allowing the minority party to vote no but also preventing a catastrophic default.

Let me be clear: I am still of the belief that addressing the debt limit, which includes debts incurred by both parties, should be done in a bipartisan way. But let's see if Leader MCCONNELL truly wants what he is asking for, truly wants what he favorably looked upon as happening in the early 2000s to allow to happen again.

Later this afternoon, I will ask unanimous consent for the Senate to hold a vote to increase the debt limit at a majority threshold. In other words, we would get consent that you only need 50 votes, not 60, on this vote to increase the debt limit. And that is what happened in the past.

It would be very similar to the process that Leader MCCONNELL cited yesterday, favorably, which allowed for

the debt limit to be increased without the minority party providing any of the votes needed to do so.

So if Republicans want to abscond from their responsibilities, not vote to pay the debt they incurred, so be it. That is a bad thing. It is a bad precedent. But this is the way out. It is a way out. It is a straightforward proposition: If Republicans really want to see the debt ceiling raised without providing a single vote, I am prepared to hold that vote. I can't imagine the Republican leader would object to his own request—his own request.

DEBT LIMIT

Now, taking a step back, Mr. President, we need to remember we didn't need to be in this position at all. We could have been well on our way to resolving these avoidable crises last night. The debt ceiling has been raised 80 times over the past 60 years under both Democratic and Republican Presidents, under both unified and divided government.

Ten years ago, Republican opposition to extending the debt ceiling was considered a fringe, a radical idea. The Republican Speaker at the time called the notion of holding the debt ceiling hostage to political ends ''insanity.''

The Republican leader himself 2 years ago said we needed to raise the debt ceiling because ''America can't default,'' otherwise that would be a disaster. His words.

Well, after last night, it is clear ''insanity'' and ''disaster'' are now the Republican Party line, and it is endangering the very bedrock upon which both our economic viability and financial credibility stand.

I hope that our Republican colleagues can walk us back from the ledge in a few hours, but it is a sad state of affairs to see one of America's two major political parties so casually, so gleefully playing with the livelihoods of tens of millions of Americans, all for basically a cheap political goal.

Democrats, meanwhile, are not going to abscond from these core responsibilities. Keeping the government open and preventing default is vital to our country's future, and Democrats are going to make sure we do not lapse on either, in spite of the dangerous path Republicans have chosen to take us on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

BUDGET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am glad that the Democratic leader came to the floor after the Republican leader. He certainly clarified some of the statements that were made by Senator MCCONNELL and brought a dose of reality into the picture. I listened carefully to Senator MCCONNELL's speech, and I was waiting for one word. I knew he would say it at some point, and yet I don't think he did. I might have missed it, but I don't think he ever used the word ''filibuster''—''filibuster,'' the requirement of 60 votes to proceed with the business of the Senate.

The reason why that is essential is the Democrats are prepared to accept the responsibility of funding the government and dealing with our national debt, acknowledging our debt ceiling. And if the Republicans don't care to be part of that conversation—or to engage in it, that is their wish—that is what they can have. But Senator MCCONNELL has put in a filibuster, a requirement of 60 votes, which makes it literally impossible for the Democrats on their own to accept their responsibility. He didn't mention that the entire time.

I think we have reached a new low point in the U.S. Senate, where the Republican leader and his followers, to a person, are prepared to jeopardize the economy of the United States for purely political reasons. We know that this filibuster means we need Republican votes to move this measure. And he has made it quite clear that he won't give those votes, at least as of yesterday. I can only hope that Republican Senators going home, maybe this weekend, hearing from their constituents and businesses, will have second thoughts about this and accept that bipartisan responsibility that we all face.

There is a second you had to listen very carefully to catch with Senator MCCONNELL's opening statement. He went on to say at great length that the last time we passed a debt ceiling extension was in August. And, he said, incidentally, all the spending leading up to August was covered by that debt ceiling. Well, that may have been true. What did he fail to tell us? There was another bill that he voted for, Trump supported, the Republicans supported, and the Democrats voted for, too, in December for $900 billion in spending. That wasn't covered by the earlier August debt ceiling. He knows that. So to say all the debt of the Trump administration has been taken care of just isn't the fact. And I am glad we have a chance to clarify that.

He seems to think that we are going to ''hurt families and help China'' if we press forward with the reconciliation bill. Does it hurt families to find an affordable way to have quality daycare for their kids? I don't think so. Does it hurt families when children get a chance for pre-K education so they are ready for school when the day comes? Does it hurt families when we extend education from K–12 to K–14 and say to our community colleges, We are going to give you a mission: Prepare the workforce for the 21st century? Give these Americans the skills they need for a good paycheck and a home and a family and a future.

According to the Senator from Kentucky, that hurts American families. I think he is just flatout wrong. It helps them in critical ways. It really addresses expenses and challenges they face and need a helping hand to succeed.

And in terms of helping China, a competitive American workforce, investment in research and innovation does not help China. If we invest in this country, in its people and its ideas, we have always succeeded and led the world.

So I disagree with the Senator from Kentucky completely. His approach—tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, corporations that, frankly, can escape any tax liability—hasn't worked. And it won't work. It is fundamentally unfair, and it fails to invest in the people that need it the most: working families, middle-income families, children and their future.

(Mr. PADILLA assumed the Chair.)

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, coincidentally, last Friday, you and I made a trip to Chicago.

Senator PADILLA, as chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee of Judiciary, joined me in visiting one of the most amazing neighborhoods in the city. We spent the day in Little Village, a neighborhood in the southwest part of the city known as the ''Mexican Capital of the Midwest.

During our visit, we walked down 26th Street, the commercial heart of Little Village. It is lined with more than 100 family-owned shops and restaurants. People travel from all over the country to try their homemade tamales, stop for their quinceañera dresses, and experience a little slice of Mexico right here in America.

Families who own the businesses on 26th Street are proof that the American dream is alive and well.

Remember La Chiquita Grocery? I think that the founder—I guess it was almost 35 years ago—took the venture of opening a grocery store and now has seven or eight of them in the region. And they are so proud of their anchor store that we were guests in, to show us all the things available to folks in the neighborhood.

Whether these folks arrived in our country a few years ago or a few generations ago, these families contribute to the economic vitality of the city of Chicago every day. Little Village, that we visited, is a major economic engine in Chicago. That 2-mile stretch of 26th Street is the second highest grossing shopping district in all of Chicago. And those family-run businesses generate nearly $1 billion in sales each year.

Bilingual communities like Little Village make America richer and stronger, culturally and economically. They are living proof that immigrants are still an essential part of America's future. And there are millions of people who have been contributing to our economy and our communities for years. But they have been left behind by our broken immigration system.

That is exactly what the Presiding Officer and I, along with many of our colleagues in the Democratic caucus—that is exactly what we are trying to include as an immigration reform in the Build Back Better package that will come before the Senate in the coming days.

Let me tell you about one of these immigrants that we are focused on.

Roughly 10 miles south of where Senator PADILLA and I toured Little Village, there is a trauma center, Advocate Christ Medical Center. It is one of the busiest in Chicago's South Side.

One of the doctors who recently completed his residency in that trauma center is Dr. Manuel Bernal Mejia. During this pandemic, Dr. Bernal has been saving lives every day in the emergency room. He cared for Chicagoans at all stages of life, from delivering babies to providing comfort to patients during their last moments. And he has cared for more COVID patients than he can count.

It is in our country that Dr. Bernal works every day to take care of our friends and loved ones; it is in our country that Dr. Bernal graduated from college and medical school; and it is in our country that Dr. Bernal has lived since he was 2 years old.

Despite that, Dr. Bernal, who is now an emergency room physician in nearby Rockford, has still been left behind by our broken immigration system. And there are thousands more just like him.

According to the definition established by former President Trump, there are more than 200,000 DACA recipients that have served as ''essential critical infrastructure workers'' during the pandemic. That includes more than 40,000 healthcare workers like Dr. Bernal. Some of them work in emergency rooms like him and others as nurses, paramedics, respiratory therapists.

So let's ask a basic question when it comes to immigration. Would America be better? Would Illinois be better? Would Chicago be better without Dr. Bernal? All of the Dreamers who are working every day to save American lives in our hospitals? I don't think so.

For Dreamers like Dr. Bernal, DACA has been a lifeline. It has given them a chance to give back to the only home they have ever known. But we all know DACA is not a permanent solution. The reality is, Dreamers have been standing on shaky ground for far too long.

These young people are the best. They defend us as members of our military, care for our parents and family members as home health aides, and they teach our children in school. But because Congress has failed to fix our broken immigration system, Dreamers with DACA can only plan their lives in 2-year increments. And every day, they live in fear that the rug is going to be pulled out from under them at any moment. It happened under President Trump. He tried to eliminate the program. It was finally saved at the highest Court in the land across the street, in the Supreme Court.

Dreamers and immigrants like them, who give everything they can to our country, deserve a path to legal status. The fact is, their future is our future.

As I mentioned, the budget reconciliation package the Senate is expected to vote on soon contains President Biden's Build Back Better Plan, a blueprint for our Nation to mount an enduring economic recovery.

The proposals included in that plan would supercharge our economy by cutting taxes for working families; making childcare, healthcare, and transportation more affordable; providing a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants.

Let me say that another way. Immigration reform would drive our Nation's economic recovery for years to come. A pathway to legal status for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and essential workers could boost our Nation's GPD by $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years—$1.5 trillion.

Additionally, a path to legalization could create 400,000 new jobs and increase every American's annual wage by an estimated $600. How can that be? Putting these immigrants to work on the payroll, how could that help other people? Because we have a dynamic economy, and what we saw on 26th Street in Chicago can be replicated over and over again if these new immigrants are given a chance to work hard, as they all do, show their skills, and build the economy around them. Our Nation is leaving billions, if not trillions, of dollars on the table by failing to fix our broken immigration system.

Earlier this month, the White House published a report that found that providing a path to permanent legal status would ''allow . . . currently unauthorized immigrants to pursue and accept jobs for which their skills are well-suited.'' Many of these immigrants are of prime working age, which means they could help grow our Nation's tax base for the foreseeable future. That is money that can go towards shoring up Social Security, Medicare, and funding our Nation's priorities. In fact, leading economists have argued that America needs immigrants to keep these programs solvent.

In the words of Mark Zandi, Moody's chief economist, the United States is ''not going to be able to address our fiscal problems . . . if we don't change our policy with regard to immigration.'' He is not alone. Other economists agree. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the right-leaning American Action Forum, has argued that, in the absence of immigration, America will ''shrink in population . . . become older, and . . . become less important on the world stage.''

With the Build Back Better plan, this Senate is finally taking up the important work investing in America's future. That means building railroads and transit networks that will connect communities and providing funding for high-quality childcare so every parent can have a safe place to leave their child during the workday. It also means providing immigrant families the stable footing they need to contribute to our future.

For these families, make no mistake, America is home. Every day, they help to make our communities better and our economy stronger. That is the case we plan on making to the Senate Parliamentarian once again. This is the first opportunity we have had in a long, long time to begin building an immigration system that works for America. And for our own sake, I hope we can get it done.

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. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last night's vote was an exercise in futility, as Democrats knew would be the case.

For months now, Republicans have made it clear that we will not help Democrats raise our Nation's debt limit to finance Democrats' partisan tax-and-spending spree. If Democrats want to pass a massive, partisan tax-and-spending bill without Republican input, they can raise the debt limit without Republican input.

Democrats, of course, have complained they can't raise the debt limit by themselves. The truth is that they don't want to do it by themselves. Democrats want the credit for their social policies and the government handouts they are planning, but they don't want to own the pricetag.

Democrats are talking about engaging in a wild, reckless spending spree that will worsen our inflation problem, threaten economic growth, and substantially increase the government's control over Americans' lives. Republicans can't support that kind of legislation, and we are not going to help Democrats increase the credit card limit to pay for it. If the Democrats want to raise the debt limit, they have to do it by themselves.

I have come down to the floor more than once to talk about the reckless spending and the massive tax hikes the Democrats are planning. I could spend the rest of my time here on the floor today talking about the irresponsible amount of money Democrats want to spend and the tax hikes they are proposing, but today, I want to look at things a little differently.

Last week, House Speaker PELOSI had this to say in reference to the Democrats' $3.5 trillion spending bill. She said:

> It's not about a price tag. It's about values.
> It's not about a price tag. It's about values.

Mr. President, she is partially right because while the pricetag does matter, this is about more than just the pricetag. This is about values and visions—specifically, Republicans' and Democrats' different visions of government.

The Democrats' bill isn't just about spending money, even though it does spend money—a lot of it. It is about a

specific vision of government, one where the government is intimately involved in nearly every aspect of your life from, to quote the New York Times article on the Democrats' bill, ''cradle to grave.''

Someone once said to me that the difference between Democrats and Republicans is the Republicans believe in less government and more freedom; Democrats believe in less freedom and more government. I think that is a pretty accurate description of what we are seeing here.

Republicans oppose Democrats' tax-and-spending spree because it spends an irresponsible amount of money, but more than that—more than that—we oppose it because it moves us further and further away from the American idea of limiting government.

Our Founders established a limited government for a reason—because they respected individual liberty, and they knew that the heavier the hand of government, the less liberty Americans would enjoy. That is why our Constitution is as much about what government cannot do as what government can do.

Democrats might protest that they are not restricting individual liberty, that they are just providing a helping hand or redistributing wealth, but when you expand the reach of government, the diminishment of liberty is inevitable. When government gets involved in a new area of life, it rarely, if ever, just comes with the benefits; it comes in with rules and regulations and mandates.

Take Democrats' childcare benefit. Democrats are preparing to offer childcare subsidies to parents around the country, but it is not as simple as just taking some money from the government and going out and purchasing childcare because it turns out the Democrats are changing decades-old childcare funding programs to favor secular childcare providers who provide care at daycare centers. If you prefer to choose a faith-based provider for your child, you may be out of luck.

A 2020 Bipartisan Policy Center survey found that among parents who used center-based childcare, 53 percent used a faith-based center—53 percent. They reported that they chose these providers for a variety of reasons, from the quality of the caregivers, to the cleanliness of the facility, to the values of the provider. That number may change when Democrats' tax-and-spending plan goes into effect, not because parents are changing their childcare preferences but simply because Democrats have set up their benefit to favor secular center-based childcare providers.

With government benefits come government control and government picking the winners and the losers. Secular childcare providers win under Democrats' massive government expansion; faith-based providers and parental choice, not so much. Electric vehicle manufacturers win; the natural gas and biofuels industries, not so much, despite the fact that both have been key to producing cleaner American energy. Unions win under this bill; Americans making charitable donations, not so much. Democrats are allowing the charitable deduction to expire but adding a new tax break to pay for union dues. When government is in charge, government dictates your choices and picks winners and losers.

Government also gets a lot more involved with overseeing the details of your personal life. Democrats are planning to add a provision that would force banks and credit unions to report the details of your financial activity to the IRS, including certain deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions. Democrats are apparently still discussing the amount that would trigger the new reporting requirement, which has been proposed at $600 or $10,000, but whichever number they settle on, a lot of ordinary Americans are going to end up having their bank or credit union forced to report their private information to the IRS. Talk about Big Brother.

Probably the biggest reason that Republicans believe in limited government is because we believe in individual liberty, and we know that the more government expands into your life, the more your choices and liberties are curtailed. But there are other reasons that we believe in limited government.

One big reason is that we know that the Federal Government simply isn't the best way of delivering many services. There are some things that the Federal Government is well-suited to do—handling our national defense, for example. If our country is invaded or attacked, it is a lot more effective for our national military to respond rather than for each State to respond on its own. But there are a lot of other things that are better handled at the State level or at a local level or in some cases not by government at all.

Our State government in South Dakota is a lot more familiar with the needs of South Dakotans than the bureaucrats at Washington Agencies. The city government in Sioux Falls or Rapid City or Pierre or Box Elder is even more familiar with or more able to respond to the needs of individual residents. That is why a lot of things are better handled at the State or local level or, as I said, at times not by government at all.

Big Government is impersonal and inflexible. It is not familiar with and can't take into account particular and sometimes opposing needs of each State or each community. Big Government is one-size-fits-all.

Big Government is also inefficient. Anyone who thinks the Federal Government would do a good job running Americans' healthcare hasn't dealt with a Federal Agency very recently.

Big Government is unaccountable. Think about it. If you have a company that offers a bad product, what is going to happen? People are not going to buy your product, and you are probably going to go out of business quickly. It doesn't work that way with the Federal Government. The Federal Government is not going to go out of business because it isn't doing a good job delivering the services that are promised.

If the government is in charge of your healthcare and it isn't delivering quality healthcare, you have little recourse. Sure, you can try to vote in new Members of Congress to reform things, but even then, change can take a very long time. Real reform of an existing government program is rare. Elimination of a bad government program? Even rarer. As Ronald Reagan used to say, the nearest thing to eternal life that we will ever see on this Earth is a government program.

I could go on. I could talk about how Big Government tends to stifle the innovation that leads to economic growth or ask why Democrats think that a group of bureaucrats in Washington are the best decision makers for American families. But I want to touch on one other point before I close, and that is that Democrats believe in government dependence as the goal. They might dispute that characterization, but you only have to look at the tax-and-spending package that they are putting together to know that is their vision.

They envision a future where Americans rely on the government for everything from childcare, to education, to healthcare, and on and on. That is a vision with which Republicans fundamentally disagree. Our vision is not a future of government dependence because government doesn't bring prosperity. Government doesn't bring the American dream. At best, government is going to help you survive. It is not going to help you thrive.

Yes, government can be an important backstop in difficult situations or national emergencies, like the COVID crisis, but the goal should always be to get people to a place where they don't have to rely on government. Permanent government dependence robs people of the purpose and pride that comes with work and personal achievement, and, as I said, it denies them the opportunity for prosperity. No one ever became prosperous on government benefits.

If you asked most Americans what the American dream means to them, I am pretty sure you would hear things like a ''good job,'' a ''rewarding career,'' the ''chance to pursue my ambitions,'' or the ''chance to improve my circumstances and make life better for my children.'' That is what Americans envision, not a future of government dependence and government subsidies.

People are looking to achieve the kind of prosperity where they don't need government involvement in every aspect of their lives and can choose their paths for themselves instead of having to follow the rules and regulations that come with government benefits.

That is a vision that Republicans share, and it is what we are committed to fighting for on behalf of the American people. That is another reason we are committed to maintaining limited government, because the bigger government grows, the more that vision of opportunity and prosperity shrinks.

And so Speaker PELOSI is partially right. She is wrong to dismiss the bill's pricetag, because it is profoundly—profoundly—irresponsible to mortgage our children's and grandchildren's futures with a massive government spending increase, but she is right in that it is about values.

Now, Republicans aren't opposing Democrats' tax-and-spending spree simply because it spends a lot of money, but because it advances a vision of government with which we profoundly disagree. We don't believe that the American dream is government dependence; we don't believe in an ever-expanding role for the Federal Government; and we don't believe that bureaucrats in Washington are a good substitute for the judgment of the American people.

That is why every Republican in the Senate will be voting against the Democrats' reckless spending legislation, not just because it spends too much money, but because it fundamentally undermines the American tradition of liberty and limited government. It is about values, and it is about visions, and Republicans do not share the Democrats' vision of a future of Big Government and Big Brother.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to conclude my remarks before the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to continue the discussion that we have been having about the harms of Nord Stream 2.

I will discuss in this speech one of the administration's legal responsibilities, in particular to impose sanctions in a way that they are now defying those legal responsibilities.

I do want to note that every day brings new evidence of the incoherence of President Biden's sellout and surrender to Vladimir Putin. Since we last discussed this, elections have occurred in Germany and the government of Angela Merkel, on whose behalf the Biden administration claims to be acting, will now be replaced. So the entire surrender to Russia by Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS was for nothing. I will discuss that further throughout the day and throughout the week.

We have heard repeatedly from my Democratic colleagues that my actions to block some of President Biden's nominees are unprecedented. That accusation doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Senators routinely use their prerogatives, and, indeed, Democrats regularly engaged in massive obstruction over months and years of President Trump's nominations. What isn't unprecedented, however, is Joe Biden's open defiance and literal lawlessness in not imposing the sanctions mandated by multiple laws passed overwhelmingly by Congress.

Right now, I would like to talk about one of the laws that the President is violating: CAATSA—the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. Before getting into the details of Nord Stream 2, I would like to note a couple of things about CAATSA.

First, CAATSA was explicitly designed for the purpose of taking away the President's discretion whether or not to impose sanctions on Russia in cases where Congress had deemed it necessary to mandate them. And secondly, on that basis, CAATSA passed Congress with nearly unanimous support: 419 to 3 in the House, and 98 to 2 in the Senate.

As for the purpose of CAATSA, I would like to quote some of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle who were both clear and celebratory about the bill.

Senator MURPHY, who has been particularly loquacious in opposition to these holes, said about CAATSA: ''It is not often that Congress takes away, from the president, discretionary powers on foreign policy.''

Worth remembering.

Senator SCHUMER, who has also had more than a little bit to say on these holes, said that CAATSA was necessary because of what he described as the President's ''seeming inability to deal with the many transgressions of Russia.''

Gosh, Senator SCHUMER was right. We now have a President unwilling and unable to deal with, as he put it, the ''many transgressions of Russia.''

What about Senator MENENDEZ?

Senator MENENDEZ has stood on this floor, including at 4:00 and 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning, railing about these blocks.

Well, what did he say about CAATSA?

He said that CAATSA sent ''the most powerful message in the world, that the United States—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—stand together.''

Those were really fine sentiments. I wish they held true when there was a Democratic President as much as Senator MENENDEZ believed them when there was a Republican President.

And how about Senator DURBIN?

Senator DURBIN is never lacking an opinion on any topic. Here is what he said: ''We had to tell them enough is enough, and when it came to the sanctions and trusting the president, we basically said we want to make sure the president will not lift these sanctions.''

Well, do you know what? Senator MURPHY was right. Senator SCHUMER was right. Senator MENENDEZ was right. Senator DURBIN was right. That is why Congress came together to pass CAATSA, tough legislation to prevent a President from doing what Joe Biden is doing right now: surrendering to Putin, surrendering to Russia, ignoring U.S. law, and giving Putin a multibillion-dollar gift.

And, when my Democratic colleagues didn't believe the Trump administration was implementing the full breadth of mandatory sanctions under CAATSA, they made the purpose of CAATSA even clearer.

On January 30, 2018, Senator CARDIN led a letter about CAATSA to then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, cosigned by 21 other Democrats—almost half of the caucus. They said that the Trump administration's failure to impose mandatory sanctions ''do not fully reflect the clear congressional intent described in the legislation . . . We expect the administration to provide a full explanation as to why it has not imposed mandatory sanctions'' under several provisions of CAATSA.

Then, on May 18, 2018, Senator MENENDEZ led a letter about CAATSA to several inspectors general, cosigned by two other Democrats. They said that ''[s]everal mandatory provisions of the law have not been implemented . . . despite strong evidence that actions taken by or on behalf of the Russian government are in violation of the CAATSA sanctions law.''

In fact, I would like to read more of that letter because it is so abundantly clear about the purpose of CAATSA:

> In light of the apparent violations and the lack of corresponding sanctions actions, we are concerned about whether the sanctions implementation process within the administration is fulfilling CAATSA's mandate and intent. In general, with respect to mandatory measures, the President is required to make determinations in the event he has established that sanctions behavior has taken place, and then either impose sanctions or exercise a waiver.

So a binary choice: One or the other. That is what of a President is required.

And do you know what? Senator CARDIN and Senator MENENDEZ, well, they might have meant it, but they didn't say it: Only Republican Presidents are required to do this.

They didn't write that in their letters because, of course, CAATSA doesn't say that. What they said is a President is required to make that choice. The law requires the President to make that choice.

Senator CARDIN was right. Senator MENENDEZ was right. And Joe Biden is telling them: Go jump in a lake.

He is telling the U.S. Congress: Go jump in a lake.

He is telling the American people: Go jump in a lake.

He is cutting a deal with Putin, and don't bring no stinkin' laws to get in his way.

That brings to us Nord Stream 2. One of the provisions that my Democratic colleagues cited in both of those letters was section 228: ''Sanctions with respect to certain transactions with foreign sanctions evaders and serious

human rights abusers in the Russian federation.''

Section 228 mandates the imposition of sanctions on any company that conducts any ''significant transactions,'' including ''deceptive transactions,'' for Russian companies that are already sanctioned.

There is no doubt—zero—that the company Nord Stream 2 AG, which is the company responsible for the planning, the construction, and the eventual operation of Putin's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, has committed acts that require the implementation and the imposition of those mandated sanctions under CAATSA 228.

Indeed, that is one of the many reasons the pipeline was halted for a year, and Putin only began building it again on January 24 of this year—4 days after Joe Biden was sworn in. Because Joe Biden has been so weak on this issue, because the pipeline exists only as a gift from Biden to Putin, this pipeline is, in a very real sense, the Biden-Putin pipeline.

We know that the Biden administration is defying the law, because the Biden administration told us so in May. The Biden administration sent a report to Congress describing how Nord Stream 2 AG had conducted deceptive transactions for sanctioned Russian companies. That is the explicit trigger in CAATSA for sanctions, and yet the Biden administration has refused to meet its obligations under CAATSA, and that leads to the reasonable compromise that I have offered.

For several months, I have had in place a hold on all State Department nominees and on several Treasury Department nominees as well. The reason for the hold has been simple—because Joe Biden is defying the law and is giving Vladimir Putin a multibillion-dollar gift that constitutes a generational geopolitical blunder that puts billions of dollars into the Russian coffers every year that Putin will use for military aggression against America and our allies. Biden's surrender to Putin weakens Europe profoundly. It makes Europe dependent on Russia even more so for energy and subject to Russia's energy blackmail. And it also, on top of that, destroys jobs here in the United States.

For months, I have had in place the blanket hold that has caused increasing cries of pain and dismay from our Democratic colleagues. Interestingly, these same Democratic colleagues all agree that what Biden is doing with the Biden-Putin pipeline is terrible. Almost to a person, the Democrats who are complaining about this have denounced Joe Biden for giving Putin this multibillion-dollar gift, but they say they want to confirm his nominees anyway.

So what I have said is: All right. Fine. If the Biden administration wants to defy the sanctions law that I drafted—the Cruz-Shaheen sanctions law, it is two different bills that I drafted with Senator SHAHEEN, Democrat from New Hampshire. We passed into law, overwhelming bipartisan support from both Houses of Congress. If Joe Biden wants to ignore those laws, then there is another avenue to resolve much of this dispute, which is simply to follow the law under CAATSA.

So I extended an offer to Secretary Blinken, to Secretary Yellen, to the White House that I would lift my holds on every career State nominee and on the Treasury nominees where I placed holds in exchange for one of two things: No. 1, the best outcome would be for the Biden administration to actually implement CAATSA and sanction Nord Stream 2 AG, to follow the law, to do what is mandatory.

That would be the best outcome. If they did so, I would immediately lift my holds.

But, secondly, I get that the White House politically has decided they want to surrender to Putin on this. My understanding is there is an interagency process—the State Department argued to do the right thing. The State Department argued: Impose the sanctions on Nord Stream 2 AG, stop this pipeline, which, by the way, is what Tony Blinken sat in my office and promised State would do. It is what just about every senior nominee to the State Department has promised they would do.

State argued to do the right thing, but according to public reports, the political operatives at the White House overruled their own State Department. They said: Never mind the national security interests of the United States. Never mind protecting America. Never mind stopping Putin and Russia. Never mind protecting Europe's energy security. Never mind protecting Europe from blackmail by Putin. We want to surrender because Angela Merkel wants us to.

I talked last week about how a friend of mine jokes that the White House political team sleeps with votive candles of Angela Merkel under their beds. There is a view in the White House that what Merkel wants, Merkel gets, even if it is bad for America, bad for Germany, bad for Europe, but good for Russia.

Of course, Merkel is on her way out now, but they still want to do this surrender. And this surrender, by the way, if it is completed, will hurt America for generations to come—10 years, 20 years, 30 years from now.

The next Russian dictator will be enriched by Joe Biden's surrender to Putin on the Biden-Putin pipeline.

The two options: First, after imposing sanctions, they could leave them in place. But, secondly, recognizing that they don't want to do it, there is a second option I gave them, which is that they could impose sanctions under CAATSA, but then they could delist Nord Stream 2 AG.

In other words, they could exercise the political decision not to impose the sanctions. That gives them their policy—preferred policy outcome.

What it also does under CAATSA is it triggers an automatic congressional override vote.

So I told Secretary Blinken, I told Secretary Yellen: It is very easy. If you believe in this foolhardy policy of surrendering to Putin, then put your money where your mouth is. Follow the law, which is clear, unequivocal, black letter law. Impose the sanctions. And you do have a vehicle. You can delist it. The President can make a determination that even though the sanctions are mandatory, he wants to delist it.

But here is what Congress did. In CAATSA, it triggered an automatic congressional override vote. And what I have told the administration is: You know what. Whether I win or lose that override vote, if you actually follow the law in such a way that it triggers that vote, I will lift my holds—my holds on the career State nominees, my holds on the Treasury nominees. You have a path. Simply subject yourself to congressional oversight.

Now, it is very clear why they haven't taken this offer, which has been in writing for months now. Because Joe Biden thinks if we had a vote in this Senate, he would lose. He thinks if we had a vote in the House, he would lose. He knows that Republicans would vote against him.

And if Democrats had a modicum of consistency, virtually every Democrat in this Chamber and the House has been unequivocal that the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline is devastating to U.S. national security. And so the Biden White House doesn't want to risk members of his own party voting against his surrender to Russia. So, instead, they defy the law. That is an irresponsible course of action.

There is a very reasonable compromise on the table, and all of the perils the Democrats are lamenting about these holds can be avoided if, if, if Joe Biden will simply follow the law, follow CAATSA. The mandatory sanctions that Democrats explained were designed to prevent a President from doing what Joe Biden is doing right now, which is surrendering to Russia. There is a reasonable compromise on the table. All that is required is for Joe Biden to take it.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON NOMINATION OF KAREN ERIKA DONFRIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Donfried nomination?

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Johnson	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Burr	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McConnell	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Crapo	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Peters	
Graham	Portman	

NAYS—26

Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moran	Wicker
Hawley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Feinstein

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. OSSOFF).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to offer some brief remarks today in the wake of the Armed Services Committee hearing today on the evacuation of Afghanistan and the end to U.S. troop presence there. I watched it with some interest. I watched it knowing that three out of four Americans support President Biden's decision to bring U.S. troops home from Afghanistan.

We learned some new things today in the hearing. Others were confirmed. First, we learned, once again, of the extraordinary bravery and capability of our diplomats and our soldiers, who worked under incredibly difficult conditions for a period of weeks to airlift almost 130,000 individuals out of Afghanistan. That is absolutely remarkable, especially given, as we heard today in testimony, that the goal at the outset, in the best case scenario, was to get 60 to 70 to 80,000 people out. In the end, the United States of America, our military and our diplomats, got 130,000 people out.

We heard, also, about the impossible position that President Biden inherited; that there was a commitment made to withdraw American troops by President Trump but no plan with which to do it safely. We heard about how the Doha agreement decreased the readiness of the Afghan forces, how it weakened their position internally.

We heard about the choice that faced President Biden when he came into office. We heard about the fact that, had we chosen to stay, we would have had to surge troops; that the Taliban, having gotten to the precipice of provincial capitals, would have engaged in a level of urban warfare that would have required the United States to increase our troop presence there in order to be able to stand up an effective resistance to the Taliban.

To the extent that Republicans view this as a political game and they were looking for points to be scored today, I guess the one point they feel they scored was an admission by the generals who testified that some of them had recommended staying in Afghanistan.

Now, I have tremendous respect for our generals. I think they get it right more than they get it wrong. They provide very able advice to the Commander in Chief. But for 20 years, in Afghanistan, our generals recommended staying, in the face of mounting evidence, year after year, that it was going to be impossible to be able to stand up an Afghan military that could protect the country and an Afghan Government that could govern the country. Our generals recommended staying—year after year after year, month after month after month—despite the fact that many analysts told us that as soon as we left and the Taliban took over, the Afghan Government and the military would fall.

Now, they did it because our military is bred to believe that anything is possible. It speaks, in some part, to the best of American military ethos, the idea that there is no obstacle that cannot be surmounted, that cannot be climbed by U.S. forces. But the task they were given by President after President was one that could not be carried out.

And to simply believe that because the general said ''stay another year'' or ''stay another 5 years,'' this Commander in Chief should have listened, despite the fact that it had been proven that the mission that we were given in that country was impossible, is to compound a mistake—an unnecessary mistake—that the United States engaged in for far, far too long.

And so my hope is that moving forward, this Congress and this Senate are going to engage in real oversight. There is no doubt the evacuation could have been done better. There is no doubt that, in a mission this complicated, the Biden team would have done things differently. But the real question is, Why did we stay in Afghanistan for 10 years too long? Why did we keep believing that we could train-up a military that would be capable of defending the country?

It is time that we have a deep inquiry in this Senate about the limits of American military power overseas and how badly misresourced we are when we spend 10 to 20 times as much money on military power as we do on other means of projecting American power.

It is also important for us to understand the cost of getting bogged down in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. It is not a coincidence that shortly after withdrawing from Afghanistan, we were able to announce this new partnership with Australia and Britain to better protect our mutual interests in the Pacific theater.

It is because, when the entirety of the U.S. defense and foreign policy infrastructure is so trained on unwinnable contests in far off places like Afghanistan, it doesn't allow us the capacity and the creativity to be able to design new systems and new structures with which to protect the country.

China celebrated every single year that we remain bogged down in Afghanistan. Russia celebrated every single year that we doubled down on that mistake. Now we have the ability to turn our attention to fights that truly matter.

We learned some things in the Armed Services Committee today. I think what we learned confirms that the decision that President Biden made to pull our troops out was the right one. It is a decision supported by the American people because it allows this country, finally, to focus on fights that are winnable in reality, not just on paper.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2868

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, Senate Republicans voted unanimously to make a default and a shutdown far more likely and in doing so, solidified themselves as the party of default, the party that says America does not pay its debts.

Now, despite yesterday's stunning display of obstruction, the fact remains

that we need to raise the debt ceiling, and in a few moments, I will offer a way forward for us to avoid causing unnecessary and catastrophic default on the debt.

Over the last 2 days, the Republican leader has repeatedly cited an instance in the mid-2000s during which Republicans held full control of the government and voted by themselves to increase the debt limit. Here is what he said: That is ''exactly the same situation we're in now.'' That is ''exactly the same situation we're in now.''

The Senate was able to raise the debt ceiling at that time because the then-Republican majority leader made a consent request to this body that cleared the way for the Senate to increase the debt limit by a majority threshold instead of requiring 60 votes to break a filibuster. The minority party, under this agreement, was able to vote no, which is what they claim they want to do, and the majority party was able to approve a debt limit extension and prevent a catastrophe.

So we are proposing the same thing today, the same thing the leader cited and said the situation is exactly the same. Simply allow for a simple majority threshold to raise the debt ceiling and avoid this needless catastrophe that Republicans have steered us toward. We are simply asking Senator MCCONNELL to live by his own example.

We have given the Republicans what they want, and now the ball is in their court. Let's see if Republicans truly want what they say they want. We are not asking them to vote yes. If Republicans want to vote to not pay the debts they helped incur, they can all vote no. We are just asking Republicans to get out of the way. Get out of the way when you are risking the full faith and credit of the United States to play a nasty political game.

We can bring this to a resolution today. Using the drawn-out and convoluted reconciliation process is far too risky—far too risky. Too many American families are at stake. Far better for us to solve this problem right here and right now.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2868, a bill to suspend the debt limit, which was introduced earlier today; that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, my colleague wants to discuss precedence from a decade ago, but he and his colleagues have spent all year boasting that what Democrats are doing to the country and the economy is completely without precedent. I agree. What they are trying to do is completely without precedent. There is nothing normal—nothing normal—about Democrats using reconciliation multiple times to blow a $5.5 trillion hole in the deficit without a single vote from our side. Debt limit increases like the one we saw in 2006 were not—I repeat, not—precursors to a massive blowout reconciliation package that Republicans were just waiting to shove down Democrats' throats.

My colleague is trying hard to make this complicated. It is actually simple. I have said for more than 2 months that we will not help this unified Democratic government raise the debt ceiling. Democrats will not get bipartisan help borrowing money so they can immediately blow historic sums on a partisan taxing-and-spending spree.

The Democratic leader knew this request would fail. There is no chance—no chance—the Republican conference will go out of our way to help Democrats conserve their time and energy so they can resume ramming through partisan socialism as fast as possible. This Democratic government has spent months boasting about the radical transformation they are ramming through. They are proud of it. They have no standing whatsoever to ask 50 Republican Senators to make the process more convenient.

When the Democratic leader was recently in the minority, he made us file cloture on matters that weren't one-tenth this controversial. We had to invoke cloture on nominees who went on to be confirmed with literally zero votes in opposition. But now the Democratic leader wants us to skip that step on something this controversial? Of course, that is not going to happen.

All year long, Democrats have wanted to control government spending all on their own. They wanted to be in the position they are in right now. They requested from the Parliamentarian and won extra flexibility to redo reconciliation. So, if Democrats want to use fast-tracked, party-line processes to spend trillions of dollars and transform the country, they will have to use the same tool to raise the debt ceiling.

Now, here is what Republicans will do: For the sake of the full faith and credit of our country, I am about to propose a different consent, one that will allow Democrats to start the budget process they will need to use to raise the debt ceiling. Our Democratic colleagues will need to do this alone, but I will propose an agreement to ensure the process can begin as soon as Democrats accept that this is the path they need to take.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask the Senate to modify the request that has been made by the majority leader so that, in lieu of this proposal, if the Budget Committee reports out a 304 budget resolution with instructions to raise the debt limit or is discharged from consideration of such resolution, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the Republican leader has offered virtually nothing. He keeps the same risky process in place. He is totally doing a 180-degree turn from what he has offered time and again. The Democrats vote yes without any Republican help, but he refuses to do that. He refuses to do that. Our proposal is fair. Our proposal is not risky, the way the Republican leader's is, and his doesn't change a darned thing.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

DEBT CEILING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, Senate Democrats just gave Republicans yet another opportunity to do the right thing—to make sure the U.S. Government pays its bills, like every working family in our country does.

Now, Senate Republicans have acknowledged that, even though default would be catastrophic for our economy, they would not vote to prevent it—no Republican votes or help to prevent an economic catastrophe. Now they have kicked their brinksmanship up another notch by blocking Democrats—Democrats only—from voting to avoid default with a purely Democratic vote.

This makes no sense if you truly care about our workers, about our families, about our hard-won economic recovery. It only makes sense if their goal is economic sabotage—if they are so willing to put politics first that you put the American economy on the line. That is, apparently, what the Republican Party stands for today until proven otherwise: economic sabotage and politics first, no matter who gets hurt.

This is a disgrace. It is an embarrassment. But it is not going to stop Democrats from fighting to protect our economy from the devastating consequences of default, because let me be clear: Republicans may think this is some obscure fight right now, but it will not be if it hits Americans' bank accounts, and they are fooling themselves if they think people won't know who is responsible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, suspending the debt ceiling is not about generating new spending. It is about making sure the government can pay for our spending. Since 1960, Congress has done this. It has raised the debt ceiling approximately 80 times. It is not unusual; it is not uncommon; it is not unacceptable. What is unacceptable is that our colleagues won't even allow us to do it.

The 50 of us are united in this, and I say: Where are our Republican colleagues?

They know the fact: A default will impact everyone. The government will need to decide between sending out Social Security checks, ensuring we keep our promises to our vets, and paychecks to active military. It is disastrous for our economy and small business.

This year, Neil Bradley of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said that failing to act responsibly and provide an increase in the debt limit would endanger our economy. It would cause global markets, of course, to lose confidence in the full faith and credit of the United States.

The stakes are high. This should not be about scoring political points. Our families, our workers, our seniors deserve better. Democrats are united to stand by their side.

And we say to our Republican colleagues: Where are you?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, Rube Goldberg was an American sculptor, cartoonist, and inventor best known for his cartoons that created very complicated machines to do very simple tasks.

Today, we have heard from MITCH MCCONNELL that he wants to emulate Rube Goldberg and put our entire national economy at risk by an extraordinarily complicated method to do a simple task, and the simple task was laid out so clearly in 2006. The minority leader said we are in exactly the same position now as we were then. Well, yes. The Republicans asked the Democrats to not filibuster so that they could raise the debt limit. The tables are turned. The simple same courtesy takes away the risk to our economy.

The risk is great for disaster relief, for Medicaid, for payments to our veterans, for payments to our currently serving forces; and there are broader risks, risks that Mark Zandi has laid out, in saying a recession could result in the loss of millions of jobs, that it could result in the loss of a half a billion dollars in family wealth, that it could be—or $15 trillion in household wealth—$15 trillion.

There are moments when the political games have to stop, when the partisan warfare has to stop. The Democrats did what the Republicans suggested in 2006. We also took an alternative method that MITCH MCCONNELL suggested in the past, which was to let, in 2011, the President raise the debt ceiling subject to an override by Congress. We have twice worked with the Republicans, at their request, for a simple method. This is not the moment for a Rube Goldberg disaster with the wealth and health of Americans at risk.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, following my remarks, Senator LANKFORD and Senator SCOTT of South Carolina be recognized to speak and to complete their remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the debate on President Biden's massive plan to expand social programs has focused primarily on its enormous cost. Remarkably, little attention has been paid to the content of those policy changes. Yet the expensive entitlement programs the administration is proposing would have profound implications for people's lives and for the values that are among the pillars of our society, for they would break the connection between work and a brighter future.

From antiquity to our time, great thinkers have observed that work is about more than just putting food on the table, important though that is; it has a profound value that enables people to build lives of self-reliance and meaning.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

> No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity.

Under the President's plan, assistance checks sent from Washington would have no requirement that a recipient work, or pursue education or training, or participate in programs to remove barriers that prevent him or her from working. These unconditioned checks would sever the link between government assistance and work, education, or other requirements. No one would help a family identify obstacles to a better life. In essence, the Biden administration would reverse the pledge and reality of President Clinton's reforms when he promised to ''end welfare as we know it.''

Robert Doar, who oversaw assistance programs both for New York Governor George Pataki and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, described what has long been a bipartisan consensus. He said:

> . . . the way to help people escape poverty is through a combination of work and government aid—not work alone and not government aid alone. But the two together.

Why is that combination so powerful and so successful?

Government assistance provides a hand up and aids families who are struggling to overcome barriers to a better life. Work not only provides the economic pathway out of poverty, but—also equally important—imparts dignity, self-reliance, and confidence. It allows people to provide for their own families. It instills a sense of belonging and pride. It strengthens our communities.

Let me give you two examples.

I first met Adais when she was enrolled in the Federal Job Corps program in Limestone, ME. As a teenager, she had been homeless and wanted to get as far away as possible from the terrible circumstances in her life—thus her choice of the Job Corps in northern Maine. After completing this program in Limestone, Adais earned her degree in nursing from Husson University in Bangor. Today, due to her own perseverance, hard work, and government support during a very difficult time, she has a good life working as a nurse and providing for her three sons. She can take much pride in the life that she has built for herself and her family.

The second example involves women I met at the Aroostook County Community Action Program. They have benefited from a holistic approach to poverty, one that focuses on the needs of both the children and their parents—a two-generation-together approach—in order to end intergenerational poverty.

This two-generation approach identifies obstacles to work and financial independence, and then provides the necessary coaching and supports to help parents succeed in their goals while also meeting the needs of their children.

These mothers recounted to me with great pride their very moving stories of climbing the economic ladder out of poverty and into the workforce, providing a much better life for themselves and their children.

What these stories have in common is the dignity of work. As Stephen Hawking observed, ''Work gives you meaning and purpose.'' Securing the skills and support to get good jobs changed the lives of these parents and the lives of their children.

Now, let me be clear that I have supported providing additional help to assist low-income working families. For example, I worked with Senator RUBIO to successfully double the child tax credit and expand its refundable portion as part of the 2017 tax reform act, but this credit was tied to work until the Biden administration changed the rules of the American Rescue Plan earlier this year.

Given the pandemic, that may well have been justified as a temporary measure. But now, the administration wants to jettison the work requirement permanently, and the House Democrats' bill removes all means testing for a new childcare entitlement program so even very wealthy families would qualify.

Shouldn't we look carefully at the consequences of sending checks from Washington untethered to any work or other requirements? Shouldn't assistance prioritize those with the greatest needs but in ways that position them to achieve self-reliance?

There are certainly times when it is appropriate for government to step in, and no one is arguing that people who cannot work, who may have disabilities, for example, should not receive government assistance—of course, they should. And in a time of crisis, certainly, we should do all we can to help

those who are in need, through no fault of their own, and that is what happened during the pandemic.

There were many temporary programs that were instituted to help as our economy shut down and people were laid off. I, along with three of my colleagues, authored one of them—the Paycheck Protection Program. The rationale was to allow employers to receive funding so that they could continue to pay their employees and keep intact that bond between employers and employees so that the workers could return to the workplace once the economy reopened. That program was successful and temporary.

But that is not what this administration is proposing. Rather, it is creating entitlement programs untethered to work that would fundamentally change incentives for our families, our communities, our society, and our economy, depriving people of their dignity and eroding their ability to provide for themselves and their families. Absent a pandemic or other crisis, Washington should not simply write monthly checks, creating dependency among those who could have a better life. The Federal Government's obligation is not fulfilled by simply sending a check, washing its hands of any responsibility to actually help people achieve self-sufficiency.

It appears that this administration is moving toward the left's proposal for a guaranteed minimum income, regardless of one's ability to work. Never forget that the first version of the Green New Deal included a guaranteed income for those ''unable or unwilling to work.'' We must not go down that path.

We will not build a more prosperous, just, and equitable society, characterized by opportunity, dignity, and meaning, just by issuing government checks. The time-tested way to achieve those goals for American families is by supporting and rewarding work. It is by recognizing the dignity of work. And that is the tradition that we must continue to embrace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, it is one of the most basic questions that we get in almost any setting: What do you do? It is common conversation, back and forth between adults or teenagers or college students alike: What do you do?

It is a philosophical issue, though, that really has to be addressed, and, interestingly enough, it has become a greater divide between Republicans and Democrats of late. It didn't used to be that way.

The simple conversation about ''what do you do'' and encouraging people to be able to be engaged in productive work and what they do seemed to be something that was unified.

Democrats and Republicans alike rallied in the 1990s, as Bill Clinton declared: We are ending welfare as we know it. A 60-year experiment of sending out checks to individuals, saying we are going to help people escape poverty by sending a check to individuals, and if we give them a check, they will rise out of poverty.

Bill Clinton stood before the Nation and said: I campaigned to end that because that experiment didn't work, and he focused in a whole different direction, encouraging, as he spoke often on deadbeat dads, individuals that should pay their child support, need to pay it, and he highlighted how many people weren't doing that because those families were left exposed.

And he talked about the dignity of work, saying: To help people to be able to escape from poverty, we need to incentivize work and stop just sending a check to individuals but instead attach that to work.

The Nation stood and cheered and rallied around a moment to say: Let's help people, but let's help people actually rise.

There is a statement that I heard often, even during that time period: Let's not make welfare a hammock; let's make it a trampoline, that they can get assistance for a moment and be lifted out and to be able to rise to other things.

I thought that was a settled issue, until just last year. I suddenly started hearing President Biden on the campaign trail, and now in office, with my Democratic colleagues in the House already passing something over there in their committees, saying: We want to actually go back to welfare as we knew it. We want to be able to go back to that failed experiment, when we used to just mail checks to people, and so people in government would feel good to say: We took care of childhood poverty.

I have already heard people—even today in this body—say: If we pass this $3½ trillion proposal, we will cut childhood poverty in half. That was a statement that was made pre-1990s, when government believed if I just mailed a check, suddenly children would rise out of poverty because the numbers are right. But, actually, what we discovered was inflation would rise as checks were mailed out, and families were trapped in permanent levels of poverty because there was a disincentive to actually engage in work.

Now, again, this used to not be a Republican-Democrat thing. This was just a thing that we could look at the data.

Brookings Institute, which is a left-leaning think tank—I think we could all commonly agree with that. The Brookings Institute has, year after year, gone back to be able to look at how people actually escape poverty. How does it happen? What are the features that are there if people—if it is true in their life that they escaped poverty. They have identified three areas; that if these three areas are true, you will escape poverty.

No. 1, graduate high school. People that graduate high school, much lower level. No. 2, have a full-time job; have an income; if you actually are working full time. And, No. 3, if you wait until 21 to be married and then have children after marriage.

If those three things are true, the Brookings Institute said only 2 percent of the people actually are in poverty. Seventy-five percent of those folks in poverty that graduate high school, get a full-time job, have children after marriage—if those three things are true, 75 percent of them rise into the middle class.

This is not rocket science in some ways; it is just human nature. But the bill that is being set in front of us that is $3½ trillion in entitlements—and just to be able to put in perspective how large that is, if you combined the budgets of all 50 States, the total budget of all 50 States, it is $2 trillion. This new entitlement bill is $3½ trillion that is being proposed—$3½ trillion of new entitlements that would go to individuals that removes things like an incentive to work. It says you can get childcare tax credits, even if you are not working; that no matter if you are working or not—and the current limit, by the way, don't forget, is only $2,500 of income in a year. If you will do at least $2,500 worth of income in a year, then you get additional assistance. It is the encouragement to say the State will come alongside of you, but we have got to help you to be able to rise out of this spot—even that is taken away.

There is a marriage penalty that is included in this. Ironically, when I read from the Brookings Institute, and they say, ''Do you want to help people rise out of poverty,'' there is actually a marriage penalty in this where it actually punishes.

So we seem to be punishing work and punishing marriage rather than encouraging people to be able to rise.

Listen, this statement should be common for us: What do you do? It is not just meaningful for individuals and for communities, it is meaningful for children because, in school, children will be asked: What do your parents do? And if it is nothing, it matters to a child. A child has the example that is set in front of them, and it becomes a generational issue. We should encourage each generation to be able to rise and be a part of our society, not to be disconnected but to be engaged with all of our society. That develops community between individuals. It helps our economy to grow. It is what made us the most powerful economy in the entire world because we had what we called the American work ethic.

The American work ethic was a very simple principle that everyone should have the opportunity to be able to do whatever job they choose to be able to do, to be able to have access to the economy.

And if we find any individual or any group that is blocked out of the economy, government steps in and clears the path to make sure there is a level path to be able to be engaged so that everyone has that option to be able to engage in the economy; that everyone has the chance to be able to rise.

That does not get better by telling people: Oh, sit down. You don't have to work. Oh, sit down right over there. We will take care of all your kids all the way through. You don't have to engage.

It sounds nice unless you are living in it. And then it traps people in generational poverty—urban, rural, across the country. It traps people in generational poverty. That doesn't help families. That doesn't help children. That doesn't bless families and help them to be able to rise out of poverty. It keeps them trapped in it.

We have a philosophical difference. How do we help people in poverty? I believe we help people in poverty by clearing out of every opportunity and making straight level paths, setting that in front of individuals and saying: You are an American. Go after the American dream. Apply the American work ethic: try, graduate high school, get a job, get married, stay engaged, bless your children. I believe that is the best way to be able to help our Nation.

Apparently, others believe that it is better just to be able to say: No. You can't do it. Sit down. I will send you a check.

I don't think that casts a vision for their children, and I don't think that helps our Nation.

If you want to make it very straightforward and simple, the census said that we have 21 million children who have a parent that lived outside the household in 2018. Thirty percent of those children were in poverty—three times the rate of children in households where both parents were present.

I could read the Brookings. I can read the census data. But I think we all know it in our gut; that we provide purpose and meaning to people when they can answer the question: What do you do, and it matters to our country and to them as a family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, I thank my colleagues, both Senator COLLINS and Senator LANKFORD, for their thoughts and their comments and their words today because what we are talking about today is not about simply a $3½ trillion spending bill.

We are talking about something more fundamental to what it means to be an American. I am proud to be an American. I am proud to live in a country where upward mobility is a reality; that we can, by hard work and a strong education, change our fortunes in this country and not only change it for ourselves but change it for the generations that follow us.

As Senator LANKFORD talked about the three important ingredients of escaping poverty, I will say that, as a kid who stumbled in high school, who did not do well as a freshman, who did not see the opportunities that America had available, who did not believe always that there was a way that a poor kid in South Carolina could ever escape poverty, I am thankful that I met a mentor and had a powerful mom who believed in me in a way that I could not believe in myself.

I am thankful to live in a country where the American free enterprise system provided a pathway forward, and if I could just see it and believe it and work towards it, it was possible for me to achieve the outcomes that we are sitting here trying to defend.

I am thankful that, as a kid who then finished high school, went on to college, and experienced the American dream, that we are here together to defend the American dream for the next generation. The challenge, of course, is that when we look at the $3.5 trillion package, it makes it harder for a kid trapped in poverty, as I was, to find a path forward.

I will simply say that while we discuss this $3.5 trillion package, the content of this package is more concerning than the cost of the package. I am certain that someone on the other side will figure out that taking 10 years of funding and making it 5 years of funding cuts it from $3.5 trillion down to $1.75 trillion. I am confident that that math is easy to do on either side. But I am not confident that we can preserve the American dream in all of its glory if the content of this package becomes law.

I think about how unfortunate it would be, in a nation that is narrowly divided, 50–50, that we would find ourselves, because the Democrats control the White House—there is a 50–50 split in the Senate that requires the Vice President to break a tie and a five-seat majority the Democrats have in the House. With those slim majorities, they want to do something so fundamentally transformative that it scares me for the future of the kids trapped in poverty all over America.

I don't know how we will continue to be able to preach the good news of economic opportunity and economic freedom when you are on the road to socialism. The two are antithetical. They don't go in the same direction. There is a fork in the road, and we as a nation have to choose one. Unfortunately, the Democrats, who have the slimmest of majorities, have the votes to fundamentally weaken the greatest economic engine in world history through taxing and spending policies that bring us so much closer to socialism.

The Democrats actually want you to believe what they say more than what you see with your own eyes. You see, the breadcrumbs of this $3.5 trillion package can be seen by the level of inflation. If you put too much money into the economy too quickly and the supply remains about the same, it leads to inflation.

What inflation means to kids living in single-parent households and to people living and working paycheck-to-paycheck, what inflation means is, it means a tax. It means that even with a small, marginal increase in your income, with the rate of inflation being over 5.5 percent, your spending power goes down.

So when you pull up to the gas station, as I did and as so many Americans do every single day to go to work, and you look at the price per gallon, it is over $3 a gallon, which represents over a 40-percent increase in the cost of gas. On a fixed income, as our Social Security recipients and our golden Americans are, on people working paycheck to paycheck, a 40-plus percent increase in the cost of gas deprives them of some of the luxuries, the margins in their paychecks, and then stack on top of that a 20-percent increase in the cost of your utilities.

It is impossible—impossible—to recognize the devastating impact that the Biden inflation is having already on middle-income Americans, on paycheck-to-paycheck Americans, people living in poverty, and single-parent households.

But worse than the inflationary effect, which, of course, is a precursor to the $3.5 trillion, is what the content does. Think about this: In America today, if you write a check for $10,000, the IRS wants to know who you are writing it to. Under this proposal, imagine, if you will, the IRS spying on your bank account for every transaction over $600. Imagine four tires—more than $600. So the IRS wants to know why you are spending $600 on tires. Imagine if your engine runs hot and you have to take your car in to get it checked—more than $600. Imagine trying to find the money, scraping the resources together just to be able to buy school clothes for your kids, and if you have a couple kids, a couple pairs of shoes, pants—dresses are up 18 percent. Imagine that $600 expense being taken out of your account, and the IRS is looking into your account to see what you are spending the money on.

The content of this legislation is more dangerous than the amount of the legislation. And I got to tell you, $3.5 trillion is pretty dangerous, but more dangerous than the $3.5 trillion is having the IRS empowered to take a look at every single transaction. Not only the $600, but imagine doubling the number of IRS agents with the $80 billion in this package—doubling the number of agents to come take a look at your family business, your family accounts. Destructive.

Go beyond that. Think about the average farmer in South Carolina who spent their entire life farming and who has more land than money. Because of this package and its impact on family businesses and family farmers, because of the way they want to refigure the death tax or the estate tax, as we say it when we are being polite in mixed company, here is what it means: It means that you jeopardize the ability to pass your family farm to the next generation.

This is not theoretical. You can talk to a farmer named Whit Player from

Lee County or Monty Rast in St. Matthews, SC, who have been farming for decades. Ask them about the impact of not being able to pass the family farm or small business to the next generation.

Think about punishing the farmers and still providing a check for $12,500 for someone making $800,000 a year to buy a luxury vehicle, an electric vehicle. You are going to give them a tax credit even though they make $800,000.

Imagine a part of the bill where union workers at an auto factory are able to sell their cars with a $4,500 tax credit, but the Volvo workers in South Carolina, the BMW workers in South Carolina who don't work at a union factory—their cars don't get the $4,500 tax credit, embedding a unique form of bias into this bill. It just doesn't feel right. Restoring the tax credits for the State and local taxes for millionaires and billionaires across this country and putting that burden back on the backs of working people, middle-class working people.

I won't even go into raising the corporate tax from 21 percent to 28 percent or 26.5 percent. I won't go into eliminating passthroughs for small businesses, mom-and-pop businesses; a 20-percent increase because they eliminate the 20-percent credit on their small businesses. I won't get into that because we don't have enough time. I won't get into the raising taxes on individuals. I won't get into the capital gains tax going from 23.8 to 43.8. I won't get into all of that right now, but I will say this: If the Democrats' plan succeeds, I fear for that American dream that I am able to live right now. I fear that kids stuck in poverty today will be stuck in a caste system of socialism tomorrow.

Madam President, thank you for your time, your patience. I am just concerned about the greatest Nation ever designed in the history of the world. Thank you.

VOTE ON MEDINA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Medina nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 387 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Risch
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Blunt	Kelly	Rounds
Booker	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Capito	Luján	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McConnell	Sullivan
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Portman	
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Fischer	Marshall
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Sasse
Burr	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cotton	Johnson	Thune
Cramer	Kennedy	Toomey
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Lee	Wicker
Ernst	Lummis	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Moran	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NORD STREAM 2

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, over the last several weeks, I have talked at length about the damage that President Biden and his administration are doing to the national security of the United States and to the security of our allies in Europe by giving Vladimir Putin a multibillion-dollar gift in the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline.

Today, I am going to talk about the staggering diplomatic damage that the President is doing by allowing and, indeed, facilitating this project proceeding. It is well known that Nord Stream 2 is opposed across Europe as an enabler of and, indeed, an example of and a weapon of Russian expansionism and aggression.

Europeans have good reasons for their opposition. They know firsthand what the costs are. They know that completing Nord Stream 2 will leave the entire continent vulnerable to Putin's blackmail and aggression, and that NATO's ability to act will be severely constrained while billions will flow into the Kremlin's coffers.

What is sometimes underappreciated, however, even by the people who are familiar with this issue, is the all-but-complete unanimity of the opposition in Europe.

In 2018, the European Parliament voted by a vote of 403 to 105 to oppose the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. The pipeline proceeded, nonetheless, until it was halted by the bipartisan sanctions passed by this Congress in December of 2019—sanctions that I authored along with Democrat JEANNE SHAHEEN. The pipeline was halted the very day those sanctions were signed into law.

Then, in January of 2021, after Vladimir Putin tried to murder Alexei Navalny, the European Parliament voted again to oppose Nord Stream 2, this time by a vote of 581 to 50.

So I want you to pause for a second and reflect on the fact that Joe Biden looked at that vote and said the President of the United States is with the 50—never mind the 581—in the European Parliament. The Biden administration was going to side with Russia on a 90-percent issue, where the Biden White House is on the losing side.

Throughout all this process, there were plenty of voices in Germany who were opposed, especially after this vicious attempt on Navalny's life. The Parliamentary leader of the Greens, Katrin Goering-Eckardt, said:

> The blatant assassination attempt by the mafia-like structures of the Kremlin can no longer leave us merely concerned, it must have real consequences.

Stating, ''We need a clear answer'' that will ''make clear, Nord Stream 2 is no longer something we can complete with Russia.''

Mr. President, my request to Senate Democrats, my request to President Biden, my request to KAMALA HARRIS is listen to the Greens. That is not a sentence I have uttered on the floor of the Senate before, nor is it one I anticipate saying frequently in the future. But the Greens in Germany are telling you this is a bad idea; yet today's Democratic Party that exalts climate change as the greatest issue in the cosmos, when it comes to kissing up and surrendering to Putin, decided to tell the Greens to go jump in the lake.

Former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen issued a statement that:

> Germany is asking for European and NATO solidarity in response to the despicable Navalny poisoning. They will get it, but an honest answer from Putin is unlikely. Time has come for Germany to halt Nord Stream 2 construction, before it's too late.

If Senate Democrats mean what they have said for years on Nord Stream 2, then listen to the former Secretary General of NATO; listen to the Greens in Germany.

But now, bizarrely, after Joe Biden has ignored the Greens, after Joe Biden has ignored NATO, after Joe Biden has ignored our Central European allies, all

of this was done in the hopes of getting goodwill and support from Angela Merkel.

The Biden White House—the political geniuses that presided over the surrender and failure in Afghanistan, the greatest foreign policy catastrophe in a generation—their plan was, let's piss the whole rest of the world off so that we can make friends with Angela Merkel. By making friends with Angela Merkel, let's let Putin complete his pipeline.

Perversely, President Biden and Merkel issued their statement as a declaration for support of our Eastern European allies.

Boy, with support like that, who needs enemies?

I would like to read a joint statement from our Polish and Ukrainian allies in response to the laughable statement that Biden and Merkel put out. Here is what our Polish and Ukrainian allies said:

> The decision to build Nord Stream 2 made in 2015 mere months after Russia's invasion and illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory, created security, credibility, and political crisis in Europe.

This crisis is significantly deepened by the resignation from attempts to stop the launch of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

By the way, as an aside, that resignation would be Joe Biden's abandoning of U.S. law sanctioning Russia.

The letter continued:

> This decision has created political, military, and energy threat for Ukraine and Central Europe, while increasing Russia's potential to destabilize the security situation in Europe, perpetuating divisions among NATO and European Union member states.

Let me read that again:

> This decision—

Joe Biden's political genius, surrendering to Russia—

> has created political, military, and energy threat for Ukraine and Central Europe—

That sounds bad. It is bad—

> while increasing Russia's potential to destabilize the security situation in Europe, perpetuating divisions among NATO and European Union member states.

The letter continued:

> Ukraine and Poland will work together with their allies and partners to oppose Nord Stream 2 until solutions are developed to address the security crisis created by Nord Stream 2, to provide support to countries aspiring to membership in Western democratic institutions, and to reduce threats to peace and energy security.

Mr. President, what do our friends in Ukraine and Poland tell us?

That Joe Biden's decision has created a ''threat to peace and energy security.''

But even then, Biden-Harris officials insisted that they had worked out security arrangements; it was all perfectly taken care of. They would ensure that Russia would never, ever, ever use Nord Stream 2 for blackmail.

Mr. President, that is their promise. That is Joe Biden's promise. Fear not, they have it figured out and they have commitments that Russia will never use Nord Stream 2 for energy blackmail.

How long do you think those commitments lasted?

If you have a stopwatch, I am not sure the stopwatch could measure increments of time that small because Russia didn't even give a decent interval, didn't let the ink dry on the Biden White House press release before they immediately began doing the thing that Biden promised Russia would never do. Biden White House said: We have an agreement to make sure Russia never uses it for energy blackmail.

What did Putin say? Excuse me, we are in the middle of energy blackmail.

So we don't even have to wait a year, 2 years, 5 years. We don't have to wait a month. We don't have to wait a week. We don't have to wait a day to know if the Biden promise was true or false that Russia would never engage in energy blackmail over Nord Stream 2. Why? Because they are doing it right now, this instant, as we stand here.

Just one week ago, the Kremlin and its gas barons, the oligarchs—the corrupt mafia oligarchs that run Russia—said that if Europe wants reliable gas as we approach winter—and, gosh, did we mention it gets cold in Europe, that having gas to heat your homes and prevent your grandmother from freezing to death might be a nice thing?

Well, the Kremlin and the gas oligarchs said it is very simple: If they want to have heat, all they need to do is rush through the activation of Nord Stream 2.

They said: ''Undoubtedly, the earliest possible commission of Nord Stream 2 will help balance the natural gas crisis in Europe.''

Undoubtedly.

Russia is literally reducing the supply right now, today, exercising its blackmail in September.

The Presiding Officer lives in the Northeast United States. September is a beautiful time of year. The autumn leaves are turning. The breeze is crisp. You are not right yet shivering to turn on the heat at night. The same is true in Europe. But fast forward to November, fast forward to December, to January, to February, when the bitter cold starts setting in, when having gas or not, and having heat or not, is the difference between living and dying.

What are the Russian oligarchs saying?

They say, very simply: ''Undoubtedly, the earliest possible commissioning of Nord Stream 2 will help balance the natural gas crisis in Europe.''

And, of course, the response from Biden and from Germany has been crickets. Remember, Biden and Merkel said, if they try that—those dastardly Russians—we will stand up boldly to them, we will hold them to account.

Where is Joe Biden? No, I mean that seriously. Where is Joe Biden?

Nowhere. Maybe in the White House basement. I don't know. But he is not doing anything to stand up to the Russian energy blackmail happening right now. By the way, neither is Merkel. Their promises just weeks ago have already been demonstrated to be completely hollow and empty. The protections of their bogus deal were, on their face, a bluff; were, on their face, empty.

But how often is it in politics that such an empty promise gets revealed as a lie minutes after it is made?

In this case, Putin was only too happy to oblige. That is why we call the pipeline the Biden-Putin pipeline.

But, of course, the punch line of all of this—so the Biden administration has managed to tick off Europe, to tick off the European Union. They managed to tick off Ukraine. They managed to tick off Poland. They managed to tick off the Eastern Europeans. They have also independently managed to tick off the French so much that they pulled their Ambassador home from the United States.

But they did all of this, they said, in the deep gravelly tones of the Foggy Bottom establishment. They did all of this to build lasting relationships with Angela Merkel. And that would pay dividends. Never mind a generation of billions for Putin and Russia; never mind a generation of energy captivity for Europe; never mind thousands of high-paying jobs in America—union jobs, good union jobs—destroyed by Biden; never mind that. The benefit of making Angela Merkel is worth it.

Mr. President, you know, there is an old saying that God has a sense of humor. That was illustrated this weekend because, this weekend, there was an election in Germany. The people went to vote.

And what happened?

The German voters went to vote, and Merkel's party didn't win the election. Now the Social Democrats will be looking to form a coalition with the Greens.

Which Greens?

Oh, the very same Greens that are passionately opposed to Nord Stream 2, that cried vociferously to kill the pipeline, and Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS said: Go jump in a lake.

The new coalition.

By the way, just about every electoral scenario that comes out of this election will empower the Greens in Germany, and the political geniuses in the White House have just alienated and antagonized the Greens.

Biden's supine giveaway. Isn't that a good word—supine? It describes the Biden foreign policy for every enemy of America: Be flat on your belly, and give our enemies what they want. Biden's supine giveaway to Putin was all for nothing. It literally produced nothing for the United States. It alienated our friends, and it emboldened our enemies.

If you are Xi in China and you see Joe Biden rolling over and surrendering to Vladimir Putin, giving him everything he wants—giving him a pipeline that will enrich him for generations to come—what do you think

Xi is thinking? I can tell you what Xi is thinking. Xi is thinking this is a President who is weak who will surrender to me too. We saw that demonstrated just in recent days, where the Biden administration surrendered on a senior executive from Huawei in allowing her to go back to China, giving Communist China exactly what it wanted. And, once again, what does Xi take and what do the Chinese Communist leaders take from that? That this President will roll over, will surrender.

And, you know, there is a striking irony. These catastrophic decisions and failures are particularly jaw-dropping given that President Biden ran on a platform of restoring diplomacy. Do you remember the refrain ''the adults are back''? It was said with this moral superiority—that the Biden guys were going to come in, and no more of this American strength. Huh-uh. The adults know better.

Here is what Joe Biden said on February 4:

> I want the world to hear today: America is back. America is back. Diplomacy is back at the center of our foreign policy. . . . We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again, not to meet yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's.

Biden spoke specifically about Russia. He said:

> American leadership must meet this new moment of advancing authoritarianism, including . . . the determination of Russia to damage and disrupt our democracy.

Biden added that ''we must start with diplomacy rooted in America's most cherished democratic values: defending freedom [and] championing opportunity.''

You know, if irony had ever been alive, that speech killed irony. If irony were dead and buried, that speech made irony roll over in her grave. Literally every word of that speech, every syllable of every word down to ''and'' and ''the,'' has been proven false.

''America is back,'' Biden told us. ''Diplomacy is back.'' ''We will repair our alliances.'' Mr. President, how has that gone? Have we, in fact, repaired our alliances? With Nord Stream 2, Biden has pissed off the French, the Polish, the Ukrainians, the European Union. Has Biden repaired our alliances?

Has Biden engaged with the world once again? Well, if ''engaged with the world'' means to surrender to Putin and give him everything he wants, then I guess so.

To meet not yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's—how is giving Putin a massive natural gas pipeline meeting tomorrow's challenges unless the challenges are how to fund Russia's military? If those are the challenges he is talking about, then congratulations, Joe Biden; you actually lived up to that.

He spoke about Russia. ''American leadership must meet this new moment of advancing authoritarianism.'' How did Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS meet this new moment of advancing authoritarianism? By funding it. Every year, Putin will cash a check of a couple billion dollars, courtesy of Joseph Biden. What should we use this couple of billion dollars for? How about for advancing authoritarianism.

Biden said:

> We must start with diplomacy rooted in America's most cherished democratic values: defending freedom.

Mr. President, let me ask you something. Whose freedom did Joe Biden defend with this pipeline? He certainly didn't defend the freedom of the Ukrainians. He didn't defend the freedom of the Poles. He didn't defend the freedom of Europe. He didn't defend the freedom of France. He didn't defend even the freedom of Germany. Merkel wants this, but the voters in Germany have made clear that they don't want it. He didn't defend the freedom of the men and women of Georgia, of the Baltics—of all the former Soviet Republics whose safety and security is now jeopardized because Biden has decided to be a principal funder of the Russian military. That is not defending freedom.

He certainly didn't defend America's freedom. On his first day in office, Joe Biden shut down the Keystone Pipeline. He killed 11,000 jobs, including 8,000 union jobs. John Kerry helpfully told those union members: Learn to code. You silly, dirty worker who wants to work on a pipeline, no, no, no. Sit down at a MacBook instead.

How is it that the same President who kills American jobs on an American pipeline creates Russian jobs on a Russian pipeline? I don't know what you call that, but you don't call it defending freedom. You don't call it championing opportunity.

You know, I have to say, some years ago, I traveled to Europe. I was in Ukraine. I was in Poland. I was in Estonia. When I was there, I met with the leaders there, and I asked them about Russian aggression. This was years ago. I asked them about standing up to Russian aggression. To a person, when I asked them that, the blood drained out of their face, because, for the Poles, for the Ukrainians, for the Estonians, Russian tanks in the streets is not a hypothetical. That is not a scenario they are wondering what that would be like. Those of us old enough to remember it, as they sat at the table with me, they remembered. They remembered those Russian tanks.

Vladimir Putin has said, in perhaps the most candid moment of his life, that he considers the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century to be the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The natural corollary of that is that his foreign policy objective is to recreate the Soviet Union and to subjugate the former Soviet Republics.

One of the most dangerous consequences of this pipeline, of the Biden-Putin pipeline, is that if this pipeline is allowed to go online, I fear we will see Russian tanks again on the ground in Ukraine.

Mr. President, you and I both serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If and when that happens—in 6 months, in a year, in 2 years—I am going to ask you to remember these remarks, if and when we see Russian tanks on the streets in Ukraine, because Putin is no longer afraid that Ukraine is needed to transit energy. Putin now has his own pipeline—the Biden-Putin pipeline—to circumvent Ukraine.

If we see that subjugation of our ally, if we see that subjugation of liberty, Mr. President, I hope you and I hope every Member of this body and I hope the American people remember right now that Joe Biden, in February, said: ''We must start with diplomacy rooted in America's most cherished democratic values: defending freedom [and] championing opportunity.'' He has an opportunity to do so.

By the way, let me point out something. The Biden administration has a fantastic opportunity for a reset. Let's assume somebody in the administration realizes they screwed up on this pipeline. When they are losing votes in the European Parliament by a vote of 500 to 50, that ought to be a signal, particularly for people who pride themselves on their foreign policy prowess, on the adults being back. Losing a 10-to-1 vote in the European Parliament is not indicative of diplomacy being back.

By the way, when they lose the vote in this body—in both the House and Senate—when we have addressed Nord Stream 2, every time we have done it, it has been virtually unanimous. The margins of the U.S. Congress have been bigger than 500 to 50.

So let's say somebody in the Biden White House is having second thoughts. I don't know if they are. Maybe they are so committed to their policy that facts be damned; no second thoughts on that. But let's say someone is. Then Joe Biden has been given a gift. He has been given a gift of the recent German election.

There has been only one argument that the Biden White House has put forward for surrendering to Putin on this pipeline, and that is to make the German Government happy. It is a bad argument. It is an argument the Presiding Officer has rejected, that I have rejected. Virtually every Senator in this body, Democrat and Republican, has rejected it as a bad argument that hurts America, that hurts Europe, that helps Putin.

But, for sake of argument, let's give the Biden White House the benefit of the doubt. Let's assume they really believe that. Well, this weekend gave him a gift. If the lone benefit they achieved was this will make the German Government happy, what do we know now? This makes the German Government unhappy.

As we stand here today, the ledger of cost and benefits is very simple: There is one winner on the Biden-Putin pipeline, and that is Vladimir Putin; that

is Russia; that is the Russian Army. Everybody else is a loser. So I would say to the Biden White House they have an easy gift: Reverse course.

By the way, the Biden State Department, Secretary Blinken, fought to impose these sanctions, and political operatives in the Biden White House overruled the Secretary of State.

Secretary Blinken, you have a fabulous opportunity.

The Secretary of State is unhappy that I have holds on nominees to the Department of State. The Presiding Officer is unhappy as he sends repeated tweets, expressing his dismay that I am using the leverage of a Senator to try to stop this pipeline.

Well, I have good news: The German electorate has given you an answer to this problem.

The Biden White House has an easy excuse. The German Government is changing. So their only benefit—to make the German Government happy—has disappeared. If all they care about is making the German Government happy—if they don't care about the rest of Europe; if they don't care about Ukraine; if they don't care about the European Union; if they don't care about American jobs; if they don't care about Putin getting richer and stronger—if the only criterion is to make the German Government happy, do you know what they should do today? Sanction Nord Stream 2 AG. Follow the law. If they do that, I will lift the holds, and these nominations can proceed very, very quickly.

The German voters have given Joe Biden a gift. The only question is if anyone in the White House is paying attention, if anyone wants to accept the gift, or are they too stubborn? They have picked their course, dammit, and they are going to go down with the ship even if it hurts America forever.

There is still time to stop this pipeline. The question is, Does anyone in the White House care? I hope and pray that they do because if Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS persist in their decision to completely and totally surrender to Vladimir Putin, that will harm the United States not for a year, not for 10 years, but for 30, 40, 50 years going forward.

Mr. President, the German voters have given you a gift. You should take it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2850

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep concern with President Biden's disregard for American freedom. President Biden's strong-arm push to force Americans to choose between their health and decisions affecting their health, on the one hand, and providing for their families, on the other hand, is wrong.

I simply do not believe the Federal Government has any business mandating the COVID–19 vaccination for all Americans.

Now, let me be clear. I believe that vaccines, broadly speaking, have provided immense benefits to society, nearly eradicating measles, polio, smallpox, and more in the United States.

I have personally received the COVID–19 vaccination, as has my entire family, and I view the rapid development of effective COVID–19 vaccines as a miracle; one that safeguards the vulnerable from severe illness and from hospitalization.

I believe that the FDA's expedited approval process is effective at efficiently reviewing and producing generally safe drugs and devices for Americans' use.

Additionally, I believe the emergency use authorization can make drugs available to Americans more quickly, which, in some cases, can mean the difference between life and death.

So even with the speed by which COVID–19 vaccines were developed and made available, I very much believe that they are generally safe. However, receiving the vaccine is a decision that Americans should make with all the facts in front of them, in consultation with their doctors, and with full consideration of their own current health circumstances.

However, President Biden made his intentions clear when announcing his Federal mandate saying: ''This is not about freedom or personal choice.''

Look, we have got to remember that anytime someone, someone who is serving as the President of the United States, while issuing a sweeping Federal mandate, insists that this is not about freedom or personal choice, it is. It necessarily is. It unavoidably is.

The fact that he made this statement is troubling. The statement highlights the fact that the President does not understand the key relationship between citizens and government under our Constitution.

Every mandate, regulation, tax, or any other government imposition comes necessarily at the cost of freedom and personal choice of Americans. It is a tradeoff we make with government. Use of overwhelming government power, without even considering the implications on freedom, is precisely why our Founders thought the Declaration of Independence, a revolution, and our Constitution were necessary.

I have heard from many Utahans who are at risk of being unemployed if they choose not to get the vaccine. In fact, within the last week alone, my office has heard from no fewer than 144 Utahns in distress for this very reason.

Allow me to share just a few of their stories:

A young woman in Utah has two autoimmune diseases. She was told by her doctor that she should not get vaccinated because of her existing health conditions. Yet her employer has informed her that, contrary to her doctor's recommendations, she must get the vaccine or be fired. Get the vaccine or be fired, those are the only two options she is left with.

A soon-to-be-mother, who has been advised not to get the vaccine because of her pregnancy, has been told by her employer that she must choose between receiving the vaccine and receiving a paycheck. Without her job, she will not have the means to care for her child.

A disabled veteran, who now spends his time working for the VA because he loves helping his fellow veterans, has been informed that he must be fully vaccinated within the next 75 days or lose his employment. This ultimatum imposed by President Biden is making him choose between receiving an unwanted medical procedure, on the one hand, while, on the other hand, being unable to provide for his pregnant wife and their child.

After businesses have weathered the economic impacts of COVID–19 and the corresponding shutdowns that have led to so many closures and bankruptcies, President Biden now wants to force employers to act as a sort of medical police force. They must impose a vaccine mandate on their workforce or be forced to pay a heavy fine.

This mandate is constitutionally dubious—and that is putting it mildly—and it is not reasonable and it neglects the interests of business owners, families, and individuals alike.

Look, threatening the employment of millions of Americans and making employers become enforcers is not how our country will return to normal. It is not even how you will make more people decide to get the vaccine. These steps will only erode meaningful relationships that Americans have with one another.

The utility of such a sweeping mandate is also in question. In fact, a recent study from three hospitals in Israel shows that natural immunity was ''27 times more effective than vaccinated immunity in preventing symptomatic infections.''

This mandate completely ignores existing evidence-based data lending credibility to the reality that millions of Americans may not need to be vaccinated because they have acquired natural immunity from previous COVID–19 illness. Further, the mandate dismisses the reality that there are outstanding questions regarding the COVID–19 vaccine's safe administration to those who are immunocompromised or have certain other health-related concerns or how to accommodate any who may have objections rooted in religious or other sincerely held beliefs.

The decision to engage in a medical procedure, you see, is personal. It is

deeply personal, and even the idea that it can be forced upon citizens by the Federal Government is offensive. If particular American citizens do not feel that the receipt of the COVID–19 vaccine is the right decision for them or their children, then they are entitled to that belief.

A mandate by the Biden administration to be vaccinated against COVID–19 under threat of unemployment will not quell Americans' concerns; instead, it will likely further erode the little trust that may currently exist.

Now, I don't believe that the Federal Government has been as transparent as it must. In its effort to get as many people vaccinated as possible, it has neglected the responsibility to inform Americans of any adverse effects that some may have experienced. These unfortunate instances of harm following the administration of COVID–19 vaccines must be acknowledged even if they are rare.

The fact that instances of adverse reactions to the COVID–19 vaccines are not being shared with the public or even, in many cases, the medical community, causes me grave, grave concern. It has left those who have been adversely harmed with almost nowhere to turn. It has caused distrust in the unvaccinated that the government may have something to hide.

When openly and transparently informed, I believe that each and every American is able to handle the responsibility of weighing the risks of getting vaccinated or not getting vaccinated. I honestly believe that most Americans, after speaking to their doctors, will make the decision that is best for themselves, for their families, and for our country.

Finally, while I have not seen the final regulation for President Biden's COVID–19 vaccine mandate, nor do I know definitively even what statute he is claiming provides him with this sweeping authority, I highly doubt that this unilateral action is constitutional. But, frankly, I don't think the President cares. President Biden knows the effects his announcement and even a temporary regulation will have, even if it is later ruled unconstitutional. Even if the mandate is never fully or ever implemented, it still could get him what he wants.

Businesses across the Nation are yielding before the awesome might of the Federal Government in complying with this Executive mandate before it has even legally been drafted, let alone enforced.

According to the vague outline that President Biden's speech provided, a business would risk going under if even a small percentage of its workforce were unvaccinated at the time enforcement begins. This is a scare tactic—a scare tactic of the absolute worst sort—and it is working. People are scared, and I am here to defend them.

Today, in this bill, the Senate has the opportunity to protect those in the minority, those Americans who sincerely believe, due to religious conviction or otherwise, that they should not receive the COVID–19 vaccine.

This bill would not prevent businesses from imposing their own mandates or establishing rules for their own workplaces. All this bill would do is to ensure that the Federal vaccine mandate provides an exemption for Americans whose sincere beliefs prevent them from receiving the vaccine.

Furthermore, nothing in Federal law provides President Biden the authority to institute the vaccine mandate on private-sector employers or on the public at large, and today Congress has the opportunity to rectify this situation for the American people.

Now, I want to be clear. This is not the end of my discussion here. I have 12 of these bills. I will be back tomorrow and the next day, for as long as it takes to win the fight against this sweeping mandate.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2850 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this unnecessary bill will undermine our efforts to end a pandemic that has killed over 685,000 people and counting.

We are fighting a highly contagious virus. If people don't get vaccinated, variants like Delta will continue to spread, undermine our economy, and take lives. Getting people vaccinated is one of the most important things we can do to stop COVID–19.

And let's be clear. Immunization requirements are nothing new in this country. State and local governments and school districts have required vaccination against diseases like polio and measles for over a century. Taking similar steps against COVID is just commonsense.

Tailored exemptions for legitimate religious and medical considerations already exist in current law and are included in President Biden's policy.

This bill could undermine existing protections and create a massive loophole that would lead to more unnecessary and preventable deaths.

It is so frustrating to know how scared people are of this virus, to know how many people it has killed, to know how hard people are trying to do the right thing and how eager they are for this to end, only to have Republicans offer ideas that would create political division, prolong this crisis, and cost more lives, so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I want to be very clear about something. There are no exemptions built into the mandate because the mandate doesn't yet exist.

As far as I can tell, this may be a feature and not a bug, you see, because he gave a speech—he gave a speech—talking about the fact that he was going to issue the mandate. He didn't release any legally operative documents, didn't even disclose his precise source of authority to do this—authority which I highly doubt even exists. So there is no document to challenge. No one can sue to challenge the document because the document doesn't exist.

But businesses everywhere fear and, indeed, know that it is coming, and so their general counsel's offices, their human resources departments for employers with more than 99 employees in this country are scrambling to get ahead of it. Many are even adopting and some, I am told, are moving forward with enforcing or preparing to enforce those same policies. So what will happen is that those employees who have these sincerely held objections will be without recourse.

Now, my friend and colleague from Washington makes the point that these exemptions are already there. That is a legal and factual impossibility because the mandate does not yet exist. The document isn't in there, which begs the question: If it already exists, then what would be her objection or anyone's objection to merely adopting a measure that says any such mandate, if and when it is issued, must contain such an exemption—an objection that my friend and colleague from Washington assures us already exists. It is difficult for me to understand how this would be objectionable.

Without these protections, you see, President Biden is telling many religious minorities in the country that they need not apply for a job, and if they have got a job already, that that job is in jeopardy.

Freedom to make one's own medical decisions is fundamental to our system of liberty. The economic impact of the mandate is going to hamper our economic recovery as workers are forced to make hard decisions.

Here we are talking specifically about objections rooted in religious or other sincerely held personal beliefs. If, in fact, that exemption already exists, that protection is already there, which it isn't because it can't be because the document itself doesn't exist, then why not embrace it? Why not accept it? Why not acknowledge it in law?

I struggle to imagine what harm could come from protecting religious minorities in this country, and I find it very discouraging and very distressing that this body, the U.S. Senate, wouldn't want to do everything we possibly could to make that happen.

Another word about the fact that it doesn't yet exist; the mandate isn't there. Because it is not there, employers with more than 99 employees around the country are being forced to

guess as to what it might mean, and a whole lot of them are already preparing their own policies—in some cases, already adopting them and enforcing them based on their own anticipation of what the mandate may be. What it means as a practical matter is, you can't sue anyone. You can't sue any administrator in the Biden administration or elsewhere in the Federal Government who is going to be enforcing this because you don't know what they are going to be enforcing. There isn't a dispute ripe for adjudication in any court anywhere because we don't know what that is.

For many people, this entire exercise could be rendered moot in the meantime, not just moot in the sense that the court would lack article III jurisdiction to entertain the dispute in question, but moot in the sense that they might lose their job, moot in the sense that they are going to have to face this awful Hobson's choice between maintaining their ability to provide for their family, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, receiving a medical procedure that they would deem harmful and objectionable based on their religious or other sincerely held beliefs. This is not America; this is not acceptable; and this is not and cannot possibly be constitutional.

We should be able to do this.

I am going to be back tomorrow, the next day, and as long as it takes to keep addressing this issue. Freedom matters, and the Constitution matters. President Biden has ignored them both. Thank you.

VOTE ON PHEE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Phee nomination?

Mr. MURPHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 388 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Duckworth	Markey
Bennet	Durbin	McConnell
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Menendez
Blunt	Graham	Merkley
Booker	Grassley	Murkowski
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Burr	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Capito	Hirono	Padilla
Cardin	Inhofe	Peters
Carper	Kaine	Portman
Casey	Kelly	Reed
Collins	King	Risch
Coons	Klobuchar	Romney
Cornyn	Leahy	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Luján	Rounds
Crapo	Manchin	Sanders
Schatz	Sullivan	Warren
Schumer	Tester	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Tillis	Wyden
Sinema	Van Hollen	Young
Smith	Warner	
Stabenow	Warnock	

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Hagerty	Rubio
Blackburn	Hawley	Sasse
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Thune
Cramer	Lankford	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	Wicker
Ernst	Marshall	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we heard over the course of many hours last week and, indeed, over the many months that Foreign Affairs nominees have been languishing on the Senate floor, the concerns of the junior Senator from Texas related to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. We also have heard at length from Members of this body about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan—from the junior Senator from Missouri.

As I have said publicly and repeatedly, I share my colleague's concerns about the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. He put up a series of my quotes. They are all true. I am still of that view, but I am not of the view that you stop the national security apparatus in order to pursue a policy difference and create a whole host of other serious risks for the United States.

I believe and have said that the evacuation from Afghanistan was fatally flawed. In fact, the Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing and heard from Secretary Blinken about the situation in Afghanistan. The Foreign Relations Committee is holding a briefing tomorrow about the administration's efforts to bolster European energy security to counter Russia's efforts in this area. And I intend to continue oversight of the situation in Afghanistan and why, over the course of 20 years, we have failed.

What I fail to understand is the relationship between the foreign affairs nominees pending before this body and those topics. These individuals are critical to confronting numerous other global challenges, promoting American values, and advancing the safety, health, and economic well-being of America. We need them confirmed today—today.

I therefore will rise to seek unanimous consent for the confirmation of 10 nominees, including seven career diplomats. Each of them moved through the Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support. There is no reason for Republicans to block their confirmation.

Let me speak to them for a minute or two.

This is especially the case at the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Administrator of USAID, Samantha Power, is the only member of that Agency's senior leadership that has been confirmed by this body. Ambassador Power needs her senior leadership team in place. Yet her two deputies are languishing on the floor because of Republican holds.

This Agency is grappling with the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic and other humanitarian emergencies that are ravaging the globe. It simply cannot function at its best without senior leadership. So why is it that Republicans insist on blocking Paloma Adams-Allen and Isobel Coleman, two highly qualified nominees to serve as USAID Deputy Administrators?

Let me take a moment to once again raise Haiti. We hear a lot about Haiti here on the floor, particularly from our Republican colleagues, and the challenge at the border.

Well, in August, a massive earthquake in Haiti killed more than 2,200 people, injured 12,000 more, and destroyed tens of thousands of buildings. This comes after the assassination of Haiti's President. But here, again, Republicans are holding a senior member of Ambassador Powers' team, Marcela Escobari, the nominee to be the Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID. Escobari, who will manage our response to the Haiti earthquake, once confirmed, already held this very job in the Obama administration. Guess what. She was confirmed by voice vote then.

Now we want to deal with the challenge of Haitian refugees coming to the border and other refugees of the hemisphere coming to the border. Let's confirm the USAID Deputy Administrator who will deal with that issue so we can deal with the root causes. How do we create stability in Haiti? How do we provide relief for the Haitian people? How do we create feeding for the Haitian people so they are not fleeing their country? But, no, we are going to stop this nominee who is going to be at the very heart of that. So when you see a new group of Haitian refugees, blame yourself.

We spent many months in this body talking about the challenges posed by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The U.S. Innovation and

Competition Act, passed by this body in June, and the Strategic Competition Act, which passed almost unanimously out of the Foreign Relations Committee, 21 to 1, are proof of that. We have collectively come together on this much: to recognize China as the greatest geopolitical and geoeconomic challenge for U.S. foreign policy. We have rightfully focused on effectively confronting Chinese malign influence. Yet we are failing to ensure a fundamentally critical element of that strategy; that is, empowered leadership in our diplomatic corps across the world.

Our former colleague Senator Ken Salazar is the only—hear me—the only Biden administration nominee who has been confirmed to serve as a country Ambassador representing U.S. interests abroad, the only one in the 9 months of this administration.

Let me be clear. Holding up diplomats is effectively ceding influence to China and actively undermining U.S. national security interests. People come to the floor and talk about China. Well, they are empowering China by not having our people in position to counter their influence.

It is a fact that Congo and Angola owe over 40 percent of their entire national debt—to whom? To China. So I ask my colleagues, why have we not yet confirmed Tulinabo Mushingi, a career Foreign Service officer, as our Ambassador to Angola? Why have we not yet confirmed Eugene Young, another career Foreign Service officer, as our Ambassador to the Congo?

China and Somalia have recently entered into a new fishing agreement, and Chinese vessels are increasingly accessing Somalia's waters and strategic coastline adjacent to the Red Sea. Why have we not confirmed Larry Andre, Jr., a career Foreign Service officer, as our Ambassador to Somalia?

China's influence is spread across the continent of Africa, including its Belt and Road Initiative, which is branded as a development initiative but being used by China to advance its own interests. Why have we not yet confirmed Elizabeth Aubin and Maria Brewer, two career Foreign Service officers, as our Ambassadors to Algeria and Lesotho, respectively?

I spoke on the Senate floor several months ago about Chinese influence in Cameroon. We have not had an American Ambassador in Cameroon in over a year. Why have we not yet confirmed Christopher John Lamora, a career Foreign Service officer, as our Ambassador to Cameroon?

Vietnam sits on the border of China. It is on the frontlines of Chinese coercion in the South China Sea. Why have we not yet confirmed Mark Knapper, a career Foreign Service officer, as our Ambassador to Vietnam?

Colleagues, each of these nominees I mentioned deserves to be confirmed today, and our national security interests demand it.

In pursuit of what I hope will be a recognition of that—because at some point, something is going to happen here in the world, in one of these countries or one of these regions. When it happens and we don't have our representative there, I think a Member who is objecting is going to have to live with that reality.

Let me ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 336, Paloma Adams-Allen to be a Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order in terms of the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Reserving the right to object, I appreciate the earnestness on this issue from my friend and colleague the Senator from New Jersey. He mentions that something could happen in the world, that something will happen in the world. Something, I submit to you, has happened in the world, and today we have been learning about it. I am talking about the crisis in Afghanistan, the debacle in Afghanistan.

All day, the Senate has been hearing testimony in the Armed Services Committee from Secretary Austin, from General Milley, and from General McKenzie about how it came to be that 13 American servicemembers are dead, 169 civilians killed, and hundreds of Americans left behind enemy lines there as we still speak—the greatest foreign policy crisis that this country has seen since Vietnam. And those aren't my words; those are the words—the comparison of the Democratic members of the committee who repeatedly referenced today Vietnam, the fall of Saigon. That is the level of crisis that we are dealing with.

What accountability has there been for this crisis, for this debacle? Because ''crisis'' isn't even quite the right word. That sounds like a natural disaster, as if it accidentally happened. That is not the case. This is a debacle, a failure of leadership in the first order, and what accountability has there been for it? Who has resigned? Who has been fired? Who has been relieved of command? Nobody. What actions have the administration taken? None.

What does Secretary Austin say today? He says: Well, we will take a hard look at ourselves, and we will ask some tough questions.

Mr. President, that is not nearly good enough. Americans are dead. Americans are stranded behind enemy lines. Our foreign policies are in a state of collapse. Our national security is in a state of collapse. Enemies around the world are watching what is happening in Afghanistan, are seeing an opportunity as the United States shows weakness and disarray and chaos. There must be accountability.

Let me say something more about what we learned today because we did learn quite a lot, and all of it is frightening. We learned that the President of the United States lied. He lied when he said to the American people in an interview on television just a few weeks ago that he was never told by any of his military advisers—never told that a drawdown on this timetable, his timetable, would result in catastrophe.

He was asked by George Stephanopoulos:

> Your top military advisers warned against withdrawing on this [timetable]. They wanted you to keep about 2,500 troops.

President Biden:

> No, they didn't.

Stephanopoulos:

> They didn't tell you that they wanted troops to stay?

President Biden:

> No.

Stephanopoulos:

> So no one told—your military advisers did not tell you, ''No, we should just keep 2,500 troops.''

President Biden:

> No. No one said that to me that I can recall.

Today, we heard from General Milley, General McKenzie, and Secretary Austin, who—each of them said that they advised the President—it was their considered military judgment that the President's plans were mistaken. They advised against it. They advised him against it. Yet he said: No, no one ever told me. I am not responsible. No one ever told me.

We also learned this: We learned that the President lied when he said that he had no idea that the Taliban would take over the country in such a short time period.

From the same interview, George Stephanopoulos said to President Biden:

> Back in July, you said a Taliban takeover was highly unlikely. Was the intelligence wrong, or did you downplay it?

Biden said: No. I think that there was no consensus. If you go back and look, they said it is not going to happen.

Stephanopoulos:

> [But] you didn't put a timeline on it when you said it was highly unlikely. You just flat out [said], ''It's highly unlikely the Taliban would take over.''

President Biden said:

> Yeah.

We learned today, in fact, that his commander on the ground, General Miller, warned as early as March, March of this year, that the military situation in Afghanistan was deteriorating rapidly; that the Taliban was on the offensive; that the drawdown of American troops would likely result in the collapse of the Afghan Government and the Afghan security forces sooner rather than later. It was going to come fast is what General Miller said. Yet

the President says no one ever told him that. He never knew about it. In fact, his own commanders on the ground warned him about it.

What was the consequence of this? Well, the President is either forgetting or ignoring or just outright lying about what he was advised by his own commanders.

His administration was failing to plan for the collapse of the Afghan security forces. We learned that today too. Secretary Austin said: We just didn't plan for a scenario of an Afghan security forces collapse. We didn't plan for it.

Why didn't they plan for it? Why isn't somebody being held accountable for it?

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan has been warning for years that the Afghan security forces were not ready, that they were not well equipped, that they were not well trained, and that they would not likely stand on their own. We know that the commander on the ground shared the same assessment. Yet the administration did not plan for—by their own admission did not plan for the collapse of the Afghan security forces or the collapse of the Afghan Government, which also meant that they did not order the evacuation of American civilians in time. They dilly-dallied. They waited. They dithered. They did not order the evacuation in time. They waited until the middle of August to undertake an evacuation of civilians in earnest, after American troops had withdrawn from the country. No wonder there was chaos in Kabul. No wonder there was a total disaster. That is the administration's fault. They waited because they hadn't planned. They waited because apparently they were fighting among themselves—the State Department, Defense Department, the White House—all fighting because President Biden wasn't leading. It was a total debacle, total chaos.

My friend the Senator from New Jersey quite reasonably wants to know, what is the connection? Why I am objecting to these nominees? Why do I want a vote?

Here is the connection: It is about accountability. No one has been held accountable. I note the Senator wants to hear from Secretary Austin in his committee. He should hear from the Secretary in his committee because what we learned today contradicts quite a lot of the testimony that the Secretary of State gave to the Senator from New Jersey and his committee earlier—quite a lot of contradictions. He is quite right to want to hear from Secretary Austin.

We need to do more than hear from him; we need to have accountability for what has happened. Until we get that accountability, until someone is held responsible, until there is some turn, some change, some shift in policy—and I have called for the resignations of General Milley, Secretary Austin, Secretary Blinken, and the national security advisers, all of whom planned and executed this operation. Until there is accountability, I think the least the Senate can do is actually vote, take at least a vote on this floor for nominees to leadership position at the State Department and the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I have remarks.

I ask that it be in order to make the same unanimous consent request to Calendar No. 337, Isobel Coleman to be Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 323, Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 237, Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 238, Eugene S. Young, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Congo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 233, Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 234, Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 235, Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 236, Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Executive Calendar No. 317, Marc Evans Knapper, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the Senator from Missouri wants accountability. That is fine. But from a slew of

career Foreign Service officers who had absolutely nothing—nothing—to do with whatever decisions were made in Afghanistan, that is where the accountability is going to come from?

These are people who have committed their lives to serving the United States of America. They have committed their lives either in Republican or Democratic administrations. It doesn't matter. They carry out the mission of the United States and its foreign policy as dictated by the President and Congress. They had nothing—nothing—Sao Tome and Principe? The Congo? Somalia? Algeria? Lesotho? Cameroon? Vietnam?—to do with the decisions in Afghanistan. Yet they are the ones we are going to extract a pound of flesh of accountability from—on people who had absolutely nothing to do with the decisions on Afghanistan and who have committed their lives to the career Foreign Service. These aren't political nominees. These are career Foreign Service officers.

I heard my colleague talk about—that our enemies around the world are emboldened. Well, guess what. They are really going to be emboldened when we have no Ambassador to counter them in these countries, because they have gotten clear sailing. They can do whatever they want. They can talk to those heads of state.

There is no American Ambassador to go in and talk to that head of state and say: Mr. President or Mr. Prime Minister—whatever the title may be—don't make that choice. It would be a bad choice. We offer you a different alternative. We offer you a different set of principles, a different set of values—ones that would inure to the benefit of your country.

But no, there is no one from the United States of America who is going to be able to go into those countries and say any of that, because we are going to extract—when I say ''we,'' I should retract that. The Senator from Missouri wants to extract accountability on people who have done absolutely nothing as it relates to making these decisions.

When we have problems in this hemisphere with migration, I want my colleagues to know, who are objecting, that they will bear a significant part of the responsibility, because if we can't deal with the root causes to stop people from coming to our southern border, whether they be from Haiti or Central America or any other place, then we are going to continuously have a flow of people as they avoid disaster, civil conflict, authoritarian governments. But, if we had people in place to develop the plans and the programs and implement them so we could stop the flow and so we could create stability in Haiti—guess what—we are less likely to have people come to the southern border. But, no, we are going to extract accountability on people who have absolutely nothing to do with Afghanistan.

Not only is this shortsighted, but for those who stand on the Senate floor and talk about the national security of the United States, this hurts the national security of the United States. It hurts the national interests of the United States.

So I hope that there will be a reflection. Maybe there are better targets to pick than career Foreign Service officers in countries that have no decision, no policymaking on any of these issues that my colleague has a problem with. Maybe there are better ones to pursue.

In the absence of that, I will tell you there is going to be a rude awakening. Mark my words. I have been doing foreign policy for 30 years between the House and the Senate. It will happen sooner than you think, and you will remember this moment and wish you hadn't objected to some of these people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

RUSSIA

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I have spoken throughout these last several days about how the Nord Stream 2 pipeline—the Biden-Putin pipeline—runs counter to everything that the Biden administration professes to stand for, and, indeed, what much of the Democratic Party has been insisting for the last half decade are the most important issues of the country.

We, of course, spent 4 years, during the Trump Presidency, listening to Democrats say, ''Russia, Russia, Russia,'' over and over and over again. It was a newfound discovery. Some of us are old enough to remember Barack Obama turning to MITT ROMNEY in the 2012 Presidential election when MITT ROMNEY was advocating for strength in dealing with Russia and for taking on Putin, and some of us remember Obama looking at MITT ROMNEY and saying:

> [Mitt], the 1980s called. They want their foreign policy back.

That was in 2012, when the Democrats thought it was passe to stand up to Russia.

Then 2016 happened, and Donald Trump was elected President. Suddenly, the Democratic Party got religion. Suddenly, Russia was bad. Now, I thought Russia was bad before. I thought Russia was bad when Trump was President. And I think Russia is bad now. I don't like dictatorial thugs like Vladimir Putin, who is a KGB thug.

But, interestingly, for our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle, their outrage against Russia is situational. It applies only in the situation that a Republican is in the White House. When a Democrat is in the White House—when Joe Biden is there—suddenly, Putin is hunky-dory. Suddenly, Democrats don't have much of a problem with Joe Biden defying Federal law, ignoring Federal law, and giving a multibillion-dollar gift to Putin.

Suddenly, the Democrats have given all of these speeches on Russia, who passed CAATSA. I talked earlier about CAATSA, the legislation that imposes mandatory sanctions on Russia to stop a President who refuses to impose those sanctions. Well, Joe Biden is in defiance of CAATSA. Do you see a single Democrat standing up, saying: Mr. President, obey CAATSA? No. They are whining that the deputy assistant under secretary of whatchamacallit has not been confirmed yesterday, and, clearly, the world is going to come to an end without a deputy assistant of whatchamacallit.

If our Democratic colleagues believed their rhetoric of the last 4 years, we would see Democrats stand up with me and say, ''Joe Biden's multibillion-dollar gift to Putin is a mistake,'' but they are not.

One of the ironies, in addition to the ''Russia, Russia, Russia'' thing—and the truth of the matter—is most of the Democrats never believed Russia, Russia, Russia. If you go back to the Soviet Union, if you go back to the Reagan administration, the Democrats had spent decades as apologists for Soviet Communists, as apologists for Russian dictators. But for 4 years, I have got to say that our Democratic colleagues can give a good speech. They sure sounded genuine when they said, ''Russia, Russia, Russia.'' But if they believed those words, then they would look at Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS, and they would say, ''Russia, Russia, Russia.''

By the way, they didn't like Donald Trump's rhetoric on Russia, and by the way, I didn't like a lot of the things President Trump said on Russia. I wish his rhetoric had been stronger, but it is worth noting that Trump had the courage to call out Germany for Nord Stream 2. Trump had the courage to impose sanctions under the bipartisan sanctions legislation we passed into law. The Cruz-Shaheen legislation passed in 2019, and the second wave of the Cruz-Shaheen bipartisan legislation passed in 2020. President Trump imposed. What did Joe Biden do? Waived it. What did Joe Biden do? Ignored the law. What did Joe Biden do? He gave a multibillion-dollar gift to Putin.

So, if any Democrat meant a word they said about Russia, we have got to see them standing here. You will note the Democratic side of the floor is largely empty.

But not only is Joe Biden's rhetoric and the Democrats' rhetoric on Russia not matched by their action, but we also know that Biden's actions don't meet the Democrats' rhetoric on climate.

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND CLIMATE

Mr. President, what I want to address now is environmentalism and climate, which President Biden and the left tells us are existential issues.

There is nothing mattering more, they say, than climate change; that if we don't fight climate change, Nebraska is going to be underwater, they tell us. They say we need to follow the example of our European allies in

agreements like the Paris accords, but the Nord Stream 2 pipeline will grind any European energy transition to a halt by making the Europeans even more dependent on Russian gas.

Now, some proponents have argued that the natural gas delivered by Nord Stream 2 could be kind of a transition technology, but the German Institute for Economic Research's senior energy expert described Nord Stream 2 on these issues as ''unnecessary and inefficient.''

More analysis, published again just last week, projected that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline would emit over 100 million metric tons of CO_2 per year, plus fugitive methane.

The gas that Nord Stream 2 would deliver compares very badly to the alternative, and that is LNG, liquid natural gas.

In 2019, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Lab published a study showing that ''U.S. LNG shipped to European markets has 41 percent less lifecycle emissions than if those same countries were to receive natural gas from another predominant producer like Russia.''

Listen to that again because our Democratic colleagues love to pound the table how carbon is the greatest threat on the planet.

Well, Joe Biden is saddling Europe with an energy option that produces much more CO_2 than American LNG. American LNG, 41 percent less carbon dioxide.

If they believe their rhetoric, you would see Democrats standing up to Joe Biden. If Joe Biden believed his rhetoric, I guess you would see Joe Biden standing up to himself.

If John Kerry believed his rhetoric, in between his flights on a private jet, where John Kerry has the carbon footprint of a small town, in between his pontificating and lecturing American workers they just need to learn to code, if John Kerry believed climate was this existential disaster, he would be standing up, saying: President Biden, why are you defying Congress, defying the European Union, and giving Putin a multibillion-dollar gift that produces more CO_2?

There is no argument from the left or the right under which Nord Stream 2 is a good idea, but especially on the basis of what the left tells us are their most important issues: Russia, Russia, Russia. It is a disaster on Russia, Russia, Russia.

CO_2? It is a disaster on CO_2.

You know, Twitter today has lit up with a certain European teenager who is fond of lecturing the world about insufficient fealty to climate. And she responded to American leaders who, to use her words, say ''blah, blah, blah'' when it comes to climate.

I got to say, our Democratic colleagues, this Democratic administration, when it comes to Nord Stream 2, their only answer is: Blah, blah, blah.

They don't have an answer that they are resulting in—what was the figure again? Let's actually get that figure right—100 million metric tons of CO_2 per year.

Congratulations. The next time you give a speech saying that you want to double Americans' electricity bills, you want to bankrupt working families because of CO_2, remember, you didn't seem worried about it when it was the Russians producing the CO_2 in a way that hurts Europe, hurts our allies, and hurts America.

Look, I get party politics. People want to stand and support their party. I get it. When there is a Republican President, Republicans support them, generally. When there is a Democratic President, Democrats support them, generally. That is the way it works. That is not terribly shocking.

But is it asking too much for even one of the Democrats to believe what they have said for the last 5 years?

Throughout the course of these remarks, you know who I have quoted more than anyone else?

Senate Democrats. I have quoted their own remarks.

Senate Democrats understand Nord Stream 2 is a disaster. They understand it is harmful. They understand it is bad for America. Where they just can't screw up the courage is when it comes to standing up to a Democratic President.

By the way, they are perfectly happy to yell at Donald Trump. I get that. And to be clear, when we had a Republican President in Donald Trump, I pressed the Trump administration hard on Nord Stream 2, even though we are the same party. I was not remotely shy about pressing the Trump administration.

There are 50 Democrats in this Chamber. Is there one who believed Russia, Russia, Russia? Or was that all empty politics? Is there one who believes their hyperbolic rhetoric on CO_2 and climate? Or is that all just blah, blah, blah?

It is real simple. The Biden administration has a chance to fix this. Just this weekend, the German people voted out the Merkel government. The entire reason Joe Biden went down this foolhardy disastrous path was to kiss up to Angela Merkel. Well, you know what. She is gone. Her party is gone. They are out of power. And so Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have been given a present—a present of the chance to pull victory out of the jaws of defeat.

We had victory from 2019 to 2020, where we shut down the pipeline. Republicans and Democrats together in Congress had come together and shut down the pipeline. Putin had lost; America had won.

Joe Biden comes into office, and now Putin wins, America loses. That ain't good. That ain't good in Michigan. It ain't good in Arizona. It ain't good in any State in this country. And Joe Biden can fix it if he simply accepts the gifts the German voters have given him, reverse his course, and follow his U.S. law.

Let's stop the Biden-Putin pipeline. Let's give an opportunity for President Biden to pull his name off the pipeline.

By the way, if he were to do so, I will come to this floor and I will sing Joe Biden's praises for doing the right thing, for following the law, for standing up for America, for standing up to Russia, for defending our European allies.

But, sadly, I am not holding my breath. I think the hubris of office, stubbornness, is likely to keep the Biden administration digging in.

In the Senate, I am going to use every tool I have to try to press them to change their minds. And I would call on—is there even one Democrat with the courage to take on Russia?

Time will tell.

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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to point out the failures of the Biden administration's foreign policies, and specifically President Biden's failures in addition to that of his administration, because President Biden ran for President based on basically two things: what he described as his competence and as his foreign policy expertise.

He has failed miserably at both. It has been nearly a month since President Biden withdrew from Afghanistan.

And what about the Taliban?

Well, right now, they are more powerful than ever. They have billions and billions of dollars' worth of high-tech military equipment. It is beyond their wildest dreams.

Where did they get their weapons?

Well, they got them from the United States of America.

As we hear on nightly news broadcasts, and as we know from what we are hearing at home, there are hundreds of Americans still stranded behind enemy lines. The administration doesn't want to admit a number, but there are hundreds of Americans stranded behind enemy lines, if not more.

The detrimental consequences for America are only beginning.

Our friends are furious. And our enemies? They are emboldened by what has happened in Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, I visited with our NATO allies. Our allies are enraged. And a host of foreign policy mistakes by President Biden, in my opinion and in theirs, are irreversible.

Here are just a few examples:

Angela Merkel's designated successor in Germany called our Afghanistan withdrawal ''the biggest debacle'' in the history of NATO.

President Biden didn't mind offending our Canadian allies when he shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline. Months later, he gave Vladimir Putin the green light to build the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, and we just heard Senator CRUZ talking about that.

Remember, this pipeline is a geopolitical weapon that Putin is going to use to hold our European allies hostage—hostage for money and hostage for energy.

President Duda in Poland, he said recently the Nord Stream 2 giveaway is ''grounds for reflection on relations with the United States.''

France was so offended with President Biden, at one point they recalled their ambassador. Never happened in American history. Go back all the way to the 1700s. France is a nuclear power. It is one of our closest allies.

This is Presidential incompetence on an unprecedented scale. Our allies see the incompetence. Our enemies not only see it, they can smell it. China has said so publicly that Afghanistan shows Americans cannot defend our allies anymore.

Now China is threatening Taiwan and building more than 200 missile silos. Iran has accelerated its nuclear program. According to Israel, Iran is only a few weeks away from having enough material to build a nuclear weapon.

And on the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, American troops in Iraq were attacked.

Russia is preparing to test a nuclear cruise missile near the Arctic Circle.

North Korea is expanding uranium enrichment; and just days after America withdrew from Afghanistan, North Korea tested two ballistic missiles.

In every area and region of the world, our Nation—America's interests are in retreat. Our enemies are on the march. America has grown weaker under Joe Biden; our enemies have grown stronger under Joe Biden.

Because of President Biden's incompetence, mismanagement, and weakness, we are all, as citizens of this country, less safe.

When I think of the last 8 months, I am reminded of something that former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said. And, remember, he was Secretary of Defense under President Obama.

He said: ''Joe Biden has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue of the past four decades.''

Forty years of being wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue. At the time he said that, it had been four decades. Now Joe Biden is President of the United States, and it is five decades.

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. 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.

CHINA

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, last week, President Biden went to the United Nations and he announced his capitulation to the Chinese Communist Party. The message was clear from what he did—and did not—say.

In Joe Biden's 30-minute-long monologue on the state of the world, he never once even said the name of the world's greatest threat to peace, stability, and democracy: China. He never said it once. He refused to even say the word ''China.'' Nor did he mention Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan, or practically any of the victims of Chinese communist aggression.

Now, President Biden did mention the ''targeting and oppression'' of minorities in Xinjiang Province in China's northwest, yet he left mysteriously vague who was responsible for all that targeting and oppression. He blithely lumped Xinjiang with other abuses around the world as if it was just one area of deep concern among many.

But the concentration camps in Xinjiang are not just another problem. They are proof of the most systematic genocide and ethnic cleansing campaign occurring in the world today, perpetrated by one of the most advanced and powerful regimes on Earth, personally approved by the Chinese Communist leader Xi Jinping. Leaked documents make it clear that Chairman Xi is responsible for this campaign of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Let me explain how brutal it is. The Chinese Communist Party are sterilizing women in Xinjiang Province so they cannot procreate and create more of their ethnic minority. If they can't do that, then they are being brutally raped by Han Chinese men. That is what is happening in Xinjiang Province, in addition to the internment of millions of religious and ethnic minorities. It is not just your run-of-the-mill targeting and oppression.

President Biden also referred to China implicitly—because he didn't say the word—on another occasion in his speech when he said that the United States is ''not seeking a new Cold War.''

Of course, we are not seeking a war of any kind, cold or hot. That is the last thing that the United States would ever want. But, still, that is an astonishing assertion, because whether we seek it or not, China has been waging a Cold War on America and our workers and our factories and our militaries and our way of life for decades. The only question is whether we will win or lose. Under President Biden, we are losing.

A strong leader—a competent leader—would seek to win this Cold War thrust upon the United States in the manner of those who went before us facing enemies like Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and Soviet Russia. Instead, in the manner of appeasers the world over, President Biden hopes to make peace with China by indulging its aggression and refusing to even say his name.

Now, if you think this is restoring some norm of longstanding providence, that you don't go to the United Nations General Assembly and speak the name of your adversaries who are committing acts of naked aggression and crimes against humanity, I would point out that Barack Obama repeatedly—repeatedly—called out Russia by name in 2014 for its invasion of Ukraine, and let's just say that President Obama was not exactly a Cold warrior.

Now as a result, Chairman Xi is issuing imperious orders, and the Biden administration is rushing to fill them like a short-order cook at a diner on Saturday morning. Early in his administration, President Biden lifted restrictions on Confucius Institutes, which are little more than spy outposts on our universities. He gutted Trump-era rules protecting our electrical grid from Chinese influence, and he shut down a State Department investigation into the origins of the Wuhan coronavirus.

Then, in July, China's Foreign Minister handed two lists of new demands to Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, stating that the United States must stop so-called wrongdoings in order to get back in Beijing's good graces.

Similarly, when the so-called climate czar, John Kerry, asked for China's help, the Communist Party responded that it would consider polluting a little less if the United States would shut up about China's campaign of genocide and other human rights abuses.

Now any self-respecting administration that believes in American strength, pride, and honor would have told Chairman Xi that he is in no position to be making such demands. Instead, this administration is going down the page, ticking off boxes like an obedient underling.

When a reporter asked John Kerry if the administration would press China on its horrific human rights abuses, Kerry responded that, ''life is always full of tough choices.''

Pathetic.

Around the same time, Biden's Commerce Secretary called for ''robust commercial engagement'' and to ''mitigate any potential tensions'' between United States and China. She even promised to bring delegations of U.S. business leaders to China to pad the Communist bottom line even further.

She calls to mind what is attributed to Lenin: that capitalists will sell Communists the rope they will use to hang us all.

Pathetic.

Over the weekend, in his most recent act of pathetic weakness, the Biden Department of Justice surrendered Huawei's criminal CFO and princess, Meng Wanzhou, without punishing her for evading U.S. sanctions. She received a hero's welcome when her plane

touched down in China. And moments after her release, China released two innocent Canadians it had taken hostage to secure Meng's release. So Beijing's hostage-taking worked exactly as planned. Pathetic.

All of this self-inflicted humiliation was avoidable. The fact is that China is in no position to deliver ultimatums to us. It is America that ought to be making demands to China.

Here's a few things that would actually pave a path to true reconciliation:

First and foremost, we ought to demand that China finally admit what almost everyone knows is certainly true: that the coronavirus pandemic started in a lab in Wuhan. Xi Jinping should then give a groveling televised apology to the world, agree to end all gain-of-function research using deadly pathogens, and pay damages to his victims around the world who have died or suffered because of his regime's incompetence and malevolence.

Second, we ought to demand that China rebid the 2022 Winter Olympics until the Chinese regime ends its ethnic cleansing, slave labor, mass murder, mass sterilization, and systematic rape of ethnic and religious minorities. It is too morally tainted to host such a prestigious event.

Third, we ought to demand that China end its spree of intellectual property theft. Today, China is responsible for up to 80 percent—80 percent—of intellectual property theft committed against the United States, and is the subject of nearly half of all FBI counterintelligence cases for economic espionage. This theft has to stop.

Fourth, we should demand that China renounce its imperial ambitions. It must agree to stop the Belt and Road Initiative, disclaim its ambition of conquering Taiwan, abide by its treaty obligations regarding Hong Kong, and end its sinister and provocative military buildup.

If these conditions are met, China will be on the path of making amends for its many crimes. It is up to America to hold China accountable for these crimes. After all, we are the global leader, not China. We don't require China's forgiveness or favor. Our conscience is clean.

Our Nation is great. We are the Nation that threw off the shackles of an empire, settled a continent, saved the world, and then saved it again and again. The United States has been the greatest enemy of tyranny the world over. We do not cower before tyrants. We look them in the eye and call them by their true name and tell them what they really are: evil.

President Biden ought to remember that the next time he speaks to the world on behalf of the American people.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON ROBINSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Robinson nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 389 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Booker	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Burr	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Tillis
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Rounds
Blunt	Hagerty	Rubio
Boozman	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Cramer	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	Wicker
Ernst	Marshall	Young
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Feinstein	Murphy	Sinema
Moran	Paul	Stabenow

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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. 354.

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 Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years.

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. 354, Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Martin Heinrich, Edward J. Markey, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Tim Kaine, Alex Padilla, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters.

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. 293.

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 Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

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. 293, Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Cory A. Booker, Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Gary C. Peters, Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Robert Menendez, Bernard Sanders, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 28, 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 to be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY K. STAMPER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the most ubiquitous technologies in the world today is the cell phone. According to Pew Research, a stunning 97 percent of Americans own some sort of mobile device. These devices are critical to our everyday lives, keeping us connected to one another while also serving as a gateway to entire sectors of our economy. Most Americans probably do not realize that they are holding a piece of Vermont in their hands every time they use their phone, but thanks to engineers at GlobalFoundries in Essex Junction, every cell phone in the world contains a chip manufactured in my home State.

Today, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts of one of those engineers, Anthony ''Tony'' Stamper of Burlington and thank him for his contributions to the global innovation ecosystem from his corner of Vermont. Tony retired this summer from GlobalFoundries after 30 years of semiconductor engineering at the Essex facility. During Tony's celebrated career, he has been responsible for over 500 patented inventions, making him one of the world's top 100 most prolific inventors of all time.

Tony's leadership at GlobalFoundries has helped keep Vermont at the forefront of an ever-changing industry for over 70 years. In 2015, GlobalFoundries acquired IBM's Essex plant and their talented workforce. Thanks to Tony and Essex innovators like him, the Vermont GlobalFoundries facility leads the industry in manufacturing radio frequency power semiconductors.

While Tony has been a prolific inventor, U.S. Patent No. 6,310,300 is one of his most notable inventions. It solved the significant problem that the space between an insulation layer and a metal wire in a chip would degrade over time. He and his team members created a barrier layer that prevented degradation and allowed for much smaller metal wires on the chip, hence much smaller chips. The invention has been used in every chip produced in the last 20 years.

Tony is not only an accomplished inventor but has repeatedly led teams of engineers to utilize these inventions to create leading edge products for high-speed computing and mobile communications. Tony has been a dedicated mentor and teacher to a new generation of inventors, which led him to be nominated for the GlobalFoundries Diversity and Inclusion Inventorship Champion Award. He knows that collaboration is the key ingredient to successful innovation and has fostered that kind of environment in all of the invention teams he has led.

Tony's story shows that innovators can thrive anywhere in the country, not just in Silicon Valley. I know his fellow engineers, who have relied on his expertise over the years, will feel his absence and miss him dearly. As he embarks on this next exciting part of his life, I want to acknowledge Tony's work and thank him for his decades of service to Vermont and the industry. Marcelle and I join his friends at GlobalFoundries and wish him the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AT HARWOOD UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the incredible impact of Farm to School programs in Vermont and across the country and the great work of Vermont students, their schools, and their broader communities to improve access to healthy food options.

Since 2000, Vermont Food Education Every Day—FEED—has facilitated collaboration between schools and farms in Vermont, helping cafeterias to source meals locally and working with schools to institute curricular and co-curricular programming to educate students on local food systems. In 2010, I was proud to author the national Farm to School Program in the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. Since then, Vermont FEED and its Farm to School programs have become a national benchmark, with Farm to School programs now operating in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

A few weeks ago, I had the chance to speak with students from Harwood Union High School about their Farm to School program. For the past 15 years, Harwood has sourced its food locally and worked with Vermont FEED to develop opportunities for students, teachers, and staff to connect with local farmers beyond the cafeteria. For 5 years, Harwood's student-led Farm to School Club has coordinated educational programming, farm visits, and recipe competitions to help students and staff to experience local agriculture and the Vermont food system. Even through the COVID–19 pandemic, the Harwood Farm to School Club adapted its programming by shifting to virtual tours of local farms and at-home recipe contests.

As a truly Vermont-grown initiative, I have always been proud of the impressive adoption of Farm to School programs in communities nationwide. In April, I reintroduced the Farm to School Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that would increase mandatory funding for the Farm to School Grant Program, ensuring that more schools, students, and farmers can take advantage of the program. And every year in the annual appropriations process, I have worked to increase discretionary funding for this popular program.

The Farm to School Club at Harwood serves as a testament to the importance of community engagement and the educational, economic, and nutritional benefits of Farm to School programs. The club was recently featured in an article published by Seven Days, and I ask unanimous consent that the article, ''Vermont Leads National Farm-to-School Movement, and Harwood Union High School Demonstrates How'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Sept. 7, 2021]

VERMONT LEADS NATIONAL FARM-TO-SCHOOL MOVEMENT, AND HARWOOD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES HOW

(By Melissa Pasanen)

On August 19 at Shelburne Farms, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D–Vt.) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack heard from 10 Vermonters involved with the state's farm-to-school program.

The group included school food service directors, nonprofit and government leaders in agriculture and child nutrition, a vegetable farmer, and Jeswin Antony, a 16-year-old Harwood Union High School student.

When it was Antony's turn to speak, he introduced himself as a leader of Harwood's farm-to-school club. The teen explained that he was 3 when his family moved from India to Waterbury. ''My first experiences with American cuisine were in the lunchroom at school,'' he said.

The chicken was Vermont-raised, and the vegetables were grown in the school garden, Antony recounted. ''From a young age, I was taught and I saw that this food is grown locally, and it tastes better and is more nutritious,'' he said.

The Shelburne gathering followed Leahy's early August announcement that he had secured committee approval to include $5 million in the federal budget to establish a National Farm-to-School Institute at Shelburne Farms.

The proposed national institute will expand the reach of the existing Vermont-based Northeast Farm to School Institute currently run by Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day), a nonprofit partnership managed by Shelburne Farms and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont.

Founded in 2000, Vermont FEED has been instrumental in fostering connections between Vermont schools and farms—from the cafeteria to the classroom—in support of improved childhood nutrition, local agriculture and lifelong wellness.

The organization's influence spread beyond the state's borders until it was codified when Vermont FEED established the Northeast Farm to School Institute in 2010. The institute has helped share best practices via training and coaching in more than 100 schools and districts in New England and New York.

States from Massachusetts to Nebraska have also worked with the Northeast Farm to School Institute to build their own successful statewide programs.

Shortly after the Mississippi Farm to School Network was established in 2015, co-director Sunny Baker visited Vermont for a workshop.

''We knew right away Vermont was the model,'' Baker said over the phone. ''It's not one-size-fits-all. It's about putting power back into the communities while providing formal support to help them connect the three Cs,'' she said, referring to cafeteria, classroom and community. ''It's less top-down, more roots-up.''

Anna Mullen, spokesperson for the National Farm to School Network, described Vermont as a national leader in creating and propagating effective farm-to-school models and in leveraging critical legislative support. In a phone interview, she noted that the state was the first to create a farm-to-school grant program in 2006 and that Leahy has long been ''a huge champion'' of the movement at the federal level.

The pending federal line item would fund expansion of ''a really impactful . . . coaching and support model that brings together teams to fit the needs of their school and achieve the vision of their own community,'' Mullen said. The proposal to take it national ''is a testament to a model that's really helping and working.

At Shelburne Farms in August, Antony continued to share why he was drawn to farm-to-school. In middle school, he said, he took a sustainability course that taught him about the food system. Joining the farm-to-school club deepened his understanding of the ''inner workings'' of how schools source and prepare food, Antony explained.

During the pandemic, he and his co leaders worked hard to keep fellow members connected to the club and to one another through virtual farm tours and Harvest of the Month recipe contests, Antony said. They created recipes with beets, sweet potatoes and dairy at home, for example, and then took virtual tours of farms that produced those foods.

''Keeping the students engaged, telling them where their food comes from, making them informed about what they eat really creates a better environment and healthier kids,'' Antony concluded.

''I wish I'd had you testify before the committees,'' Leahy said, drawing an appreciative chuckle from the group.

A couple weeks after meeting the senator and agriculture secretary, Antony met with Seven Days in the Harwood cafeteria along with three other teens in the farm-to-school club. Joining the four were Paul Morris, co-director of food and nutrition services for the Harwood Unified Union School District; Paul Kramer, a teacher and club faculty adviser; and Jen Dreimiller, a school counselor who is also on Harwood's farm-to-school team. That team is composed of teachers, staff, students and community members working to deepen the high school's farm-to-school efforts.

Like Antony, Miranda Rayfield of Fayston and Macie Whalen of Northfield are 16 and just started 11th grade. The trio leads the club. The students look forward to getting back into the cafeteria kitchen with ''chef Paul,'' as they call Morris, to design, prepare and serve Harvest of the Month taste tests. While they enjoyed the monthly recipe contests that Antony had described to Leahy and Vilsack, sharing the results of their efforts remotely wasn't the same.

''We provided the food, and [members of the school community] got to make something out of it and share it via a slideshow we'd show at an online school assembly,'' Whalen explained. Photographs of beet recipes included a mouthwatering array of several different beet-chocolate cakes; beet-tahini pasta; a beet and potato roesti; and a version of halwa, the traditional Indian sweet, made with beets.

''Some people think vegetable are 'gross and disgusting,'" Whalen said. ''But then when they cook with them and see or taste what others have made, they might change their mind.''

''When you share it with the whole school, it gets more attention,'' Antony added.

During the pandemic, the students drew other benefits from their shared cooking experience. ''You were at home, locked down. It gave us a great way to connect,'' Whalen said. ''Like, Jeswin's sweet potato and black bean curry—it looked so good! [We were asking each other,] 'Did he send the recipe?' It was really cool to be connected through food.''

Haley MacDonald, 13, of Moretown, joined the club last year when she was in seventh grade. With the kale she received through the club, she made two kinds of kale chips at home: one salted and the other sweetened with a little maple syrup.

''It was my first time making them myself,'' MacDonald said proudly in the cafeteria. Her family, including her 9-year-old twin brothers, inhaled them. ''They were gone in a minute.''

''It also helped me realize there are lots of local farms,'' MacDonald said. ''Like, 'Oh, I got kale from there.' It's really cool to be able to cook with what they grow and support them.''

During a virtual farm visit to Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Whalen described excitedly, ''They showed us their cows and their butter compared to store-bought butter. You could literally see the difference in color.''

''And texture,'' Rayfield said. ''You could almost feel the love.''

''I've gotten a whole community out of it,'' Whalen continued. In addition to the teachers and chef Paul at school, she said, that includes the farmers. ''It's a community beyond Harwood Union High School.''

The 5-year-old club is just one aspect of the district's well-established farm-to-school program.

Morris, the food and nutrition services co-director, has been sourcing from local farms all 15 years he has worked at Harwood. But, while the cafeteria was lauded initially for its fresh, locally sourced menu, Morris said there was untapped opportunity. ''It was not super connected to teachers and staff. It was us trying to push it out,'' he said.

Enter the Northeast Farm to School Institute. Six years ago, a team of Harwood school and community members started meeting regularly with a coach from Vermont FEED to build on efforts in the school kitchen. That was what ''kind of got the ball rolling,'' Morris said.

''The program really started to gain momentum when students had experience outside the cafeteria,'' he said. ''They didn't want to talk about it; they wanted to do things.''

This fall, Harwood students will return to a neighboring nonprofit farm, Living Tree Alliance in Moretown. There, they have moved mulch, planted hazelnuts, made sauerkraut and learned how the farmers rotate their small flock of sheep to graze different paddocks. The farm has sold Harwood cabbage and potatoes for use in its cafeteria.

One Harwood civics and social studies teacher used grant money to build a hoop house behind the school in which students grow salad greens. These, too, become cafeteria fare.

The farm-to-school team came up with a local food challenge offered to all homerooms: Students tasted something locally grown and learned about the concept of food miles and the benefits of buying closer to home. Farm-to-school club members even collaborated with students in a graphic design course to develop a logo emblazoned with a shovel and fork and the words ''community, cafeteria, classroom.''

Kramer, the club's faculty adviser, said he was pleased when students asked how they could build advocacy skills and help others access local food. Last year, a group of club members partnered with a local gleaning organization to pick apples at a Randolph orchard to donate to area food shelves. Antony and a student who has now graduated worked with Vermont FEED to testify in front of the state legislature.

''We are very grateful to eat this healthy, local food, but not everyone gets to,'' Antony said in the cafeteria.

''The students are seeing the larger picture,'' Kramer said. ''Farm-to-school is a great, tangible lens for kids to understand things like equity and social justice. They are understanding how things are connected and using that understanding to find leverage points to solve problems.''

Being involved in farm-to-school, Antony said, has opened his eyes to the complexity of the food system and to his own ability to make a difference.

''It's all intertwined: nutrition, the education system, the legislative system, even waste,'' he said. ''There's massive change we can do in all those spheres. I want to take some action.''

CONGRATULATING THE VERMONT LAKE MONSTERS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the iconic Vermont Lake Monsters and their championship victory in the team's first season as members of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. The Vermont Lake Monsters have seen various iterations over the years, and the determination, grit, and resilience of the team's players, coaches, staff, and fans are clear to all Vermonters and fans of the team.

The Lake Monsters began in 1994 with establishment of the Vermont Expos, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Montreal Expos. When the Montreal Expos moved to

Washington, DC, and became the Nationals, the Vermont Expos changed their affiliation and their name, becoming the Lake Monsters in 2004 and affiliated with the Oakland Athletics. When Major League Baseball elected to shrink the minor league in 2019, the Lake Monsters sadly lost their affiliation. The loss of affiliation and the prospect of the closure of the Lake Monsters were devastating for the baseball community in Vermont.

Luckily, the Lake Monsters seized the opportunity to join the Futures Collegiate Baseball League, bringing the team back to Centennial Field in Burlington after a 2-year hiatus. Quickly, a new coaching staff was hired, and a roster filled. The Lake Monsters returned to Centennial Field on May 21, beginning a fantastic season run that brought them to a championship title on August 20.

The Lake Monsters have garnered an immense following in Vermont and have become a mainstay of our community. The team, their games, and their fans have been an intrinsic aspect of the summertime fun for so many Vermonters. The resiliency of the Lake Monsters and their resounding victory in their return to the field, particularly at a time of such turmoil and uncertainty in our world, brings a welcome sense of joy, hope, and levity to our community.

Congratulations to the Vermont Lake Monsters for their championship victory; may your success continue for years to come. Vermonters will look forward to going to Centennial Field for a game next summer to enjoy some peanuts, Cracker Jacks, and a Lake Monsters win.

REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Christopher Cartwright, who passed away in May 2021, at age 52. Chris was a dedicated civil servant with a brilliant mind, a vast well of patience, and boundless compassion. He spent most of his 30-year career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and served most recently as the Director of NOAA's Budget Office.

Chris created an environment of trust and collegiality everywhere he went. He was unflappable in navigating the budget and appropriations process and always applied a calm and thoughtful approach to achieving NOAA's mission. Through it all, Chris was unfailingly kind and humble. His gentle leadership inspired his team and those around him to be better people, leaders, and public servants.

Chris was a proud graduate of Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where last year he had the honor of leading the graduating class in recitation of the Athenian Oath. True to the oath he held so dear, Chris ''strived unceasingly to quicken the public sense of civic duty.'' We are grateful for his service.

REMEMBERING SUSAN BAYH

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today in honor of one of the most beloved women in Indiana. An attorney, a First Lady, a wife, and a mother, Susan Bayh will always be remembered throughout Indiana for her grace and strength.

Susan Breshears was born in Los Angeles, CA, in 1959. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a juris doctorate from the University of Southern California. In 1978, she was named Miss Southern California. While working on Capitol Hill in the early 1980s, she met Evan Bayh. The two married in 1985. She became Indiana's First Lady in 1989, when Evan was elected Governor. In 1995, she gave birth to twins Birch Evans Bayh IV and Nicholas Bayh, becoming the first First Lady to have children while in office.

Susan was a talented attorney. She made a name for herself at some of the country's top law firms before joining Eli Lilly and Company to manage regulatory affairs. Later, she taught at Butler University and Indiana University. She passed away in February 2021 after a battle with brain cancer.

In Indiana, the Bayh name is famous, but as President Biden said, ''Susan stood out as a single treasure.'' As Susan's loved ones and friends gather to remember her life at Washington National Cathedral this week, Hoosiers are grateful for the life she lived, the family she raised, and the legacy she has left behind.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ROB AND PAM STEPHENS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I would like to honor the lives of Rob and Pam Stephens who were integral members of the Billings community. Both Rob and Pam had a passion for sharing their love of aviation with others. Tragically, on Sunday, September 26th, the Stephens were involved in a fatal plane crash with their son Riley. Riley was the only survivor.

With over 40 years of flying experience and more than 30 years as a professional airline pilot, Rob loved sharing his knowledge and expertise with others who aspired to become pilots themselves. In 2018, Rob founded Mission Aviation flight school, located at Montana's Laurel Municipal Airport, with the intentions of serving others in Yellowstone County who also wanted to pursue careers in aviation.

Most notably, Rob shared his skills and passion for flying with his two sons, Riley and Steele, both of whom have pursued their own careers in aviation and take pride in teaching the next generation of prospective pilots.

Rob and Pam will be dearly missed by their children Steele, Riley, and Piper, their friends in the aviation community, and so many more in the Billings area whose lives they touched. Piper recently served Montana as an intern in my Washington, DC office. As Riley continues to receive medical care, our prayers are with him and the entire Stephens family during this very difficult time. May God continue to bless and look over them.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3755. An act to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

H.R. 5323. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2218. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of Telecommunications Provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018'' (RIN0572–AC48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2219. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Styrene- Maleic Anhydride Ethyl Amine Salt Copolymer; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8960–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2220. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title

IV of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018; Correction'' (RIN0584–AE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2221. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2020 annual report of the Farm Credit Administration Regulator of the Farm Credit System; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2222. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018'' (RIN0584–AE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2223. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8653–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2224. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM); Amendment'' (RIN0790–AL41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2225. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation (DoD 0007, Defense Reasonable Accommodation and Assistive Technology Records)'' (RIN0790–AL14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2226. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commercial Activities Program'' (RIN0790–AK91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2227. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (RIN0790–AL18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2228. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Improved Energy Security for Main Operating Bases in Europe'' (RIN0750–AL15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2229. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Firm-Fixed-Price Contracts for Foreign Military Sales'' (RIN0750–AL37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2230. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Craig S. Faller, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2231. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Gordon D . Peters, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2232. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2233. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2234. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2235. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order addressing the situation in and in relation to northern Ethiopia, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, and stability of Ethiopia and the greater horn of Africa region; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2236. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 11, 2001, with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2237. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2238. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018, with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2239. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2240. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13288 with respect to Zimbabwe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2241. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2242. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13894 with respect to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .

EC–2243. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2020 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Edward D. Casey, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Linda S. Hurry, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Carla D. Riner, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Capt. Max G. McCoy, Jr., to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Air Force nomination of Col. Richard G. Adams, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Karsten S. Heckl, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. David J. Julazadeh, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Lance K. Landrum, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nomination of Col. Matthew S. Reid, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Colin J. Kilrain, to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Col. James D. Brantingham, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey C. Coggin, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson, to be Lieutenant General.

Space Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Gagnon, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey S. Scheidt, to be Rear Admiral.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators .

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ingrid C. Kaat and ending with Genevieve N. Minzyk, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Air Force nomination of Angelica Hawrysiak, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Katherine A. Abbott and ending with Banner Lee Sue Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jon R. Alexander and ending with Peter H. Yusckat, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Timothy James Anderson and ending with Chad M. Whitson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brad C. Bordes and ending with Richard J. Zavadil, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Air Force nomination of Sarah E. Isbill, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Nicole Marie Bermudez Beck and ending with Hermes Y. Silva, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 13, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Daniel C. Alder and ending with D016000, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 28, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Eric R. Adams and ending with Charles R. Zipperer, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 28, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Michelle M. Agpalza and ending with D015670, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 28, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas K. Brenton and ending with D010918, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 28, 2021.

Army nomination of Jose E. Santos-Martinez, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Donna J. Broussard, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Stephen W. Chu, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Jason R. Bradley, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with David W. Lewis and ending with Hugh D. West III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Paul E. Boccio and ending with Delphia C. Reno, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Dennis M. Bishop and ending with Scott T. Trexler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Philip N.R. Estes and ending with Roderick V. Mathis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Kim R. Clidas and ending with Benjamin W. Riley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Kelsy L. Abell and ending with Stephanie P. Tower, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Brian J. Ahern and ending with Bryan K. Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Anthony W. Adams and ending with D016183, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Marjorie Acsenvil and ending with Be Y. Yoo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nomination of Malik J. Freeman, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Richard J. H. Gash, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lucretia C. Portwine, to be Major.

Army nomination of Shilo S. Velasquez, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Daniel E. Torres, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Andrew Garcia IV, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with James L. Fuhriman and ending with Scott C. Valley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nomination of Mercedes Murillo, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Kathryn L. Adams and ending with Kevin R. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with James E. Adkins, Jr. and ending with Jason P. Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with David J. Adam and ending with Chester D. Shermer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Travis T. Elder and ending with Marcus D. Wisner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Karen M. Hansen and ending with Karen F. Wiggins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 4, 2021.

Army nomination of Bryan T. Jack, to be Major.

Army nomination of Marci J. Sam, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jennifer M. A. Bromm, to be Major.

Army nomination of Travis C. Carpenter, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael C. Wallet, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Shawn D. Wray, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jordan L. Woodburn, to be Major.

Army nomination of Corey M. James, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of David Melendez, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of John C. Boyle, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Jennifer N. Pendleton, to be Major.

Army nomination of Kevin A. Poole, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Daniel J. Carlson, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Dmitriy Kalantarov, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with David O. Anglin and ending with Douglas W. Moore, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Lito D. Amande and ending with D016150, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Daniel C. Estaville and ending with Brian J. Harlan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with George W. Boguslawski and ending with Matthew H. Watters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Douglas F. Baker, Jr. and ending with Samuel S. Yi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with David S. Bickell and ending with Robert T. Wilkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Victoria M. Adame and ending with Benjamin R. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Army nomination of Sean P. Mahoney, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Spiros Kulubis, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of William T. T. Chen, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Craig A. Clutts, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Christopher J. Goodson, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Brett E. Grady, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Ignacio I. Mendiguren, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Hanif K. Bent and ending with Richard J. Wallace, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Twyla M. Arbuckle and ending with Keith D. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Aaron M. Ackerman and ending with Brandon M. Zoss, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Daniel A. Dierks and ending with Carl B. Steffer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nomination of Wajahat Ali, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Mason P. Jones, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Jarrod M. Trant, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Dannemarc Atis and ending with Kyle E. Zunk, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Samuel O. Adjei and ending with Michael T. Zervas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Peter L. Agdamag and ending with Cole C. Yoos, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Moronkeji S. Aderibigbe and ending with

Jonathan P. Zisko, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Leonardo D. Calderon and ending with Nicholas J. Gegg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Susana Agudelouribe and ending with Daniel Zhang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Marilyn A. H. Andersen and ending with Christopher P. Wilde, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael S. Ackman and ending with David J. Zart, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Ashley M. Belyea and ending with Lauren E. Yutchishen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Devin M. Arneson and ending with Michelle L. T. Tucker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Colin A. Barnard and ending with Natalia A. Widulinski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeremy M. Bullard and ending with Christopher J. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew D. Akers and ending with Kelly Wu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Brian T. Abe and ending with Tyler D. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Macbride J. Abeasi and ending with Reico O. Taylor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Nathan J. Admiraal and ending with Daniel A. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew M. Adams and ending with Michael J. Ziarek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Carl A. Grover and ending with Jason O. Lawrie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher S. Anderson and ending with David S. Wiley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew C. Abare and ending with Keith E. Wilber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Karima Ayesh and ending with Stacy L. Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Emilee K. Baldini and ending with Michael F. Whitican, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Tuesday L. Adams and ending with Brenda M. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Scott E. Adams and ending with Charmaine R. Yap, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher A. Adams and ending with James P. Williford, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Adeniyi S. Alatise and ending with Nathan S. Zundel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Jon A. Angle and ending with Shannon L. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Carl K. Bodin and ending with Graham D. Ziemba, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

Navy nominations beginning with Ebenezer Aniagyei and ending with Adam L. Zeiler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2021.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2866. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting direct access by health care facilities to COVID–19 monoclonal antibody therapies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2867. A bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian Tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022; read the first time.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2869. A bill to temporarily limit the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prescribe chargeable premium rates for flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 2870. A bill to create portable retirement and investment accounts for all Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2871. A bill to establish a task force on the implications of amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to remove exemptions from environmental laws for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to allow for consent-based siting of geologic repositories; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2872. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2873. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to establish or expand programs and activities to increase access to high-quality culturally competent trauma support and mental health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2874. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2875. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Cyber Incident Review Office in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2876. A bill to prioritize the efforts of, and to enhance coordination among, United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to improve the security of their telecommunications networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2877. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for payments to certain individuals who dye fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2878. A bill to codify in statute the establishment of the Office of Global Women's Issues and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 2879. A bill to provide that Executive Orders 14042 and 14043 shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2880. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020

to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2881. A bill to assist States in improving guardianship oversight and data collection; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 388. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 389. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2021 as ''National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 390. A resolution expressing appreciation for the State of Qatar's efforts to assist the United States during Operation Allies Refuge; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 391. A resolution expressing concern about the rise in illicit mining and trafficking of gold in Latin America and the pervasive problem that such mining poses for the security, stability, and environment of the region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 392. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 393. A resolution designating September 2021 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 480

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 480, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on global basic education programs.

S. 809

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 809, a bill to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1106, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1116, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1210

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d 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. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1609

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that electrochromic glass qualifies as energy property for purposes of the energy credit.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1943

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to restrict executive agencies from acting in contravention of Executive Order 13950, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2390

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to allow Americans to receive paid leave time to process and address their own health needs and the health needs of their partners during the period following a pregnancy loss, an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, a failed adoption arrangement, a failed surrogacy arrangement, or a diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, to support related research and education, and for other purposes.

S. 2434

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2434, a bill to provide tax incentives that support local newspapers and other local media, and for other purposes.

S. 2593

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2593, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve Federal oversight of foreign funding in education.

S. 2649

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2649, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2721, a bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to issue a report on the tax gap, to establish a fellowship program within the Internal Revenue Service to recruit mid-career tax professionals to create and participate in an audit task force, and for other purposes.

S. 2729

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2729, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program through which eligible individuals may obtain vouchers for the purchase of connected devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2734

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2734, a bill to require Senate confirmation of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2756, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration of the service members who perished as a result of the attack in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

S. 2809

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2809, a bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2840, a bill to permit civil actions against the United States for COVID–19 vaccination mandates.

S. 2841

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2841, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publicly disclose information regarding adverse effects of COVID–19 vaccines.

S. 2842

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2842, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from requiring that members of the Armed Forces receive a COVID–19 vaccine, and for other purposes.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to prohibit the imposition of a fine, fee, or taxation on any person for violation of a COVID–19 vaccine mandate issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or any other executive agency, and for other purposes.

S. 2844

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2844, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish all of its studies and findings related to COVID–19.

S. 2846

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2846, a bill to require Federal agencies to acknowledge, accept, and agree to truthfully present, natural immunity pertaining to COVID–19 pursuant to promulgating certain regulations.

S. 2847

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2847, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from mandating vaccination against COVID–19 for interstate travel.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr.

TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2848, a bill to exempt individuals with a personal health concern from complying with a Federal COVID–19 vaccine mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to stipulate that nothing in Federal law provides a Federal agency with the authority to mandate that an individual be inoculated by a COVID–19 vaccine.

S. 2850

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2850, a bill to exempt individuals from complying with a Federal COVID–19 vaccine mandate on the basis of a personal belief, and for other purposes.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2851, a bill to require an audit of COVID–19 relief funding.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2854, a bill to allow for the transfer and redemption of abandoned savings bonds.

S. 2862

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to prohibit the National Archives and Records Administration from including content warnings alongside founding documents of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2863, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Taliban and persons assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 2865

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2865, a bill to improve the unemployment insurance program.

S. RES. 321

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 321, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022; read the first time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

S. 2868

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 16, 2022.

(b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on December 17, 2022, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on December 17, 2022, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under subsection (b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before December 17, 2022.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the city of Atlanta hosted the world during—

(1) the 1996 Olympic Summer Games (referred to in this preamble as the ''Summer Games'') from July 19, 1996, to August 4, 1996; and

(2) the 1996 Paralympic Games (referred to in this preamble as the ''Paralympic Games'') from August 16, 1996, to August 25, 1996;

Whereas the Summer Games and Paralympic Games honored the centennial anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic Movement while creating a legacy of their own;

Whereas Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic Cauldron at the Summer Games Opening Ceremony, recognizing his Olympic success and lifelong fight for racial justice;

Whereas 10,320 athletes from 197 countries came together in 271 Summer Games events across 37 disciplines and 26 sports;

Whereas the 1996 United States Olympic Team's largest roster ever of 646 athletes finished first in the medal tally for the first time since 1984 with 44 gold medals and 32 silver medals;

Whereas over 2,000,000 people visited Atlanta during the Summer Games, and nearly 3,500,000,000 people watched the Summer Games from afar;

Whereas over 3,500 athletes from 104 countries competed in the Paralympic Games, and reminded the world that every individual can compete regardless of their disposition;

Whereas the Paralympic Games were the first Paralympic Games—

(1) to attract worldwide corporate sponsorships; and

(2) be televised in the United States;

Whereas over 380,000 individuals attended the Paralympic Games, which were opened by Vice President Al Gore;

Whereas 3,808 athletes from 104 countries came together in 508 Paralympic Games events across 20 sports;

Whereas the 1996 United States Paralympic Team won the most gold and overall medals;

Whereas the Summer Games relied on the partnership of local Atlanta-based businesses, leading to international recognition and growth for those businesses;

Whereas, on July 27, 1996, the people of Atlanta and other United States citizens persevered in the face of a tragic bombing at the Summer Games;

Whereas the Summer Games and Paralympic Games created an estimated 84,000 jobs in Atlanta during the Games and an additional 293,000 jobs afterward;

Whereas Centennial Olympic Park led a revitalization of Downtown Atlanta, and is still a central gathering spot to this day; and

Whereas the success of the Summer Games and Paralympic Games helped turn Atlanta into one of the world's leading hosts for large-scale sporting events: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions that were made by—

(A) the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games;

(B) the hundreds of Team USA athletes and the thousands of international athletes who competed in the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

(C) the people, companies, and communities that made the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games possible;

(2) recognizes that the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games left a lasting legacy in Atlanta, with many of the venues from those Games still serving the community; and

(3) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AS ''NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH''

Mr. KING (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 389

Whereas the theme for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in 2021 is ''Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community'';

Whereas more than 92,000 individuals in the United States suffered a fatal alcohol or drug overdose during 2020, an increase of approximately 30 percent as compared to 2019;

Whereas during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic, increased isolation and reduced or disrupted access to treatment programs have contributed to an increase in individuals reporting anxiety and depressive disorders when compared to the previous year, and 13 percent of Americans reported starting or increasing substance use;

Whereas, in 2019, there were approximately 21,000,000 individuals in the United States aged 18 or older in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction;

Whereas the estimated total cost to the economy of prescription opioid misuse is $78,500,000,000 annually, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, and involvement of the criminal justice system;

Whereas individuals with substance use disorder may face stigma from health professionals, as well as friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that stigma can be a barrier for individuals with substance use disorder to accessing treatment and engaging in recovery; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer individuals with substance use disorder better success in recovery by addressing the personal and emotional effects of addiction and easing reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of education for the prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) supports efforts to explore the means by which integrated care, community, and sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment of substance use disorder; and

(3) shows appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and other individuals who support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder.

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE STATE OF QATAR'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE UNITED STATES DURING OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 390

Whereas thousands of United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, vulnerable Afghans, and their families sought refuge following the Afghan Taliban's takeover of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

Whereas the State of Qatar played a critical role in assisting the United States in evacuating thousands of people from the rule of the Afghan Taliban regime;

Whereas Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar served as a central transportation hub for many evacuees desperately seeking to exit Afghanistan; and

Whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin stated, ''Qatar's support for Operation Allies Refuge was indispensable to the safe transit of Americans and U.S. personnel, allies, partners and Afghans at special risk.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) thanks the State of Qatar for their pivotal role and support of Operation Allies Refuge; and

(2) appreciates the State of Qatar's support to temporarily house thousands of evacuees until they are cleared for follow-on movement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 391—EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE RISE IN ILLICIT MINING AND TRAFFICKING OF GOLD IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE PERVASIVE PROBLEM THAT SUCH MINING POSES FOR THE SECURITY, STABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES 391

Whereas during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of enactment of this Resolution, Latin America has witnessed an alarming increase in the illicit mining and trafficking of gold and other valuable minerals;

Whereas illicit gold mining is a significant challenge across Latin America, specifically in the Andean and Amazonian regions, where, according to the internationally recognized nongovernmental organization Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime—

(1) Venezuela leads the region with approximately 90 percent of the gold extracted in that country being mined illicitly;

(2) Colombia and Ecuador closely follow with approximately 80 percent of the gold extracted in those countries being mined illicitly; and

(3) nearly 30 percent of the gold extracted in Bolivia and Peru is mined illicitly;

Whereas illicit gold mining involves the extraction of gold in violation of the laws of the country in which the activity occurs and mostly takes place in remote geographic areas with limited government presence, leaving opportunities for transnational criminal organizations to exploit this practice to generate billions of dollars in illicit profits to bolster their strength and long-term viability;

Whereas the profits derived from illicit gold mining have become a leading source of the illicit financial activities in the region, surpassing the profits generated by coca and cocaine production in recent years;

Whereas transnational criminal organizations use illicit gold trafficking as a mechanism to launder profits from other illicit activities, which frequently threatens the national security of the United States and undermines legal international trade by compromising the lawful gold supply chain and exploiting the United States financial system for illegal gain;

Whereas the presence of transnational criminal organizations in mining and trading chains of gold and other valuable minerals profoundly threatens the safety, security, and cultural integrity of indigenous communities across Latin America;

Whereas illicit gold mining often devastates the environment and is destructive to rural and indigenous communities since it violates legal standards and safety requirements and often involves the illegal use of mercury, a potent toxin that, when used improperly, contaminates water supplies in the areas surrounding illicit mining sites, and can result in acute and long-term poisoning in people;

Whereas the recent activities associated with illicit gold mining include cutting down rainforests and creating pools of stagnant water, which contribute to the spread of mosquitoes and insect-borne disease, inciting an epidemic of malaria in Venezuela at levels not seen in the past 75 years;

Whereas in May 2016, former President of Peru, Ollanta Humala, declared a 60-day emergency in the Madre de Dios region near Peru's southeastern border with Brazil in an attempt to curb high levels of mercury poisoning of residents due to the impacts of illicit gold mining;

Whereas, on February 24, 2016, the authoritarian government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela enacted a decree that announced a new legal framework for open mining under the name of ''Orinoco Mining Arc'' as a means to diversify the regime's cash flow, an action done without the approval of the democratically elected National Assembly, as required by Venezuela's Constitution;

Whereas the Orinoco Mining Arc decree can impact the mercury content in waters in southern Venezuela and devastate the unique ecosystems of the Amazon, including World Heritage Site Canaima National Park, which is the ancestral land of the Pemón indigenous people and where at least 59 mining sites have been detected;

Whereas corruption and the weak rule of law in Venezuela has allowed transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking organizations, insurgent groups, and other armed groups to control and financially benefit from illicit mining operations, many of which have exerted control over different parts of the Orinoco Mining Arc region and beyond, such as Yapacana National Park and the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve, home to indigenous communities of 17 ethnic groups, including the Yanomami and Ye'kuana tribes;

Whereas, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, more than 500,000 workers are involved in mining operations in Venezuela, of whom—

(1) approximately 45 percent are underage; and

(2) the majority are from indigenous communities who were coerced into working through threats of violence;

Whereas the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, in a September 2021 report, expressed concern that the flow of all the gold produced within Venezuela, which is estimated to total as much as 75 tons per year, with a market value of more than $4,400,000,000, has a high risk of contributing to serious human rights abuses, direct or indirect support for non-state armed groups, corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion;

Whereas Executive Order 13850, which was issued on November 1, 2018, sanctioned individuals involved in illicit gold operations that propped up the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro;

Whereas the United States signed Memorandums of Understanding with the governments of Peru and Colombia in 2017 and 2018, respectively, in an effort to combat illicit mining and minimize its negative impacts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses deep concern about the threat that illicit gold mining in Latin America poses for the security, stability, and environment of the region;

(2) recognizes the threat that illicit gold mining in Latin America poses for the national security of the United States;

(3) supports the rights of the rural and indigenous populations that have been deeply affected by illicit gold mining practices in the region;

(4) supports the efforts of the United States Government to expand bilateral cooperation with the governments of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to combat illicit gold mining;

(5) condemns the Maduro regime for directly and indirectly facilitating illicit mining of gold and other minerals in Venezuela;

(6) denounces the Maduro regime's involvement in illicit mining practices in the Amazonas and Bolívar states, which have led to human rights abuses, destruction of indigenous social fabric, deforestation, habitat loss, environmental degradation, and a rise in cases of malaria and other related diseases in Venezuela;

(7) calls for better regional and international coordination among government and industry actors to monitor and mitigate the environmental, human rights, and security risks posed by gold flows out of Venezuela; and

(8) encourages efforts to promote legal, regulated, and sustainable mining practices in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela after democratic order is restored.

SENATE RESOLUTION 392—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 392

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the fourth week in September 2021 is recognized as ''National Forensic Science Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the fourth week of September 2021 to be ''National Forensic Science Week'' by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS ''NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 393

Whereas approximately 296,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 17,900 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas nearly half of all spinal cord injuries to individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of a motor vehicle accident;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2021 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis and their families; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have a request for 7 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 Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 10 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 Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 392, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 392) recognizing and supporting the goals and Ideals of National Forensic Science Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 392) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 393, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 393) designating September 2021 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 393) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME EN BLOC—S. 2868, H.R. 3755, AND H.R. 5323

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2868) to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022.

A bill (H.R. 3755) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

A bill (H.R. 5323) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103—296, appoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Mr. Jagadeesh Gokhale of Pennsylvania.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 29; 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; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lewis nomination and that, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination; further, that upon disposition of the Lewis nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Anderson nomination; that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 2:30 p.m.; and that the cloture vote on the Meyer nomination occur immediately after the cloture vote on the Anderson nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed on Wednesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:52 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CLARE E. CONNORS, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KENJI M. PRICE, RESIGNED.

ZACHARY A. CUNHA, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE AARON L. WEISMAN, RESIGNED.

MICHAEL F. EASLEY, JR., OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT J. HIGDON, JR., RESIGNED.

COLE FINEGAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JASON R. DUNN, RESIGNED.

SANDRA J. HAIRSTON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MATTHEW G.T. MARTIN, RESIGNED.

NIKOLAS P. KEREST, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHRISTINA E. NOLAN, RESIGNED.

DENA J. KING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE R. ANDREW MURRAY, RESIGNED.

KENNETH L. PARKER, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID M. DEVILLERS, RESIGNED.

DELIA L. SMITH, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RONALD W. SHARPE, RESIGNED.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 27, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOUGLAS R. BUSH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE BRUCE D. JETTE.

CARRIE FRANCES RICCI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, VICE JAMES E. MCPHERSON, RESIGNED.

ASHISH S. VAZIRANI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE LAURA JUNOR, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SHANNON CORLESS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE ISABEL MARIE KEENAN PATELUNAS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9039:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RANDALL E. KITCHENS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

GLORIA A. EZE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

TRAVIS J. BURNS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOSEPH J. ENDREOLA

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRIAN P. MOORE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 28, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TODD D. ROBINSON, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS).

MONICA P. MEDINA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS.

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (AFRICAN AFFAIRS).

KAREN ERIKA DONFRIED, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 282 On Agreeing to the Amendment, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 282.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for one of last week's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 280.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD ''RICK'' COSYNS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard ''Rick'' Cosyns. Rick passed away on September 7, 2021 on a hunting trip, doing what he loved. Rick was a husband, father, son, and friend.

Rick was the son of Albert and Margaret Cosyns. He grew up on a family farm in Madera, California where he attended St. Joachim's school and Madera High School. In his youth, he was involved in various 4-H projects and loved all kinds of physical activity including football, and continued to enjoy skiing, competitive shooting, traveling, and hunting as much as he could throughout his life.

For college, Rick studied at California State University, Fresno where he received a degree in Plant Science. After graduating from Fresno State, he became very involved in the Plant Science industry and helped run his family farm with his brother, Allen. Rick has been a general partner in Cosyns Farms since 1977 and has had involvement in pistachios, alfalfa, almonds, and 12 varieties of wine grapes. He also operated a honeybee pollination service and consulted on farm management services.

In his spare time, he enjoyed spending time with his beloved wife Lynne and many friends. He enjoyed the outdoors and spending time in the orchards, vineyards and foothill ranch. He was the life of the party at any event he attended. Rick and his adored family and friends spent much of their time outdoors while camping, hunting, and fishing, but he also found great enjoyment in the small comforts of life such as a good glass of wine.

Not only was Rick a dedicated family man and husband for over 30 years, but he was always committed to the community of the Central Valley. He served as a director on the Madera Irrigation District, as a member of the Madera Planning Commission, as well as various other community organizations. In addition to his civil contributions, he also served as a supportive parish member of St. Joaquim's Catholic Church in Madera. Annually, Rick would help me at the fair, and he always made time to help his community.

Rick is survived by his wife Lynne; son Will; daughter Maggie; his sister Linda, and her husband Carlos Reynoso; his brother Allen, and his wife Susan Cosyns, and his large extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Richard ''Rick'' Cosyns. His service and contributions to the Central Valley and the State of California will be missed. I join his family and friends in celebrating Rick's life.

HONORING THE 75TH SEASON OF THE GENESEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Genesee Symphony Orchestra on its 75th consecutive season.

One of the oldest civic orchestras in New York State, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1947 as the Batavia Civic Orchestra, with a mission to enrich the local community with high-quality performances, educational opportunities, and guest artists. Under the leadership of its three founders, Mr. Norman Hall, Mr. Hugh Lawing, and Dr. Biagio Mansuetto, the orchestra performed its first concert at the Dipson Theatre in Batavia, New York on November 6, 1947. Under the direction of conductor Jan Wolanek, the concert was played to a sell-out crowd of 1,400 people. As the orchestra became more popular and its influence grew beyond the city of Batavia, in 1958 its management changed the orchestra's name to the Genesee Symphony Orchestra.

The Genesee Symphony Orchestra has been an important institution within the surrounding community since its founding, including in recent years. In addition to its annual concerts, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra holds an annual ''Young Artists Competition,'' allowing high school students to compete for the opportunity to perform with the orchestra. The orchestra also holds an annual ''Meet the Orchestra'' event and a ''String Workshop.''

The Genesee Symphony Orchestra is proud to have hosted a wide array of talented individuals during its 75-year history, including fifteen renowned conductors and hundreds of musicians. The orchestra has welcomed musical talent ranging from world-class artists and composers, to more locally known soloists.

I thank all musicians, conductors, and members of the Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to bringing arts, culture, and entertainment to Western New York, and I again congratulate the orchestra on its 75th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESCOTT CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the Prescott Chapter of the Arizona Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and to commemorate the chapter's 25th Anniversary.

Originally founded in 1997, the Prescott Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution have consistently honored the memory of our forefathers for over two decades. I deeply admire the chapter's unwavering commitment to our constitutional republic, our nation's rich history, and our deep-rooted founding principles.

On the 25th Anniversary of the chapter's formation, we have gathered to celebrate and recognize the chapter's civic-minded mission and achievements. I commend the previous and current members of the Prescott Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for their achievements and continued impact on the Prescott community.

HONORING JACK HAMLIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish Jack Hamlin, a lifetime resident of Springfield, MO, on his upcoming 100th Birthday.

Born October 15, 1921, Jack has seen his fair share of excitement. He was recruited to play minor league baseball for the New York Yankees when WWII broke out in Europe. As many young American men did, Jack enlisted in the military. At first attempting to join the Naval Air Corps, Jack was disqualified for having an enlarged heart, so he joined the Coast Guard. His service brought him to Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 as part of the D-Day invasion. Jack and his unit were tasked with rescuing survivors in the water during the invasion. Amid the German counter assault, Jack and his unit saved 70 men from the

water and brought them to a hospital ship. Jack also took part in the rescue of crewmembers from the SS *Leopoldville* on Christmas Eve 1944. On June 6, 1944 at Omaha Beach, Jack was the only one that shot down a German Focke-Wulf Fw 190. For his actions that day Jack was awarded the French Legion of Honor, their highest medal for Allied troops.

After the war, Jack returned to Springfield and enrolled at the University of Missouri. He went on to run a successful insurance business in Springfield, and even served one term in the Missouri House of Representatives from 1951 to 1952. He continued to play baseball for the Springfield Generals, which led to him meeting his wife of nearly 60 years. Throughout all of this, Jack has always supported and served his local community.

Madam Speaker, Jack Hamlin has lived a life of service to his community and his country, I wish him a happy 100th Birthday, and many more to come.

SEPTEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's September Veteran of the Month, Michael Coon.

Michael Coon served our country in the United States Army as a paratrooper. Coon comes from a family that takes pride in their Military service to the United States; both his father and his son faithfully served our country. This family's heart to help and protect others is commendable. Michael Coon continues to help and protect members of our veteran community.

Michael goes above and beyond to advocate for his fellow veterans. He is involved with Mission 22, a non-profit organization that support veterans suffering from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, suicide risk, and other challenges. Michael lost his own son to suicide after his service. Michael continues to raise awareness of veteran suicide and help others struggling. A silhouette of Michael's son will be included in ''The War at Home Memorial'' currently being built in Broken Arrow. This memorial will help bring awareness to the 22 veterans that are lost to suicide every day.

Michael is a veteran, advocate, and a father. He answered the call to defend freedom and continues to serve others in our community. It is my honor to recognize Michael Coon as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's September Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM OTIS FITCH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. William Otis Fitch who passed away on September 22, 2021. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. Fitch was born on August 1, 1933. He was raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi and graduated from Holly Springs High School in 1951. Bill was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and riding horses. After graduating high school, he enlisted with the U.S. Navy and joined the flight team. With this team he made lifelong friendships and considered it an honor to serve his country.

After his Naval service, Bill began his career in consumer finance and lending. He joined City Finance Corporation in Memphis as the Vice President. In 1974 Bill and his wife, Clydean, opened their own consumer lending company, First National Loans. He expanded the company throughout Tennessee. He sold the company and opened a new chain of consumer finance companies, Fidelity Loan Company. Over the course of his career he served as President and board member of the Mississippi Consumer Finance Association and Memphis Consumer Credit. He was a lifetime member of the shriners.

Preceding him in death are his wife, Clydean; mother, Lurline; father, Theodore; and brothers Robert, James, and Jerry. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Aleita; daughters Lynn and Lisa; six loving grandchildren, and three great-grandsons.

I am grateful for Mr. Fitch's service and join countless others in mourning his loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN R. LAWSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Robert Lawson. John passed away peacefully and surrounded by his friends and family on August 24, 2021. John was a father, son, grandfather, and friend.

John was the son of Jess and Jane (Lawson) Smith. He went to school in Fresno, California at Heaton Elementary, St. Joseph Military Academy, and Fresno High School. He came from humble beginnings and left his home at 13 years old. John worked throughout school by mowing lawns, delivering newspapers like the San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times, and worked at a gas station

After high school, John enlisted in the Army, and after returning from his discharge, he began growing his trucking company known as Lawson Rock & Oil. In order to start his business, he saved 30 percent of everything he made so that he could purchase a truck. From there, he was able to grow his company and it is now made up of hundreds of trucks and employees. His story is the perfect example of a self-made businessman and an inspiration to all who hear it.

As a family man and business owner, John never failed to give back to his community. John would speak on the importance of a high school diploma. He received his 60 years later and would tell high school students to always take advantage of the opportunities around them. His efforts included serving on the California Transportation Commission, appointed by Gov. Gray Davis. He also served on the Fresno County Planning Commission. In addition to these contributions, John helped sponsor The Lawson Beneto Classic golf tournament that focused on benefitting children with Autism. Along with many other charitable community donations, he helped fundraiser for Terry's House at Community Regional Medical Center.

In his free time, John enjoyed racing, riding motorcycles, and collecting and restoring hot rods. He enjoyed restoring hot rods and restoring cars so much, he would share that passion with his friends. His love for cars took him all over the United States and Canada by attending different car shows. He collaborated with driver, Billy Boat in the 1990's and they set records for main event victories like the 1997 Chili Bowl nationals. Throughout this time, he had one of the largest collections of 1932 Fords.

John was survived by his loving wife Gina Lawson; his son JR and wife Suzanne, son Jonathan and wife Ashley, son Christopher Parrino; and daughter Patty Lawson. He had many grandchildren, his sister Terri Rea, and husband Scott, and friends missing him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of John Robert Lawson. His service and contributions to the Central Valley and the State of California will be missed. I join his family and friends in celebrating John's life.

CSA LINCOLN ELEMENTARY 2021 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbus Signature Academy's Lincoln Elementary School on being named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2021.

Known for its high academic success and loved for the family environment that both students and parents receive when they join this close-knit community—CSA Lincoln Elementary School is a vital foundation of our Columbus community.

CSA's Lincoln Elementary is recognized by the United States Department of Education for its overall academic excellence for their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups, demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

Congratulations to Principal Brett Findley, students, teachers, parents, and faculty who have been an integral part of securing this fine honor.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM ACT OF 2021 AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, small businesses play a crucial role in our national security and it is imperative that we do everything in our power to strengthen their ability to

compete for government contracts. That is why I introduced the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021, which authorizes a business mentor-protégé program within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This bill pursues two critical goals: strengthening and helping small businesses, the backbone of our economy, and bolstering DHS, which has the critical responsibility to keep Americans safe. The legislation will give a hand up to minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned small businesses, making them more competitive for DHS contracts, and therefore, more likely to be successful, offering jobs and returning dollars to their communities. This pandemic has only reinforced the significant role that small businesses play. A broader, more diverse pool of DHS contractors saves taxpayer dollars, creates a stronger economy and most critically, helps keep our country safe. The Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021 has been included in the House version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as an amendment and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this vital piece of legislation remains in the final NDAA.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAYOR HARVEY C. SKOOG

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey C. Skoog. Harvey selflessly served his community as Prescott Valley Mayor for a total of 19 years, excluding the additional years he spent serving as a council member and vice mayor. Harvey maintained a consistent leading record in his local community through his involvement with the Arizona Society of Practicing Accountants, Arizona Association of Enrolled Agents, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Chamber of Commerce, League of Cities and Towns, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and Central Arizona Senior Association, to name a few. Harvey's accomplishments are widely recognized in the state as he was honored as a co-recipient of the 2015 Prescott Area Leadership Man of the Year award. He was also passionate about expanding home ownership, religious freedom, and educational opportunities for the youth.

However, Harvey's contributions reach further than his professional, service, and leadership roles. After marrying Edna in 1960, Harvey raised 9 successful children who have raised 59 grandchildren and 63 great grandchildren. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my deepest condolences to Harvey's entire family. His contributions will never be forgotten by the state of Arizona or the people of Prescott Valley.

HONORING DR. EMILY VOLK, PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Emily Volk, Chief Medical Officer at Baptist Health Floyd, for being sworn in as President of the College of American Pathologists this past Saturday.

Dr. Volk has dedicated over 25 years of her life to working in the health care system and serving patients. Her outstanding record of clinical practice and operational leadership led her to the position she now holds with the College of American Pathologists, and she will no doubt exude the utmost competence while holding the position.

Throughout her career, Dr. Volk has championed physician and patient advocacy. I can personally attest to Dr. Volk's passion for advocacy during our interactions both at Baptist Health Floyd and with the College of American Pathologists.

I have full confidence that Dr. Volk will carry this new title with pride and lead by exceptional example. I wish her the best of luck in this new role.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VICKY RUSSELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vicky Russell who passed away September 19 at North Mississippi Medical Center. She was 61 years old.

Vicky was born on May 20, 1960 to Raymond and Donna Gaines Yeager. She has lived all her life in Saltillo. She attended Saltillo schools and managed the B-Quick. For 13 years she worked at Hunter Sadler Mfg. before pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer. She served under Lee County Sheriff Harold Ray Presley and the Sheriff Larry Presley. 15 years ago she joined the Itawamba County Sherriff's Department. She had risen to the rank of Major and served as a Jail Administrator.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved daughter, Jessica; grandchildren, Carson, Maisy, Delaney and Dylan; mother, Donna; sister, Patty; and countless friends, colleagues, and loved ones.

I join the Saltillo community in mourning the loss of an outstanding woman and member of the law enforcement community.

HONORING 13 FALLEN SOLDIERS

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize 13 United States service members who sacrificed their lives in defense of our country during the United States evacuation from Afghanistan. In the final days of the evacuation, the U.S. and our allies evacuated more than 120,000 people to safety—the largest airlift in our history. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, 13 heroes lost their lives in service of this mission outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring these brave individuals: Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Staff Sergeant Darin T. Hoover, Corporal Hunter Lopez, Corporal Daegan W. Page, Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss. We are grateful for their service.

HONORING ERIC JAY LARSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in celebration of the life of Eric Jay Larson, who passed away at the age of 56 on August 17, 2021. Eric was a stalwart environmental scientist and advocate who worked for years with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies to conserve vital and sensitive natural habitats on the Northern California coast.

Eric was born in San Francisco on March 17, 1965. He graduated from Redwood High School and attended college in Minnesota and California. Eric worked for the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission managing and regulating sediment in the estuary. As Environmental Program Manager for the State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eric protected and restored wetlands, riparian corridors, marine preserves, coastlines and opens spaces. He also worked to acquire wildlife green belts and managed fisheries. He was nationally recognized by Vice President Al Gore for the best managed fishery in the United States. This expertise allowed him to advise Southeast Asian governments on river and wetland restoration efforts.

Eric was a founding member of the Peace in Medicine cannabis dispensary—the first non-profit and permitted dispensary in Sebastopol. Along with his partner of 30 years, Mitcho Thompson, Eric owned a small certified medicinal herb farm in Sebastopol.

Eric was respected by many and known for his "hands on" approach to science and enjoyment for educating others. His dedication and passion has left the region, state and world with long lasting benefits and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues, friend and family. Madam Speaker, we respectfully ask that you join us in extending condolences to Eric's family and many friends and in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of contributions to the environment.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT GENESEO

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State University of New York College at Geneseo on its 150th anniversary.

Founded in 1871, SUNY Geneseo is a liberal arts college located in the historic Village of Geneseo, New York. SUNY Geneseo has a rich history, and I am honored to represent it in Congress.

On September 13, 1871, the Geneseo Normal and Training School opened its doors with 71 certificate-seeking students. The following year, the first commencement was held with a graduating class of ten students. Later renamed SUNY Geneseo, today the school has more than 4,000 students, fifty undergraduate degree programs, and twenty-six interdisciplinary minors. SUNY Geneseo has grown exponentially over its 150-year history, while maintaining its strong commitment to quality education.

Despite the challenges of the past year, SUNY Geneseo has continued to deliver a high-quality education. This success is demonstrated by SUNY Geneseo' s designation as a ''Top Producer of U.S. Student Fulbright Awards,'' as well as the university's U.S. News and World Report ranking of third for ''Top Public Regional Universities'' in the Northern United States. Each of these designations reflect the hard work of the students and faculty at SUNY Geneseo, who have grown the school into an outstanding institution over the past 150 years.

SUNY Geneseo is known not only for its academics, but also for its history and traditions. An iconic feature of Geneseo is the Seuss Spruce found in the Sturges Quad. The tree's shape resembles a Dr. Seuss illustration, likely developing its shape from an ice storm. The Sturges Quad also holds the ''Greek tree,'' a tree painted by students from different Greek organizations during the night. This tradition began in the 1960s, yet thousands of layers of paint later, the tree grows taller each year. Geneseo is also known for its remarkable sunsets, especially those that can be seen from the campus Gazebo overlooking the Genesee Valley.

I thank SUNY Geneseo for its commitment to preserving and promoting 150 years of education, and I again congratulate Geneseo on its 150th anniversary.

TRINIDAD ''TRINI'' GARZA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Trini Garza Early College High School for becoming a 2021 National Blue Ribbon Awardee.

Trini Garza Early College High School is a public school located in the southwest quadrant of the Dallas Independent School District, the second largest urban school district in Texas. The school opened in 2006 and works in collaboration with Mountain View College to provide a partnership that ensures the goal of college success is attained. Garza ECHS students attend both high school and on-site college classes in order to graduate with their high school diploma and associate degree. Most of the students are the first in their family to attend college in an area where about only 10 percent of the population has a college degree.

The high school's namesake is well-known Dallas civic leader and businessman, Trinidad ''Trini'' Garza. Mr. Garza is known as an advocate for progress for the Hispanic community as early as 1969 when he helped organize the city's first Mexican American Leadership Conference. Mr. Garza has also been a strong advocate and supporter of education. Elected as the first Hispanic member of the board of trustees in 1969, Mr. Garza was then appointed Deputy Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Education in President Clinton's Administration. Throughout his life, Mr. Garza has served his community through involvement in numerous civic organizations. In 2010, the Early College High School at Mountain View College was named after Mr. Garza.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes hundreds of public and private schools across the country for their commitment to educational excellence and their ability to overcome outstanding odds to properly educate their students. These schools receive the National Blue Ribbon of Distinction, an award reserved for schools that boast students who meet and maintain high educational goals. The Blue Ribbon Award celebrates the idea that all students, regardless of background, ability or location, deserve an excellent education.

The culture of Trini Garza Early College High School provides a place where students, parents, and faculty become life-long learners. There is no punishment for taking risks, no systemic anxiety about failure. Students are encouraged to advocate for their own learning, and teachers tailor student experiences based on individualized needs so that all are successful in whatever endeavor they choose.

Trini Garza Early College High School's commitment to excellence has exceeded expectations on the state accountability systems attaining ALL seven distinctions listed in Academic Achievement: Reading/Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; Top 25 percent Student Progress; Top 25 percent Closing Performance Gaps; and Post-secondary Readiness. The philosophy ''All Children Can Learn'' is ingrained in every aspect of this school. It is an honor to celebrate them for this historic achievement and their lifelong impact on the Dallas community.

PASTOR TOMMY SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Tommy Smith, the Pastor of the First Church of God in Christ in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Pastor Smith has been in ministry at the same location for over fifty years. He began his ministry as a musician for the church before progressing to a Sunday school teacher and assistant pastor. Pastor Smith is now the District Superintendent of Congregation in Sulphur Springs, Bonham, Commerce, Talco, and Mt. Pleasant areas. He is also the Chief Financial Officer of the Texas Northeast 3rd Jurisdiction of Churches of God in Christ.

In 2020, Dr. Smith received his Doctor of Theology from Newburgh Theological Institute after battling with cancer. He also attended advanced courses from the Dallas Theological Seminary. In addition, Pastor Smith worked for the Marketplace Ministries in Mt. Pleasant as a chaplain, Titus Regional Medical Center as chaplain, and Mt. Pleasant Police Department as a ride along chaplain. He continues to set excellent examples to others in ministry as a Dean of Ordination for newly licensed ministers in the Great State of Texas. Pastor Smith loves the Lord and will continue this ministry until the Lord calls; ''Well done thy good and faithful servant.''

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Pastor Smith's devotion to God, Country, and his congregation. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal commendations to Pastor Smith for all he has done in service of the 4th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING MRS. SALLY TANNER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Mrs. Sally Tanner in celebration of her extraordinary life and commitment to serving her community.

Marcella ''Sally'' Tanner was born in East Chicago, Indiana, the youngest of eight children born to Anton and Mary Zinski. She spent her childhood in Indiana, where she became politically engaged and active in her community. It was during this time that she planned her first political demonstration. After Sally graduated high school, she moved with her parents to Southern California, where she attended Pasadena Community College and the Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles. Shortly after finishing school, World War II began, and Sally decided to become a riveter to serve her country. After the war, Sally had her two sons, Christopher and Timothy, and began working as an administrative assistant for Assemblyman Harvey Johnson. Upon Assemblyman Johnson's retirement in 1979, she decided to run for his seat in the California State Assembly. She won the race and served as the Assemblywoman of CA–60 for 14 years.

It is evident through Sally's impactful career that she truly touched the lives of all those who knew her. Some of her many achievements in the California Assembly include becoming the first Chair for the Clean Air Clean Water committee, the Toxic Waste committee, and establishing the California Consumers Board. She wrote many influential bills, including the Lemon Law, which has helped thousands of California consumers of failing vehicles seek retribution. Sally was a fierce advocate for women and marginalized communities

and was a founder of the California Legislative Women's Caucus in 1985. That same year, she was appointed to Governor Deukmejian's waste, energy, and technology task force, where she was instrumental in composing a state waste management plan. Later in her career, Sally met Whittier's Superior Court Judge Patricia Hofstetter, who became her life partner. As a testament to her extensive service, Sally was named the First Assembly District's Woman of the Year. In addition, she has had one park and two streets named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Sally Tanner is truly an exemplary civil servant. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY PARAGARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Randy Paragary. Randy passed away surrounded by his loving family on August 14, 2021 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Randy was a husband, father, son, and friend to many.

After graduating from C.K. McClatchy High School, he attended California State University, Sacramento and the McGeorge School of Law. Randy received his degree in law, but he decided to put his dedication into his career to entrepreneurship. The risk paid off. At the young age of 23, he opened his first bar called the ParaPow Palace in 1969. He started his growth with food, nightlife, and restaurants. The Paragary Restaurant Group owned and operated establishments in Sacramento, California such as Centro Cocina Mexicana, R15, Café Bernardo, and Paragary's Midtown. One of his recent joys was the Fort Sutter Hotel in 2020.

Randy was a family man who dearly loved his children Lisa and Sam, but he was also a hardworking businessman. He worked alongside his wonderful wife, Stacy for nearly the entire 28 years they were married. His personality was witty yet collected. He never failed to make himself and others laugh in social settings. A mentor to many, his leadership, decision-making skills, and creative mind was admired by many. A family man, he and his now 93-year-old mother and daughter would have Sunday brunch together every week up until his passing.

His delightful personality was part of what made him so successful in life, as he was always curious about others, and jumped at any opportunity to get to know a new guest at his restaurant. His business ventures were inspiring to the entire community of Sacramento, and he truly left a mark on the restaurant scene there.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Randy Paragary. His service and contributions to the State of California will not be forgotten and he will be missed. I join his family and friends in celebrating Randy's life.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ANDREW CARTER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Andrew Carter who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He is a member of the greatest generation, and I am very proud to have men like Mr. Carter representing the state of Mississippi.

Mr. Carter is a native of Tippah county. He joined the U.S. Navy on May 17, 1944. He loves to tell stories of his time aboard the SS *Felipe De Nerve*, a French liner used to transport troops and supplies during heavy fighting. He survived and returned home to Mississippi. In December of 1946, Mr. Carter married Naomi Street. The couple had six children together.

Mr. Carter currently resides in Ripley. He enjoys trips to the local coffee shop to spend time with his friends, mowing the lawn, and exercising. He is a natural storyteller and has no shortage of experience.

I am so thankful for Mr. Carter's lifetime of service to this country and the state of Mississippi. I wish him many more years of good health and happiness.

HONORING GEORGE KOSTYLOV

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize George Kostylov, the Principal of Kiev School No. 155 for his partnership with Phineas Anderson, head of Green Fields Country Day School in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Kostylov and Mr. Anderson started the first exchange program of sixth through twelfth-grade students between Green Fields Country Day School and the Kiev School No. 155 in 1988. Through this exchange program, Mr. Kostylov helped to better relationships between the United States and the Soviet Union during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating Mr. Kostylov's leadership to further world peace between our two nations through an influential student exchange program.

IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of patients across the United States and around the world who rely upon medicines made from donated plasma. October 4–8 is International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW) and this year, 2021, has seen a continuation of the urgent need for more plasma donations during this difficult pandemic so that patients with rare diseases can be assured of receiving their treatments. This week, patients, plasma donors, and plasma collection centers will join together to observe IPAW via a range of events seeking to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create life-saving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, hereditary angioedema, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies. Nearly 125,000 people in the U.S. who live with these rare diseases, as well as countless others facing trauma and emergency medical needs every day, rely on plasma protein therapies that are only available because of the commitment of dedicated plasma donors.

Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of men, women, and children in every community across the country. Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies, and there are now almost 1,000 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL GARY L. THOMAS

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor General Gary L. Thomas, United States Marine Corps, for the life of service he and his family have performed to our great nation. The theme of his distinguished career is one of achievement with highest honors throughout his 37 years in service to the United States of America.

General Thomas was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1984 after graduating from the University of Texas-Austin. In his 37 years as a Marine, General Thomas deployed in support of military operations in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Notably, his bravery and skillful command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom ensured the success of follow-on combat operations in the skies and on the ground. Additionally, his masterful leadership in combat while in command of Second Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Afghanistan enabled coalition air forces to effectively provide fires, transport, and reconnaissance to

ground forces. In various higher headquarters staff positions, including his time as the Marine Corps' Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, General Thomas had a lasting impact on the Nation's military readiness, enhancing our preparedness to face challenges around the globe. We are all safer due to his diligence and faithful dedication to duty.

General Thomas' final tour in the Marine Corps is as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. During a tremendously challenging period for the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and the Nation as a whole, General Thomas provided guidance and leadership with exceptional skill and drive. His broad knowledge base and expertise, his ability to foresee the impact of policy changes on the current readiness and future health of the Marine Corps, and his camaraderie and goodwill with senior leadership throughout the Department of Defense and U.S. Congress proved to be supremely valuable in his role as the Service Vice Chief. His sound judgment and recommendations reached the highest levels of leadership in the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. Government. General Thomas' steady leadership during these challenging times is just one more example of the type of Marine that he is—one of our very best.

Over his years of faithful service, General Thomas has earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star, among other awards.

General Thomas has served our Nation for 37 years and will retire on October 15, 2021. His extraordinary professionalism has had a profound and lasting influence on generations of Marines and our entire institution. His leadership and mastery of the art and science of the profession of arms are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize not only General Thomas, but his entire family for their incredible service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great Nation. Their sacrifice and dedication is truly remarkable, and a testament to the caliber of patriots our country produces. I wish him and his beloved wife, Catherine, all the best as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. God bless the Thomases, God bless the United States of America, and Semper Fidelis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 296.

DEPUTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2021 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deputy Elementary School on being named a National Blue Ribbon school for 2021.

Deputy Elementary School has worked to create a challenging, safe, and rewarding environment for all students. They provide superior educational and developmental opportunities for students while having a positive impact on our surrounding community.

Deputy Elementary School is recognized by the United States Department of Education for its overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups, demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

Congratulations to Principal Janet McCreary, students, parents and faculty on being an integral part of securing this fine honor.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN CLAYTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Carolyn Clayton who passed away Saturday, September 11 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in New Albany. I join her family, friends, and loved ones in mourning her loss.

Carolyn was born on February 14, 1941 to Marlin and Maggie Curtis Evans. She worked at the Lee County Chancery Clerk's Office. She found joy in attending yard sales, gardening, and spending time with family.

Carolyn was the founder of the nonprofit organization, Survival Incorporated. The organization works to advocate for the victims of violent crimes across the state of Mississippi. She was awarded Victims Advocate of the Year.

Carolyn was married for 58 years to her husband, Joe, who passed away two months prior. Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Brad and Rob; grandchildren, Nikki, Kattie, Jack and Carson.

I am grateful for Mrs. Clayton's lifetime of service to the state of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF HASSAN JABER'S OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ACCESS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hassan Jaber on the occasion of his retirement from The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) after over 40 years of service to the organization. His contributions to the Arab American community in Michigan and across the country are significant and deserve to be recognized.

Mr. Jaber was born in Lebanon and immigrated to the United States in 1977. He attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He worked at ACCESS for several years in various roles before ultimately serving as CEO and President. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Jaber has sought to address the challenges facing Arab Americans. He has done this through collaborating with national foundations, think tanks, policy, civil rights, and advocacy organizations. A testament to his devotion to his heritage despite his busy schedule, he still found time to teach Arabic Language & Culture to students at the University of Michigan—Dearborn.

Based in Dearborn, Michigan—the heart of the Arab American community in the United States—ACCESS is a nonprofit that honors Arab American heritage through community-building and service. They provide medical, public health, mental health, and other support services through their Community Health and Research Center. ACCESS also aids with employment services, citizenship preparation courses, youth programs, and philanthropy related to Arab American culture and community giving. The programs that they provide help so many of our neighbors each day and truly change the lives of the people they serve. Under Mr. Jaber's leadership ACCESS has grown from simple beginnings as a group of volunteers seeking to help the Arab immigrant population adapt to American life to a vast support system for Arab Americans from all walks of life. With Mr. Jaber at the helm, they opened the very first Arab American Museum in the nation.

Those who know him know Mr. Jaber's integrity, empathy, and his endless quest for equity and justice. From my days serving on the Board at ACCESS I have personally experienced his compassion and wisdom and know how much he cares for the people of his community. He is a proud American, someone who is patriotic and is unafraid to show it. In his next role he will be as a consultant for ACCESS, focusing on national policy and advocacy and cultivating the next generation of Arab American leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hassan Jaber for four decades of service with ACCESS. His outstanding commitment to the Arab American community here in Dearborn and beyond has made all the difference. I join with Hassan's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in his next role. His positive impact will be felt for years to come and we are beyond grateful for his leadership.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6711–S6747

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2866–2881, and S. Res. 388–393. **Pages S6740–41**

Measures Passed:

National Forensic Science Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 392, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week. **Page S6746**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 393, designating September 2021 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month". **Page S6746**

Appointments:

Social Security Advisory Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, appointed the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Jagadeesh Gokhale of Pennsylvania. **Page S6746**

Lewis Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs). **Page S6734**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 29, 2021; that at 10:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that upon disposition of the of the nomination, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior; that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Monday, September 27, 2021, ripen at 2:30 p.m.; and that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, occur immediately after the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert T. Anderson. **Page S6746**

Chopra Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. **Page S6734**

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 on Thursday, September 30, 2021. **Page S6734**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6734**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6734**

Stone-Manning Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management. **Pages S6734–35**

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 Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. **Pages S6734–35**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6734**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6734**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 73 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 386), Karen Erika Donfried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs and Eurasian Affairs). **Pages S6717–18**

By 61 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 387), Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. **Page S6723**

By 67 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 388), Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs). **Page S6728**

By 53 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 389), Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). **Page S6734**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Clare E. Connors, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

Zachary A. Cunha, of Rhode Island, to be United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island for the term of four years.

Michael F. Easley, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Cole Finegan, of Colorado, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of four years.

Sandra J. Hairston, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Nikolas P. Kerest, of Vermont, to be United States Attorney for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

Dena J. King, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Kenneth L. Parker, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Delia L. Smith, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years. **Page S6746**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S6737, S6746**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6737–38**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S6738–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6741–43**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6743**

Additional Statements: **Page S6737**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6745**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total–389) **Pages S6717–18, S6723, S6728, S6734**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:52 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6746.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future counterterrorism operations, after receiving testimony from Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary, General Mark A. Milley, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC, Commander, United States Central Command, all of the Department of Defense.

CARES ACT OVERSIGHT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine CARES Act oversight of the Treasury and Federal Reserve, focusing on supporting an equitable pandemic recovery, after receiving testimony from Janet L. Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury; and Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

LAWS WITHIN FERC JURISDICTION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the administration of laws under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Richard Glick, Chairman, and Mark C. Christie, Allison Clements, and James P. Danly, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jeffry Lane Flake, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, who were both introduced by Senator Coons, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Cindy Hensley McCain, of Arizona, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, who was introduced by Senator Graham, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

REPLACING LEGACY IT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine existing resources and innovations needed to replace legacy IT and save taxpayer dollars, after receiving testimony from Clare Martorana, Federal Chief Information Officer, and Mina Hsiang, Administrator, United States Digital Service, both of the Office of Management and Budget; and Dave Zvenyach, Director, Technology Transformation Services, Deputy Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service, General Services Administration.

TOXIC CONSERVATORSHIPS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine toxic conservatorships, focusing on the need for reform, after receiving testimony from Clarissa C. Kripke, University of California Office of Developmental Primary Care, and Zoe Brennan-Krohn, American Civil Liberties Union, both of San Francisco, California; David Slayton, Court Consulting Services, Bellevue, Texas, on behalf of the National Center for State Courts; Morgan K. Whitlatch, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, Washington, D.C.; and Nicholas Clouse, Huntington, Indiana.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 5390–5407; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 59; and H. Res. 686–687, were introduced. **Pages H5505–06**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H5507**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Al Green (H. Rept. 117–131); and Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (H. Rept. 117–132). **Page H5505**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Stanton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5465**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Pages H5471–72**

Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act: The House considered the Senate amendment to H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Consideration is expected to resume Thursday, September 30th. **Pages H5473–77**

H. Res. 601, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) and consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3684) and providing for the adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 14) was agreed to Tuesday, August 24th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act of 2021: H.R. 1693, amended, to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 361 yeas to 66 nays, Roll No. 297; **Pages H5477–81, H5492–93**

Amending the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: H.R. 4981, to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 14 nays, Roll No. 298; **Pages H5481–82, H5493**

War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act: H.R. 4250, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 299; **Pages H5482–83, H5494**

Libya Stabilization Act: H.R. 1228, amended, to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas to 35 nays, Roll No. 300; and **Pages H5483–89 H5494–95**

Cambodia Democracy Act of 2021: H.R. 4686, amended, to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, by a ¾ yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 17 nays, Roll No. 301. **Pages H5490–92, H5495–96**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, July 26th.

Consider Teachers Act of 2021: S. 848, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 302; **Page H5496**

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act: H.R. 1154, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 391 yeas to 36 nays, Roll No. 303; and **Pages H5496–97**

Performance Enhancement Reform Act: H.R. 2617, amended, to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 10 nays, Roll No. 304. **Pages H5497–98**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H5473.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5492–93, H5493, H5494, H5494–95, H5495–96, H5496, H5496–97, and H5497–98.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE: SUCCESSFUL MODELS FOR PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM COVID–19

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services; and Subcommittee on Health, Labor, Employment, and Pensions held a joint hearing entitled ''How to Save a Life: Successful Models for Protecting Communities from COVID–19''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ACCESS DENIED: ELIMINATING BARRIERS AND INCREASING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held a hearing entitled ''Access Denied: Eliminating Barriers and Increasing Economic Opportunity for Justice-Involved Individuals''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STRENGTHENING U.S. TIES WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled ''Strengthening U.S. Ties with Southeast Asia''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights; and Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a joint hearing entitled ''Understanding Conflict in Africa''. Testimony was heard from Michael C. Gonzales, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; and Robert Jenkins, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization, U.S. Agency for International Development.

REVIVING COMPETITION, PART 4: 21ST CENTURY ANTITRUST REFORMS AND THE AMERICAN WORKER

Committee on The Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled ''Reviving Competition, Part 4: 21st Century Antitrust Reforms and the American Worker''. Testimony was heard from Christine S. Wilson, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; and public witnesses.

THE DISINFORMATION BLACK BOX: RESEARCHING SOCIAL MEDIA DATA

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled ''The Disinformation Black Box: Researching Social Media Data''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE ROLE OF FERRIES IN IMPROVING MOBILITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Role of Ferries in Improving Mobility''. Testimony was heard from Patty Rubstello, Assistant Secretary for Ferries, Washington State Department of Transportation; Kyle Godar, County Engineer, Calhoun County Highway Department, Illinois; Seamus Murphy, Executive Director, San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority; and a public witness.

THE INTERCONNECTED ECONOMY: THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON US ECONOMIC DISPARITY

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Interconnected Economy: The Effects of Globalization on US Economic Disparity''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine protecting consumer privacy, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on Administration efforts regarding energy security, including Nord Stream 2, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and C.B. Sullenberger III, of Texas, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Ireland, Kent Doyle Logsdon, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Sharon L. Cromer, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, and Howard A. Van Vranken, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 2 p.m., VTC.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the threat of worsening natural disasters, 10 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine Texas's abortion law, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled ''The 2021 Wildland Fire Year: Responding to and Mitigating Threats to Communities'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ending the U.S. Military Mission in Afghanistan'', 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Back to School: Highlighting Best Practices for Safely Reopening School'', 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Protecting Communities from Industrial Accidents: Revitalizing the Chemical Safety Board'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled ''The Future of Banking: How Consolidation, Nonbank Competition, and Technology are Reshaping the Banking System'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''20 Years After 9/11: The State of the Transportation Security Administration'', 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5374, the ''SHOP SAFE Act''; H.R. 2883, the ''Stop Stalling Access to Affordable Medications''; H.R. 2891, the ''Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act''; H.R. 2873, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2021''; H.R. 2884, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act''; H.R. 3617, the ''MORE Act of 2021''; H.R. 2116, the ''CROWN Act of 2021''; H.R. 187, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez; H.R. 680, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar; H.R. 681, for the relief of Rebecca Trimble; H.R. 739, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah; H.R. 785, for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled ''Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration's Counterterrorism Strategy'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled ''Upgrading Public Health Infrastructure: The Need to Protect, Rebuild, and Strengthen State and Local Public Health Departments'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on S. 1301, the ''Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act'' [Temporary Extension of Public Debt Limit], 10 a.m., H–313 Capitol and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Members' Day Hearing: House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Development, hearing entitled ''Sustainable Forestry's Role in Climate Solutions'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 29

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 10:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Jessica Lewis, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 2:30 p.m.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security. Additional roll call votes are expected during Wednesday's session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 29

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Arrington, Jodey C., Tex., E1035
Costa, Jim, Calif., E1035, E1036, E1039
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1040
Fallon, Pat, Tex., E1038
Gosar, Paul A., Ariz., E1035, E1037
Gottheimer, Josh, N.J., E1035
Hern, Kevin, Okla., E1036
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