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No. 39

House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, You who dwell in Your high and holy place, high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, hear the prayers of those who reside in the torment of these times.

In these harrowing days when nations rage and war threatens to upend this fragile world, we call to You with humble hearts that You would speak into our conflicts and bring order to our chaos.

May this be a time for our self-reflection.

How have we played a part in the instability of the world's order? Call us to account for any careless stewardship of our influence.

How have we failed to prevent bloodshed and destruction? Take us to task for any indifference we may have shown to the growing unrest around us.

Repay the contrariness of our faithfulness with the comfort of Your constant care. In Your great mercy, heal our world. Lead those who call upon You out of harm's way.

Revive the spirit of the humble, those whose courage grows faint, whose souls languish in the midst of violence and oppression, and grant us Your peace.

We call upon Your sovereign name.
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 California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, no amount of warnings from the Biden administration and our intelligence could have prepared us for the sheer brutality and devastation we have seen from Mr. Putin, who expected a quick toppling of Ukraine's young democracy. He was wrong.

We have watched in awe the resilience and heroism of the Ukrainians led by President Zelensky. But their bravery alone is not enough. We must meet their bravery with global support.

This is a war and a humanitarian crisis—families, children, forced to leave their homes in the carnage of war. The number of refugees fleeing Ukraine has already exceeded 1 million, and it is estimated that it will go as high as 5 million. But death, destruction, and displacement must not be forever.

Madam Speaker, I thank President Biden and his administration for their steadfast leadership in the West's support of Ukraine. Alongside the President, this Congress must continue to provide necessary weapons, medicines, food, fuel, and refuge.

Ukrainians worldwide, please know: We are here for you. You are welcome here.

God bless America. God bless Ukraine.

CLEARING BACKLOGGED VETERAN REQUESTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, since November 2020, our team has pressured the National Personnel Records Center, the agency responsible for processing veterans' service records, to return to full staffing levels and expedite the requests of veterans, who in some cases have waited over a year for access to their benefits.

Most recently, the NPRC was operating at 25 percent capacity due to the pandemic, but it said it would fully reopen this month. However, the agency offered no plan on how it will tackle a backlog that has now grown to 600,000 records requests. That is 100,000 more added since June 2021.

The lack of transparency at the NPRC has made it clear that we must pass legislation, like the RECORDS Act, to direct the NPRC to fully reopen and report to Congress on its efforts to clear out the backlog of records requests.

Our veterans did not hesitate to sacrifice for America, and we must not hesitate in our duty to ensure they have a responsive government that is attentive to their needs.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we heard at the State of the

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

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



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Union address, President Biden's first year delivered a record-breaking number of new jobs. In total, 6.7 million new jobs were created for hardworking Americans.

America also saw the largest calendar-year decrease in unemployment in the Nation's history, paired with record-breaking GDP growth.

But America's economic prosperity is only one side of the equation. America's public health has also been strengthened during Biden's first year.

Vaccination rates have tremendously risen from 15 percent to a whopping 65 percent in 1 year for full vaccination. That is more than 215 million fully vaccinated Americans—again, a record. In addition, 70 million households also received free COVID tests, and those numbers will only rise.

While these are tremendous accomplishments, I can't say I am too surprised. You see, we have a strong leader in the White House and the backing of the American people. As President Biden said on Tuesday, never bet against the American people.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have met with many police officers who serve communities in Texas' 25th District, and I continue to be inspired by their acts of bravery and dedication to protecting others.

Now, we are facing a time where there has been a tragic increase in police officers being targeted and killed while on the job as violent crime skyrockets across America.

Last year alone, 346 officers were shot in the line of duty, the highest in 20 years. One of Texas 25th's own, Hill County Constable Kevin Cordell, was shot multiple times while on a high-speed car chase. One bullet went through the windshield of his vehicle, struck him in the head, and exited through his neck. By God's grace, he survived the shooting and recovered after surgery.

Liberal activists who care more about political agendas than public safety are making our cities unsafe. Last year, Austin, Texas, submitted to the radical left's antipolice hatred and cut \$150 million from their police budget. This budget cut put Texas families and residents at greater risk for longer emergency response times and paves the way for lawlessness to run wild in the city.

HONORING REGINA JACKSON

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ms. Regina Jackson, a phenomenal leader and constituent and

a very good friend, after over 27 years of service as president and CEO of the East Oakland Youth Development Center.

Ms. Jackson's involvement with EOYDC began in 1984 when, as a graduate of the Coro Fellowship graduate program in public affairs, she was invited to serve on the board of directors. Ms. Jackson has made it her mission to invest in our children and has dedicated herself to this work.

A key part of her mission at EOYDC has been inspiring our youth to perform at high levels by providing a safe, nurturing environment where young people could grow and thrive.

In addition, her contributions to our community are magnificent. She is a global thought leader for youth development. The International Diplomacy Council has sought her expertise to counsel agencies across the world. Recently, with the support of my office and local East Bay organizations, Ms. Jackson led two delegations of students to China for a cross-cultural exchange.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I commend Ms. Jackson for her tireless service and dedication and wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

PURSUE ENERGY, NOT POLITICAL AGENDAS

(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, this country faces an energy crisis of all types: fuel, gas, electricity. But what is the issue we are pursuing? It seems to be all about this little sliver right here on this chart: carbon dioxide.

Most people are surprised when told 0.04 percent composes the carbon dioxide part of our atmosphere. You see 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, trace gases. I had to break this out of trace gases so you can see it on the chart.

Yet, in my home State of California—where we had CO₂-free power plants, two nuclear plants; the second one will be gone in 3 years—they want to remove hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in my district that make zero CO₂.

So, is this really about CO₂, or is it about some other political agenda? Because in my district, when the wind blows, they have to shut the power off because the trees the Forest Service are not managing might blow into the power lines coming from a hydroelectric dam.

I do not understand what the energy policy of this country is because I don't think there is one anymore. We need to get back to doing what we do well and not pursue this fruitless agenda.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND JORDAN, JR.

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late State Representative Raymond Jordan, Jr.

Representative Jordan was a good man, a trailblazing man, and a friend and mentor to many. A resident of Springfield and a product of Springfield Public Schools, he went on to become the first African American elected to the Massachusetts State House.

Over the course of his career, he chaired the powerful Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on Housing and Urban Development. His indefatigable commitment to equity and justice earned him the enduring yet fitting nickname of "Barracuda."

His impact in his local community and in Massachusetts' history and politics is indelible and enduring—in bills, in laws, in buildings, but, most of all, in people.

But many of his greatest achievements will live on through the loving family that he built alongside the love of his life, Donna Harris Jordan. Of all his most memorable titles and tasks, he would most want to be remembered as a loving husband and father who fought tirelessly for his community and his people.

When I think of the late Raymond Jordan, Jr., I am reminded of the words of the African-American hymn that says: "May the work I have done speak for me."

Indeed, the many works of Raymond Jordan speak for him both now and for eternity. May he rest in power and in peace.

BIDEN ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, we are in the depths of the Biden energy crisis.

On day one of Joe Biden's Presidency, he launched his war on American energy when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline, which could be supplying 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to U.S. refineries. As recently as a few days ago, we imported 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia.

During the State of the Union, President Biden claimed he wanted to "Buy American." But regrettably, he did not apply that to our oil or our natural gas. Biden has made it crystal clear that his anti-energy agenda would continue.

He also announced that he would once again tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and release 30 million barrels of oil in another desperate attempt to reduce gas prices here at home. The SPR is supposed to be used for national security emergencies and

for major weather events, not for Biden to use as a political Hail Mary when his policies fail us. Energy security is national security.

Let me say this: Winston Churchill said appeasement is like feeding a crocodile and hoping he eats you last. We must stop appeasing Russia. We must be Churchill in this moment, not Chamberlain.

□ 0915

RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, Russia's unprovoked, unjustified war on Ukraine threatens peace, democracy, and stability around the globe. However, what it does not do is break us, and it has not broken the people of Ukraine.

Instead, the people of Ukraine have shown the world their resilience and the strength of democracy. As we work to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for his aggression, we must also ensure that we provide support for the Ukrainian people as they seek certainty and refuge.

As an emergency physician and the only trained humanitarian in Congress, I have seen firsthand what lies ahead for those fleeing a crisis. This is a complex humanitarian crisis and deserves a human response. The U.S. must contribute to that response, including helping our humanitarian partners on the ground and granting Ukrainians refuge and temporary protected status to Ukrainian nationals here in the country.

Madam Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people to protect their sovereignty, and my prayers are with them.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 117-253.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 67, after line 10, insert the following:

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report regarding the following:

(A) Sources of PFAS on military installations other than AFFF.

(B) Any recommendation of the Secretary regarding whether to expand eligibility for the registry to individuals exposed to sources of PFAS described in subparagraph (A).

Page 67, line 11, strike “(1) INITIAL” and insert “(2) INTERIM”.

Page 68, line 3, strike “(2)” and insert “(3)”.

Page 68, line 14, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my amendment, along with my colleague from North Carolina, Representative ROUZER.

This amendment will require the Department of Defense to study additional non-fire extinguishing agent sources of toxic PFAS, known as forever chemicals on military installations.

Our amendment also requires the Department of Defense to make a recommendation to Congress on expanding the eligibility for the VA's registry of individuals exposed to PFAS during their service.

While fire extinguishing agents are a common source of servicemember exposure to forever chemicals, as the Speaker knows, PFAS toxins are ever present on military bases from other sources.

Studies have shown that these dangerous toxicants are ubiquitous in the kinds of ready-made meal packages, textiles, and cookware used on military installations. Use of these products has exposed servicemembers and veterans to PFAS, which have been proven to cause cancer, liver damage, birth defects, and other troubling medical conditions.

We must ensure that we fully understand the scope of PFAS exposure on military bases and expand our parameters for veteran eligibility for medical care accordingly. Doing so will give veterans exposed to these toxins the opportunity to receive care for the conditions they develop as a result of their service in uniform.

This amendment not only empowers and protects veterans, but it solicits a critically important study from the DOD to better understand the presence of PFAS on military installations and prevent exposure in the future.

In alignment with the mission of the Honoring our PACT Act, this amendment upholds our responsibility to prevent and mitigate the health consequences of exposure to toxic substances.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his outstanding leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I also thank Representa-

tive ROUZER from North Carolina for joining me in offering this amendment.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I am pleased to support this amendment by the gentlewoman and Congressman ROUZER.

It will require DOD to submit to Congress a report on sources of PFAS on military installations other than aqueous film-forming foam and providing recommendations regarding whether to expand registry eligibility to individuals exposed to PFAS from other sources.

The PFAS data gathered by this amendment will be a tremendous value as VA, DOD, and other agencies across our Federal Government continue their research related to this important matter.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes”.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, this amendment will help us understand additional sources of PFAS exposure on military bases and empower veterans to seek medical care accordingly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment along with Representative ROUZER and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

The amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22, printed in part B of House Report 117-253.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 707. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.

(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions necessary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be updated with the cause of death of a deceased registered individual by—

(A) an individual designated by such deceased registered individual; or

(B) if no such individual is designated, an immediate family member of such deceased registered individual.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall provide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process by which a registered individual may make a designation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “burn pit registry” means the registry established under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term “immediate family member”, with respect to a deceased individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child of the individual;

(B) an adult person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(C) any other adult person—

(i) living in the household of the individual at the time of the death of the individual; and

(ii) related to the individual by blood or marriage.

(3) The term “registered individual” means an individual registered with the burn pit registry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment to the Honoring our PACT Act, which includes language from my bill, the Burn Pits Registry Enhancement Act.

This amendment would allow veterans in the burn pits registry to designate someone to update the registry with their cause of death. I hope that makes common sense. This data is crucial to further identify illnesses that are causing burn pit exposed veterans to die and will help doctors recognize early symptoms.

I also rise in support of another amendment I submitted that was part of an en bloc package that passed yesterday. That amendment is from my Reducing Exposure to Burn Pits Act. It would require the DOD to consider safer alternatives to burn pits. This amendment will get us one step closer to ending the exposure to toxic burn pits once and for all.

I have fought for years to bring attention to this issue and its devastating toll on our Nation’s service members and their families.

I have told the story of Jennifer Kepner, an Air Force veteran from Cathedral City in my district. She was an otherwise healthy mother of two who lost her courageous battle with pancreatic cancer likely caused by her ex-

posure to burn pits during her military service.

I have told the story of Alejandro Camacho, my constituent from Palm Desert, who developed testicular cancer from the toxic smoke and carcinogens he breathed in every day during his service in Iraq.

It is for Jennifer, Alejandro, and the millions of other veterans suffering from their burn pit exposure that I founded the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Burn Pit Caucus.

It is why I introduced the Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act to create a presumption of service connection for 23 illnesses related to service near burn pits.

That bill is included in the Honoring our PACT Act and highlights the urgent need to pass it now. The Honoring our PACT Act will take urgent and aggressive action to give the veterans the care they need and ensure we don’t repeat the Agent Orange delays that our Vietnam veterans experienced.

Last night, I texted the widower of Jennifer Kepner, Ben Kepner, and I said: Tomorrow is the big day, my friend. He texted back: Tomorrow is Jennifer Kepner’s birthday. So we will pass this bill on Jennifer Kepner’s birthday, which is amazing.

Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to Chairman TAKANO.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment introduced by Representatives RUIZ, RYAN, and GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

Madam Speaker, I want to take my 30 seconds to just say how much this bill, the Honoring our PACT Act, rests on the work, passion, and energy of the gentleman from the neighboring district in Riverside County, which we both have the honor to represent.

Dr. RUIZ has brought his tremendous knowledge as a doctor, somebody with three medically-related degrees from Harvard University—the first Latino to do so. I can’t say enough about the work that he has done to make this possible, and we all are grateful.

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman TAKANO and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee staff for their tireless work, their leadership, their courage and bravery to address this incredible problem.

I would also like to thank all the veterans who spoke up when nobody lis-

tened, like Rosie Torres from Burn Pits 360; and many others who have lost a loved one; and all the widows who have been crying to be recognized and pleading with us to do something so that other veterans wouldn’t suffer these atrocities.

This is a self-inflicted DOD wound that our military did to our service members, and now they are dying as delayed casualties of war due to those exposures. We need to save lives today. This is a life-and-death situation.

If there is ever a human face to policy, it is now in this policy because there are children wondering why, when their parents came back healthy from the war, they died 5, 6, 7 years later. This is why we need to pass this bill and ensure that our promise to our veterans, and our promise to our Vietnam veterans, that we will never allow their Agent Orange experience to translate ever again into the American experience.

This is our time to stand up for our veterans, not just in hugging flags, but also in pragmatic solidarity and support to give them the care and the relief that they need right now.

Madam Speaker, I wish the Kepner family a very happy birthday celebration in memory of Jennifer Kepner. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, as both a physician and a 24-year military veteran coming from a family of veterans, married to a veteran of 30 years, let me say to my colleagues: We can save lives today with a bill on the President’s desk today by passing in this Chamber the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act. We can pass that now and they can receive healthcare now.

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

□ 0930

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 117-253.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:
SEC. 707. BURN PIT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act”.

(b) **NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS REGARDING REPORTED CASES OF BURN PIT EXPOSURE.**—

(1) **QUARTERLY NOTIFICATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each reported case of burn pit exposure by a covered veteran reported during the previous quarter.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to each reported case of burn pit exposure of a covered veteran included in the report, the following:

(i) Notice of the case, including the medical facility at which the case was reported.

(ii) Notice of, as available—

(I) the enrollment status of the covered veteran with respect to the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code;

(II) a summary of all health care visits by the covered veteran at the medical facility at which the case was reported that are related to the case;

(III) the demographics of the covered veteran, including age, sex, and race;

(IV) any non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care benefits that the covered veteran receives;

(V) the Armed Force in which the covered veteran served and the rank of the covered veteran;

(VI) the period in which the covered veteran served;

(VII) each location of an open burn pit from which the covered veteran was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes during such service;

(VIII) the medical diagnoses of the covered veteran and the treatment provided to the veteran; and

(IX) whether the covered veteran is registered in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(C) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) do not include the identity of covered veterans or contain other personally identifiable data.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the following:

(i) The total number of covered veterans.

(ii) The total number of claims for disability compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, approved and the total number denied by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to a covered veteran, and for each such denial, the rationale of the denial.

(iii) A comprehensive list of—

(I) the conditions for which covered veterans seek treatment; and

(II) the locations of the open burn pits from which the covered veterans were exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes.

(iv) Identification of any illnesses relating to exposure to open burn pits that formed the basis for the Secretary to award benefits, including entitlement to service connection or an increase in disability rating.

(v) The total number of covered veterans who died after seeking care for an illness relating to exposure to an open burn pit.

(vi) Any updates or trends with respect to the information described in clauses (i), (ii),

(iii), (iv), and (v) that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(B) **MATTERS INCLUDED IN FIRST REPORT.**—The Secretary shall include in the first report under paragraph (1) information specified in paragraph (1)(B) with respect to reported cases of burn pit exposure made during the period beginning January 1, 1990, and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **INFORMATION REGARDING THE AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY.**—

(A) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that a medical professional of the Department of Veterans Affairs informs a veteran of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry if the veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

(B) **DISPLAY.**—In making information public regarding the number of participants in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, the Secretary shall display such numbers by both State and by congressional district.

(4) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing an assessment of the effectiveness of any memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to—

(A) the processing of reported cases of burn pit exposure; and

(B) the coordination of care and provision of health care relating to such cases at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at non-Department facilities.

(5) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(A) The term “Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry” means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(B) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(ii) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(C) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran who presents at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or in a non-Department facility pursuant to section 1703 or 1703A of title 38, United States Code) for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits at any time while serving in the Armed Forces.

(D) The term “open burn pit” has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(E) The term “reported case of burn pit exposure” means each instance in which a veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or in a non-Department facility pursuant to section 1703 or 1703A of title 38, United States Code) for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits at any time while serving in the Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for including in this bill the Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act as a part of this comprehensive bill to address toxic exposure in our veteran community. I rise today to discuss my amendment, the Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act, named for Heath Robinson whom I spoke about in this very Chamber just 4 months ago.

I stand here humbled to see it come to the floor in a bipartisan effort to finally address this dire problem.

Heath deployed to Kosovo in 2004 and Iraq in 2006 and was the Ohio National Guard NCO Soldier of the Year in 2012 and 2013.

Being a soldier was Heath’s identity. He was proud of his service and humbled to serve overseas defending those he loved. While deployed, Heath was exposed to burn pits in Iraq, and those toxic wounds of war followed Heath home. He was a loving father, husband, and son who, unfortunately and tragically, lost his life on May 6, 2020, at the young age of 39. His story is a sobering one but reminds us why this amendment is needed.

In late 2016, Heath began noticing early symptoms starting with fatigue which worsened to chronic, gushing nosebleeds and bleeding from his ears. After a dozen doctors were unable to provide answers, it was finally determined that at the age of 35 he suffered from a rare autoimmune disease. After new symptoms presented and Heath’s condition deteriorated, his family learned Heath was stricken with an extremely rare form of lung cancer that, according to 20 oncologists, could have only been caused by prolonged inhalation of concentrated toxic substances.

Heath was eventually forced into a medical separation with his lung cancer being deemed 100 percent service connected by the Veterans Administration. His retirement documents specify that Heath was a recently retired combat veteran. However, once he applied for comprehensive caregiver benefits, the VA denied him. They stated that although Heath Robinson’s lung cancer was 100 percent service connected, there was no evidence that his cancer was caused by burn pits or combat related. His wife, a doctor of physical therapy, had to take an unpaid leave of absence from a full-time job to handle her husband’s round-the-clock care. This service was paramount to this family, and the VA failed them.

The final year of Heath’s life consisted of his wife and her mom watching helplessly as Heath suffered in pain, struggling to breathe daily, and coughing incessantly. Many days were spent holding a basin under his face to catch vomit and blood streaming from

his nose while they shoved the oxygen tube into his mouth intermittently so he wouldn't die. They lost count of the number of times he had to be rushed to the nearest emergency room only to be transferred to a trauma hospital because the doctors had no idea what to do with him. Doctors exclaimed that they had never seen a cancer like Heath had.

The VA decided this American soldier and war veteran didn't qualify for caregiver benefits because his exposure to inhaling toxic burn pit smoke did not cause his lung cancer. The Robinson family suffered tremendously while earned benefits were withheld by the VA.

The story of the Robinson family is one of many dating back years to the days of Agent Orange when other veterans suffered the same fate. When veterans seek treatment related to burn pit exposure, my amendment requires the VA to report it to Congress. It demands transparency and helps find policy solutions driven by large-scale data to get our veterans the care they need and that they have earned. We can do better to provide care for soldiers and family members, and we must provide safeguards and transparency to ensure that.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), who is the chairman of the committee, for any comments.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Congressman RYAN's bipartisan amendment.

Let me just say that the PACT Act is something that this Congress must do, and the Republican substitute is simply what we, this Congress, can get away with. We cannot simply rest on what we can get away with.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 22, printed in part B of House Report 117-253, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—425

Adams	Cawthorn	Fleischmann	Jacobs (CA)	McNerney	Schneider
Aderholt	Chabot	Fletcher	Jacobs (NY)	Meeks	Schrader
Aguilar	Cheney	Fortenberry	Jayapal	Meijer	Schrier
Allen	Cherfilus-	Foster	Jeffries	Meng	Schweikert
Allred	McCormick	Fox	Johnson (GA)	Meuser	Scott (VA)
Amodei	Chu	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (LA)	Mfume	Scott, Austin
Armstrong	Ciavarella	Franklin, C.	Johnson (OH)	Miller (IL)	Scott, David
Arrington	Clark (MA)	Scott	Johnson (SD)	Miller (WV)	Sessions
Auchincloss	Clarke (NY)	Fulcher	Johnson (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Sewell
Axne	Cleaver	Gaetz	Jones	Moolenaar	Sherman
Babin	Cline	Gallagher	Jordan	Mooney	Sherrill
Bacon	Cloud	Lesko	Joyce (OH)	Moore (AL)	Sires
Baird	Clyburn	Letlow	Joyce (PA)	Moore (UT)	Slotkin
Balderson	Clyde	Garamendi	Kahele	Moore (WI)	Smith (MO)
Banks	Cohen	Garbarino	Kaptur	Morelle	Smith (NE)
Barr	Cole	Garcia (CA)	Katko	Moulton	Smith (NJ)
Barragán	Comer	Garcia (IL)	Keating	Mrvan	Smith (WA)
Bass	Connolly	Garcia (TX)	Keller	Mullin	Smucker
Beatty	Cooper	Gibbs	Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Soto
Bentz	Correa	Gimenez	Kelly (MS)	Murphy (NC)	Spanberger
Bera	Costa	Gohmert	Kelly (PA)	Nadler	Spartz
Bergman	Courtney	Golden	Khanna	Napolitano	Spier
Beyer	Craig	Gomez	Kildee	Neal	Stansbury
Bice (OK)	Crawford	Gonzales, Tony	Kilmer	Neguse	Stanton
Biggs	Crenshaw	Gonzalez (OH)	Kim (CA)	Nehls	Steel
Bilirakis	Crow	Gonzalez, Vicente	Kim (NJ)	Newhouse	Stefanik
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Good (VA)	Kind	Newman	Steil
Bishop (NC)	Curtis	Gooden (TX)	Kinziger	Norcross	Steube
Blumenauer	Davids (KS)	Gosar	Kirkpatrick	Norman	Stevens
Blunt Rochester	Davidson	Gottheimer	Krishnamoorthi	O'Halleran	Stewart
Boebert	Davis, Danny K.	Granger	Kuster	Obernolte	Stickland
Bonamici	Davis, Rodney	Graves (LA)	Kustoff	Ocasio-Cortez	Suozzi
Bourdeaux	Dean	Graves (MO)	LaHood	Omar	Swalwell
Bowman	DeFazio	Green (TN)	LaMalfa	Owens	Takano
Boyle, Brendan	DeGette	Green, Al (TX)	Lamb	Palazzo	Tenney
F.	DeLauro	Greene (GA)	Lamborn	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Brooks	DelBene	Griffith	Langevin	Palmer	Thompson (MS)
Brown (MD)	Delgado	Grijalva	Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Thompson (PA)
Brown (OH)	Demings	Grothman	Larson (CT)	Pappas	Timmons
Brownley	DesJarlais	Guest	Latta	Pascarella	Titus
Buchanan	Deuch	Harder (CA)	LaTurner	Payne	Tlaib
Buck	Diaz-Balart	Hartzel	Lawrence	Pence	Tonko
Bucshon	Dingell	Hayes	Lawson (FL)	Perlmutter	Torres (CA)
Budd	Doggett	Hern	Lee (CA)	Perry	Torres (NY)
Burchett	Donalds	Herrell	Lee (NV)	Peters	Trahan
Burgess	Doyle, Michael	Herrera Beutler	Leger Fernandez	Pfluger	Trone
Bush	F.	Hice (GA)	Lesko	Phillips	Turner
Bustos	Duncan	Higgins (LA)	Letlow	Pingree	Underwood
Butterfield	Dunn	Higgins (NY)	Levin (CA)	Pocan	Upton
Cammack	Ellzey	Hill	Levin (MI)	Porter	Valadao
Carbajal	Emmer	Himes	Lieu	Poser	Van Drew
Cárdenas	Escobar	Hinson	Lofgren	Pressley	Van Dуйne
Carey	Eshoo	Hollingsworth	Long	Price (NC)	Vargas
Carl	Españolat	Horsford	Loudermilk	Quigley	Veasey
Carson	Estes	Houlihan	Lowenthal	Raskin	Vela
Carter (GA)	Evans	Hoyer	Lucas	Reed	Velázquez
Carter (LA)	Fallon	Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Carter (TX)	Feenstra	Huffman	Luria	Rice (NY)	Walberg
Cartwright	Ferguson	Huizenga	Mace	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Case	Fischbach	Issa	Malinowski	Rodgers (WA)	Waltz
Casten	Fitzgerald	Jackson	Malliotakis	Rogers (AL)	Wasserman
Castor (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Jackson Lee	Maloney,	Rogers (KY)	Schultz
Castro (TX)			Maloney, Sean	Rose	Waters
			Mann	Rosendale	Watson Coleman
			Manning	Ross	Weber (TX)
			Massie	Rouzer	Webster (FL)
			Mast	Roy	Welch
			Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Wenstrup
			McBath	Ruiz	Westerman
			McCarthy	Ruppersberger	Wexton
			McCaul	Rush	Wild
			McClain	Rutherford	Williams (GA)
			McClintock	Ryan	Williams (TX)
			McCollum	Salazar	Wilson (FL)
			McEachin	Sánchez	Wilson (SC)
			McGovern	Sarbanes	Wittman
			McHenry	Scalise	Womack
			McKinley	Scanlon	Yarmuth
				Schakowsky	Young
				Schiff	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—7

□ 1014

Mr. NORMAN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 55.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Gomez)	Gonzalez,	Pocan (Garcia
Amodei	Vicente	(IL))
(Balderson)	(Gomez)	Raskin
Babin (Duncan)	Gosar (Greene	(Cicilline)
Barragan	(GA))	Reschenthaler
(Gomez)	Grijalva (Garcia	(Armstrong)
Bass (Kelly (IL))	(IL))	Roybal-Allard
Blumenauer	Hudson (Murphy	(Takano)
(Beyer)	(NC))	Rush (Jeffries)
Brown (MD)	Issa (Van Duyne)	Salazar
(Connolly)	Jackson (Van	(Cammack)
Cárdenas	Duyne)	Sewell (Kelly
(Gomez)	Johnson (SD)	(IL))
Cawthorn	(Armstrong)	Sires (Pallone)
(Boebert)	Johnson (TX)	Speier (Escobar)
Cherfilus-	(Jeffries)	Strickland
McCormick	Kahele (Takano)	(Jeffries)
(Beatty)	Keating	Suozi (Beyer)
Correa (Gomez)	(Cicilline)	Kelly (PA)
Costa (Takano)	(Keller)	Swalwell
Cuellar	(Connolly)	(Gomez)
(Connolly)	Lawson (FL)	Trone (Connolly)
DelBene (Kuster)	(Soto)	Underwood
Deutch (Rice	Letlow	(Jeffries)
(NY))	(Garbarino)	Van Drew
Doyle, Michael	Lofgren (Jeffries)	(Burgess)
F. (Connolly)	Manning (Beyer)	Veasey (Beyer)
Dunn (Cammack)	Neal (Beyer)	Wagner
Evans (Mfume)	Nehls	(Walorski)
Fallon (Van	(Garbarino)	Wilson (FL)
Duyne)	Norman	(Cicilline)
Gohmert	(Donalds)	
(Boebert)	Payne (Pallone)	

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 23, printed in part B of House Report 117-253, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 348, nays 78, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—348

Adams	Buchanan	Courtney
Aguilar	Buck	Craig
Allred	Burchett	Crawford
Amodei	Bush	Crenshaw
Armstrong	Bustos	Crist
Auchincloss	Butterfield	Crow
Axne	Calvert	Cuellar
Bacon	Carbajal	Davidson
Baird	Cárdenas	Davis, Danny K.
Balderson	Carey	Davis, Rodney
Banks	Carson	Dean
Barr	Carter (GA)	DeFazio
Barragán	Carter (LA)	DeGette
Bass	Cartwright	DeLauro
Beatty	Case	DelBene
Bera	Casten	Delgado
Bergman	Castor (FL)	Demings
Beyer	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Bice (OK)	Chabot	DesJarlais
Biggs	Cheney	Deutch
Bilirakis	Cherfilus-	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (GA)	McCormick	Dingell
Bishop (NC)	Chu	Doggett
Blumenauer	Cicilline	Doyle, Michael
Blunt Rochester	Clark (MA)	F.
Boebert	Clarke (NY)	Duncan
Bonamici	Cleaver	Dunn
Bourdeaux	Clyburn	Ellzey
Bowman	Cohen	Emmer
Boyle, Brendan	Cole	Escobar
F.	Connolly	Eshoo
Brown (MD)	Cooper	Españolat
Brown (OH)	Correa	Evans
Brownley	Costa	

Fallon	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
Feenstra	Latta	Rose
Fischbach	Lawrence	Ross
Fitzpatrick	Lawson (FL)	Roybal-Allard
Fleischmann	Lee (CA)	Ruiz
Fletcher	Lee (NV)	Ruppersberger
Fortenberry	Leger Fernandez	Rush
Foster	Lesko	Rutherford
Fox	Letlow	Ryan
Frankel, Lois	Levin (CA)	Salazar
Gaetz	Levin (MI)	Sánchez
Gallagher	Lieu	Sarbanes
Gallego	Lofgren	Scalise
Garamendi	Lowenthal	Scanlon
Garbarino	Lucas	Schakowsky
Garcia (CA)	Luetkemeyer	Schiff
Garcia (IL)	Lynch	Schneider
Garcia (TX)	Mace	Schrader
Gibbs	Malinowski	Schrier
Gimenez	Malliotakis	Scott (VA)
Golden	Maloney,	Scott, Austin
Gomez	Carolyn B.	Scott, David
Gonzales, Tony	Maloney, Sean	Sewell
Gonzalez (OH)	Manning	Sherman
Gonzalez,	Massie	Sherrill
Vicente	Mast	Sires
Good (VA)	Matsui	Slotkin
Gottheimer	McBath	Smith (NJ)
Granger	McCaul	Smith (WA)
Graves (LA)	McCollum	Smucker
Green (TN)	McEachin	Soto
Green, Al (TX)	McGovern	Spanberger
Griffith	McHenry	Spartz
Grijalva	McKinley	Speier
Grothman	McNerney	Stansbury
Guest	Meeks	Stanton
Guthrie	Meijer	Staubert
Harder (CA)	Meng	Steel
Hayes	Meuser	Stefanik
Herrera Beutler	Mfume	Steil
Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)	Stevens
Higgins (NY)	Miller-Meeks	Stewart
Himes	Moolenaar	Strickland
Hinson	Mooney	Suozi
Hollingsworth	Moore (UT)	Swalwell
Horsford	Moore (WI)	Takano
Houlahan	Morille	Tenney
Hoyer	Moulton	Thompson (CA)
Hudson	Mrvan	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (PA)
Huizinga	Murphy (NC)	Titus
Jackson Lee	Nadler	Tlaib
Jacobs (CA)	Napolitano	Tonko
Jacobs (NY)	Neal	Torres (CA)
Jayapal	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Jeffries	Newman	Trahan
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Trone
Johnson (OH)	O'Halleran	Turner
Johnson (SD)	Obernolte	Underwood
Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Upton
Jones	Omar	Valadao
Joyce (OH)	Owens	Van Drew
Joyce (PA)	Palazzo	Vargas
Kahele	Pallone	Veasey
Kaptur	Panetta	Vela
Katko	Pappas	Velázquez
Keating	Pascrell	Wagner
Keller	Payne	Walberg
Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Walorski
Kelly (MS)	Peters	Waltz
Kelly (PA)	Phillips	Wasserman
Khanna	Pingree	Schultz
Kildee	Pocan	Waters
Kilmer	Porter	Watson Coleman
Kim (CA)	Posey	Welch
Kim (NJ)	Pressley	Wenstrup
Kind	Price (NC)	Wexton
Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Wild
Krishnamoorthi	Raskin	Williams (GA)
Kuster	Reed	Wilson (FL)
LaHood	Reschenthaler	Wittman
Lamb	Rice (NY)	Yarmuth
Langevin	Rodgers (WA)	Young
Larsen (WA)		Zeldin

NAYS—78

Aderholt	Cline	Gosar
Allen	Cloud	Graves (MO)
Arrington	Clyde	Greene (GA)
Babin	Comer	Harris
Bentz	Donalds	Harshbarger
Brooks	Estes	Hartzler
Bucshon	Ferguson	Hern
Budd	Fitzgerald	Herrell
Burgess	Franklin, C.	Hice (GA)
Cammack	Scott	Hill
Carl	Fulcher	Issa
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	Jackson
Cawthorn	Gooden (TX)	Johnson (LA)

Jordan	Nehls	Smith (MO)
Kustoff	Newhouse	Smith (NE)
LaMalfa	Norman	Steube
Lamborn	Palmer	Tiffany
LaTurner	Pence	Timmons
Long	Perry	Van Duyne
Loudermilk	Pfluger	Weber (TX)
Mann	Rice (SC)	Webster (FL)
McCarthy	Rogers (AL)	Westerman
McClain	Rosendale	Williams (TX)
McClintock	Rouzer	Wilson (SC)
Miller (IL)	Roy	Womack
Moore (AL)	Schweikert	
Mullin	Sessions	

NOT VOTING—6

Bost	Curtis	Simpson
Brady	Kinzinger	Taylor

□ 1033

Messrs. LONG, GOSAR, PALMER, ADERHOLT, and GRAVES of Missouri changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mmes. BICE of Oklahoma, LESKO, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. PALAZZO changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Gomez)	Gonzalez,	Pocan (Garcia
Amodei	Vicente	(IL))
(Balderson)	(Gomez)	Raskin
Babin (Duncan)	Gosar (Greene	(Cicilline)
Barragan	(GA))	Reschenthaler
(Gomez)	Grijalva (Garcia	(Armstrong)
Bass (Kelly (IL))	(IL))	Roybal-Allard
Blumenauer	Hudson (Murphy	(Takano)
(Beyer)	(NC))	Rush (Jeffries)
Brown (MD)	Issa (Van Duyne)	Salazar
(Connolly)	Jackson (Van	(Cammack)
Cárdenas	Duyne)	Sewell (Kelly
(Gomez)	Johnson (SD)	(IL))
Cawthorn	(Armstrong)	Sires (Pallone)
(Boebert)	Johnson (TX)	Speier (Escobar)
Cherfilus-	(Jeffries)	Strickland
McCormick	Kahele (Takano)	(Jeffries)
(Beatty)	Keating	Suozi (Beyer)
Correa (Gomez)	(Cicilline)	Swalwell
Costa (Takano)	Kelly (PA)	(Gomez)
Cuellar	(Keller)	Tiffany
(Connolly)	Lawson (FL)	(Fitzgerald)
DelBene (Kuster)	(Soto)	Trone (Connolly)
Deutch (Rice	Letlow	Underwood
(NY))	(Garbarino)	(Jeffries)
Doyle, Michael	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Van Drew
F. (Connolly)	Manning (Beyer)	(Burgess)
Dunn (Cammack)	Neal (Beyer)	Veasey (Beyer)
Evans (Mfume)	Nehls	Wagner
Fallon (Van	(Garbarino)	(Walorski)
Duyne)	Norman	Wilson (FL)
Gohmert	(Donalds)	(Cicilline)
(Boebert)	Payne (Pallone)	

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 950, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

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

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 256, nays 174, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

YEAS—256

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

NAYS—174

Aderholt Bacon Biggs
 Allen Baird Bishop (NC)
 Amodei Balderson Boebert
 Armstrong Banks Brooks
 Arrington Barr Buchanan
 Babin Bentz Buck

Bucshon
 Budd
 Burgess
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carl
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cawthorn
 Chabot
 Cheney
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Comer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Curtis
 Davis, Rodney
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Duncan
 Dunn
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Fallon
 Feenstra
 Ferguson
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fleischmann
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franklin, C.
 Scott
 Fulcher
 Gallagher
 Gibbs
 Gimenez
 Gohmert
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez (OH)
 Good (VA)
 Gooden (TX)
 Gosar
 Granger
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman

Bost

NOT VOTING—3

□ 1059

Ms. MACE and Mr. CLINE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA” on rollcall No. 55, “NAY” on rollcall No. 56, and “NAY” on rollcall No. 57.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aguilar (Gomez) Cuellar Hudson (Murphy)
 Amodei (Connolly) (NC)
 (Balderson) DelBene (Kuster) Issa (Van Duyne)
 Babin (Duncan) Deutch (Rice) Jackson (Van
 Barragán (NY) Dwyne)
 (Gomez) Doyle, Michael Johnson (SD)
 Bass (Kelly (IL)) F. (Connolly) (Armstrong)
 Blumenauer Dunn (Cammack) Johnson (TX)
 (Beyer) Evans (Mfume) (Jeffries)
 Brown (MD) Fallon (Van Kahele (Takano))
 (Connolly) Dwyne) Keating
 Cárdenas Gohmert (Cicilline)
 (Gomez) (Boebert) Kelly (PA)
 Cawthorn (Gonzalez, Vicente) (Keller)
 (Boebert) (Gomez) Lawson (FL)
 Cherfilus-McCormick Gosar (Greene) (Soto)
 (Beatty) (GA) Letlow
 Correa (Gomez) Grijalva (Garcia) (Garbarino)
 Costa (Takano) (IL)) Lofgren (Jeffries)
 Manning (Beyer)
 Neal (Beyer)

Nehls
 (Garbarino)
 Norman
 (Donalds)
 Payne (Pallone)
 Pocan (Garcia)
 (IL))
 Raskin
 (Cicilline)
 Reschenthaler
 (Armstrong)
 Roybal-Allard
 (Takano)
 Rush (Jeffries)
 Salazar
 (Cammack)
 Sewell (Kelly
 (IL))
 Sires (Pallone)
 Speier (Escobar)
 Strickland
 (Jeffries)
 Suozzi (Beyer)
 Swalwell
 (Gomez)
 Tiffany
 (Fitzgerald)
 Trone (Connolly)
 Underwood
 (Jeffries)
 Van Drew
 (Burgess)
 Veasey (Beyer)
 Wagner
 (Walorski)
 Wilson (FL)
 (Cicilline)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF THE CARTERET COUNTY PLANE CRASH

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 13, a catastrophic tragedy took place in a close-knit eastern North Carolina community.

A small plane carrying eight passengers, including four teenagers, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean about 4 miles east of the Drum Inlet. Tragically, all eight North Carolinians perished in the crash.

There are no words to describe the pain and devastation that our community has felt in the weeks following this tragic accident. Yet, through this heartbreak we have all been moved by the outpouring of love and support from all of those across North Carolina and our great Nation.

We cannot thank our first responders, U.S. Coast Guard, the Carteret County Sheriff's Office, State agencies, and community members enough for coming together in support of the families impacted by this heartbreaking tragedy.

Members of our community have participated in many loving tributes to honor those we lost. I am grateful to the volunteers, ministers, students, teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, and classmates who are helping to provide aid and support, as well as comfort to our Down East residents. Their selflessness and commitment to others is to be commended, and I honor their service.

We will always remember the beloved North Carolinians whom we lost: Douglas Hunter Parks, 45, from Sea Level, North Carolina; Stephanie Ann McInnis Fulcher, 42, from Sea Level, North Carolina; Jeffrey Worthington Rawls, 28, from Greenville, North Carolina; Ernest “Teen” Rawls, pilot, 67, Greenville, North Carolina; Jonathan Kole McInnis, 15, Sea Level, North Carolina; Jacob Nolan Taylor, 16, Atlantic, North Carolina; Noah Lee Styron, 15, Cedar Island, North Carolina; and Michael Daily Shepard, 15, Atlantic, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask for a moment of silence to remember those who perished on that fateful day.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for next week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House.

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

On Monday, Mr. Speaker, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning-hour debate, and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider an omnibus appropriations package so the House and Senate can both pass it before March 11. As the Republican minority whip knows, on March 11 at 12 o'clock, if we have not passed additional authorization for the funding of the government, the government will shut down. It is imperative that we act.

In light of the fact that many of us on the Democratic side of the aisle will be going to Philadelphia for a legislative retreat on the Wednesday preceding March 11, March 9, we need to act by that time and send something to the Senate. I hope we can do that.

The House will also consider H. Con. Res. 70, condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities—too many of which we have seen in recent weeks—and reaffirming support of HBCUs and their students, introduced by Representative ALMA ADAMS. That will be considered under suspension of the rules.

The House will also consider other bills under suspension of the rules. A complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow. Additional legislative items, of course, are possible.

I want to say that, clearly, one of the principal focuses that we have is the onslaught and criminal behavior led by Vladimir Putin, which is occurring in Ukraine. The President spoke to the country and to us on Tuesday in the State of the Union message, in which he made it clear that we need to be unified. In fact, we passed a resolution in which—for the most part, save three of our Members—we were unified.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would remain unified in the face of what is the breaking of international law and could be called a genocide of the Ukrainian people by Vladimir Putin. I am hopeful that we will remain unified and focused on that issue as we proceed.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I share the gentleman's expression of unified support with the people of Ukraine. Clearly, we stand with the heroic people of Ukraine, President Zelensky, and the inspiration he has been showing to the world, and the strong people of Ukraine.

What we are seeing from Russia is barbaric. One of my colleagues, Representative SPARTZ, who actually was born in Ukraine, she has been very outspoken about the genocide that is happening to the people of Ukraine. As the gentleman mentioned, the resolution that we passed with Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. SPARTZ, it was bipartisan, and an overwhelming vote of support standing with the people of Ukraine.

Clearly, they have asked for a number of very specific things: some military equipment, supplies, as well as humanitarian relief. We need to continue to push as hard as we can to make sure it is delivered as expeditiously as possible as we watch continuous barbaric attacks, raids, bombing, carpet bombing, cluster bombs, things that are illegal under international law, yet Putin continues to commit these barbaric crimes against the people of Ukraine. They are tough people, and they are not going to give up their country. We need to do everything we can to help them.

One other thing that was mentioned in this resolution because people, obviously, want to know what they can do. There are a number of steps that are being taken and there are other steps that we would also like to see this Congress take. In the resolution there were two provisions specifically that I wanted to bring up.

One of the resolution requests was that we—the United States Congress—pledge support working with Europe and international partners to bolster Europe's energy security and reduce its dependence on Russian energy imports.

The resolution that we passed also goes on to say: We resolve that we underscore the importance of maintaining United States' energy independence for the benefit of the American people and United States' allies. With that there was a piece of legislation that was just filed earlier this week to do just that. H.R. 6858, offered by Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS and Mr. WESTERMAN, the ranking members of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, goes to the heart of what we can do as a country and as a Congress to take leverage away from Vladimir Putin as it relates to energy.

We can all see over the years how Europe has become very dependent on Russian energy. They, unfortunately, get over 40 percent of their oil from Russia. This is also putting billions of dollars in the pocket of Vladimir Putin. When you look at the price of oil today, over \$110 a barrel, just look at the daily benefit that that gives to Vladimir Putin. He is making over \$700 million every single day selling oil to

the United States and Europe. Think about that.

Vladimir Putin is pocketing today over \$700 million, and he is going to get another \$700 million tomorrow and another the day after by selling his oil to the United States and to Europe. There are things we can do to stop that. That is what H.R. 6858 goes to the heart of. Some of those things are very specific.

President Biden, just a few weeks ago, put a complete freeze on all oil and gas projects in America. All oil and gas projects. That means we are not allowing the United States to provide for the resources of our country and our allies. We used to be exporting oil to our allies around the world, it is becoming harder to do that because those policies by President Biden are shutting off American energy, and at the same time President Biden was asking Vladimir Putin to produce more oil for us.

There is no reason we should be asking Russia to do what we in America can do, yet that is a policy that was put in place. President Biden can reverse that today. I have called on President Biden to reverse all of these specific actions today. This legislation would at least show that Congress is ready to allow ourselves to be energy independent so that we can take that leverage away from Putin. We can take that \$700 million away from Putin.

□ 1115

Obviously, there are a number of other things, just permits for things like LNG—natural gas—Putin is supplying a tremendous amount of natural gas to Europe. There are six projects right now sitting on the Biden administration's desk to approve LNG permit applications for major projects, multi-billion-dollar, private-sector-funded projects in America to allow us to ship natural gas to our European allies so they don't need to get it from Putin. Not one of those permits has been approved in over a year.

Same thing, permits for pipelines. It is not just the Keystone pipeline. There are many other pipeline projects including two States in the Northeast. In the United States, States like Massachusetts are importing their oil from Vladimir Putin because they can't get it through pipelines in America. This opens that up.

It does a number of other things to allow America to become energy independent, but, more importantly, to take the leverage away from Vladimir Putin that he has today that he is using to pocket over \$700 million a day by selling his energy to us and Europe. I would love to see that bill on the floor, and I think a lot of other people would, too, to send a message to Putin that we are not going to be a part of helping him finance this barbaric war on Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman if we could look at bringing H.R. 6858 to the floor, have a full debate, and pass a strong piece of legislation that would send a signal to our

friends around the world, surely to the people of Ukraine, but also to Vladimir Putin that he is not going to be able to finance his war off the backs of oil he is selling to the United States and Europe and using that against the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. As I said, I hope we can be unified and seek to pursue that which unifies us. If we did everything that the gentleman suggests is in that bill, it would not make an immediate difference, and the gentleman knows that. The gentleman knows that there are literally millions of acres available for additional pumping, oil rigs to be arrayed both offshore and onshore. The gentleman knows we just released 300 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Mr. SCALISE. Thirty million, I believe it is.

Mr. HOYER. Excuse me. Thirty million.

So this administration has taken actions immediately to assist the Europeans. In addition, of course, the Europeans have done something. As the gentleman knows in terms of reliance, the Germans, in a very difficult political decision for them, have canceled any further actions dealing with receiving energy through a pipeline in Germany known as Nord Stream 2.

He knows further that there is consideration to reactivate or to not decommission nuclear plants which provide not only clean energy but abundant energy. In my part of the world in a southern Maryland district that I represent, we have a nuclear power plant that produces clean energy for us in abundance. Very frankly, I have heard this argument when we had recession; I have heard this argument when we had the stock market go down, and the stock market go up. We are producing more energy than any other country on Earth right now. We are exporting energy right now.

Now, the issue as to whether or not—we have a relatively small sector, but the gentleman is correct, we are receiving oil in some jurisdictions from Russia—as to whether we ought to continue that, I think that is a valid argument, and we ought to pursue it.

But I want to say to the gentleman very, very frankly that we need to be focused on what we have done and what we are doing. NATO is unified. NATO is taking unified action. All the nations of NATO are taking actions both with respect to stopping any benefits to Russia which may facilitate the funding of their operations. We have taken very, very substantial sanctions, as you know, and we have cut off the Russian central bank which freezes Putin's strategic reserve funds. He had \$600 billion that he was relying on that he called the "war fund".

We have imposed full sanctions on Russia's other major financial institutions, state-owned enterprises critical to its economy. We have removed Russian banks from SWIFT, an action that

nobody thought the Europeans would join us in, but they have. We have secured new export controls to cut off Russia's access to tech inputs, including microchips. We have frozen the assets of Putin and oligarchs close to him and launched a task force to hunt down and freeze more of their wealth. We have stopped the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that I talked about which would have made Germany and some of Europe even more dependent on energy from Russia.

Again, some months ago, nobody would have thought that was possible. President Biden has achieved that.

We have done \$1 billion in security assistance to Ukraine over the past year—a massive increase over past administrations—and have also announced a \$1 billion sovereign loan guaranty to shore up Ukraine's economy.

America, essentially, is energy independent. As I said, we are exporting energy. If we didn't export energy, we may be fully independent. Having said that, the gentleman comes from an area of the country that refines some of the kind of oil we get from Russia, heavy crude, as the gentleman knows much better than I do because he is very, very familiar with that industry.

Energy is important. We believe as well that assuring energy that is not damaging to our global health is also important. I would be for not buying any oil from Russia. Then what would happen is—and may happen yet—is the price of oil would go up. The gentleman knows that. And then the gentleman would rise and say to me: How can you possibly allow prices to be where they are?

I want to honestly tell the American people that we are not sending troops. We will not have people on the front lines. But we will pay a cost to take the actions that the President has courageously taken and that President Zelensky has courageously taken to defend Ukraine's freedom. We will pay a cost.

So the President is trying to balance that with doing what needs to be done. I, frankly, think he is doing what needs to be done, and I am very proud of the fact that, as I said yesterday, we joined together in a bipartisan way to support the Ukrainian people.

We have differences of opinion on energy policy. For the most part, I think many of your Members don't believe global warming is the threat that we believe it is on this side of the aisle. So we have differences of agreement on energy. But what we don't have differences of opinion on, I hope, is that we ought to decrease to the extent we possibly can any economic benefits to Putin—not the Russian people, but to Putin and the war machine that he has put in place, and, as you and I have agreed, killing Ukrainians unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal under international law. So that is the real issue we ought to be focused on.

Yes, we ought to continue to have a fulsome debate on energy policy—very,

very important. But I will tell the gentleman, as I said before, there are millions of acres—millions—currently available to produce more energy in this country.

The gentleman's party was in charge for a long period of time of both the House, Senate, and the Presidency under President Trump, and essentially the policies that the gentleman—I don't know all the policies in that bill, obviously, I haven't read that bill—that could have been affected during that period of time.

So the bottom line is, the gentleman is correct. We need to make sure that Putin pays a horrific price and that we substantially reduce the resources he has available to perpetrate this international crime. And in the process, we ought to remember that this Congress appropriated over \$400 million some years ago to help Ukraine, and President Trump held that money hostage, urging Mr. Zelensky to see if he could get dirt on President Biden. President Trump has recently said how brilliant he thinks Mr. Putin is and that our President is dumb. That doesn't reflect unity. That doesn't reflect a country that is together to confront an enemy. That undermines our democracy.

Mr. Pompeo has also said he thinks Putin is brilliant. I think Putin is an international criminal. He says he is very shrewd and very capable. There are many dictators and tyrants of the world that you can say that about. He didn't say he was a criminal—I am talking about Pompeo and Trump—or that he was committing a genocide, as you and I have said. Those were not words that either the former of Secretary of State or the former President of the United States used just recently after the invasion.

So I say to my friend very sincerely: We have differences of views on energy. We don't have difference of views, however, on diminishing very radically any resources which Putin could rely on to perpetrate his unjustified and criminal invasion of a sovereign country who has shown no threat to Russia or the Russian people.

At some point in time we will continue this argument about drilling and production of more oil. We will continue, I think, to try to be unified on the issue at hand. America's unity expressed to the rest of the world will give the Ukrainians, I think, more confidence and give NATO more confidence. And I might say when I mentioned that NATO has taken extraordinary steps, President Biden, unlike his predecessor, created respect and unity among the NATO allies. Germany, in particular, on Nord Stream 2, the former President uniformly demeaned Ms. Merkel and the Chancellor of Germany, and our relations with Germany were very strained. President Biden has put those together—critically important in facing Putin down at this point in time.

As General Milley said in our briefing—this was not classified—he said he

thought Russia was going to lose in the end—or at least Putin was going to lose.

The Russian people do not want this war. The Russian people do not feel threatened by Ukraine.

Putin wants to create empire, and that is what I think we ought to stay focused on and unified on. We will debate energy policy, but let us not deceive the American public that any policies of this administration have undermined the ability to drill and produce additional energy on those millions of acres that are available on public lands and in public waters right now. Right now.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, there are many areas where we have been unified in our response to Ukraine, but it is not unifying to say leave Russia's oil off the table in terms of sanctions. That was left out by President Biden. When he issued sanctions he specifically exempted Russia's oil, and that is not unifying. There are a lot of people who are angry about that because we are watching the amount of money that Putin is putting in his pocket every day, and he is using that money.

So you take other sanctions, you take other things off the table, the banking system might be hit hard, except if he is able to put \$700 million—and it is probably closer to \$1 billion a day now with this higher price of oil because of what he has done and because of what our country has done to take energy off the table.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield so I can clarify?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I do not believe energy ought to be taken off the table. I want to assure my friend that is not my position, nor is it our collective position as a party. I understand what the gentleman said. I agree with the gentleman that to the extent that we can decrease any—any—underline any—resources available to Putin and his war machine, we ought to do it.

□ 1130

Mr. SCALISE. I appreciate that clarification because it is in President Biden's set of sanctions that he specifically exempted energy. Clearly, that is not unifying, even to us.

But it is the money that is still allowed to be flowing into Russia, into Putin's pocket, to finance the war that many of us want to get at.

If H.R. 6858, after the gentleman looks at it, has some provisions that we could work on, I think it would be very unifying to the country to say we are finally going to confront what might be Vladimir Putin's largest source of funding, and that is his oil exports to the United States. It offends many, many people that, today, we are getting over 100,000 barrels every single day from Russia because we took things like the Keystone pipeline off the table.

That would have brought us oil from Canada. Canada is a friend, by the way.

And it is not like the need and the demand just went away. The demand is still there.

President Biden said no, we don't want Canadian oil. But it wasn't because he didn't want any oil. He didn't say no, we don't want any pipelines. He just said no to the Canada-to-America pipeline, but he said yes to the Nord Stream 2, initially. But he also said to Vladimir Putin: Would you produce more oil?

And let's keep in mind—I know there is this conversation about the planet. Let's be honest about carbon emissions. Carbon is emitted all around the globe. So if we shut down production in America, which has been done—and it is not just on Federal lands where the President is not issuing permits. He put a freeze just 2 weeks ago on all new permits.

But it is also the banking system that he is using to go after oil and gas companies, so there is no investment being made in America. They are making investments, billions of dollars of investment, in other countries. They are just not making it here in America because of those policies.

Again, that just gives more leverage to Putin. We were paying less than \$2 per gallon under President Trump. I know the gentleman wanted to bring up President Trump.

President Trump stood up to Putin, by the way. You didn't see an invasion anywhere in Ukraine under President Trump. You surely did under President Obama and Vice President Biden when Putin walked in and took Crimea with no consequence. Afghanistan, the weakness that was being showed clearly was being watched by Putin and Xi and other adversaries as a preface to then go and start marshaling troops on the Ukraine border.

President Trump didn't let that happen. He stood up to Putin and pushed back on Putin. He also used energy as a weapon against our enemies because we were producing enough to not only meet our needs but to export to our friends around the world.

Surely, lower pricing was a benefit to Americans, but it also helped our allies around the world. That has been taken off the table.

But let's talk about the carbon emission side because oil is being produced. It is just that a lot of it isn't being produced here that would otherwise be in the mix.

So if you look at, for example, Russian oil, Russia emits probably 40 percent more carbon to make the same oil that otherwise would be made in the United States because we have better standards in America.

I know a lot of people love beating up on America. We do it better than anybody else. Our technology is better than anybody else. In fact, our technology for producing energy is the envy of the world. It should be the model for the world because if we are not making it, Russia is going to be making it.

Believe me, futures prices of oil have an impact on price today, which is why, when President Biden walked in and shut the spigots off in America—sure, there is production going on from previous leases that happened under previous administrations, including President Trump, that was driving the price down. But when he walked in day one and said no to the Keystone pipeline—in other words, no to Canada's oil but yes to Russia's oil—that had an impact on price.

When he said no to Federal drilling, which then he expanded to all drilling, any new permits—sure, the stuff that is going on out there is still going on, but there is no new investment being made in America. It is being made in other countries, including Russia, including OPEC nations. Because of that, they are able to control the price because they are cartels.

We had literally taken the monopoly away from OPEC and Russia when we were producing enough and using the resources of this great Nation, by the way, in a much more energy efficient way than anywhere else in the world. We were reducing carbon emissions in America while producing our own energy, while manufacturing more in America. The more things are shut down here, they are being made in other places, and those other places emit more carbon.

China is building a coal plant probably every single week. China emits more carbon, probably five times more carbon, to make many of the same things we make in America.

So the less we make here, it is still being made; it is just being made in other countries. They get the jobs, but they also emit more carbon. So, as people talk about carbon emissions, don't leave that point out because it is an important point.

Again, it was President Biden himself who asked Putin to produce more oil, just last year. The oil produced in Russia has a higher carbon price than made here in America.

And it makes us less secure. It makes Putin more strong. It gives him hundreds of millions of dollars a day that we can take off the table.

I think that would be very unifying if we had that debate and said: Can we get an agreement on some of these provisions that would actually strengthen our country?

Even if Russian wasn't invading Ukraine, it would be smart American policy. It would reduce carbon emissions. But especially considering what is going on in Russia, this is much more pertinent today to have this discussion. Again, I think it can be unifying.

Just because right now we may not see eye to eye, I think there is a way to see eye to eye on this if we actually had that debate and looked at it from a global perspective, not just in a silo in America because, again, there is a global market for oil. Carbon emissions are global.

The countries that are taking the things away that we are shutting down here in America emit more carbon. It is a fact. Why shouldn't we be talking about that, too, and, frankly, taking away the leverage that Putin would have?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

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

First of all, the Speaker just announced, minutes ago, she is opposed to importing any oil from Russia. So the comment I just made to the gentleman, if you are trying to project that we want to see Russia advantaged by any expenditures we have on imports, now the Speaker has said exactly what I just said. We are not for that. Okay?

There are 26 million acres right now available and unaffected, as I understand it, by any of the constraints that you have talked about, available for additional drilling. There are 11 million acres, so that is 37 million acres currently available for production of additional product in the United States of America, right now.

So the red herring of somehow President Biden is constraining the production of oil in this country, as I understand it—now, you are much more aware of this because you come from a producing State and, obviously, are focused on this.

But the fact of the matter is, I am told that these 37 million acres are unaffected and are ready for production right now.

Now, the debate we have, Mr. Whip, is about what kind of fuels we ought to be using. You talked a lot about carbon emissions. Scientists tell us that carbon emission is a danger. As a matter of fact, the Department of Defense, the Pentagon, testified when asked, "What is the greatest threat to America's security?" some—I think it was last year; it may have been the year before that—said global warming. That is what they said.

Right now, we have an immediate challenge. Nothing you suggest will affect that immediate challenge beyond the Speaker and I both telling you we agree, and I hope the President pursues this: No money to Russia, period. No buying of Russian products.

Now, the gentleman mentions that, oh, he urged Russia to produce more energy last year. Why did he urge that? He urged all OPEC nations to produce more energy. Why? Because he did not want Americans to pay more at the pump. I think that is a policy you would probably support, trying to keep prices down.

With the oil cartel, when you constrain supply, what happens? Demand doesn't diminish because people have to drive to work; they have to get their kids to school; they have to get home. Demand stays steady.

What happens, inevitably, when supply is constrained and demand stays where it is or it goes up, prices rise.

Yes, you are right, the President stands accused of trying to get more supply on the market to bring prices at the pump down.

But we do have a fundamental disagreement, and frankly, we ought not to be talking about it now. We had an energy bill that most of your side did not vote for. We get that. There is a legitimate difference of opinion of where we ought to invest our dollars. We believe we ought to invest our dollars in renewable energy that will be there for some time and does not pollute our air, increase our heat, and make our storms worse for the safety of our globe and our people for decades and centuries to come.

But, we do agree that we want to stop Putin.

Now, the reason I pointed out Trump, because Trump didn't stop Putin. He regaled Putin: He is my friend. I know him. We can get together.

Putin is a thug. He is a criminal thug. He is an international criminal. I think we all agree on that. And it doesn't help for the former President of the United States to tell the world I think their guy, this criminal, this thug, is smart, or in Pompeo's words, brilliant and our guy is dumb.

Our guy is not dumb. He is very smart. I have known him for 50 years. He may disagree on policy, but that is not because he is dumb. He has a different perspective.

Very frankly, he is not withholding money from Zelensky. He is making sure Zelensky gets money.

Trump tried to hold hostage money for Ukrainian security that we appropriated because we wanted early on to make sure that Zelensky and the Ukrainian people had the resources they needed. Mr. Trump withheld them. Now, ultimately, he paid them out, after it was disclosed—after it was disclosed.

We are going to continue to differ on energy policy, but don't mislead the American people when you have 37 million acres available for additional production unaffected by the restraints that you talk about. He is talking about new stuff.

So, my friend, let's focus, in this instance, at this time of crisis, on how we can make sure that America is perceived as unified and of one mind, as we did right after 9/11 and as we did yesterday.

But we abandon that very quickly in this polarized society in which we are living. We need to be unified, and we need to be honest with the American people. It is not going to be cost-free because neither Biden—and Biden, by the way, is urging the Saudis to increase production and others to increase production.

But as the gentleman knows, we far outstrip any of those nations in the production of energy and oil. China, a country that is three times, four times our size, four times our size, is producing 25 percent of what we produce.

America is producing a lot of energy. It did so under Obama. As the gen-

tleman knows, energy production in the country rose during the Obama years. It rose during the Trump years. And it still is at a high plateau.

The only thing I would say to my friend, the whip: We have differences on energy policy. We ought to discuss those. That is an honest difference of opinion. I want to be energy independent.

I hope you heard the President talk about Make It In America. All of my colleagues rose and sort of pointed at me because I have been talking about making it America, which is producing energy as well, for a good period of time. I started the Make It In America agenda in 2010 and have been talking about it every year since.

We need to be energy independent, and we can use energy as an element of foreign policy and strategic policy as well, which is why the Speaker said, just minutes ago, as I said to you, we ought not to be buying oil from Russia, period.

Mr. SCALISE. As we talk about this energy policy difference, again, I do think it could be unifying. I do think we can get to a point where we recognize some of the impediments that are real today. While the President says Make It In America, there are things that President Biden is doing that are blocking the ability for us to make it in America.

Again, I have talked about some of the regulatory agencies that are making it very hard even on some of those lands the gentleman references that could be open for production where they can't because they reinstated some of the things like WOTUS and some of the other regulations that were removed so that States could look at the ability to permit applications where now they are not able to do that, where banking systems, through Treasury, through the SEC, are blocking financial institutions or bullying financial institutions to not allow investment by American banks into American production of energy.

It is real. It is going on. It is a problem. And it is why many of those energy companies are making their billions of investments in other countries right now.

□ 1145

Again, when you have John Kerry, the President's global warming czar, just the other day saying he hopes Russia helps us with this.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, can the gentleman clarify when he says, "just the other day"?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, probably about 4 days ago, where he was talking about getting energy production addressed and some other things addressed. We shouldn't have a strategy that involves Russia helping us right now or Putin helping us right now.

So don't give Vladimir Putin that leverage. He has leverage. While Nord Stream 2 is blocked today, Nord Stream 1, the original Nord Stream

pipeline, is still operating, providing over 40 percent of Germany's energy. That was what President Trump was critical of Merkel about, why are you signing contracts that make your country more dependent on Russia? He said that verbatim. He was right back then. Germany probably wishes they wouldn't have done it today because they were hamstrung in the beginning of this. They are now helping, but they are also dependent on Russian oil.

We should be looking at things that we can do to not only wean ourselves off of Russian oil but our allies around the world. There are real specific things we can do and there are impediments in this country today that exist that are unnecessary, that are hurting our ability to shut down Russia's ability to use energy as leverage. They are doing it right now. They are using it not only as leverage but as a financing source. Putin still is pocketing over \$700 million a day by selling oil to Europe and America.

If there are things that we can come to an agreement on that would address it, I think it would be important that we do it as fast as possible to take away those points so that Putin has to think twice about continuing what he is doing, this barbaric genocide that is happening in Ukraine.

So just saying that while it might not be something we recognize as unifying today, I think it could end up being something unifying in a short period of time, if we can keep working through those differences. I would just encourage that we try to do that.

If there is anything else on that, I would yield, but there is one other issue I wanted to raise as well.

The Senate just a few days ago passed unanimously a resolution asking to open up the Capitol again to the American people, our constituents, who still are not able to come to the Capitol to visit with Members of Congress, to sit in the gallery, to participate even in the State of the Union. It was a unanimous resolution in the Senate.

There is a companion resolution by Congressman STEIL that was filed, H. Res. 961, that would do the same thing and express from the House side what the Senate just expressed, that it is time to open the Capitol to the public again. The Senate Republicans and Democrats came to an agreement to do it. I would just ask that we do the same and show the American people that the people's House is open to the people of the Nation. If the Senate can come to an agreement on it—again, I don't think there is anything controversial in the resolution, but I would ask that we would bring that up as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that question. The answer to it is the Office of the Attending Physician and the Sergeants at Arms in both the Senate and the House are looking at that, both from a health

standpoint and from a security standpoint.

I think all of us agree that the American public's access to the Capitol ought to be as fulsome as possible, given constraints of health concerns and of security concerns. So I join the gentleman in saying, as I have said to the press, as soon as we can do that responsibly, we ought to do it. I agree with the gentleman.

I want to add something that is of great concern to me. I hope we have agreement in this House, and I hope we have agreement in the United States Senate. I have been shocked, deeply saddened, when your party passes a resolution and tells the American people that January 6 was legitimate political discourse.

If we are telling people in this country that January 6 was legitimate political discourse, we are going to have great concerns about opening up this Capitol for the safety of our Members, for the safety of the public who wants to visit, and for the safety of our staff.

I would ask my friend; does he believe that January 6 reflected legitimate political discourse?

I was shocked, astounded, that a major political party in this country would tell the American people what they saw on January 6 was legitimate political discourse.

Will he please reject that concept, reject that conclusion, that what they saw on January 6 had anything to do with legitimate political discourse.

Yes, I want to open up the Capitol, but I don't want to make any representation to the American people, Mr. Speaker, that what happened on January 6 bore any resemblance to what we as Americans believe is legitimate political discourse.

Rightfully, Senator MCCONNELL and former candidate for President of the United States, MITT ROMNEY, rejected that out of hand. I would hope you and your party would do so on this floor and tell the American people, yes, we want to open up this Capitol, but do not delude yourself that anything you saw on January 6 bears any resemblance in any way to legitimate political discourse.

I had not brought that up, but I am constrained to do so as we talk about opening up our Capitol.

Tuesday night, we were an armed camp. You saw it, I saw it, we all saw it, the fence around the Capitol, men and women with automatic weapons, both military and civilian, because of what happened on January 6, because of the concern they had for the safety of our democracy and of the ability of the President of the United States to come and give a State of the Union address to the assembled Members of the Congress of the United States and the United States Senate. That is why all of that was there.

Very frankly, inexplicably, the Republican Party's national committee passed a resolution, apparently overwhelmingly, that told the American

people that January 6 was legitimate political discourse.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I have been very clear from the very beginning, anyone who broke into this Capitol ought to be held accountable and is being held accountable. More arrests have been made than probably all of the cities where people were burning down cities across America in the summer. That is something that ought to be addressed, and the Democratic Party doesn't want to talk about that. They just want to talk about January 6.

These resolutions are not about January 6. It is allowing the American people to exercise their First Amendment right to come and meet with their Members of Congress, which they are not able to do right now.

If you look at that resolution, the head of the RNC even came out and said that is not what they were referring to, what the gentleman just alluded to. They said they were talking about the people who weren't even in the District of Columbia on January 6 who are being targeted right now. That is what they said that they were doing. Go take that up with them.

I have been clear about what has happened to the people who broke into this Capitol and that everybody who breaks the law ought to be held accountable, not just the people who broke in here on January 6, but also people who burned the cities down over the summer of 2020 who haven't been held accountable. That is something that angers people all over the country. They want to see the law equally carried out for people who broke the law, no matter where they were, here or in cities across America.

If you want to criticize one side of it, at least be willing to criticize the other side of it, too. I surely have. I haven't heard it from the other side. I would be more than happy to hear the gentleman talk about people who were shooting at cops, killed cops, beat up people in streets, burned down police stations, government buildings in cities, took over cities, and haven't been held accountable. Shouldn't they also be held accountable? I say both should be held accountable. Does the gentleman agree with that?

And I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the equivalency that my friend from Louisiana tries to make between citizens, some who committed crimes, but citizens who are acting because they are seeing their children's lives taken because of the color of their skin and what happened on January 6 to undermine our democracy, our Constitution, and our election of a President of the United States, reflects the resolution the Republican National Committee passed, legitimate political discourse.

They weren't talking about the people—some people saw, obviously, the President incite those people to come from where that political discourse, that discussion—which sounded like incitement to me, maybe not to you—and

they came from the White House, at the President's instruction, Mr. Speaker: Go down to the Capitol, stop the steal, give them hell, fight like hell. Instructing the Vice President of the United States to do what the Vice President of the United States concluded was illegal, not within his power, and they came into the Capitol calling for the life of the Vice President and the Speaker of this House.

There is no equivalency. But they continue, Mr. Speaker, to make that equivalency, to justify what was done on January 6, that, oh, well, everybody does it. No, they don't. It is the first time in history that it has happened.

The whip and I are talking about what I think we both want to do, open up this Capitol, make it more accessible, have people come in, gun free, weapon free—come into this Capitol and see their democracy in action. That resolution was read by the American people as, oh, it is okay, legitimate political—there was nothing about January 6 that was legitimate political discourse, including what the President of the United States had to say, at that point in time, Donald Trump. That wasn't legitimate at all.

Sixty courts determined Joe Biden was elected. He still, to this day, lies to the American people. Sadly, too many people believe him, which led to January 6 and the violence. I am sure that the whip believes they ought to be held accountable if they came in here and waved guns at people and killed a police officer. I appreciate that he said that.

If he believes, as ROMNEY believes, as MCCONNELL believes—MCCONNELL didn't say they were talking about the people talking in political discourse, should we do this, should we do that. MCCONNELL responded to that resolution exactly as I have, understanding exactly what it meant, inexplicable.

Very frankly, if we are going to open up this Capitol, we need all of us to tell every American we are opening up the Capitol to peaceful—sure, political discussion; that is what this place is all about. That, Mr. Speaker, is what this discourse is about, differences of opinion, how we resolve them, how we reach consensus, how we hopefully bring people together. But not by waving racist flags, not by hanging a gallows in front of the Capitol. That is not how we do it.

We ought to all, all 435 of us, reject it out of hand. We should not in any way try to make it look like, well, some other people did this, and some other people did that, and, therefore, it is okay.

They attacked our democracy, our Constitution, this country. They were traitors. We ought to all reject that kind of conduct out of hand, not try to rationalize it with some other group did this and some other group did that, people with grievances.

The Constitution does not guarantee being able to shoot at people, police or nonpolice. It doesn't justify destroying

property. That is criminal activity. I agree with that 100 percent. And no city was burned down. A little bit of hyperbole there, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1200

Were there things done that shouldn't have been done? Yes. Were there things that shouldn't have been done and things that happened on this Capitol? Yes.

But January 6 was not analogous to any of those things. It was an attempt to undermine our democracy, our Constitution, and the election of the President of the United States by this Congress in approving what we should have no discretion in one way or the other. That is what lawfully is done in each State when they send their electors here.

What President Trump kept asking Mr. Pence to do was ignore the votes of the American people, ignore the lawfully elected electors and the result of their deliberations.

Mr. SCALISE is my friend. He is a good man. A famous quote says that nothing is necessary for the spread of evil but that good men do nothing. And that is why I tell my friend I was so appalled at the rhetoric of that Republican National Committee resolution and what it says to people around this country who may have a grievance, who may be angry.

As Senator MCCONNELL interpreted it, the resolution was speaking to what happened on January 6, whether it was at the White House and incitement, whether it was at the White House and deployment, or whether it was here in execution of what was clearly a coordinated effort to prohibit the Congress from carrying out its constitutional duties. Expressed and acted out.

So I say to my friend in conclusion, I didn't mean to get into this today, but your questions obviously spurred my feeling about this because, yes, we want to open up the Capitol, but I don't want to give any citizen the thought that the Capitol is being opened so they can come in here, threaten the lives of a Vice President, threaten the lives of a Speaker, threaten the lives of the minority leader or the Republican whip or any others of us.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican whip is my friend. He was badly injured by a criminal who may have been deranged or whatever, but no excuse, who attacked him because he was a Republican. Totally unjustified. Totally heinous in its execution. The whip has shown extraordinary courage, Mr. Speaker, in coming back. I know it has been hard. It has been tough for him, and all of us admire him for the courage he has shown in coming back, and we condemn in the severest terms any kind of action that would have put him or any other of our Members, our staff, or the visitors to this Capitol at risk.

We are considering it. We want to open it up. The American people ought to have access to their Capitol.

Mr. SCALISE. Just again, we condemn violence of all kinds: Political vi-

olence, people that just commit violence because they want to or they think they can get away with it or they think somebody will bail them out if they do it. But we should do it across the board, and the punishment fits the crime. The laws are on the books. It is the prosecutors who go after the people, and they are in some instances. It should be in all instances.

I will continue to call it out on both sides. I would hope on the other side we hear that as well, not just when they see it in one place, but when they see it in all places, and I would hope we would open up the people's House and get the Capitol back open to the American people who want to and have a right to come and express their views on issues.

They might want to send an email, they might want to make a phone call, but they also might want to go to the office and sign that log book and try to sit down either with the Member of Congress or their staff to convey their feelings, and we just hope that happens. Again, the Senate unanimously said they want that to happen. I would hope the House would do it, too.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, "climate change effects are outpacing our ability to adapt." That is from the recent IPCC report.

Here is what that means in America in 2022:

We have coastal communities where flooding has washed out roads before the bond used to pay for that road was fully paid off.

We have mayors with no budget for seawalls who are being forced to tell their constituents that the only solution is for them to abandon their homes and their businesses and relocate to higher ground.

NOAA reported recently that sea levels in Florida will be 18 inches higher by 2050. What that means is that there are properties in Florida today that will be underwater before their 30-year government-backed mortgage is fully repaid.

What happens in your community when that happens, if voters are told they have to abandon their home, or that their town can't connect them back to their grocery store, or that their local bank has to write down Federally backed mortgages? We know the political pain that that drives, and we know what measures are necessary to protect American families from that pain.

Yet my Republican colleagues in the Senate, who claim to be so focused on the economy, are withholding their confirmation for new Federal Reserve appointees because they have the temerity to suggest that we should not

even do the scenario analyses necessary to protect ourselves against this climate risk to our financial sector.

When you ignore the laws of physics, you put taxpayer dollars at risk; you put communities at risk; you put lives at risk; you put American energy independence at risk.

It is time, it is long past time for the climate denial caucus to pull their heads out of the sand before the rising ocean washes all that sand away.

CONGRATULATING GREG BURKOT ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and district office staffer Greg Burkot.

A proud Bardstown resident, Greg served the Second District as a field representative from 2009 to 2021. He represented my office in Edmonson, Hart, LaRue, Meade, and Nelson Counties and was a key liaison to constituents in those communities.

Greg and his wife, Paula, have two daughters, the apple of his eyes, Rebecca and Allyson, with their husbands, and their three grandchildren. They are also active in their community and church.

I will miss Greg's welcoming personality, and I thank him for his service to the Second District and the Commonwealth.

I wish Greg the best on his retirement, and I hope he and Paula enjoy this next chapter of their lives as parents and grandparents and as retirees.

CONGRATULATING BRUBAKER FARMS

(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 congratulate the Brubaker family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, owners and operators of Brubaker Farms, as they celebrate the notable Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award.

This award is given in honor of the world-renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, who many consider being the father of wildlife ecology and a devout conservationist.

The Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award recognizes Pennsylvania farmers, ranchers, and foresters who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat resources in their care.

America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters are the original conservationists, and the Brubaker family is no exception.

The Brubaker Farm is a 1,200-cow dairy run by Luke Brubaker and his sons, Mike and Tony. They use an assortment of conservation practices to farm the acres, to feed their herd, in-

cluding no-till farming and cover crops.

Additionally, the Brubakers fenced cattle away from streams and planted trees in 15 acres of riparian buffers, allowing deer, turtles, and waterfowl in the area to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, the Brubaker family has a longstanding history of being true stewards of the earth, and their continual commitment and dedication to conservation while remaining competitive in the dairy industry is a noteworthy feat.

Once again, I want to congratulate the Brubaker family on this well-deserved accomplishment, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for this family-owned farm.

REMEMBERING JONES WEBB

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man, Mr. Jones Webb. Jones was a fellow Young Harris College graduate with an innate love and passion for the college.

Young Harris ran in Jones' blood, as his grandfather owned a store and rooming house for male students at the college. His father attended Young Harris Academy and Young Harris College, where he graduated in 1916 and was the editor of the college's first yearbook.

Jones was a dedicated servant to the college and served his many years on the Academic Affairs Committee, Executive Committee, Planned Giving Committee, and the Properties Committee.

He spent 35 years on the Young Harris College Board of Trustees before being elevated to emeritus trustee status in 2013. Additionally, Jones spent time as the secretary of the board for 17 years, from 1991–2008, and served as college counsel for several years.

He wore many hats and provided his keen insight, legal acumen, and wise counsel to ensure the college that he loved so dearly was even better for the next generation of students. His passion and dedication will always be remembered.

My thoughts and prayers will remain with his family and friends during this most difficult time.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JANE WHEATLEY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jane Wheatley, CEO of the Taylor Regional Hospital in Campbells-ville, Kentucky, who retired after 20 years in this critically important position.

While Jane has led this institution for two decades, her service to the hos-

pital spans much longer. She began working in the business office in 1978 at what was then known as the Taylor County Hospital before climbing the ranks to become chief financial officer and later chief executive officer.

Under Jane's leadership, Taylor Regional Hospital has undergone dramatic growth to become a regional hub for quality healthcare. Without a doubt, her vision for growth contributed mightily to the hospital's success.

She also has a love for Campbells-ville that drove her to do all she could to ensure her fellow citizens did not have to travel far for vital healthcare needs.

Jane's professional success is a testament to her hard work, leadership, and desire to improve the community she loves. She leaves a proud legacy in Taylor County, and I wish her nothing but the best in a well-earned retirement.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-97)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2022.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has not made the necessary political and economic reforms that would warrant terminating the existing targeted sanctions program. Throughout the last year, government security services routinely intimidated and violently repressed citizens, including members of opposition political parties, union members, and journalists. The absence of progress on the most fundamental reforms needed to ensure the rule of law, democratic governance, and the protection of human rights leaves Zimbabweans vulnerable to ongoing repression and presents a continuing threat to peace and security in the region.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288, as amended, with respect to Zimbabwe and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

□ 1215

AN ECONOMIC WALK THROUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be one of those moments where you sort of walk through. We obviously had the State of the Union a couple nights ago. Instead of just sort of walking through my frustrations with it, I want to dice up a couple of things that I considered the most outrageous, but also a continuation of a theme, and that is something has happened here.

My brothers and sisters on the left over here, somehow, somewhere in the last year or two have moved into trying to make public policy by virtue signaling. And I think I will prove this.

And I am open, if anyone out there from my Democratic colleagues can give me something you did in the last year of absolute power and control here in Washington, D.C., that actually made the lives and the country better or that over the next decade will make their lives better. It is almost like we are in this clown show of you get rewarded for saying pretty words and be damned the actual outcomes.

So let's walk through some of the reality.

Now, you remember at one point we were talking about energy, and the fact of the matter is, the world is financing Putin's war machine. Remember, it was last October that natural gas prices exploded, and it was obvious. You set up policy sets as soon as the administration took power, canceling the Keystone Pipeline, trying to do all sorts of restrictions, which the courts had to roll back, so now the administration threw up new restrictions.

What did you think would happen? And you can actually, though, look at the lunacy that are policies from the United States; and I will also blame Western Europe.

These are the pipelines. This is how you finance functionally a gas station with nuclear weapons, which is functionally what Russia is today. And you start to understand—and a couple weeks ago we came here and even on a

YouTube channel we tried to explain policies that have happened in places like Germany.

Go back a decade ago. Do you all remember when the green left movement in Germany—now that we know it was backdoor financed by Russia—was out there protesting we need to get rid of the nuclear power plants, the baseload nuclear? I think they got rid of 20-something plants. There are only one or two still functioning, and they are scheduled for decommissioning.

Germany actually got dirtier, you know, so the very people that used to preach to us about global warming, about greenhouse gases got dirtier. They are burning more coal. And, also, they don't just take natural gas from Russia and oil from Russia, now they even take coal from Russia, and you actually see the pipelines. So at the same time, a sort of Malthusian left here has been trying to strangle American hydrocarbons—and understand, I am a huge fan of natural gas.

The last 15 years, the remarkable reduction in greenhouse gasses coming from North America is because of natural gas. Remember, the decommissioning of North American nuclear power, baseload power, pretty much equals all the clean energy, the photovoltaic, the wind, that has gone in.

So you can say, Oh, look at all these new solar panels, but the fact of the matter is the amount of nuclear we have removed—so how do we get so clean?

Remember, a year or two ago, we were within a margin of even hitting the Paris accord, something we didn't sign on to because of the use of natural gas. So as we are starting to restrict ours, you see the pipelines coming out of Russia moving into Europe, instead of us expanding ours and saying we are going to liquify natural gas and get it out of here, sell it to the world, balance the payments, grow the economy.

So there's great irony, think of the virtue signaling here over and over.

Even a couple days ago, when we were getting a briefing, and there was the discussion of how we get more energy exports to Europe as they are engaging in the sanctions. And someone from the left screams out, But what about the environment? You do realize the Democrats and Biden policy had us burn 23 percent more coal this last year. The policy so jacked up the price of natural gas here in the United States that power is regulated. Power facility after power facility converted back to coal because the brain trust on the left and in the White House so restricted access to natural gas, prices went up dramatically.

Remember we went from, what, \$2 on the futures market to at one point we hit \$6? And it didn't just happen because of the invasion of Ukraine. Those numbers were hitting last October.

If you care about the environment will someone on the left hire an economist that owns a calculator? We burned 23 percent more coal last year. This is a direct result of crappy policy.

And then you think about being from Arizona. I did a ride along about a month ago with a police officer that is a friend of mine. And he was taking me through an area that he has patrolled for 28 years. And he was saying, I am seeing neighborhoods here that have doubled the homelessness, the number of overdose deaths that are happening in these neighborhoods has exploded this last year.

Do you not think when you let the borders open up that you are not screwing over America?

Look, we have come here over and over and said, What are the two most economically violent things you can do to the working middle class? Inflation and opening the borders, where you flood the society with people with similar skill sets.

And these weren't conservative economic models, these were done by leftist professors a decade ago that said, when you take the working poor and flood the market with people with similar skill sets, you inhibit their economic growth, their wages. One of them said this population will be poorer for a decade.

The fact of the matter is when the left allows the open borders—because remember, that was going to be compassionate except for Americans.

I am now being told that drug prices in the Phoenix market have crashed. Now, in this area I am no expert. My mother was a substance abuse counselor for many years, heard many heartbreaking stories.

But when you have the patrol officer telling you that a year ago it may take \$70, \$100 for someone to get high that day, and today it can be less than \$10, the basic rule of economics tells you something. And it is fentanyl which kills people.

So now, all the sudden, I am seeing more drugs, I am seeing more homelessness, a dramatic increase in homelessness. I am actually seeing a huge spike of crime. And then the deaths.

If you are playing economist, we all talk about second-degree effects and third-degree effects but does anyone here actually have any love and compassion in their heart to understand the misery, just the misery that the Democrat policies have been virtue signaling. We are going to be compassionate. We are a loving country. We are going to open up our borders. But what about the misery that has been foisted on so many people?

And the tricky part is, if you look at the economic model, even if we went back to normality tomorrow, because of the populations that are here that are going to compete for those moderate-skill jobs, you will have suppressed income opportunity for a whole segment of our country for a decade.

And then the President gets up and goes, Well, you know, the tax cuts for the rich. Come on. Look, I know Democrats love to use fact-checking, except when it is actual fact-checking. Tax reform that was done in December 2017

made the tax code more progressive. Once again, the top 10 percent of income earners pay a higher percentage of the Federal income tax today than they did before tax reform. The left knows this, but God forbid, they tell the truth. And look, once again, 2015 had a timing anomaly on tax receipts. For those of us in Ways and Means they are tax receipts. 2018, 2019, two of the highest receipts revenue in history.

So number two and three, and if you do the timing effects, it is number one and number two. The fact of the matter is there was tax reform, and more money came in. If you and I did a survey of Democrats, how many of them would actually know that, or actually if they knew it would be willing to say it in front of a camera?

The fact of the matter is corporate tax revenues, receipts, rose by 75 percent, the repatriation of money the companies had been leaving. Do you remember the complaints from the Obama administration about how many companies were leaving the United States? They stopped leaving. They started coming back. But we also saw individual income taxes went up, what, 27½ percent according to CBO, and that 80 percent increase was paid by the top 10 percent of income earners.

You know, I understand things that grow the economy, supply side, that create a more egalitarian society, that make the poor less poor, that crushed food insecurity, that actually, for minority populations, had the fastest wage growth in U.S. history is really uncomfortable for folks on the left because they have to admit that they are sort of—and it is not even Keynesian, it is like a bastardized Keynesian model of throw lots of money and pretend everything is okay model because that is what the left's economics are these days. It is just bizarre, the fact that some people like to call it supply side, it is just the incentives to make more stuff, the incentives to hire more people, the incentives to have a growing economy. Because I am one of those people—and I actually believe most Republicans are—that growth is moral because that growth provides a chance.

Look at the math. You know, after what we called the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, do you see the curve? Do you see the growth in wages? And the yellow line here is female wages. They exploded. Their growth dramatically outpaced males. It was the best income growth ever for women of color, the best income growth ever for the very minority populations that we hear the virtue signaling pandering to, but the difference is the Republicans actually delivered it.

□ 1230

Yet, the left's model is: Hey, we will just send out checks, and we will send out some more checks, and then we won't ask anyone to go get job training or actually work for the checks.

Then you wonder why America today is poorer than it was a year ago. I mean, it is the math. I know it is uncomfortable, but it is the math. Working men and women, the working poor, are poorer today than the day Joe Biden, the day the Democrats, took absolute control of this government.

You see it on the charts. The fact of the matter is, when you see the spread—we are here. That spread, that is substantially income inequality, and it is blowing apart. It is becoming like an alligator mouth driven by the left's policies.

Do you accept you are hurting people?

It is economics. It is math. You can virtue signal all you want, but eventually, the math always wins.

Then you take what the left has done in inflation. You are making Americans poorer. I know this is hard to see, but you are making people poorer. I mean, the other day, there was a New York Times Noble Prize economist saying: Well, the poor aren't getting that poor because of the data.

Well, no. He forgot to also—and he knows this, that inflation has moved up the price of housing. Inflation, you will see what's happening in fuel and in food, but the housing index, the way they do the calculations in CPI has a—think of it as a shock absorber. Your rent goes up a couple of hundred bucks per month for the rest of the year; that doesn't actually enter into the CPI. It is slowly baked in because you have just signed a contract for a year, right?

The willingness to rationalize and lie so you can continue the virtue signaling of fantasy, the math is the math is the math. And the terrifying thing is, okay, yes, you are at a 7-plus percent inflation last year. In areas like mine, in the Phoenix area, it was 9 percent, substantially because of housing. Then you go back to the homelessness and you understand why people of very modest income can't even afford a basic place to live.

We are looking at data in the Joint Economic Committee. We could hit 10 percent this year. You understand how kicking people in the head with policies that make them poorer screw up their retirements, their ability to feed their family and have any savings.

What was the President's solution? Well, we are going to look at businesses and ask them to function with less profits, and we are going to just pay less. Huh? Did anyone listen to the speech? The Ukraine portion, great. Yay. We all cheered. But as the President walked through the economic portion of his speech, it was, A, not truthful, and economically delusional.

So we want to come here with a couple of ideas, and we would be elated if the majority actually takes them and runs away with them.

So, back to our elementary school economics class. What is inflation? Classic definition of inflation: too much cash chasing too few goods and services. Will we agree to that?

Look, I know this is uncomfortable, but the reality of it—Democrat policies are actually hurting people. Maybe we can actually turn the ship around. So if I came to you and said it is too many dollars chasing too few goods, you have what the Federal Reserve will do, which is start to pull liquidity out of the market—you know, the extraordinary measures, buying U.S. sovereign debt, which has functionally enabled Congress to spend like crazy because the Federal Reserve is buying our bots, raising interest rates to pull liquidity out of society.

But that is going to hurt people, too, right? Your interest rates are going to go up. Your credit cards are going to go up, and everything else.

How about a President that comes behind the microphone, Democrats come behind the microphone, and actually offer real, big-boy solutions that actually, A, are founded in economics but, second, would actually be good for society, would actually work.

We want to propose a couple of quirky ideas. Just think of it as an idea box. If I came to you tomorrow and said one of the reasons you have inflation is the Democrats last year shoveled out so much cash, there is so much cash out there moving around, that there is too much money facing too few goods—great.

What would happen if you turned to Americans and said: Hey, instead of going and buying that new big-screen television, we are going to encourage you to take a few hundred bucks and we are going to give you the spiff to go put it in your retirement account. Hell, we will let you use pre-tax money, and we will call it a Roth IRA.

It would help retirement security. It also would be a way to pull—functionally, the same thing the Federal Reserve is trying to do—pull liquidity out of the markets. Republicans and Democrats both would probably stand up and say: Hey.

So let's see. We could pull a whole bunch of the dollars out of the economy that are chasing too few goods and put them into people's retirement so they have retirement security. Hey, this should be a win-win.

Did you hear anything creative like that? Instead, you hear the virtue signaling. Or how about one of my personal fixations, productivity? Remember what was the most powerful thing we did in tax reform? We built an incentive for businesses to take their money and build better plants and invest in more fishing equipment so they could pay people more.

The President goes, well, the corporations made billions of dollars and didn't pay any taxes.

We built a tax code saying: Take your cash and make your company more efficient so you can pay people more so the economy grows.

Once again, remember, we are borrowing. Last year, we were borrowing \$47,000 a second. If this economy does not grow like crazy because that debt

curve, as that becomes more and more of an alligator mouth of here is our debt, here is the size of the economy, that gap is what wipes us out.

If we can grow and keep that ratio of debt to the size of our economy—growth, growth, growth. Well, the idea is if you are trying to take on inflation, you know you need a society that becomes more productive because, long term, that means people will be paid more. We become wealthier as a country and the ability to deal with the demographic curve, that is the primary driver of our debt—do things like, hey, instead of just doing expensing on your capital goods, we will give you a little bit of like a bonus-type of depreciation to do it.

These are economic ideas that would both help inflation but also make us more robust as an economy, as a country, if we have to take on the challenges of the world.

So I beg of our brothers and sisters on the left, I don't know how to get you to stop hurting people. You use very pretty words, brilliant virtue signaling. For those who aren't thinking, it sounds great until you sort of sit there and say, hold it, how does that work?

There are ideas out there both the left and the right should be able to embrace to take on inflation, to stop hurting people in the country. But instead, this place seems to reward itself by flowery language. We are judged on our intentions, not our successes.

Look, this is what I am begging for: There are ideas at work, but the first thing we need to do is stop doing the crazy stuff that is hurting people.

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

TOPICS OF INTEREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss a few topics which should be of interest to all Americans.

Obviously, many Americans have been glued to their TVs this week to see what is happening in Ukraine and what is going on with the Russians and the way they are treating the Ukrainian people.

I would like to emphasize one more time that it amazes me the journalists of this country and the politicians of this country can talk about the two countries, Russia and Ukraine, without talking about the Holodomor.

I have asked children, college students, law enforcement officers, journalists. Amazingly, they have gone through 8 or 12 or 16 years of schooling and don't know what it is.

The Holodomor took place in 1932 to 1933 when communism had in the last few years taken over Russia and taken

over Ukraine. Of course, communists, above all, hate freedom. I don't know if you could describe Russia's communists today—maybe a little more fascist than communist. But at the time, there was no question it was communist, and they didn't like the fact that the farmers, called the kulaks, were, to a degree, free and independent. They were going to crack down on them by taking away their grain and making sure they would starve to death.

Now, perhaps because it has not been adequately studied, we don't know how many people were killed by the Communist Party in Ukraine during the years 1932 to 1933, but if you peruse the internet, it is somewhere between 3 and 17 million.

Interestingly, at the same time these people were starving, the person *The New York Times* put on the case was a guy by the name of Walter Duranty, who they have since admitted they recognized he had some significant flaws in his study, but he managed not to report the starvation. The readers of *The New York Times* at that time thought that things were going great in the Soviet Union and that this might well be the wave of the future.

This is what happens when we have people, progressives, whatever you want to call them, who are blind to the inevitable, horrible things that happen when you let the hardcore left, or what I would call the atheistic totalitarian left, take over a country.

I would hope, as we talk about Ukraine and Russia, that our media outlets, be it newspaper or otherwise, use this as an opportunity to educate the American public as to how many millions of people starved to death during this time.

Every *New York Times* employee should have to listen to this show upon employment about what happened and about what the readers of *The New York Times* were not told about during these years. Every journalism major should spend a few classes when they begin journalism school on this topic. No American schoolchild should graduate eighth grade without hearing about the Holodomor.

Not only is it a warning for what happens when we let the hardcore left take over, but I don't know how you can understand American history, the last 80 years, unless you know a little bit more about communism.

How can American children know why we fought in Korea? How could American children know why we fought in Vietnam? How will American children know what we had a Cold War over?

I don't understand how you can talk about Ukraine and Russia without hearing about the first Ukrainian experiences with communism. It is the reason why some people like me are so befuddled why Senator BLUMENTHAL is given kind of a free pass when he shows up at a communist anniversary. It is why people like me find it so offensive

that two of the cofounders of Black Lives Matter were Marxists and that organization is treated with respect.

This is why I am so concerned when we have owners of high-tech quasi-monopolies try to suppress information hostile to their progressive ideology. Just like in a hardcore leftist state, they would oppress the ability of the local people to find out views on all sorts of opinions. By the way, that is going on in the Soviet Union today.

□ 1245

We turn on the TV and we get all sorts of information about what is going on in the Ukraine. The average Russian citizen, whose children are dying in the Ukraine, they don't get to find out what is really going on. Some people call it Communist; some people call it Marxist. I don't think Progressive is exactly the same thing, but clearly Progressive is meant to be further left than Liberal.

I would hope that by the time this Ukrainian/Russian situation wraps up that American journalists make sure that everybody knows about the Holodomor.

Mr. Speaker, the next thing I would like to talk about in President Biden's annual speech, I think he got away—because of what happened in the Ukraine—without addressing some of the other problems that are, I think, unaddressed.

I am going to talk a little bit about inflation. I am not like my good buddy from Arizona with huge graphs, but I want people to look at this little graph that is on a topic that is normally considered boring: the money supply.

Here we have a graph showing the degree to which the money supply goes up year over year. You will notice the money supply, compared to historic levels, went up rather dramatically, sometimes over 6 percent in the 1970s. People like me are old enough to remember that that is when mortgages were 20 percent and inflation was so high.

If we look at this graph, we see that recently the money supply went up around 7 percent, then dropped down to almost nothing in the 1990s. It recently has hit a year over year increase of 40 percent. I would hope that President Biden realizes that one of the reasons costs have gone so far up might have something to do with this dramatic increase in the money supply. This is an amazing graph.

President Biden—understanding so much about business—has simply advised us the way to deal with inflation is to tell businessmen to cut costs. Well, I will tell you, my district has more manufacturing jobs than any other district in the country and it is also a big agriculture district.

When I had a couple weeks off in the past, I toured a lot of factories around my district. One of the things I heard, in addition to the huge labor shortage,

is the huge increase in the costs of production, particularly in metals. Aluminum is going through the roof. Metals are up 300, 400, 500 percent compared to a couple years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask President Biden: How do you lower costs if the cost of metals that are going into your product are up 300 to 400 percent?

I mentioned I also have a big agriculture district, a lot of dairy, some corn, some potatoes. What do I get from the farmers? They are actually very concerned also about their costs of production: feed, fertilizer, chemicals. Again, it is all skyrocketing. It is not a matter of just telling businesses to cut their costs.

These are the reasons why inflation is so high and why our young people—who I worry about so much because they should be able to get on with their life, they should be able to build a new house, they should begin to be able to have children. I look at the costs that are necessary to live the American Dream.

Housing. Did you ever look at how much the price of a house has gone up the last 18 months? Apartments. Now, I realize the cost of apartments varies dramatically, but in my area you used to be able to get an apartment for \$600, \$700, \$800 a month. Now apartments are being rented for \$1,500 a month.

I don't know how the young people are going to be able to afford the American Dream unless politicians begin to realize that when you have these big spending programs and the Fed has to print dollars to pay for them, you are inevitably going to get inflation.

I beg President Biden and I beg the members of the Budget Committee and the Appropriations Committee that as we work towards the next budget, we try to hold down the level of spending. It wouldn't be too much to ask if we had year over year no increase in spending at all.

I beg President Biden and other members of his party not to push through another massive spending bill. They talk about a \$3 trillion bill, and he still dreams of getting it through. If it is not a \$3 trillion bill or if they get a \$2 trillion or \$1 trillion bill, it will further put the price of housing beyond reach of the young people in the country.

One of the reasons it is so tempting for politicians to just print more money is because then they can say: I don't know how this increase in prices got here. It is not my fault. Just tell the businessmen to cut costs. It is not a coincidence that we had a lot of inflation in the 1970s when M2 was going up significantly.

It is not going to be a coincidence when inflation continues to go up year after year as the business community and the agriculture community tells me it will. If politicians in Washington, in their path to reelection, decide that it means having the Federal Reserve print more money, let the costs go up, and then turn around and tell the

American public: I don't know how this happened, tell the businessmen to cut costs. Please address inflation like the great concern it is.

Mr. Speaker, the next thing I would like to address that I don't feel was adequately addressed the other night is the way we treat police in the country.

President Biden tried to address spending on police. It is true that particularly in big cities with strong Democrat city councils, strong Democrat mayors, they have not treated the police well the last few years. I don't think President Biden addressed what I believe is the big reason why police have not been as effective in holding down the homicide rates compared to a few years ago.

I think the major reason is that cheap politicians are out there lying and telling the public that they are racist. They are saying we ought to sue them, they are saying that we ought to pass legislation here in which it will make it easy to sue them. You wind up in a situation where the police become passive.

As bad as the reduction in the number of police is, I think this constant harping on racism and the police and let's make it easier to sue them makes matters even worse. I want to commend President Biden, he didn't talk about racism on Tuesday night, and that was a great improvement from his inaugural speech where it was kind of like all racism, white supremacy, blah, blah, blah.

It would be nice if he would use the forum of the annual State of the Union address to apologize to the police of the country and educate the American public that the police, by and large in this Nation, are not racist. When you look at studies, and there are a variety of studies we can pull up here, a Justice Department analysis of the Philadelphia Police Department found that White police officers were less likely than police officers of color to shoot unarmed Black suspects, for example.

When you adjust, sadly, for violent crimes committed, again, you don't find this racism. In an effort to win the next election—and they had success in the last election—again and again politicians are tearing down police departments and threatening to have the police sued. It is not surprising when the police become very passive, knowing that if you arrest somebody you could get a complaint filed against you; knowing that if you have to handcuff somebody or tackle somebody that there are politicians out there that want you to be sued. It is not surprising if the police become passive.

In the big, urban city closest to my heart, Milwaukee, where I was born and where my district is right up against, 2 years ago we hit the all-time record by a mile in murders. I didn't think it could get any higher, but they broke the record again last year.

I know if you talk to the police—they won't say it publicly—but they aren't policing the way they could 10 years

ago because they are afraid they might get in trouble, they might get complaints, they might get sued or whatever. They back off and a lot of people have paid for that backing off with their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly wish President Biden would change his tune, stop pushing bills that make it easy to sue police, and above all, change the tone of discussion about policing in this country by admitting how un-racist the police are in this Nation and bring out more respect for them and allow police to not be afraid to do their job.

Mr. Speaker, the next issue that I would like to address—and I wish President Biden would have used his opportunity on Tuesday night to address—he mentioned COVID and COVID deaths go up and COVID deaths go down. We still have about 1,500 people a day dying of COVID. I have known four people, who I think were relatively healthy, who passed away in the last 4 months of COVID. We shouldn't forget about it.

There are some things I have talked about COVID, and for whatever reason the public health establishment—and I think to a degree the President does control the public health establishment—have not addressed vitamin D.

There were studies that came out of Israel this week that they should have advertisements on all over this country. Israel found that patients with a vitamin D deficiency—and I think a vitamin D deficiency was described under 30-nanograms per milliliter—were 14 times more likely to have a severe or critical case of COVID-19 than those people with sufficient vitamin D in their system.

The mortality rate for those who had insufficient vitamin D levels was over 25 percent compared to 2.3 percent. In other words, you were more than 12 times as likely to die of COVID if you didn't have adequate vitamin D in your system.

I don't know why the public health establishment won't talk about this more. I have been talking about it for almost 2 years now. I realize that you can get nice bottles of vitamin D for \$15 or \$20 at Walgreens or wherever, so nobody is going to make a lot of money on it. And certainly, there are a lot of ways people made a lot of money with COVID so far.

I do believe that if they pushed vitamin D—not everybody would believe the commercials and not everybody would follow through—but I think it is entirely possible that you would reduce the number of fatalities by one-half.

I asked President Biden to weigh in with his agencies and weigh in with the CDD or NIH, and have them educate the public on the huge potential savings in lives if Americans would have an adequate amount of vitamin D.

I don't like breaking out people of different ethnic backgrounds, but right now people of color are much more likely to be vitamin D deficient than people of European descent. So by not

trumpeting from the rooftops that vitamin D can save your lives, you are unquestionably disproportionately causing people of color to die of this horrible disease. I realize there are other things that could be done.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I will repeat here: insufficient vitamin D levels, 25.6 mortality rate compared to 2.3 percent with adequate levels. People with vitamin D deficiency are 14 times more likely to have a severe or critical case of COVID.

Why does the average person not know this?

I tell them when I run into them, but I can't talk to everybody. It would be nice if the public health establishment would talk a little bit more about that.

One other thing, by the way, I was hoping on COVID he would do, the protocol of a lot of hospitals is to determine the drugs they prescribe by what is recommended out of the big agencies in the government. And there are a lot of very intelligent people who feel that we would have saved a lot of people if we could have used off-label drugs rather than the \$3,000-a-day remdesivir. In other words, they felt there were better drugs that would probably cost one-hundredth of the amount of the drug that was being pushed out of CDC. It would be nice in America, the land of the free, if we would allow doctors in hospitals to use these other drugs. I think, again, Mr. Speaker, you would have significant savings compared to where we stand right now.

These are some of topics that I think were not addressed and should have been addressed and would save lives if appropriately addressed in the State of the Union.

We will mention one more because we have a little bit of time here. President Biden, to his credit, pointed out that a lot of people are dying from illegal drugs. He didn't exactly have any concrete proposals as to what to do. When I got this job 7 years ago, 47,000 Americans were dying every year from illegal drug overdoses. Fifty-seven thousand people died in 12 years in the Vietnam war. And they made a big deal about that when I was a child. Now you have 47,000 in 1 year, Mr. Speaker, when I got elected.

Do you know what it is now, Mr. Speaker?

One hundred thousand. It is as if we are having two Vietnam wars every year, and the politicians hardly talk about it.

Now, I think one of the reasons President Biden wouldn't come up with anything concrete is that almost all the fentanyl—a drug which he wouldn't even mention by name which is responsible for most of these deaths—almost all of the fentanyl is coming across the southern border, and, of course, our President doesn't like to talk about the southern border because we have a largely open southern border in which 90 to 100,000 people every month are coming across.

It also may mean a little bit more of an aggressive law enforcement going after the people who sell the fentanyl. But, of course, we can't say we should have more aggressive law enforcement, and we can't say that more drug dealers should wind up in prison because then we would have more in prison.

So rather than doing these things, why don't we just let 100,000 people a year die?

Some people can say drug possession and sale of drugs is a victimless crime. I say if you think about the parents or the spouses or the children or the siblings of the 100,000 people who die, I don't know how we cannot do more to address this problem.

I would hope that next year in the State of the Union speech President Biden does a little more to address the 100,000 people who are dying of drug overdoses and does a little more to address the perhaps hundreds of thousands of people whose lives could be saved if we freed up doctors to prescribe whatever drugs they wanted to and if we would have pushed a little bit more vitamin D.

I think we would have a much more well-informed electorate if the educational system and the journalist establishment did a little more to educate the public about the Holodomor.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, certainly this is a moment in history for many, many ways. I have heard of the—really the constant—how do we say in the country—ranging and tanging, the constant refrain of our friends on the other side of the aisle, and I am going to take somewhat of the approach of the President of the United States who gave really one of the most historic, dynamic, and pointed speeches to the American people that I have ever heard.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank President Biden on the floor of the House for speaking straight to the American public. All those who were willing to hear their President who recognized that we are a nation of the United States of America, that we are truly, truly a nation that rises to the occasion of defending democracy together as the United States of America.

That speech covered the pain and the joy that we face today. And I want to start with his concluding remarks, and I can almost hear his resonating voice, his passion, and his true reach to the American people. This was the State of the Union, the first, and so when the question was asked, President Biden said my report is this: "The state of the Union is strong because you, the American people, are strong."

Who could not fall under the strength of that statement?

The mothers of soldiers who are in faraway places; fathers who go out and work every day who look to hope from their country to make sure they can provide for their family; the senior citizens; the students who fight against tuition increases; and the vulnerable people seeking homes and houses; they heard him.

"We are stronger today than we were a year ago, and we will be stronger a year from now than we are today. Now is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time, and we will as one people, one America—the United States of America. May God bless you all. May God protect our troops."

From the beginning he spoke to the American people without divisiveness and certainly with an understanding that we have gone through as a people a most historic and devastating moment in our lives. I know that because more than once I have visited the area on the Mall that showed the little white flags. If you have visited Arlington National Cemetery, then you know the sacrifice of our soldiers, you know the rows and rows and rows and rows and rows of tombstones from wars beyond our historical time.

But when you went to that exhibit, if it was that commemoration, that tribute, that acknowledgment, that place of mourning to know of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who died because of COVID 19, and some dying in the early stages, some families having six, seven, and nine people their family. So you know this was an enormous time.

Let me thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus who just yesterday Congresswoman LEGER FERNANDEZ spoke of our next steps in the work ahead.

I didn't want this time to end without responding to day after day refrain from our Republican friends with no plans, no solutions, no next steps, just criticism over and over again just so their voices could be heard.

There is no doubt of the magnificence of the work that has been done by the President of the United States. Let me read, if I might, again, into the RECORD from the Wall Street Journal. And let me acknowledge that in my district where there are persistent or even permanent economic problems such as long-term unemployment, weak labor markets, inexperienced workers, evictions and foreclosures, these are what come about through a catastrophe like the pandemic. And, also, as the Wall Street Journal referred to: "The painful truth about economic recoveries is not that everyone bounces back financially after a downturn."

There are always going to be Americans, as I said, in long-term unemployment, weak labor markets, inexperienced workers, evictions and foreclosures, and people trapped in difficult economic conditions because there needs to be a reimagining of their job.

There are always going to be those people. But there are policies that can limit this scarring, as economists sometimes refer to it.

Our President Biden, the President of the United States, his American Rescue Plan has led to less of it than any recovery in the last 50 years. If there were good-thinking people on this floor, they would rise to a standing ovation as we did on Tuesday night.

Long-term unemployment. While most jobs will return after an economic downturn, the number of people struggling with long-term unemployment—without work for at least 6 months—often remains relatively high for months after general unemployment peaks.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 helped avert an economic depression, the persistence of high long-term unemployment 2 years later led President Obama to press a Republican House for a second stimulus.

But in this instance, we can assure that the American Rescue Plan of President Biden—and, by the way, through no fault of President Obama who did not have a cooperative Republican Congress—this has been the least impact and the greater recovery in at least 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, don't you think that is worthy of celebration?

But no. There is a whining and whining and whining as if the President does not recognize the importance of pressing forward on behalf of the American people.

So let me, first of all, indicate that in a few days we will be honoring and recognizing those foot soldiers who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, not once but twice, led by John Robert Lewis, our late colleague, and Martin Luther King, Jr., because the ultimate gift of democracy comes out of the voices of the people who vote.

Isn't it a shame that 100 years post the Emancipation Proclamation for the second time in 1865 after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 that 1965 had to be the year that President Lyndon Baines Johnson that again we reinforced the 15th Amendment of the right to vote.

And here we are today in a primary that was held in Texas, the first primary in the Nation, and it was a disaster because of SB 1 led by Republicans to take the vote right out of the mouths of seniors, African Americans, Hispanics, veterans, soldiers, and students, gleefully so that they would have an upper hand rejecting 30 to 40 percent mailed ballots.

This is a picture of John Lewis on that bridge. We will commemorate that march this weekend because we believe in democracy. We believe in the forthrightness of the democratic Republic being held up, being held up by the shoulders and the strength of those foot soldiers of 1965, un-named, as there were those who fought for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, held up the very Constitu-

tion and the very Nation that we have because of the vote. And we will march to commemorate.

But, sadly, as we march, the destruction of democracy in this country is, I believe, the ultimate results of these radical right bills that are trying to destroy the right to vote after the false statement of the big lie and 2020 when the most amount of Americans voted for the Presidential candidate and our President, the President of the United States of all the people was elected, Joe Biden, and KAMALA HARRIS as Vice President.

Can we not just accept that and be happy about that?

And can we not join in the words of John Lewis of the beloved community?

That is why I stand here today and salute him and acknowledge the beloved community.

□ 1315

Then I want to proceed, as a member of the beloved community, to thank our soldiers, some of whom I saw, if you will, when I was in the Ukraine area, meaning, I was in the area of Lithuania, Belarus, on the border.

Now, acknowledging the strength of the President to have upwards of 100,000 troops around in the NATO ally countries, making sure that those countries that are NATO allies are well-protected while providing, as the President has indicated, substantial support, if you will, to our friends, the Ukrainians, to give them strength even in the face of brutality and terrorism by Vladimir Putin, whose war this is—no vote has been taken in Russia. This is his attack.

Even though, as I was in the region, we continue to work with the OSCE to push for diplomacy and peace, asking Putin to come to the peace table and to not destroy the Ukrainian people and the democratic republic that it is, or nation, and to sit with President Zelensky, as he reminded us this week that light will win over darkness.

Putin would not have it. Even though his soldiers have surrendered, and they are without food, they are still a major threat. They are without knowledge, as one dead Russian soldier had texted he did not know why he was there.

Isn't that a shame to take young kids and destroy their lives because of your own power hunger and the lack of understanding of what the world order is and to kill recklessly human beings?

But the President of the United States held together this wonderful alliance of NATO countries around peace.

I want to be very clear: I want peace. I am not an offender; I am a defender. I want us to use diplomacy. I want us to embrace the migrants or the immigrants, African immigrants and others that are coming out of Ukraine, treating everyone to the opportunity of being able to escape as a refugee, if you will, from the violence, now a million displaced persons. But I want diplomacy and peace.

Yet, as the President spent months building a coalition of freedom-loving

nations from Europe, the Americas, to Asia and Africa, to confront Putin, he wanted peace. He spent countless hours dealing with the allies.

His backdrop was another world war, and World War III, for this is the greatest threat to Europe since World War II. The geography lends itself to Putin's violence. He remembered those who fell in Normandy and elsewhere so that Europe might be free, and the Marshall Plan, and a strong Europe today, our allies, correcting the mishap of the past 4 years when Europe was put to the side and the President that had this job gave accolades and flowers to Vladimir Putin and, even today, has called our President dumb and Putin smart. How shameful.

But I am glad I am being led in this country by President Biden because he knows how we fought for freedom, expanded liberty, defeated totalitarianism and terror, and built a strong and the freest and most prosperous nation.

I just repeat these words because I think it is important to realize how we have helped and how he has worked to ensure that help is coming through our ability. Though our forces are not going to Europe, he made it crystal clear that we will stand with our NATO countries and that we remain strong for Ukraine as they fight back.

As has been said, light comes after darkness. As we provide them with the resources that are to be heard around the world, and that we, as well, forge with Ukrainian Americans and work to be able to help their relatives through the State Department.

Even as Putin circles Kyiv with tanks, he will never gain, as the President said, the hearts of the Ukrainian people.

We want to make sure that it is known that we are providing the necessary support with weapons that are able to be sent with intensity to Ukraine.

But the human cost is evident, and I will just take you down memory lane, that you have seen. This is the violence of Putin, the violence of Russia. America has been a defender in all the crises that we have faced, the violence. This is the Putin who said this is an operation but is not attempting to hurt the Ukrainian people.

Look at this person who is harmed. Look at them praying, their hands up. The despair of destruction, but that destruction is not going to weaken the Ukrainian people—the despair, but not defeat; the violence, but not defeat.

In the course of the work that we have been doing, I recommended last week that America's efforts to stop Russia should be in the financial pockets. The ruble is down. It is in the midst of rubble, by the way, but the ruble is down.

People are suffering. It is shameful because the American people care about people, and it is shameful that the currency is impacting Russians who have not voted for this war.

But it is important, as well, that, as I called for in my district, the need for Putin to be charged as a war criminal. That is an imperative, and now an investigation has been opened.

This is not a family that has—this is an example of mothers with newborn babies fleeing. Just think of you holding a newborn baby safely in the United States. But mothers are fleeing with 1-week-old babies. It is a tragedy.

A surrogate had twins, and that family in the United States is struggling to get those newborn twins to safety.

This is what Vladimir Putin has rendered. I would say to you, we are not going to let him win, and the Ukrainians will not let him win. The United States will not let him win.

Thank you, President Biden, for bringing our allies together as we continue to try and stand strong.

But we are not unmindful of what has to be done for the American people. We are not unmindful for inflation. And so I hope that his announcement of Make It In America, of the 65,000 highways and infrastructure that is going to be fixed because of the enormity and the importance of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, along with the final passage of the COMPETES Act, that we will see Americans getting back to work and that we will work extensively to bring down the cost of living.

And I, frankly, believe that that can be brought down with the passage of Build Back Better, where we will guarantee that you spend no more than 7 percent for childcare. That is why women are not in the workforce during this pandemic—which is still existing; we are at the end of it, we hope and pray—because they could not pay for, with not having a job, childcare.

Why can't we move on childcare? We will. That is the work ahead. That is what I know the Congressional Progressive Caucus wants to see. That will help bring down costs, along with the continuation of the child tax credit.

The work to be done is to respond to your needs, dealing with inflation, which includes the 11,000 jobs that will come about through implementing—as the President said, we have announced and now are going to work on the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

You will see no more collapsed bridges in America's cities. It is the first and most historic infrastructure bill, I think, in the last 50 years or more.

We must make that child tax credit permanent because that is going to help our families.

We must recognize the importance of the COMPETES Act because, in fact, we must overcome that import of the semiconductor industry and the tools needed. We cannot rely on China. We must bring it home. The COMPETES Act will help us bring it home.

We must recognize that social justice is imperative, as well. We just finished Black History Month to reemphasize the importance of the history of African Americans in this country who

first came in the bottomless belly of a slave boat.

It is important that we acknowledge with dignity. Race is not toxic and so toxic that we cannot discuss it with benevolence and through the beloved community.

How dare someone get on the floor: Oh, he didn't talk about that racism thing.

You walk a mile in our shoes. Walk a mile in our shoes. We don't carry racism as an anger tool. We don't walk around and dislike people. We embrace our brothers and sisters.

I am on the floor with colleagues from many different places. I relish the interaction. I know they are with me, as I am with them.

But when someone comes and continues, as Republicans have done, to take this, as led by their leader, their guide, their god, which is what President Trump has become, and he has decided that the critical race theory is a fake argument—it has a basis in analyzing law, as it has impacted groups like African Americans and promoted racism.

It should not be where we are raising our children on it. I agree. It is not a lesson for pre-K, elementary school, maybe even middle school. But understanding that there have been differences and that we seek to heal them is crucial.

I take great umbrage to the demeaning of Black Lives Matter, which fatefully brought to our attention the heinous killing of Trayvon Martin and have stood alongside families time after time after time because no one, including America's best law enforcement agencies across America, wants to have the treatment of their neighbors unfairly.

Those who have done so, they stand with us for accountability. They see the value in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. They see the value in the original George Floyd bill that I introduced that was about police training and investing in the 18,000 police departments.

We have an array of positions, but the President indicated that he was looking to work with communities to bring down crime—good for him—even to the extent of being a champion for provisions that came from the Judiciary Committee, along with other committees, about bringing down community violence.

We are not afraid of going right after it because we know our families are suffering.

□ 1330

Is there any attention to gun violence? The rampant, unbelievable, reckless laws of Republican Governors, like permitless carry in the State of Texas, that have simply brought us down to our knees because guns are everywhere, stolen out of cars, people buying guns like they don't have any conscience, buying them off of streets.

Where do they get them? They can originally start in a legal system, but

then you add, really, salt to the wound and talk about the poisonous and really difficult manner of trying to ensure that there is no restraint on guns.

I introduced the Kimberly Vaughan storage bill that I hope to see pass and to work with other Members who, likewise, are working hard to get Americans to understand the necessity of storing their guns.

I continue to work on the healing legislation that deals with H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals, supported by the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Action Network, and the Congressional Black Caucus, not out of anger but out of a sense of understanding and restoration and repair, humbly saying: Let's take a look. Let's make sure that we have a pathway to do better, as we have a pathway for economic development, as we have a pathway for childcare, as we have a pathway for creating the care economy that was proposed by the President and in Build Back Better, as we have a pathway for getting our voting rights, as we have a pathway for helping with police-community relationships, as we have a pathway for bringing down crime and helping our families and protecting victims, as the almost \$1 million that I was able to get for the Houston Police Department to restore their crime victims' office. What a celebration we had. We are waiting for those resources so they can get to work and make sure victims are not left alone, as we know that they are.

I simply want to conclude my remarks by saying we are strong and also to indicate we have solutions like in the Build Back Better, not one of you will be left out of having healthcare. Work needs to be done. For the 12 States, we have expanded Medicaid to a Federal program, and that must be where we ensure and assure that we can make it work. Wouldn't that be a relief for young families, single Americans, students, to be able to access a Federal Medicaid program, health for everyone.

Let me remind my hometown: We are in the Gulf region and, yes, we flood. We are still fighting from Hurricane Harvey, the looks of this, and the kind of loss of homes, the largest catastrophic loss of homes in the history of the State of Texas, from flooding, from the hurricane. Our citizens, this is what they face.

But guess what? Between the Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood District, 18th Congressional District, the infrastructure bill, and the funding that we hope will come from the omnibus that has been so carefully negotiated, we will be confronting these as the President signs the omnibus, but more importantly, as the infrastructure bill is implemented.

We are going to address the crises of disasters in America all over, the fires to the hurricanes because the President is leading, and the Congress, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI

and CHUCK SCHUMER, is answering the call of the American people.

Remember what I said. The President has announced that the State of the Union is strong, that America is strong, that we are united, and that we will not fail. He will lead by example.

Social justice is not off the table. And the respect for people's advocacy, as young people, like Black Lives Matter, NAACP, Urban League, National Action Network, Congressional Black Caucus, American Civil Liberties Union, League of Women Voters, LULAC, and an array of others, Asian-Pacific friends, and everyone around, southeast Asians, I have named them all, and, of course, our Native American friends. And all those whose names may not be called, we are united with all of America. And if you came over or Pilgrim's Pride and were part of the founding 13 Colonies, you are part with all of us as the beloved community. Strong we are and strong we will be.

I am delighted to say the work ahead is in good hands. Together, with this Congress and the President, America is in good hands.

God bless you and this Congress, God bless the United States of America, and God bless our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to participate in tonight's special order on "The Work Ahead" following President Biden's powerful State of the Union address from last night.

I thank Rep. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ for anchoring tonight's Congressional Progressive Caucus special order.

Last night's State of the Union Address by President Biden provided an encouraging account of what all this Administration and Congress have achieved for the American people.

Democrats have many legislative achievements to be proud of, beginning with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Since the dawn of his campaign, improving American infrastructure has been at the center of the President's agenda.

As the President recalled, before this act became law our infrastructure was ranked 13th in the world.

Worn down infrastructure also greatly impacts the lives of working-class Americans trying to complete simple tasks; like going to and from work, picking up their kids from school, or going across town to care for an elderly family member.

Not committing to infrastructure significantly decreases our ability to fight climate change; without friendly EV infrastructure or access to mass public transit, our emissions will only increase, failing to meet our goal of helping decrease global temperatures by 1.5 degrees Celsius.

During my tenure in Congress, I have watched many infrastructure weeks pass by without results despite what I believed was an ardent commitment, but this administration has finally broken the trend.

As the President said, because we have passed this legislation into law, we're done talking about infrastructure weeks.

We're going to have an infrastructure decade.

Because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, begin to replace poisonous lead pipes so every child and every American has clean / water to drink at home and at school, and provide affordable high-speed internet for every American in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.

4,000 projects have already been announced.

We will also begin to improve over 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges in disrepair.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in our Nation's infrastructure and competitiveness, and when its full scope is realized and implemented, all Americans will benefit regardless of socioeconomic status.

Another landmark piece of legislation from this administration is the American Rescue Plan.

COVID-19 brought about sweeping change at an unprecedented rate, much of this change had drastic impacts for Americans.

People were laid off from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and in the worst cases passed on despite the heroic efforts of our medical professionals.

But the American Rescue Plan provided a plan our country so desperately needed.

It fueled our efforts to vaccinate the Nation and combat COVID-19.

It delivered immediate economic relief for tens of millions of Americans.

It helped put food on their table, keep a roof over their heads, and cut the cost of health insurance.

And unlike the \$2 Trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefitted the top 1 percent of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people—and left no one behind.

Our economy created over 6.5 million new jobs just last year, more jobs created in one year than ever before in the history of America.

Our economy grew at a rate of 5.7% last year, the strongest growth in nearly 40 years, the first step in bringing fundamental change to an economy that hasn't worked for the working people of this Nation for too long.

American children also greatly benefitted from the American Rescue Plan, considering the great impacts of the newly revamped Child Tax Credit.

The American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of 6 and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of 6, and raised the age limit from 16 to 17.

It is the largest Child Tax Credit in the history of our Nation, pulling an estimated 3 million children out of poverty.

Despite the momentous impact the Child Tax Credit has, it will expire in the next fiscal year.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to make these changes to the Child Tax Credit permanent.

The CPC is determined to make this happen in this legislative session.

We cannot delay this critical action by being privy to political dog whistles blown by Republican members of Congress, claiming this policy is socialist, communist, or whatever the outlandish claim of the day is.

We must make the Child Tax Credit permanent to ensure the prosperity of America and its children.

What should also pique the interests and spark the hopes of Americans is the House's recent passage of the COMPETES Act.

This remarkable piece of legislation will take on inflation and rebuild U.S. supply chains that have been eroded by monopolies that stopped investing in America, bringing down costs for working people.

Because of this bill, the American semiconductor industry will take our reliance off the likes of China and allow us to chart a new course forward with economic self-sufficiency being the centerpiece.

The America COMPETES Act will spur greater American production of chips, strengthen U.S. supply chains and strengthen American manufacturing, and advance U.S. scientific excellence and research.

Thanks to CPC members' amendments, the bill will also include policies to track carbon emissions and increase green climate funding, ensure women and workers of color are not left out of job creation in manufacturing, prevent U.S. funding to countries with histories of human rights abuses, and insert guardrails against corporate self-enrichment.

Through the amendment process, the Caucus also secured the first vote in Congress on U.S. sanctions policy in Afghanistan and its humanitarian effects on civilian mortality and refugee outflows.

The House has also in the past week overwhelmingly passed the Emmitt Till Anti-Lynching Act.

Though long overdue, the Act is sweeping in the respect that it makes lynching a hate crime, subjecting violators to criminal penalties like a prison term, a fine, or both.

This legislation is critical in realizing a criminal justice system that prioritizes racial justice so no American so unjustly sees their end like Emmitt Till.

Although it just concluded, Black History Month was established to teach the history that too often has not been taught: the history of Black excellence and leadership in America and also the history of resistance and resilience in America.

And let me be clear: Black history is American history. It is living, breathing history—history we create every day, across this Nation and on this Floor.

And today, of course, our Nation faces many great challenges.

Among the greatest is the assault on the freedom to vote—the freedom from which all others flow.

It will take an all-hands-on-deck approach to safeguard and strengthen the freedom to vote.

A hero in strengthening this right was my dear friend and colleague John Lewis.

His passion was unending, symbolized by his leading of that Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Selma in March of 1965.

Despite knowing he and others would be beaten, bloodied, bruised, and even arrested, he nonetheless marched onward.

To highlight that pivotal moment history and pay homage to John Lewis, I and other members of Congress will be making that same march later this week.

Again, furthering his honor, the House passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

This act would bolster voting rights by enlarging the government's capability to respond to voting discrimination.

This piece of legislation is absolutely necessary to ensure the right to vote is had by all Americans, a right our Founding Fathers envisioned from the inception of this great Nation.

The legacy of Congressman Lewis, a dear friend and colleague, and with us in spirit, must be dutifully honored.

The Senate must immediately take up this legislation and pass it to truly fulfill Congress' mandate of serving the people of this Nation.

Despite the immense progress made so far in this administration, there is still work yet to be done.

As the President emphasized last night, we must pass legislation to lower the costs of Pre-K, health care, home-based care, and housing, and to ensure that childcare doesn't cost families more than 7 percent of their income—all by finally making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

He underscored the need to take meaningful action to address the climate crisis and deliver a roadmap to citizenship for immigrant communities.

And as he said, "capitalism without competition is exploitation"—and the Progressive Caucus is similarly committed to taking on corporate profiteering and monopolistic abuse.

President Biden has significant power to effect immediate, meaningful change for people across America, and we urge him to use it aggressively.

The President can use his executive authority to bring down the costs of prescription drugs and stop Big Pharma's price gouging; decrease carbon emissions to fight the climate crisis; cancel student debt and bolster our economy; protect workers' rights and raise their wages; and provide immigration relief and rebuild our refugee system.

In the coming weeks, the Progressive Caucus will release our executive action agenda for the President that details these steps, and more.

"Democrats in the White House and Congress have shown how much we can accomplish in a year.

If we remain steadfast to our commitment to providing relief our communities need, lowering costs, and making life easier for working people, we can deliver."

One step that must be taken to again seek racial justice is the passage of H.R. 40.

H.R. 40 was initially introduced by the late Michigan Representative John Conyers, and I have introduced it in this Congress.

This bill establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

The commission shall identify the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society.

This bill is the first step in righting the historical wrong that was slavery.

The United States have given reparations to Japanese Americans who were wrongfully interned, The Ottawas of Michigan, the Chip-

pewas of Wisconsin, the Seminoles of Florida, the Sioux of South Dakota, the Klamaths of Oregon, and the Alaska Natives all received some form of reparations from America because of the genocide they underwent.

It is therefore only right that Black people receive reparations because of the history and oppression we have weathered and continue to.

Who are also not strangers to oppression are the Ukrainian people at the bloodied hands of the autocrat Vladimir Putin.

Black Americans underwent violence in the name of fully realizing their democracy, and now Ukrainians are doing the same.

We fought in our own way, and though regrettable, now Ukrainians must as well.

They will persevere, and President Putin will learn that democracy will never falter in the face of cowardice and senseless aggression.

In summation, while much has been done by this Congress, the CPC, and the administration, we must continue to fight and secure a just, equitable, and prosperous future for the American people.

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

FURTHER MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Further messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-98)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2022.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanc-

tions against Iran to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-99)

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The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 321.—An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 854.—An act to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

S. 1543.—An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 1662.—An act to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

S. 3706.—An act to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 7, 2022, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3546. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2021 Report to Congress on the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers, pursuant to Public Law 115-271, Sec. 7121(b)(1); (132 Stat. 4045); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3547. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report to Congress: Study and Report Related to Medicaid Managed Care Regulation, pursuant to Public Law 114-255, Sec. 12002(b); (130 Stat. 1273); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3548. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report to Congress: State Challenges and Best Practices Implementing PDMP Requirements Under Section 5042 of the SUPPORT Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3549. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3550. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3551. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective October 24, 2021 the Department authorized danger pay for employees of the U.S. Marshals Service temporarily or permanently assigned to U.S. Embassy Colombia, U.S. Embassy Mexico City, U.S. Consulate Guadalajara and U.S. Consulate Monterrey; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3552. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing 73 "empowerment" events for fiscal year 2021, pursuant to Public Law 115-237, Sec. 4(b)(1); (132 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3553. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Depart-

ment of Defense, transmitting the Department's National Security Education Program (NSEP) 2021 Annual Report; jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

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. OWENS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):

H.R. 6911. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the participation in the Visa Waiver Program of certain countries that provide citizenship for investment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 6912. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that named fiduciaries collect contributions to pooled employer plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BUCK, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 6913. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 6914. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to discriminate, directly or indirectly, against an individual on the basis of whether such individual has been vaccinated or acquired natural immunity against SARS-CoV-2, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6915. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to include education on trailer safety in State highway safety programs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARTER OF GEORGIA (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 6916. A bill to authorize the Keystone XL Pipeline and direct the President to take certain actions relating to the importation into the United States from Russia, and the exportation from the United States, of oil and gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. NEW-

MAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BOST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 6917. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 6918. A bill to amend section 2339B of title 18, United States Code, to apply to social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MOOLenaar, Mr. BOST, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. MANN, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 6919. A bill to prohibit the importation of petroleum products from Russia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6920. A bill to prohibit the use of funds made available for the official travel expenses of a Member of Congress or other officer or employee of any office in the legislative branch for airline accommodations which are not coach-class accommodations; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6921. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the maximum loan amount for certain loans; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 6922. A bill to continue the temporary waiver of interest on state unemployment loans during the pandemic to provide additional relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 6923. A bill to establish a program so that small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6924. A bill to suspend payroll taxes for 2021 and 2022; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6925. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the monthly exempt amount for individuals not attaining full retirement age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 6926. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to purchase at-home tests for SARS-CoV-2 that are imported from, or manufactured in, the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HERRELL (for herself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. BENTZ):

H.R. 6927. A bill to immediately resume on-shore oil and gas lease sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. STANTON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 6928. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to assess the unintended impacts on the health and safety of people engaged in transactional sex, in connection with the enactment of the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 and the loss of interactive computer services that host information related to sexual exchange, to direct the Attorney General to submit a report on human trafficking investigations and prosecutions in connection with the same, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TURNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 6929. A bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BANKS, Ms. WILD, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 6930. A bill to authorize the confiscation of assets subject to United States jurisdiction of certain foreign persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 6931. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the boundary of, and reauthorize, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6932. A bill to provide a short-term disability insurance program for Federal employees for disabilities that are not work-related, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 6933. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 6934. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide free meals to low-income students through existing on-campus meal programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SMITH OF WASHINGTON (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 6935. A bill to expand the authorization of voluntary Federal grazing permit retirement, provide increased flexibility for Federal grazing permittees, promote the equitable resolution or avoidance of conflicts on Federal lands managed by the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. CASE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 6936. A bill to provide for the issuance of a semipostal to benefit programs that combat invasive species; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, 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. TITUS (for herself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 6937. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the information reporting threshold for slot winnings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LIEU, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MANNING, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6938. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act to expand employees eligible for leave and employers subject to leave requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and House Administra-

tion, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 6939. A bill to prohibit the importation of oil and natural gas from the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LONG, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BARR, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 6940. A bill to impose additional prohibitions relating to foreign boycotts under Export Control Reform Act of 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. HUDSON):

H. Con. Res. 77. Concurrent resolution supporting United States bids to host the Men's and Women's Rugby World Cup tournaments; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H. Res. 962. A resolution supporting the people of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 6911.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 6912.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and 17

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 6913.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 6914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 6915.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 6917.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 6918.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 6919.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 6921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 6923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 6926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. HERRELL:

H.R. 6927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 6928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 6930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 6931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution:

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State;" and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution:

"The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 6933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 6934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 6937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 6939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 6940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 310: Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 684: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 783: Mr. EVANS and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 849: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 978: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1110: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1282: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1284: Ms. LETLOW and Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 1361: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1522: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1627: Mr. EVANS and Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 1696: Ms. BUSH.

H.R. 1705: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 1892: Mr. LUTKEMEYER.

H.R. 1914: Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 1919: Mr. CASTEN and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1977: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2050: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 2143: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2252: Mr. OWENS and Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 2311: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 2335: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 2447: Mr. BERA and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 2489: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2542: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 2549: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2586: Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 2709: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2750: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 2773: Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2972: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3054: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 3203: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 3297: Mr. KILMER and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3342: Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3355: Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 3402: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3455: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 3577: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 3598: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3671: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3710: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3733: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3748: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 3759: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 3867: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3897: Mr. DUNN, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. BRADY.

H.R. 3940: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 4003: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 4137: Mr. KAHELE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 4151: Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 4312: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4700: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 4702: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 4750: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 4801: Ms. PORTER, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4871: Ms. ROSS, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4903: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 5019: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 5140: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 5184: Mr. ESTES.
 H.R. 5218: Mrs. DINGELL and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 5232: Mr. DAVIDSON.
 H.R. 5294: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. GOHMERT.
 H.R. 5413: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5426: Mr. LIEU, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 5429: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 5527: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 5536: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5666: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5841: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 5900: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 5919: Mr. SIRE.
 H.R. 5957: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 6000: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 6005: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 6008: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 6023: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 6132: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 6167: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 6178: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
 H.R. 6202: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 6219: Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 6265: Mr. BABIN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
 H.R. 6270: Mr. GIMENEZ.
 H.R. 6302: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 6375: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 6381: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 6400: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H.R. 6421: Mr. BANKS.
 H.R. 6441: Mr. COOPER and Mr. EVANS.
 H.R. 6462: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 6464: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 6480: Mr. HILL.
 H.R. 6546: Ms. BROWN of Ohio.
 H.R. 6571: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 6599: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 6619: Mr. FEENSTRA.
 H.R. 6649: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
 H.R. 6663: Mr. CAWTHORN and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 6738: Mr. BUDD and Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 6748: Mr. CLINE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
 H.R. 6772: Mr. PALMER.
 H.R. 6783: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
 H.R. 6792: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 6809: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 6817: Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 6828: Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 6858: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BRADY, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 6860: Mr. BERA, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 6862: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 6864: Ms. PORTER and Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 6867: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
 H.R. 6872: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 6876: Mrs. LURIA, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 6886: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 6887: Ms. VAN DUYN.
 H.R. 6890: Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. CASE, and Mr. CAREY.
 H.R. 6894: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CAREY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. CLINE, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.J. Res. 53: Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COOPER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. ROSS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. PETERS.
 H. Con. Res. 76: Mrs. HINSON, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. BANKS.
 H. Res. 373: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H. Res. 404: Mr. HILL.
 H. Res. 566: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H. Res. 748: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H. Res. 833: Ms. BASS.
 H. Res. 874: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUCHSHON, and Mr. MULLIN.
 H. Res. 881: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H. Res. 923: Mrs. LURIA.
 H. Res. 931: Mr. GARBARINO.
 H. Res. 961: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs.

MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. DUNN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BUCHSHON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BRADY, Mr. RESCIENTHALER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MANN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. LATTI, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. MACE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. COLE, Mr. LONG, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HILL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BARR, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 10, February 28, 2022, by Mr. DUNCAN on House Joint Resolution 67, was signed by the following Members: Mr. Duncan, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Ms. Van Duyn, Mr. Bishop of North Carolina, Mr. Buchshon, Ms. Foxx, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Jackson, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mr. Long, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Guthrie, Mrs. Boebert, Mr. Stauber, Mr. Massie, Mr. Moon, Mr. Roy, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Mast, Mr. Latta, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Estes, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Buck, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Allen, Mr. Mann, Mr. Issa, Mrs. Miller-MEEKS, Mr. Posey, Ms. Herrell, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Perry, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Kustoff, Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Rose, Mr. Rice of South Carolina, Mr. Good of Virginia, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Budd.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 3 by Mr. ROY on House Resolution 292: Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Long, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Moolenaar, Ms. Herrell, Mr. Weber of Texas, and Mr. Burgess.

Petition 9 by Mr. BUCK on House Resolution 823: Mr. Moolenaar.



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No. 39

Senate

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3076, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Peters) amendment No. 4955, to modify the deadline for the initial report on the operations and financial condition of the United States Postal Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 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 majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as spring begins, daily new cases of COVID-19 have dramatically decreased since the height of Omicron. Hospitalizations, thank God, have steadily declined. Across the country, Americans are able to remove their masks as the spread of disease seems to be lessening. Crucially, schools are open, and we need to do everything we can in our power to make sure they stay open.

All of these signs point in a positive direction. The country is turning the corner on the COVID pandemic. We are in a new moment of the fight.

But we also are at a crossroads. Either we act now to secure the progress

we have made, or we risk backsliding if another contagious variant emerges in the fall and winter. Just as we cannot allow COVID to rule our lives, neither can we fall into a false sense of complacency.

That is why the White House has requested that Congress include \$22.5 billion in additional COVID relief funding in the upcoming spending bill, and Congress should follow through with this request over the coming days. If not, we risk sliding back if another variant occurs.

This morning on CNBC, former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb reminded viewers of the key aspect of this disease. To paraphrase him loosely, cases can drop in the spring and summer, but the risk still exists for another wave to surge in the fall or winter. He is right. We all know this from sad experience.

We also know what we must do to be ready. We know a lot more now what to do to be ready than we knew a year ago. If we want to keep our schools open, if we want to keep life as close to normal as possible, if we want to be ready for the possibilities of future variants, Congress must provide the resources needed before a new variant arrives. That is the surest way to minimize cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the future.

Let me repeat. To keep schools open, to keep life as normal as it can be, we need additional COVID investments now, not after a possible new variant arrives.

Remember, by now, all public health funding provided by the American Rescue Plan has run out. If Congress waits until a new variant arises to pass new funding, it will be too late.

And we are happy to make clear with our Republican colleagues about how this money is dedicated. The White House has already provided an explanation about how COVID money has been spent over time. Some Republicans may think it should have been spent differently, but the point is that

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, we have enemies. Many strive to stop the march of freedom. Use our lawmakers to accomplish Your will on Earth. Give them the wisdom to trust Your precepts and depend upon Your guidance. Lord, judge our desires and thoughts, as You strengthen us with Your constant love. Thank You for the way You have helped us throughout our history. Spare us from the fate of those who do evil and sustain us with Your prevailing mercies. Guard those who place their hope in You and keep them safe, enabling them to tell of Your wonderful deeds to future generations.

We pray in Your great 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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it has been spent. We can't pull those dollars back, and we need to provide new funding for possible variants.

Where has the COVID money been spent thus far? It has gone to vaccinate 215 million Americans. It has been used to keep schools open, to expand treatment, and to provide 1.2 billion vaccines to other countries.

Last night, Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young sent Congress a 12-page letter detailing what the new funding would do: more vaccines for children, bolstering our testing supply chain, therapeutics, and more.

If there is one thing both parties should be able to agree on it is that we should not shortchange the American people on vaccines, on testing, or on therapeutic medicines that greatly reduce the severity of the illness if you are able to take them and if we have the supply.

Again, Congress must include new funding for COVID relief to ensure our schools and our communities face minimal disruption in case another variant comes, and we should do it ASAP. The most logical place immediately to do it is in the upcoming omnibus bill.

INFLATION

Mr. President, on another matter, on costs to the American people, in the coming months and beyond, Senate Democrats will maintain a focus on one of the most vexing issues facing American families: lowering costs while building on the wage and job growth we have seen over the past year.

The American economy is booming compared to a year ago. The number of new jobs added to the economy is staggering. We have added more than 6 million new jobs in a single year, including the most—the most—new manufacturing jobs in decades, but at the same time, we must fiercely confront the wave of rising costs resulting from COVID's worldwide disruptions. This is the biggest economic challenge that our country must focus on right now.

Later today, at our DPCC lunch, at the request of Chair STABENOW, FTC Commissioner Lina Khan will join us to shine a light on the troubling pattern of corporate price hikes in the areas of oil and gas, prescription drugs, and other goods.

This dimension of inflation cannot be ignored. Americans are being asked to pay more at the grocery store, at the pump, and for basic goods even as they watch incredulously as some of the Nation's biggest corporations post their most massive profits.

In many instances, these profits resoundingly exceed prepandemic figures. Last fall, Bloomberg noted that U.S. corporations outside of the financial industry reported the biggest margins since 1950—since 1950—71½ years ago. It appears corporate profits are far outpacing inflation, and they are spending much of the profits on things like corporate buybacks, which are hitting record levels. So Americans are being

asked to pay more, but many mega corporations are making a killing. That is a twisted thing to see as we recover from COVID.

Democrats are working right now on a number of proposals and ideas that would ease the pressure Americans are feeling from rising costs. We must lower the cost of insulin to \$35 a month. We must make all prescription drugs cheaper. We need to help make groceries more affordable. We need to look at fixing ocean shipping bottle-necks.

I will also add that one of the best things we can do to fight inflation is to confirm President Biden's nominees to the Federal Reserve. I urge in the strongest terms possible for Republicans to drop their holds on these members. The Federal Reserve is so crucial for our economy right now, and to intentionally delay their confirmations is irresponsible.

Most importantly, we must boost manufacturing, American manufacturing, and decrease our reliance on overseas producers. The war provoked by Putin is an illustration as to why this example is important.

President Biden's State of the Union made clear that the United States remains strong and ready to face the immense challenges of our time, but to maintain that edge, we must focus like a laser on addressing costs. That is what Democrats will keep doing.

Another thing we are doing today, that is happening today, is a hearing in the Commerce Committee on shipping costs and a bipartisan bill by Senators KLOBUCHAR and THUNE that will help reduce those costs. Shipping costs affect every American. Any good that comes from overseas has to be shipped here.

H.R. 3076

Mr. President, on the post office, Democrats have been working all week with Republicans to push the biggest postal reform bill in years over the finish line, and, today, we are close. Today, we continue negotiations with the other side on their proposed list of amendments to the bill.

As we continue to work on a deal, I filed cloture last night on the postal bill in order to keep the momentum going. At the end of the day, the vast majority of Democrats and Republicans wants to see this bill sent to the President's desk quickly, so I hope we can arrive at an agreement to finish before the weekend.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their continued work, especially Chairman PETERS and Ranking Member PORTMAN.

This postal reform bill has been a long time coming, and when passed, it will ensure that tens of millions of Americans who rely on the post office every single day for medicines, Social Security checks, and other goods can make sure that the post office remains in good hands and is strengthened.

ENDING FORCED ARBITRATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. President, finally, I want to close by noting, this afternoon, President Biden will sign into law bipartisan legislation ending forced arbitration for sexual assault and sexual harassment.

All of us have heard the searing testimonies—searing—of those who have faced harassment or abuse at work, only to discover their jobs offered precious little in accountability. Countless careers have been derailed or undone. Worse still, countless lives have been forever damaged. For decades, workplace practices like mandatory arbitration have perpetuated cultures of abuse and unaccountability.

We can't ignore a basic reality of these clauses: They deprive victims of sexual harassment and assault of their basic rights by mandating that they seek remedy only behind the closed doors of private arbitration, with no other alternative. With the President's signature today, that will come to an end.

I want to thank Senator GILLIBRAND for leading the fight for years, and I am glad I was able to work with Senators GRAHAM and ERNST to push this bill over the finish line.

By the end of today, we will be able to say: The Senate acted; the House acted; the President acted; and now forced arbitration reform is law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday morning, I hosted Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, the President's nominee to replace Justice Breyer on the Supreme Court, in my office. I was glad to meet with Judge Jackson. We enjoyed a cordial discussion.

Like I have been saying, Republicans fundamentally believe the nominee, the Court, and the country all deserve better than the disgraceful displays that Senate Democrats have routinely visited on nominees of Republican Presidents. The Senate's process should be dignified, but it also must be vigorous, exhaustive, and painstaking. We are talking about a lifetime appointment to our Nation's highest Court.

This is a moment when issues relating to the law and the judiciary are directly hitting American families, from skyrocketing murders and carjackings, to soft-on-crime prosecutors' effectively repealing laws, to open borders. This is also a moment when the far left has declared open season on the very concept of judicial independence itself.

President Biden even bowed to the radicals and set up a Court-packing Commission.

Now, Justice Breyer has distinguished himself by loudly and proudly putting those radicals in their place. He has consistently denounced the concept of partisan Court packing and defended the Court's legitimacy.

One would hope his successor would follow suit, but curiously the same radicals who want to turn Democrats into the party of Court packing also badly wanted Judge Jackson for this vacancy. It is a matter of record that this nominee was the anointed favorite of these fringe groups. At this time last year, they were already spending dark money to raise her profile.

So I intend to explore why groups that are waging political war against the Court as an institution decided Judge Jackson was their special favorite.

Like I said, I enjoyed meeting the judge. She is clearly a sharp lawyer with an impressive resume, but when it comes to the Supreme Court, a core qualification is judicial philosophy. Our citizens need Justices who treat all parties fairly, apply our laws and Constitution as written, and leave legislating to us here in Congress.

I raised all these matters yesterday. I look forward to gaining more clarity about Judge Jackson's positions during the vigorous and thorough Senate process to come.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

VACCINES

Madam President, now on another matter, our Nation faces serious challenges to our citizens' health and wellness. COVID-19 has been one of them. Abuse of illegal drugs and prescription pills is another. Heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are ever present. Many of these health crises hit Middle America especially hard and specifically rural America.

Data show that rural Americans are disproportionately likelier to die from a number of potentially preventable causes. That is why I have been focused on expanding local treatment centers and telehealth and fighting the drug epidemic tooth and nail.

Last week, I hosted Dr. Rahul Gupta, the administration's drug czar, in Kentucky. Opioid abuse is a staggering problem in our State and throughout the country. Last year, even during COVID, fentanyl abuse alone was the biggest cause of death among Americans aged 18 to 45. That is not even all drugs, just fentanyl alone.

In short, this may literally be the worst time in American history to deliberately cut healthcare access in rural America, but that is just what the Biden administration has done. President Biden told every thinly stretched doctor's office and hospital that accepts Medicare that they had to fire workers who didn't want the COVID vaccine.

Now, I have been a consistent advocate for getting vaccinated. They offer

powerful personal protection against hospitalization and death, but they do not prevent people catching or transmitting the current variant. There is no moral justification for sweeping mandates. The benefits accrue to the person who gets the shot.

What is more, the CDC's own research says that prior infection provides protection that is at least as strong as the vaccines. But the President's overreaching mandate ignores that. His policy unscientifically discriminated against people who have immunity from prior infection. They had to comply anyway or lose their job.

The President tried to force such a mandate on all kinds of workers across America. The courts slapped that down easily. But his mandate targeting healthcare workers remains in effect.

It is unfair on a personal level, but even just looking at public health, it is terrible policy for rural America. We cannot have President Biden mass firing doctors and nurses when hospitals are already short-staffed.

One hospital leader in Marshall County, KY, told me that "this is an absolute disaster. We are a small critical access hospital with 250 employees. . . . We have begun assessing areas that may have to be [literally] shut down."

A head of a hospital in Calloway County told me that "I can afford to lose not one more nurse." He said the Biden mandate "makes no sense"—no sense—"for rural healthcare."

The head of a critical access hospital in Hardinsburg says that "the mandate is devastating for Kentucky hospitals."

Clearly, many of my colleagues are hearing similar things. Yesterday, over the objections of every Senate Democrat who voted, Republicans stood up for Americans' right and Americans' healthcare access. We passed a resolution to overturn President Biden's mandate that would drain doctors and nurses out of middle America.

If Washington Democrats could safely hobnob in the Capitol all Tuesday evening with no masks, then they ought to stop pushing mass firings on essential health workers.

Unfortunately, if we know anything about this Democratic House, this commonsense measure may well die on Speaker PELOSI's desk.

I sincerely hope our colleagues across the Capitol will see reason and pass this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mr. COONS. Madam President, since President Biden took office, we have seen historic job growth and a dynamic economy. Wages are rising, and they are rising fastest for working-class Americans.

But despite this significant economic progress, today, too many American families are still facing pressing economic challenges: a global pandemic now entering its third year, ongoing

disruptions to international supply chains that result in rising prices, and now the economic shocks caused by Putin's aggression, his invasion of Ukraine and the response by the West—a united effort to impose sanctions on Russia, which will also have consequences for the global economy.

The Federal Reserve exists, in part, to address issues just like these. The Fed doesn't just set interest rates and control our money supply; it oversees banks, ensures efficient and reliable payments, promotes consumer protection and community development.

When our economy is facing such foundational challenges like the ones we are up against right now, it is crucial our institutions are at full strength.

The Fed is at its strongest with a full Board of Governors, and President Biden has nominated five of the finest economic and legal minds our country has to fill its vacancies: Jerome Powell, to serve as chair; and Lael Brainard, to serve as Vice Chair—both folks who have ably guided our economy in the years they have served at the Fed; Sarah Bloom Raskin, whom I know from college, has been nominated to serve as Vice Chair for Supervision and has demonstrated through a long career in public service at both the State and Federal level to be a highly competent regulator who has advanced the financial system that would work for all Americans; Philip Jefferson, nominated to serve as a Board Governor, has deep expertise in how monetary policy impacts employment and economic growth and an important understanding of inequality and poverty in America today; last, my good friend, Lisa Cook, whom I have known for decades. We knew each other as young Truman Scholars, folks who were volunteering a week of our time to help mentor and encourage younger Truman Scholars—a federally funded memorial to President Harry Truman.

I have known her since a stage in her life where neither one of us might have guessed that someday I would be on this floor speaking as a Senator, and I would be speaking in support of her nomination to the Federal Reserve.

She would bring a valuable new perspective to the Fed Board. Lisa, from her time growing up in a small rural town in Georgia, going on to earn advanced degrees from our Nation's finest institutions, and now as a teacher at one of our great public universities, she has built world-class expertise in economics, innovation, and banking. She understands not just abstract economic theory but how those theories impact Americans and their families in all walks of life.

Lisa served under President Obama at the White House Council of Economic Advisers, where she dealt with financial crises both here in the United States and abroad, and she has studied the macroeconomics of foreign markets in Europe and in Africa, including the way central banks have dealt with

high inflation—one of the issues right before us.

She has expertise in an emerging area of the economy that is increasingly important for our central bank regulators to understand: digital currencies and financial technology. She has supported sensible regulation of cryptocurrencies that enables innovation and allows more people to access secure and low-cost financial services.

Her data-driven approach would help the Fed navigate our continued economic recovery, and her focus on financial inclusion will be a critical perspective on the Fed Board that would help ensure all Americans can see the benefit of continued economic growth and job gains.

Overall, these are five nominees to the Fed Board with sterling credentials and strong character. All of them, on their merits, deserve the seats to which they have been nominated.

I respect the desire on the part of my Republican colleagues to conduct a full evaluation of these nominees, and all five of them have responded repeatedly, fully, and with transparency to the hundreds of questions that have been pressed to them. They have answered all the questions put to them.

The time has come to advance and confirm these nominees, and I call upon my Republican colleagues to allow a vote to proceed. To block a vote in the Banking Committee of this Senate by simply denying a quorum is no way for this allegedly greatest deliberative body in the world to conduct itself. If we are, in fact, facing the crisis of inflation and rising prices, the Federal Reserve Board must have its full membership.

So my colleagues, please, stop blocking these capable and qualified nominees and allow them to proceed.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Madam President, I serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee. And in my dozen years here, I have had the honor of participating in, and even presiding over, confirmation hearings for Federal District Courts, Circuit Courts, and the Supreme Court.

We have before us now President Biden's first nominee to our Nation's highest Court. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is an exceptionally well-qualified jurist whose experience, whose credentials, and whose evenhanded approach to the administration of justice make her an outstanding nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court.

This is an important step forward toward making our Supreme Court look more like and reflect more the diversity of people in our Nation and the diversity of experience of those who serve in the bar.

Last year, Judge Jackson was confirmed by this Senate on a bipartisan basis to serve on the DC Circuit Court, one of the most complex and significant of the circuit courts of the United States. Before that, she was unanimously confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

where she has honorably served for 8 years. She has issued over 500 opinions, so we have a very clear idea of her approach to judging and her interpretation of the law; and she brings great professional diversity of experience to the Bench as well.

If confirmed, she will be the only Supreme Court Justice to have served as a Federal public defender. That kind of perspective on our highest Court is critical. Her work as a public defender is just one example of the breadth of experience Judge Jackson will bring to the U.S. Supreme Court.

She has also served as Vice Chair and Commissioner on the Sentencing Commission that interprets and applies criminal law and as a lawyer in private legal practice for some of our Nation's leading law firms. And, most importantly, she clerked for the Justice for whom she has been nominated as the successor, Justice Stephen Breyer.

Our President has promised to nominate someone in the mold of Justice Breyer; and Judge Jackson—in temperament, in ability, and approach—certainly fits that bill. It is my hope, it is my expectation, that this Senate and the Senate Judiciary Committee will meet this historic moment by swiftly, appropriately, and respectfully questioning this nominee in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, bringing her to a vote on the committee, and then voting to confirm her nomination here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NOMINATIONS

Madam President, if I might, the last topic I come to speak to on this floor today is the critical need for us to be as attentive to the advice and consent role for nominees as ambassadors, as senior members of the State Department, and USAID positions.

There are so many positions that have been held for months and months; and many of them are being held by my colleague from the State of Texas because of a disagreement over sanctioning the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Today, finally, we stand in a place where the policy of this administration, the policy of our close and valued ally in Europe, Germany, and the positions of folks in the Senate are all aligned. There are now sanctions on Nord Stream 2. It has been stopped.

Thankfully, my colleague has lifted his holds. Yet there still remain holds from other Members of this body on other nominees, all of them well-qualified. Eight of them would serve under the jurisdiction of my Foreign Relations Committee subcommittee on economic and energy policy multilateral organizations.

So while I respect the right of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to hold a nominee for a specific, relevant policy issue, we have to provide advice and consent in a timely and respectful manner of the President's nominees.

President Biden has been President more than a year now. We have crises all over the world—whether it is in Ukraine, the violence and the aggres-

sion carried out by Putin's Russia or its competition with China or its dealing with North Korea or its advancing our interest with respect to Iran and their proliferation—we have places all over the world for which we need qualified nominees.

That is why, in a few moments, I hope to take action on the floor; but I am not yet going to take that action unless it is clear we are all prepared.

Let me briefly, in conclusion, if I might, speak to some of the folks who should be confirmed.

The Ambassador to Botswana, Howard Van Vranken, career foreign service officer in a country I have visited, a country that is an important partner to allies in Southern Africa, and where the absence of an ambassador means an absence of American leadership.

Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles, ready to serve as our Ambassador to India, a country that is a continent-wide, multifaceted, multilingual, multiethnic democracy—a vital partner and ally to the United States where we currently have no ambassador.

Marcia Bernicat to be Director General of the Foreign Service. If we are to recruit, retain, motivate, and place the greatest diplomats possible in the world, we need a Director General—a DG—who leads the Foreign Service from a human resources perspective.

Julietta Noyes to be Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration. A million refugees have fled the violence in Ukraine; and yet PRM has no Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary. Think about that as a dereliction of duty by this body.

Oren Whyche-Shaw to be Ambassador to the African Development Bank. If we want to see inclusive development on the continent of Africa, how can we have no ambassador for this multilateral development bank?

Enoh Ebong to be Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency, the USTDA. TDA plays a critical role in bringing into the United States opportunities for trade and development—again, a critical vacant seat.

Christopher Hill to serve as Ambassador to Serbia. There are developments in the Balkans too complex and concerning for me to take this body's time with right now. But let me simply say, any seat, any ambassadorial post in the Balkans vacant is a missed opportunity for American leadership.

Laura Holgate to be Ambassador to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and Representative to the IAEA. We are engaged in critical final-stage negotiations, I am told, in Vienna about whether or not we will be able to further constrain and better understand Iran's dangerous conduct with regards to enrichment. We have no ambassador to the IAEA. Think about how irresponsible that is.

If I might, we cannot confront our global challenges alone, and we need these diplomats in place so we can successfully address these threats from

Russia, climate change, COVID-19, from Iran, from terrorism.

It is my hope that my colleagues who have holds reportedly on many of these nominees will relent, and I look forward to continuing to press that case today.

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 (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 13, 2020

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Finance is discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 38, and the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 3 hours for debate only, with time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as of January, energy prices were up 27 percent across the board. Gas prices were up 40 percent from a year ago. Natural gas was up 24 percent. Fuel oil was up 46 percent.

High energy prices have a huge impact on our economy. Obviously, they represent a significant, direct burden on Americans trying to fill up their cars or pay the utility bills, but they also contribute to price hikes across our economy. High gas prices and other energy costs contribute to price increases on a whole host of other goods. Manufacturers facing higher transportation costs thanks to high gas prices, for example, are often forced to pass on at least some of those increased costs to consumers in the form of price hikes.

Now, while Democrats helped create our current inflation crisis with their so-called American Rescue Plan spending spree last March, President Biden is not solely responsible for high energy prices. He is responsible, however, for the fact that he is pursuing an energy agenda that is almost guaranteed not only to increase American energy prices long term but also to increase our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

Since the day he took office, President Biden has pursued an agenda that

is hostile to conventional sources of energy; namely, oil and natural gas. When it comes to energy, he is focused almost exclusively on alternative energy technology—specifically on electric vehicles, which his administration has clearly picked as its preferred winner in the clean energy stakes.

Now, I should say I am a longtime supporter of clean energy. In South Dakota, we derive a significant amount of our energy from hydropower and wind. In fact, in 2020, 80 percent of our utility-scale generation was renewal, about half of that from hydro. I have long championed cleaner burning renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel.

But the fact of the matter is, our Nation is not going to be fully transitioning to 100 percent zero-emission energy anytime soon no matter how much the administration would like it to. There are a lot of hurdles to be crossed before we can rely solely on clean energy. Consumers, first and foremost, need affordable and reliable energy supplies, especially consistent baseload energy.

Clean energy technology has simply not advanced to the point where it needs to be in order for us to rely on clean energy exclusively. We are going to need an “all of the above” energy portfolio for a while yet, including oil and natural gas, and it is a disservice to the American people to pretend otherwise.

We should absolutely continue to invest in clean energy and pursue clean energy technologies in a fiscally responsible manner, but we also have to ensure that our Nation has the oil and natural gas that it needs for our economy to run and for Americans to be able to afford to heat their homes and to get where they need to go.

As I said, since taking office, President Biden has pursued an agenda hostile—hostile—to conventional energy production. He set the tone on his first day in office when he canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline—an environmentally responsible pipeline project that was already underway and that was to be paired with \$1.7 billion in private investment in renewable energy to fully offset its operating emissions. He also almost immediately froze new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, sending a clear signal to oil and gas producers that his administration would be reluctant to work with them to increase American energy production.

He has continued along the same lines ever since. He seems to think that he can hurry along the clean energy future he dreams of by discouraging oil and natural gas production here at home, but he can't. As I said, clean energy sources are simply not at the point where they can solely power American homes or our economy.

The only effect of curbing conventional energy production would be to force Americans to rely more on foreign sources of oil and natural gas, and that is a big problem. It is a big prob-

lem. It is a problem because the more we rely on foreign sources of energy, the more vulnerable Americans are to energy price spikes and to global shortages. It is a problem because relying on foreign sources of energy often means relying on energy from tyrannical governments in volatile areas of the world.

U.S. imports of Russian energy have spiked during the Biden administration, and the current conflict in Ukraine is a reminder of just how big of a problem that is. In the first place, the dollars we or other nations spend importing energy from Russia are dollars Russia is free to use to prosecute its unjustified invasion of Ukraine and any other country that it decides to attack. In the second place, when you rely on another country for your energy needs, you end up beholden to that country.

Now, while we have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia, we have yet to directly sanction Russia's energy sector, and other countries have also held back on sanctioning Russian energy. There is little question that this reluctance stems from both fears of price hikes as a result of sanctions and from fears of lessening the availability of Russian energy supplies.

The truth is, we should be sanctioning Russia's energy sector. Energy production is the lifeblood of the Russian economy, and sanctioning Russian energy would be one of the most effective ways of halting Putin's imperial ambitions.

It is unfortunate that the President has not put our Nation on stronger footing energy-wise so that we could more easily weather these challenging times. The only acceptable American energy policy is an “all of the above” energy policy that invests in both clean energy technologies and conventional energy sources. That is the only way—the only way—to keep energy prices down and ensure America's energy needs are met no matter what is going on in energy-producing countries around the globe.

Now, if the President really wants to lower energy prices for American families, as he indicated in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, he could reverse his rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would be a much welcome recognition that liquid fuels will be part of our energy composition well into the future.

He could fast-track environmentally responsible domestic oil and gas production on Federal lands.

He could work to overturn the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision that will make it more difficult to get approval for natural gas pipelines.

He could ensure that the Department of the Interior releases new land for responsible oil and gas development—something the Department is required to do quarterly by law.

He could encourage financial institutions to invest in conventional energy production and reinstate the January

2021 proposed rule that would prevent large American financial institutions from blacklisting the conventional energy sector.

Finally, he could also get serious about leveraging American agriculture as an energy solution, specifically restoring integrity to the renewable fuel standard. This means not only setting robust blending targets and rejecting specious small refinery exemptions but approving advanced fuels from corn kernel fiber and restoring the year-round sale of E15.

These measures and others like them, combined with clean energy investment, would help lower energy prices now and in the future and help put our Nation on a path to long-term, full energy independence. It is the best decision President Biden could make for American families struggling with high energy prices, and it is the best decision he could make for the long-term security of our country.

I hope he will rethink his hostility to conventional energy production and spend the next year of his administration embracing the kind of “all of the above” energy strategy that this Nation so desperately needs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object. I will say to Senator THUNE while he is still on the floor, he knows I have great respect for him and his views on all kinds of issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, there is nothing to object to.

Mr. CARPER. All right. Then I will just wing it. When I do have the opportunity to object, I want to explain why.

Having said that, Senator THUNE knows we look for opportunities to work together. This is just one of those instances where we don't see entirely eye to eye.

Mr. President, right now, the American people face two existential threats to our way of life. One is the threat really to the world order posed not so much by Russia but by Putin, the President of that country. The other is the threat of climate change.

The legislation we are discussing today assumes that we must ignore the threats of climate change in order to wean our Nation off of foreign oil from countries like Russia, but this is a false choice.

Since the Arab oil embargo of 1973, some have argued that if we simply drill more oil, we can be free of the price whiplash caused by international disruptions in the global oil market. This wasn't true during the Arab oil embargo. It wasn't true during the Iranian revolution. It wasn't true during the 1990 Gulf war or, more recently, during the Iraq war. And it is not true today. Yet the legislation before us clings to a false understanding of oil markets. We have drilled more, but the oil prices that we pay are still impacted by global events.

Instead, we need policies that help our economy smoothly transition off of oil, while at the same time give consumers more choices to fuel their cars, their trucks, and their vans. We need to give consumers real fuel choices that are domestically produced, better for the climate, and that aren't tied to global oil markets. The choices could include electricity from nuclear energy, an issue on which the Presiding Officer and I strongly agree; biofuels made by our farmers, which Senator THUNE strongly agrees and has alluded to; and fuel cells running on clean hydrogen produced in many cases by our refineries. All of these options are things that we should be pursuing—that we should be pursuing—and on which there is wide consensus. In doing so, we buffer our economy against the threat of Russia and the threat of climate change.

With that, when it is appropriate for me to object, I am ready to object.

I am yielding the floor to our colleague from Missouri, Senator HAWLEY.

And let me say to him, I don't object lightly, and my hope is that we will—we haven't had a chance to talk about this before today, but I look forward to that conversation in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3741

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to this administration's dangerous policy of American weakness and in support of the strong men and women of the United States' energy sector, who are ready to step forward to return this Nation to energy independence, to burnish this Nation's strength, and to show the Russians what the United States is capable of.

It will be lost on no one that we are approximately a week into the largest conventional military attack in Europe since 1945. Vladimir Putin's brutal war of choice against the Ukrainians continues as we speak. It grows worse, more devastating, and more brutal by the hour, and it is time that, in the midst of this war, we confronted a basic fact: that Russia isn't so much a country as it is a gas station, and Vladimir Putin's gas station is open for business and pumping away, and this administration—this administration—has made the decision to make this country more dependent on Russian oil, to make the world more dependent on Russian oil, to embolden and empower Vladimir Putin at a time when the world can ill afford it, and it is time to change course.

And we can change course. We can change our energy production policy. We can open up our energy sector to make us once again the dominant energy producer in the world, to make us truly energy independent, to make us energy strong, to put Russia in its place, and to put the United States at the head of the energy sector worldwide.

But that is not where we stand right now. Today, the United States is im-

porting—in the midst of this conflict, in the midst of Russian aggression, the United States is importing—buying from Russia to the tune of 670,000 barrels of oil every single day. It has nearly doubled just in the past year.

Now, I would submit to you that whatever you think about this administration's geostrategic policies—this is, after all, an administration that has managed to lose two sovereign nations in the space of 6 months—whatever you think of that record, this is not sustainable. This is not good for the world. This makes America weaker, not stronger, and this is a time for American strength.

What did Joe Biden do when he came to the Office of the President of the United States just over a year ago?

Well, among his first actions was to cancel the Keystone Pipeline, to halt a leasing program in Alaska, to issue a halt on all new oil and gas leases, as well as drilling permits on Federal lands and Federal waters. By the way, that accounts for about 25 percent of U.S. energy production.

He directed Federal Agencies to get rid of all support for fossil fuels. He imposed new regulations on oil and gas and methane emissions. He hired new SEC regulators to propose new climate regulations, and the list goes on and on.

And these policies have had their effect. I will give the President credit where credit is due. His policies to throttle down our energy production have been successful. He has succeeded in making this Nation energy dependent.

In 2019, in 2020—for the first time, certainly, in my lifetime—the United States actually exported more energy than it imported. We were energy independent, and, even better, we were becoming the energy supplier for the world.

Who is the energy supplier for the world now? It is Vladimir Putin, and that is because, at least in part, of the policies that this administration and President Biden have deliberately sought to pursue.

Look, the statistics don't lie. Why is Russia able to pursue this war of aggression in Ukraine?

Well, at least in part because of this: They supply 20 percent of Europe's oil—Russia alone, 20 percent of Europe's oil—40 percent of its gas, 20 percent of its coal. Russia supplies to the tune of 55 percent of Germany's natural gas alone—just Germany's, 55 percent. Now, can we wonder why our German partners were slow to want to sanction Russia, to provide lethal aid to Ukraine when they needed it before the invasion occurred? It is because Russia has Europe in a stranglehold.

And that should be no excuse. I am not saying that the Europeans deserve an out—not at all. But I am saying that Vladimir Putin has used his power, his energy production, to try and project new power in Europe, and, unfortunately, he is having success.

It ought to be our policy to reverse his power projection, to shut down his gas stations—his gas station of a country—by returning this country to energy independence and energy dominance, and we can do it.

This is not a pie-in-the-sky pipe dream. We have been there before. We were just energy independent, just a few years ago. We know what to do. It is actually pretty simple. All we have to do is roll back the disastrous policies that this administration imposed just a year ago, roll those back and allow the American worker to get back to work on our pipelines, on our rigs, drilling and pumping natural gas and producing biofuels like the ones that we produce, the kind that we produce in my State. Put American energy back to work. It is actually pretty simple.

Sometimes, Ronald Reagan once said, there actually are simple solutions, not easy ones but simple ones. This one is simple, it is direct, and it is time that we took it.

And that is why I have introduced legislation, along with Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HAGERTY and Senator TUBERVILLE, that would do just this. It would reverse the disastrous energy policies of this administration, the policies that have emboldened and enabled and empowered Vladimir Putin and the Russian military, and return this country to energy strength, return this country to energy dominance.

I can't put it any better than this: If you will give—if the President of the United States would give—the American worker a chance—give the folks who man those pipelines, give the folks who work the oil rigs—give them a chance to show what they can do, and I will tell you what they will show you: They will show you that they are the best in the world. They will show you that they are the strongest in the world. They will show you that this country is the strongest in the world, and they will put the Russian energy sector to shame.

And, by the way, Joe Biden's policy was to green-light the Russian pipeline, Putin's pipeline, Nord Stream 2. He lifted sanctions on it when he came to office; imposed limits on our own energy production but lifted them on the Russians.

Here is a suggestion: Shut down Putin's pipelines. Shut down Putin's energy sector. Open ours up. Do just the opposite of what President Biden did a year ago. Shut down the Russian energy production, open up American energy protection, and show the world what the American people can do.

And that is what the bill that I have introduced, along with my cosponsors, who I am proud to have with me—that is what it would do. It is very simple, Mr. President, and I would suggest to you that the time is of the essence.

I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3714 and the Senate

proceed to its immediate consideration. I further 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. Is there objection?

Mr. CARPER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, our colleague from Missouri was not on the floor when I spoke earlier. I want him to have the opportunity to hear some of the concerns that I and a lot of other people in this Chamber and this country have with respect to the request that he is making.

So I reserve the right to object, and let me just take a minute or two to again state why that is.

Today, the American people face two existential threats to our way of life. No. 1 is the threat to the world order posed not by the Russian people but by Vladimir Putin, their leader. And the other is the threat of climate change to us.

We just received from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration an update 2 weeks ago about what it is going to look like in this country in the years to come.

We have already seen the sea level rise roughly a foot in the last several decades, and what we are going to see in the years to come is more of the same, only faster.

If you add up the GDP of every coastal county in this country—from the east coast, the gulf coast, the west coast, the Great Lakes—it adds up to a GDP that would be making the third largest country in the world. And what we are going to see is a great assault—a continued assault—on those coastal counties, whether it is New Jersey or whether it is Delaware, whether it is Louisiana, California—whatever.

In Louisiana, they lose to the sea every 100 minutes a piece of land the size of a football field. The Presiding Officer spent some time on a football field. And every 100 minutes—think about that—the size of land in Louisiana, the size of a football field goes back to the sea.

Our State of Delaware is the lowest lying State in the country. The seas around us are rising. My State is sinking. We have seen, gosh, five storms on the west coast bigger than my State. We have seen winds—hurricane-force winds—in Iowa destroying like half the crops. We have seen temperatures—90-degree temperatures—in the Arctic Circle, the hottest summers on record year after year after year. Something is happening here.

And with apologies to Stephen Stills, it is exactly clear. And what the problem is—it is way too much carbon in our air, and it is increasing. We need to address that. We need to address that in ways that will actually create jobs, a lot of good-paying jobs. I think we

can agree on that, and that is what we ought to be doing.

So having said that, the legislation we are discussing assumes that we must ignore the threats of climate change in order to wean our Nation off of foreign oil from countries like Russia. This is a false choice. This is a false choice.

Since the Arab oil embargo of 1973, some have argued that if we simply drill for more oil, we can be free of the price whiplash caused by international disruptions in the global oil market. This was not true during the Arab oil embargo. This was not true during the Ukrainian revolution. It was not true during the 1990 Gulf war or, more recently, during the Iraq war, and it is not true today.

Yet the legislation before us today clings to false understanding of oil markets. We have drilled more, but the oil prices we pay are still impacted by global events.

Instead, we need policies that help our economy smoothly transition off of oil, providing good-paying jobs for a lot of Americans, while at the same time giving consumers more choices in the way that we fuel our vehicles—our trucks, our cars, our vans.

We need to give consumers real fuel choices that are domestically produced, better for the climate, and that are not tied to the global oil market.

The choices could include electricity from nuclear energy, something the Presiding Officer and I and others agree on. The choices could include the biofuels made by our farmers, something that Senator THUNE was speaking about earlier. The choices could include fuel cells running on clean hydrogen produced by our refineries. All these options are things we should be pursuing. As it turns out, if we do—and there is a lot of bipartisan support for doing what I have just outlined—we will actually address this climate crisis that we face on this planet, and we will produce one heck of a lot of jobs for people throughout this Nation. In doing so, we buffer our economy against the threat of Russia and the very real threat of climate change.

And with that, reluctantly, I must object to the gentleman's unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Delaware for his remarks, which I appreciate. It is a privilege to serve with him, as we do, on the Homeland Security Committee, and work with him as we do—as I have—and I look forward to working together, hopefully on this issue, and others in the future.

We do disagree on this issue. We have an honest and, I think, principled disagreement. It is one that we ought to talk about. I am glad we are talking about it here today, and I suspect it is one, ultimately, that the American people are going to have to weigh in on

because the differences are pretty significant. And that is fine. That is democracy.

But I just want to highlight two things where I think we have a principled disagreement. The first is the idea that, if we produce more energy in this country, it won't have any effect on prices, energy prices, or make us energy independent.

I would just ask the American people, I mean: Does gas cost more today than it did before Joe Biden became President? Yes, it does. Are you paying more for groceries? Are you paying more, if you are a farmer, for fertilizer? Are you paying more for every input that is associated with energy today than before Joe Biden was President? Unfortunately, yes, you are.

Inflation is out of control in this country. Inflation associated with the fuel that Americans use to fill up their trucks and their vans and that they use to heat their homes is out of control, and there is a reason for that. This is the reason for that. We are not producing energy in this country like we were. We were energy independent in 2019 and 2020. It is not as if it can't be done. It has been done. Prices were lower. It is basic supply and demand.

But there is also a national security aspect to this. Why would we want to be dependent on a totalitarian state that is invading its neighbors and is seeking to establish energy control of Europe and beyond?

Why wouldn't we seek to thwart it? And why would we ask the American people to pay more, day in and day out, to heat their homes, for fuel for their cars? Why would we put them through that? Why would we ask them to do that?

I just submit to you that there is a real tradeoff here, and the administration has chosen the wrong side of the tradeoff. Put the American energy sector back to work.

One other comment. I know that the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, former Senator Kerry, has expressed similar concerns about climate change and has said recently that he fears that the crisis in Ukraine will distract from the urgency of climate change.

Well, I submit to you that the crisis in Ukraine—the existential threat to that proud and sovereign nation which is now in danger of being extinguished, the threat to stability in Europe that Russia now exerts, and the threat that China will exert to the world—yes, indeed, that may distract from climate change, but that is just reality. It is time we face the most pressing security threats that we have. And putting Americans back to work and lowering their gas prices and their fuel prices, making American families safer and more secure and making our enemies less secure, that is a good policy, and it is one that I hope we can have.

So, again, I thank my colleague and my friend, the Senator from Delaware, and I suspect it won't be the last time we talk about this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2 years ago this month, things started shutting down due to COVID. We shut down the American economy; basically, 22 million people, all of a sudden, were unemployed. I think we learned a lot in the last 2 years, and if we have another pandemic, I don't think we would do it that way again. I think we have learned a lot from mistakes, and a lot of bad mistakes resulted from that decision.

So, in March 2020, employees were furloughed or sent home to work from home; schools were closed; events were canceled. Everyone was told to stay home.

Now, 2 years later, a lot has changed in the fight against COVID. Tests and treatments have been developed. Anyone who wants a vaccine can get one. High-quality masks are available free for anyone who chooses to wear a mask. Those masks protect the one wearing it, regardless of the choices of others around them, whether they make a choice to wear a mask or not. Restaurants, theaters, and sports venues are filling back up again. Demand for air travel is above prepandemic levels.

Yet our Federal Government remains frozen in time, operating as if it were still the spring of 2020. Federal Agencies remain shuttered to the taxpayers who fund it. Expensive office buildings in downtown DC are sitting deserted. Fifty percent of the executive branch workforce is still working remotely, and most have no plans to return to the office.

Some Agencies, such as the Veterans' Administration, had previously announced efforts to return to in-person work. Those plans have been indefinitely postponed. The U.S. Capitol Building, where we are right now, is closed to the public, despite nearly every State capitol building in the country finding a way to reopen.

Federal employees are here, as we all know, to serve the taxpayers. Agencies like the Veterans' Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and Social Security Administration that are responsible for processing benefits and tax refunds need to be fully operational. It is pretty plain and simple.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service offices, located in every Iowa county and most counties in most States, are responsible for signing up farmers for the Conservation Reserve Program and for crop insurance. Right now, those county offices are the busiest as farmers prepare for the upcoming crop year. These county offices still require employees to work from home. The U.S. Department of Agriculture employees have to meet with farmers to go over detailed maps of their land, making it nearly impossible even with video calls. I have received letters from farmers and USDA employees alike

who are frustrated that they can't have in-person meetings.

We all know that backlogs persist across the Federal Government and show no signs of abating. The National Personnel Records Center, responsible for providing service records to veterans seeking their benefits, has not been fully staffed since March of 2020. They have a backlog of records. Those requests are so massive that it would take years to correct. For 2 years now, the Agency has been processing emergency requests only while the other requests just pile up. This Agency needs employees in the office to function. They are currently staffed at just 25 percent capacity. They have announced that they will not return to full operational status until "the public health emergency has ended."

Now, who knows when that will happen?

I guess veterans waiting to finish their application for benefits will just have to wait as well.

Now, we know the abysmal record of the IRS. It only answered 9 percent of its calls, and those are called customer support calls. They are already warning that this tax filing season is going to be a mess for those filing, and there is still a backlog of unprocessed returns from last year. Yet thousands of IRS employees remain out of the office.

Those trying to become U.S. citizens have been stuck in limbo for years. Records that the USCIS needs to process their applications are locked in the Federal records centers which are only open 25 percent of capacity.

Even a few Agencies that have announced a plan to return to in-person work are not acting with any sense of urgency. The Social Security Administration announced the reopening of field offices in April. So I guess they figure those who have already been waiting for 2 years can wait another 2 months.

My staff who help Iowans with their casework told me that the average number of days to get assistance from a Federal Agency has doubled now to 335 days. It takes almost a year to get an issue with a Federal Agency resolved. This is completely unacceptable.

In the spring of 2020, it seemed as if there was no choice. Caution at that time was warranted. But I might remind the heads of Federal Agencies that even at that time, millions of Americans did not work from home. We saw it on television all the time, and it is still a problem in a lot of places—not enough nurses, doctors. But regardless, they didn't work from home. Nurses, doctors, and first responders still went to work in person. Employees at grocery stores, delivery drivers, and warehouse workers still showed up to work in person at the height of this pandemic, when nobody really knew what was all involved. For millions of Americans, working from home was never an option. Their jobs were essential and

they continued to work to keep our society and economy functioning.

While some Federal employees may be able to do their job effectively from home, the persistent lack of responsiveness from Federal Agencies make it clear that not all can work from home.

It is certainly not acceptable to tell taxpayers that they must wait for services that they need because those in charge are too skittish to make a return-to-work plan. It is past time for Agencies and their heads to set a date for employees to return to serving the people in person.

That is why I was very glad to join Senator WICKER in an introduction of a bill that he calls, by the acronym, the RETURN Act, which would require Agencies to share their plans to bring back the workforce within 30 days. I would urge my colleagues to support this bill and get the government back to work.

I also urge President Biden—and when I bring up the name “President Biden,” don’t forget that some of this stuff started under the Trump administration and continues today, so this is not just a Democratic problem when I say President Biden. But I also urge President Biden, now in charge, to follow the example of Iowa’s Governor Reynolds and show leadership on this matter. Iowa schools have been fully open in Iowa for more than a year. Governor Reynolds has ended the State’s public health disaster emergency proclamation. This doesn’t mean ignoring the spread of COVID-19 going forward. Of course, there should be accommodation for those at high risk, but there is absolutely no justification for maintaining a state of emergency as if it were still March of 2020.

Taxpayers have a right to have their government be responsive. Americans are back to work. It is time for the Federal Government to catch up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Tuesday evening, President Biden delivered his first State of the Union Message to Congress and to the American people. His remarks were timely, strong, and statesmanlike.

He touched on many topics. I think his message really boiled down to two profound questions: How do we protect democracy in other nations, particularly in Ukraine, which is now entering the second week of a horrific and unprovoked invasion by Russian forces; and then he asked, how can we protect and preserve democracy here in America?

Dictators like Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping want the world to believe that democracy is nothing more than chaos and gridlock. The people of Ukraine are showing the world just how wrong these despots are.

I speak to you today from the comfort and safety of the Senate Chamber

in the United States of America, in Washington, DC, on a beautiful spring-like day. But I have to reflect for a moment on what life must be like at this very moment in Kyiv, in Ukraine, and what it must be like in Lviv; two cities in Ukraine that I visited where bombs are raining down on innocent people—children, women, and men who are losing their lives because Vladimir Putin believes that he can restore the Soviet Union to its borders.

We have all seen the video of the Ukrainian grandmother, armed with nothing more than sunflower seeds and courage, confronting Russian soldiers.

We have seen ordinary Ukrainian men and women and teenagers taking up arms, making Molotov cocktails, building barricades, taking down highway and road signs to confuse the invading Russians—even laying down their lives to stop Russian tanks and convoys.

In the back of my mind, I am sure I am thinking what many Americans are thinking: Could I do the same thing? Could I bring together the courage at this moment to stand up and fight if my home is at stake, if my family is at stake, if my country is at stake?

The Ukrainians are answering that message every minute of every day. Their courage and unity in the face of this Russian barbarity is inspiring the world.

For months, President Biden, Secretary of State Tony Blinken, and others in the Biden administration have worked behind the scenes to revitalize the NATO alliance. That critical alliance emerged after the last great land war in Europe in 1945 from the allies who came out of it and said: Never again. We will stand together to stop any invader against the NATO coalition, the NATO alliance.

The Biden administration has worked behind the scenes to remind this alliance that there comes a moment when you have to bring to this alliance the courage and direction to stand for the kind of democracy which we are all committed to.

Two years ago, we had a President who took Putin’s word over the assessment of America’s own intelligence Agencies and said he threatened to pull the United States participation out of NATO. Today, we have a President who actually shared U.S. intelligence with our allies to show Putin for the liar that he was from the very start.

NATO is more unified today—thank you, Vladimir Putin, for that—than it has ever been since the Cold War or the end of World War II. In fact, nations that are not formally part of NATO—Sweden and Finland, for example—have stepped up, in concert with the NATO alliance, to stand our ground and protest what is happening in Ukraine and to protect Europe—even Switzerland. Switzerland, which is famously neutral in all major conflicts, has come out of its neutrality and made it clear that they, too, stand against the Putin invasion.

In his State of the Union Address, President Biden urged Congress to approve billions of dollars in emergency military and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Sign me up. I will vote for that in a second, and I hope it comes soon. We need to agree on an aid package without delay and get it to the President as quickly as possible, not just for the humanitarian purpose but for the purpose of showing American unity with the resistance in Ukraine.

Ukrainian ordinary citizens are dying today because of Vladimir Putin and the bombs and missiles he is launching. As in every war, innocent Ukrainians will soon be facing greater suffering, greater hunger—even starvation. In the year 2022, is it imaginable that this is happening in Europe? We must rally the world to support those still in the Ukraine, assist our allies in neighboring nations who are housing and feeding neighboring Ukrainians who have fled their homeland. They estimate 800,000 to a million Ukrainians have left the country to find safety nearby.

Once again, let me thank the people of Poland. They have been opening their doors to the people of Ukraine for many years, and now, they are being called on in an extraordinary way to harbor these refugees and to take care of them at this moment of need. They are fleeing Putin’s war, and their numbers are growing dramatically. Some have suggested that a humanitarian airlift is a possibility. I don’t want to rule that out. Let’s explore that and see whether that is the best way to provide relief to those still in Ukraine facing Putin’s attack.

President Biden also promised to form a high-level task force to enforce U.S. sanctions against Putin, sanctions against Russia’s political elites, and sanctions against the corrupt oligarchs. That always brings a cheer here in America because people think that those who have been engaged in a kleptocracy in the name of personal greed should be held accountable. The thought that they are shopping in New York City or buying luxury condos and apartments in London or are harboring their yachts in any country is disgusting.

They need to pay a price. We shouldn’t just freeze their assets; we ought to seize their assets and hold them to rebuild Ukraine amid the devastation that the Russians are causing. Putin wants to be a czar. He and his cronies have become a pariah.

We will support Ukraine, but we also have work to do to strengthen our own democracy. We also have to remember that the bordering nations, the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, are especially vulnerable to Russian aggression. They, as members of the NATO alliance, know that they have friends at their back, but we have got to reinforce that to the people of those small countries who worry about their very survival.

Let’s take a look at home. As the President said, we have finally moved

to a safer direction with the pandemic. What a relief it was to go to the State of the Union Address and not wear a mask. Following doctors' orders, I might add, we listened to the medical experts who told us it is safe now not to be wearing a mask unless you are in a particular category of people. So most of us enjoyed one of the first public gatherings of a political nature where we were without masks and relieved to be so. We need to get back to our normal routines. We need to get our kids back in school—all of them—as quickly as possible.

We added 6 million new jobs last year, an alltime record. Things are good and positive, but inflation still is haunting this Nation. Wages are up; inflation is up. But it is not just our Nation. Inflation is a global problem. COVID-19 constricted the economy of the world. We are now emerging from it with new jobs, new businesses, new appetites, and new consumption. It is all good. But the cost of it is inflation.

I trust that we can bring this under control soon. Inflation is real. It is eating away at families' wages and savings and their faith in the future. When people work hard and can't get ahead, that is not just an economic problem; that can be a threat to our democratic spirit because it can open the door for anti-democratic demagogues.

In his State of the Union Address, President Biden laid out a plan to help American families afford big-ticket items that are essential; restore the enhanced child tax credit; help parents raise their kids and themselves out of poverty; help families with quality affordable daycare, childcare; expand family and medical leave so workers don't have to choose between caring for an ailing member of their family or a terminally ill parent and keeping their jobs; make healthcare more affordable and accessible; expand veterans' health benefits to cover more cancers and other service-related health conditions; and make prescription drugs more affordable by letting Medicare negotiate the price for medication.

Just one simple thing seems to be so popular across this country, cap the monthly cost of insulin at \$35—\$35. There are some 34 million people who are suffering from diabetes in this country, and of course their families are pulling for them every day. Think of all of the lives that could be improved if insulin were affordable. If a fourth or half of those who are diabetic have to now ration their insulin and risk their health, that is just wrong in a great nation. We should have insulin at affordable prices, and \$35 a month is that. It is an outrage that the price of insulin has been raised countless times to more than \$300 a vial.

As we support the Ukrainian people and their immense courage, I hope we will also find the courage to protect America's future.

TRIBUTE TO TOM BALANOFF

Mr. President, when it comes to the American labor movement, I selfishly

say all roads lead to Chicago. At the turn of the 20th century, workers from all walks of life and from every corner of the globe joined together in support of a simple but profound belief: An injury to one is an injury to all.

Few leaders have embodied that philosophy of solidarity and mutuality more than Tom Balanoff, president of the Service Employees International Union—SEIU—Local 1 in Chicago and the union's State council. If you are a worker in Illinois or a worker anywhere in America, there is a good chance you know Tom. He has devoted his life not only to building a strong labor movement but a more inclusive one.

Now, he is retiring from his post as president of Local 1. Though his leadership will be missed, he leaves behind a formidable legacy.

He helped build a global labor movement, led by essential workers. I am talking about janitors, security officers, airport staff, and nursing home and home healthcare workers who are reclaiming their power in the workplace.

As president of Local 1, Tom Balanoff transformed the chapter into one of the most influential forces in the American labor movement, and every step of the way, he held true to the chapter's progressive roots. Formed in Chicago in 1921, Local 1 was the first racially integrated union in America, bringing together immigrant janitors from across the globe who were fighting for better working conditions.

From that moment on, SEIU has been synonymous with merging the fight for workers' rights with the fight for social equality, and Tom has carried that legacy to new heights. He has been a steadfast champion of racial equality, gender equality, and protecting the rights of immigrant workers, and he has assembled the most diverse leadership team in SEIU's history.

Importantly, Tom's commitment to leading a socially conscious labor movement is steeped in a proud family tradition. It began when Tom's grandfather, James Balanoff, immigrated to America from Bulgaria and found work in a live chicken shop on Commercial Avenue in Chicago. Since then, each generation of the "Battling Balanoffs" has been grounded in a commitment to defending the rights of working people in and outside of the workplace.

The Balanoff family notes with pride that both Tom's father and grandfather attended the 1937 Memorial Day Massacre, where police opened fire on unarmed protesters at the gate of the Republic Steel Company in South Chicago, killing 10 men and injuring scores of others. If the police had hoped to fracture union solidarity, the massacre had the exact opposite effect on the Balanoff family and many others.

The Balanoff family has stood by workers. Tom's father, James Jr., organized steelworkers at a time when manufacturing was the dominant in-

dustry in America, and he eventually rose to be president of the largest steelworkers union in America, Local 1010, in East Chicago, IN. Tom has been helping lead the charge for justice for all since he was in middle school—middle school—when he and his siblings were the only White kids in class to protest racial segregation in American schools.

By the time Tom was ready to follow in his family's tradition of union activism, America's economy was going through a dramatic shift. Factories were shuttering and good-paying union jobs disappearing, shipped overseas. As more and more Americans left the factories and found new opportunities in airports, hospitals, nursing homes, offices, and coffee shops, Tom discovered his life's mission: defending the rights of the service workers who make our economy tick. To complement the commitment to economic and labor justice that runs in the Balanoff family's veins, Tom earned a master's degree in labor and industrial relations from the University of Illinois.

For decades, whenever and wherever his skills were needed to protect the rights of workers, you could count on Tom Balanoff to be there. He worked for the International Association of Firefighters here in Washington, for the Allied Industrial Workers in Chicago, and the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers in Kansas City before then-SEIU president, John Sweeney, spotted Tom's exceptional abilities and brought him to work for SEIU in Washington, DC.

Tom would go on to serve as trustee of John Sweeney's old SEIU local, Local 32BJ, in New York City. After a successful tenure there, he returned to Chicago, first as SEIU Local 46 trustee and eventually as president of both SEIU Local 1 and president of the Illinois State Council.

Tom always has seized opportunities to uplift disempowered workers. In 2005, he traveled down to Houston to help unionize janitors who were being paid as little as \$20 a day. In the heart of one of the most anti-union States in the country, Tom secured a contract for more than 5,000 janitors that doubled their pay.

Never content to settle, Tom kept the victories coming. Just a few months later, he helped thousands of janitors in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Indianapolis win a similar contract. It was a testament to his lifelong belief that, when working people of all identities come together, they win.

In the world of politics, my friend Tom has been a champion of the downtrodden. Several years ago, he helped launch the progressive caucus in the Chicago City Council, despite facing significant political headwinds. Today, more than a third of the city council members belong to that caucus.

Perhaps the most consequential decision Tom ever made as a political changemaker was in the year 2003, when he became an early endorser of a

community organizer running for the U.S. Senate by the name of Barack Obama. That endorsement helped pave the way for former President Obama's stratospheric rise in the world of politics.

And a few years later, Tom became the first labor leader in America to endorse Barack Obama's campaign for President. At the time, Tom and I were part of the same lonely club. I was the first U.S. Senator to endorse President Obama's candidacy in 2007, and for more than a year, I was the only Senator to do so. But Tom and I knew that Barack Obama was the leader this country needed.

We had seen firsthand the amazing work he had done in Chicago, helping displaced workers rebuild their lives and partnering with churches to launch job training. We knew that President Obama had what it took to unite our country. And without Tom's support, his candidacy may never have gotten off the ground.

Tom has said one of the leaders who inspired him most during his career was Nelson Mandela. A few years after the end of apartheid, Nelson Mandela wrote: "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Tom has dedicated his life to enhancing the freedom of others. He has stood for immigrant workers so that they could find a voice in the workplace. He has stood in solidarity with Black workers protesting against racial injustice. And he has worked to protect our communities and our children by demanding climate justice as well.

In one of his final acts as president of Local 1, Tom helped make history again. He handed the reins of leadership of that storied local to the first Black president of the SEIU's State council. Greg Kelley is a proven champion of working people in Illinois and across the country. And I might add that when I sat down for breakfast to congratulate Greg on this new opportunity, he reminded me that he had once been an intern in my Senate office—something I am very proud of.

Tom Balanoff is leaving his post at a promising moment for the working people of America. Since the beginning of the pandemic, service workers have come together to demand safer working conditions, higher wages, and better benefits.

For instance, in December, workers in Starbucks in Buffalo, NY, voted to unionize. It will be the company's first-ever union. And those workers will soon be represented by Starbucks Workers United, an affiliate of SEIU. This moment is a culmination of Tom's decades of service to the labor movement.

I want to thank Tom Balanoff for everything he has achieved for working families in Chicago, throughout America, and literally around the world. He has cultivated progressive political power and helped build a fairer econ-

omy that rewards hard work, not just wealth.

Loretta and I wish him a long, joyous retirement with his wife Hetty and their two kids.

Tom, I am looking forward to seeing you some day soon in Highland Park—watermelon juice on me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I join the senior Senator from Illinois' affection for Tom Balanoff. He truly is an icon for labor, not just in Illinois but across the country.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, I rise today to speak on Ukraine.

With Russian troops firing outside, one Ukrainian woman was rushed outside and down out of the hospital by hospital staff. She was reportedly forced to give birth in a makeshift ICU in the hospital's basement with the sound of shelling surrounding her and with more than 100,000 Russian troops closing in on the area.

Elsewhere in Eastern Ukraine, mothers and their newborns are being hurried from neonatal intensive care units to makeshift bomb shelters, with the blankets swaddling their babies the only armor they have protecting them from the explosions and missiles crisscrossing the skies above them.

And all across Ukraine, little boys and girls are being born in subway car shelters, where some of the first words they hear are the cries of older children asking their own parents: "Mommy, will we die here?"

This is the everyday, every-moment waking nightmare for those who call Ukraine home right now. This is the new normal for new moms struggling to learn how to breastfeed their newborns; the new reality for new parents who, just last week, were trying to figure out how to afford both diapers and next month's rent, yet who are now just desperate to get their 1-week-old to the 2-week-old mark.

Why is this their new reality? For what? For a brutal and senseless war, a war as unjust as it is unjustifiable, as needless as it was unprovoked; a war whose violence has already torn families apart, yet whose cruelty has failed to fracture the unity of Ukraine itself.

Three decades ago, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States and Russia asked Ukraine to give up their nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees under the Budapest Memorandum. Ukraine did so voluntarily, handing them over instead of keeping them for their own defense because the Ukrainians so desperately sought peace and a democratic rule-based order.

Now, Russia has unilaterally broken that agreement, shattering that peace, and Ukrainians are once more laying down their lives for those same democratic principles.

The contrast is stark. Vladimir Putin is fighting for autocracy, using aggres-

sion and irresponsible, unprovoked escalation. Ukraine meanwhile is fighting for freedom.

Vladimir Putin believes himself to be some sort of neoimperialist, actively attacking neighboring democracies in an attempt to restore the Russian Empire.

Well, today, I want to speak to all the Ukrainians who found a home in Illinois and all of them who are strewn across Europe who have been forced to flee their nation in the wake of this violence and to all who are still in Ukraine praying that they will be able to wake up again tomorrow. Let me say this clearly: We are with you. The free world has not been fooled by Vladimir Putin's schemes and lies. We know that he is no hero for Russians or anyone else. He is a violent mobster and a bully, an egomaniac who uses his own power to abuse those with less power, a tyrant who uses the levers in his control to level those who are in his way, someone who uses weapons of war to murder children from afar, who turns toddlers into orphans from hundreds of miles away from the safety of his hallowed halls and heavily fortified mansions.

And yet, even with less power and less money, despite being outnumbered and outgunned, Ukraine has shown an incredible will to fight, putting up the fiercest of resistance against Putin and all that he stands for. That is because cowardice will always falter in the face of courage.

Ukrainians are redefining that word "courage" every day that they repel Putin's unprovoked aggression. That is because those fighting for reasons of ego and greed will always stumble in the face of those fighting so that their children can climb out of bomb shelters, so that their third graders can go back to school, so that their families don't need to live every hour, breathe every breath with the kind of fear that Putin thrives on.

And while I wish more than anything that Putin had never started this war and that those tanks had never rolled through their nation's streets, now the world will know the strength that typifies the Ukrainian people. They will know that Kyiv is synonymous with courage. They will know that though buildings in Odessa may crumble, the heart of the Ukrainian people will never waiver.

I am in awe of those men, women, and children. I am in awe of the troops doing everything in their power to protect them. And I am honored that the Illinois National Guard helped train some of those Ukrainian soldiers, with our Guard members advising Ukrainian forces just last year on how to improve their defense capabilities.

They are our brothers and sisters in arms; and their bravery, their resilience, and their determination over this past week has reminded the world that, as a certain retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and son of Ukraine once said in this very Chamber: Right matters.

They have shown us once more that a tyrant's lies will never blot out the courage and the goodness of a people determined to fight with and for one another.

That is just one reason why I support President Biden's request to dedicate at least \$6.4 billion in humanitarian and military aid to help those under siege in Ukraine, and it is why I am doing everything in my power to help keep Ukrainians in the United States safe by granting them temporary protected status.

Look, this is no 21st-century Cold War; it is Putin's war. It is a coward's war. Vladimir Putin is no savior. He will bring no glory to the Russian people. All he will bring them is travesty and economic ruin. He is no champion. He is an embarrassment, and the history books will reflect as much.

Twenty-eight years ago, when we asked Ukraine to give up those nuclear weapons, they did so, choosing peace, choosing to end the threat of bloodshed and destruction, choosing democracy. So now, we must stand with them as they so desperately seek peace once more.

They have chosen democracy time and again. Today and all the days that this terrible war wages on, it is time for this democracy to choose them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

ENERGY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, 15 years ago, an environmental group called the Clean Sky Coalition launched an ad campaign targeting coal. The ads featured faces covered in soot, with the headline: "Face it, Coal is Filthy."

Of the many controversial ad campaigns we have seen over the years, this doesn't seem particularly noteworthy, but these ads at the time sparked so much outrage that they were eventually pulled.

You might wonder why. An environmental group attacking coal is hardly front-page news. Why was this ad campaign different? This wasn't a matter of what was being said; it was a matter of who was saying it and why.

It quickly came to life that the group behind the ad was only about 2 weeks old, and the entire "pro-environment" effort was sponsored by a natural gas company seeking market share over coal.

As they say, politics makes for strange bedfellows—in this case, environmentalists and natural gas companies were both anti-coal, though, for very different reasons.

Knowing that the American people wouldn't respond to the argument that coal is bad because it means less business for the gas companies, this particular company found a deceptive and manipulative way to help shape public opinion.

Today, we are seeing a similar push but with much greater reach and far higher stakes. Just as one company used the guise of environmentalism to

attack its competition, Russia today is using the same tactic to boost its own profits and enhance its power.

The Office of Director of National Intelligence released a report in 2017 outlining some of Russia's disinformation campaign, on everything from U.S. elections to U.S. energy policy.

Of course, one of the Kremlin's favorite tools is its intentional propaganda outlet known as RT, formally known as Russia Today.

According to the report, RT ran anti-fracking programming in the United States that highlighted environmental and public health concerns. That is right. The propaganda arm of the Russian Federation, RT, was running anti-fracking programming in the United States. And you might ask yourself: For what purpose?

Well, the Director of National Intelligence report in 2017 said: This is likely reflective of the Russian Government's concern about the impact of fracking, which is a device to release natural gas from shale. The report said this is likely reflective of the Russian Government's concern about the impact of fracking in U.S. natural gas production on the global energy market and the potential challenges to Gazprom's profitability—Gazprom, of course, being the Russian Federation's energy company.

In short, all of this propaganda on Russia today and the opposition to fracking that they were encouraging would be good for the sale of Russian gas as opposed to natural gas produced here in the United States.

Russia can't seem to dominate the global energy market on its own, so it tries to take down the competition. It is not just a matter of dollars and cents; it is a matter of geopolitical power. This isn't a farfetched conspiracy theory that was crafted to combat the Green New Deal. As I said, it comes from an unclassified report from the Director of National Intelligence Office 5 years ago—2017.

Knowledge of this practice likely predates that report by a number of years. Reporting indicates that even Hillary Clinton spoke about those malign activities in a 2014 speech. She warned about what she called "phony environmental groups" that were funded by the Russians.

Russia is no stranger—in fact, they are expert at disinformation campaigns, and it doesn't abide by the same moral and ethical codes as the rest of the world.

The past several days have shone a light on how far Putin is willing to go to increase his own power. I am not suggesting that all environmental groups are funded by the Russian Government—not in the slightest—but we need to be clear-eyed about Russia's efforts to shape U.S. policies and European policies for their own benefit. We need to be hyperaware of the ways decisions made in Washington could benefit Moscow and empower Putin to the detriment of our allies in NATO and in Europe.

Unfortunately, the energy cards in Europe are currently stacked in Russia's favor. From day one, the Biden administration has taken hostile actions toward American energy suppliers and sent even more business to Russia.

Only hours after the President was sworn in on January 20, 2021, he canceled the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline and halted all new energy leasing and permitting on public lands and waters. His administration effectively discouraged investments in new production, and now the United States is producing less oil and less natural gas. Production is, in fact, down about 1.2 million barrels a day in the United States, and that has to be made up somewhere because the world continues to consume energy. It needs energy in order to survive and to thrive. Where does it get that energy when the United States does not produce it? Well, you guessed it—it gets it from Russia, and it gets it from OPEC, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sadly, the buck doesn't stop there. In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration hasn't taken any effective action against Putin's energy weapon. Even though the administration has imposed sanctions on Russian banks and oligarchs, the country's lucrative oil and gas industry remains untouched. This is their primary financial asset.

I remember our friend John McCain, when he was still alive, used to joke that Russia is a gas station masquerading as a country, making the obvious point in a humorous way.

Russia continues to use these oil sales and natural gas sales and the captive markets that it has in Europe and in other places around the world in order to finance its war against innocent Ukrainians. There is no question but that the revenue from these exports—and we have seen the price of oil since Putin invaded Ukraine again—the price of a barrel of oil go up to \$115 a barrel. And there is no question that he is using the revenue derived from the sale of that \$115 barrel of oil to kill innocent Ukrainians and to violate their sovereignty and to commit war crimes. We simply cannot continue to supply Russia with the blood money it needs to carry out its nefarious actions.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation that was introduced by our friend from Kansas, Senator MARSHALL, to ban the purchase of Russian oil in the United States. We have the great fortune of living in a resource-rich country, and there is no reason we should be importing Russian oil, now more than ever.

The President said he does not want to target Russian oil and gas because of the impact it will have on prices here at home. Well, we already know that because of inflation—because of shoveling money out of Washington, DC, out into the great American economy, inflation has already caused prices at the pump and prices in the

grocery stores to rise. Given the fact that gas prices have already risen 40 percent since President Biden took office, I understand his concerns, but that doesn't mean Russia should get a free pass.

Rather than identify ways to offset global demand for Russian energy, President Biden is inadvertently playing into Putin's hand. He is not calling for any more American-made oil and gas; he is calling for less.

Tuesday evening, President Biden said he wants to double America's clean energy production, including sources like wind and solar. I want to be clear, I support an "all of the above" energy policy. As I have said time and time again, Texas produces more energy from wind than any other State in the country, and it is an important part of our energy mix.

Every day, though, Texas is also making serious strides in energy innovation. This is the way to solve the problem; it is to innovate—not to regulate, not to tax, not to punish, but to innovate. We need to continue to find ways to innovate cleaner sorts of energy as we eventually transition, as we must at some point in the future—maybe decades from now—from petroleum-based products to some other source of energy.

I believe we need to continue to encourage innovation and diversification of our energy sources, but the fact remains today that renewables are not close to being able to supply the energy needs that our country demands. As it stands today, renewables—solar, wind—comprise less than 20 percent of our electricity generation. We know the Sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow, and when Mother Nature fails to deliver an adequate supply of energy, we need some other source of that energy, which means American-produced natural gas and oil.

If the President continues to wage a war on American oil and gas companies, we won't be able to protect ourselves or our allies.

One of the great things about the shale gas revolution is our ability to ship energy overseas to our friends and allies around the world. Unfortunately, the infrastructure has not kept up with the demand, leaving our friends and allies dependent on Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation for their only choice. We need to provide them more choices, and that means produce more here in America of clean-burning natural gas and then exporting that LNG to our friends and allies around the world so they aren't subject to Putin's extortion and demands.

Our top priority needs to be, when it comes to energy, to pursue independence. If we are able to bolster renewables, invest in carbon capture technologies, and take other steps along the way to reduce emissions, that is a great goal for us to pursue. But our No. 1 priority here, today, and now should be for the United States and our allies

to be energy secure. Right now, Europe is not energy secure; it is energy insecure because of the intentional acts of Vladimir Putin to make Russia the sole source of energy needs for countries in Europe and the policies restricting the development of our American-made energy here in the United States.

Just a few years ago, we were almost there when it came to energy security. In 2019, the United States became a net total energy exporter for the first time since 1952—a net total energy exporter. The last time we did that, it was 1952, and we maintained that status through the year 2020. But President Biden has, for reasons that are inscrutable to me, turned back the clock, taking us from an era of energy independence back to the oil crisis of the 1970s.

For decades, leaders in our country fought to reduce our reliance on foreign oil in anticipation of a global crisis exactly like the one we are facing now. We can't erase all of this progress we have made at the exact moment when we need that progress and that production the most.

Russia will always use energy as a weapon to tear down and intimidate its adversaries. The United States, conversely, must use it as a tool to lift up our allies and improve global energy security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to decry yet again Putin's horrific actions against Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

As we bear witness to this deadly war and the consequences of this fossil fuel-funded invasion, I stand here again to denounce our own addiction to fossil fuels, along with Big Oil's relentless attempts to sabotage clean and renewable energy with the support of the Republican Party.

We can see in the coverage on television that the corporate profiteering by Big Oil and the American Petroleum Institute—the American Prevarication Institute—has once again played a part in war and destruction. And all are enabled by the GOP's fealty to oil, gas, and the fallacy of American energy independence. It is a tale of Republican hypocrisy, all funded by the fossil fuel industry. It would be absurdly comic if it weren't so horribly tragic.

Oil profits are the engine of Russia's economy, and natural gas is the geopolitical weapon it wields to threaten Europe's energy security. Nearly 40 percent of Russia's entire revenue is derived from oil and gas exports. Russia's tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery are funded by dirty fossil fuels purchased by other countries, including the United States of America. We are part of the funding of Vladimir Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine. We import oil from Russia. That oil goes to Putin and his cronies.

We have a moral moment here to provide all possible humanitarian aid to

the Ukrainian people. We have a moral moment here to cut off the money pipeline that is funding the missiles and the tanks that are destroying the homes of the Ukrainian people. And we have a moral moment here to reject the bad-faith arguments that are using this horrifying invasion to push for more drilling and money to fossil fuel companies, more lands and waters lost to the extraction of oil and gas, and more profit for Big Oil at the expense of American pocketbooks as our consumers are tipped upside down at the gasoline pumps all across our country, shaking money out of those pockets and sending it to Big Oil and sending it to Russia.

During 2021, Russia supplanted Mexico as the second largest exporter of crude oil and petroleum in the United States. On average, we bought more than 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia every single day of 2021. That is more than \$17 billion in American money going to Putin and his oil-soaked oligarchs.

We need to shut that money pipeline to Putin off before it does any more damage. That is why I announced my Severing Putin's Immense Gains from Oil Transfers, or the SPIGOT, Act this week. This bill would conclusively lift the veil on the Russian fossil fuel industry's corrupt dealings, while requiring the United States to eliminate carbon-polluting imports from Russia, moving the United States toward a future that is no longer dependent upon Russian oil but dependent upon our own renewable resources.

Global oil markets will adjust in the short term and long term to our import ban on oil. In the short term, we can actually supplant any supply disruptions with an additional release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. A 10-percent release of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would backfill all of our Russian imports for 100 days or, to put it another way, we have a Strategic Petroleum Reserve of 600 million barrels. If we deploy 600,000 barrels a day, we can do it for 1,000 days in a row in order to make sure the Russians understand that we are dead serious about this.

Putin's \$630 billion central bank reserve that he thinks is going to protect him and his economy—well, that chest is filled with the spoils of oil and natural gas. A lot of it is money from American consumers. It is not just the sales to the United States or Europe but the interconnected dirty energy markets that feed off this fuel-soaked firestorm.

If we want to truly dial-up the pressure on Putin and his oligarchs, we need to end our deadly addiction to Russian fossil fuels and help our allies to do the very same thing. If we want to truly say no more to fossil-fueled war, we need to pursue the pathway to peace that is powered by domestic clean energy—international clean energy revolution led by the United States.

But instead what I hear from Republicans and on FOX News and from the

American Petroleum Institute is the same classic refrain of: “Drill, baby, drill.” Their insidious answer to war, to rising prices, to any crisis that they can use for their own purpose is more drilling and more leases.

Well, where has the “American Prevarication Institute” argument gotten us so far? One, skyrocketing exports, which hike up our prices to American consumers and feed into the global fossil fuel addiction; public lands and waters the size of Indiana that are locked down by unused fossil fuel leases, which companies squat upon to pad their own asset base and prevent renewable development; wars and national security threats, driven and paid for by Big Oil’s craving for more profits; climate chaos with more than \$700 billion worth of damages caused by extreme weather disasters in the United States over the last 5 years alone—\$700 billion worth of damage to us, to the United States, from climate in the last 5 years.

In 2015, Congress repealed the crude oil and gas export ban that had been in place for 40 years in our country so that we would keep our oil here. It was repealed with unanimous support of the Republican Party, on the other side of the aisle, and it allowed for the sale of U.S. crude and natural gas on the global markets.

I warned at that time it would be a huge mistake for our country to take that action. It was the worst of all worlds. It led to recordbreaking amounts of U.S. oil going to foreign nations without benefiting U.S. consumers. Pain at the pump was not eased and neither was our dangerous dependence on illicit foreign oil. And every time—every time—the Republicans call for more leasing, for more pipelines, for deepening our addiction to fossil fuels, they cry crocodile tears. They said we need to plunder our own lands and waters in order to lower prices for Americans, in order to ensure national independence from foreign oil sources, and then they exported that oil overseas. That was their plan all along. It wasn’t so secret. It was obvious because that is how the American Petroleum Institute—the American Prevarication Institute—works.

But that argument is now leakier than an old oil tanker, and it has been proven again and again. Every bill that came up approving the Keystone XL Pipeline—drilling for oil off our coast, selling off our public lands to whatever bidder showed up—I just asked the same thing every single time. In 2011, in 2012, in 2015, every time, I asked Republicans if they would agree to ban any exports from these projects and keep Americans from bearing the environmental and health burden from projects that provide no benefit to their own families, to their own States. And every time, the Republicans blocked or rejected my amendments—every time. That proved their arguments won’t hold water.

The Big Oil-backed push to extract more and more from American lands and waters was never about helping Americans at the pump. It was about pumping up the profits of Big Oil by getting a higher price out on the international marketplace for American oil, for American natural gas. That was their plan.

I am sick of the hypocrisy. I am sick of letting the American Petroleum Institute’s prevarication triumph over the truth. I am sick of watching Americans deal with the climate crisis with dirty air, with dirty water, with high gas prices just to help the oil companies make a buck by getting the highest price they can on the international market exporting American oil.

The Republicans’ push to use the crisis in Ukraine to line Big Oil’s pockets isn’t about addressing inflation at home. It is about inflating fossil fuel profits for Big Oil and big gas. In 2021, as gasoline prices increased by over 50 percent, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, BP and Total Energies recorded their biggest profits that they had seen in 8 years.

In 2015, before the Republicans lifted the export ban—before the American Petroleum Institute got the Congress to vote to lift the ban on the export of American oil—China imported 191,000 barrels of oil from the United States. Now we send four times as much oil to China as we did back in the beginning of 2016 after the ban was lifted. To put it another way, we now import from Russia 600,000 barrels of oil a day, and we export to China 600,000 barrels of oil a day. What is wrong with that picture?

Our natural resources go to China, which they then use to fabricate products, which then they sell back to us undermining our own industries. And meanwhile, to make up for it, we import 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia and line the pockets of Putin, which allows him to buy the tanks, the planes, the infantry to assault and destroy a democracy in Ukraine.

This is a formula for failure of historic magnitude. And it was all so clear in that debate in 2015 when the Republicans led the effort to lift the ban on the export of our oil. It was oh-so clear what was going to happen, which is why I led the fight here on the Senate floor to block the lifting of that ban.

But I don’t want to hear from the Republicans with their crocodile tears how much they care about importation of oil from Russia because the bottom line is, we now import 8.6 million barrels of oil a day into the United States. We now have a crisis on our hands that we have to ultimately deal with. We export 8.6 million barrels of oil a day. We export out of our country 8.6 million barrels of oil a day.

So I hear from Republicans, “Oh, we need energy independence.” Well, what are we doing exporting 8.6 million barrels of oil a day? What is that all about? We know what it is all about. It is about the American Petroleum Insti-

tute. It is about Big Oil and Big Gas getting a higher price on the international market than they get on the domestic market. That is what it was all about from the very beginning. We have an opportunity here to stop, finally, Big Oil’s relentless quest for profit, which is funding Putin’s war at the same time it undermines our competitiveness with China.

More leases are not going to help our allies in Europe. We are already sending our oil to the highest bidder. Oil and gas companies already have leases the size of Indiana. Let me say that again. The oil and gas industry has bid for, over the last two decades, leases to drill on the property owned by the American people. And 53 percent of those leases have yet to be drilled upon. That is the truth. If they are serious—which they are not—they should start drilling. If their crocodile tears are real, in fact, they should just start drilling.

But, of course, they are not going to because they—by squatting on those lands—keep the price of oil high. They keep the price of natural gas high. And Japan and South Korea and China right now get more of our imports than any other country. If oil companies really wanted to help Europe get off Russian gas, they could do that right now with the resources they have. Let me say that again. Oil companies could help Europe get off Russian natural gas right now with the resources they have, but that is not what they want. They want unfettered profit, more public lands, and more power on the global market. And that profit—that oil-soaked power—has directly fueled Putin’s war on Ukraine.

So there is a different pathway, and we have to commit to destroying demand for Putin’s dirty energy business model by powering our country with clean, American-made renewable energy. And we can power our way to peace. An additional 16 million electric vehicles on the road in the United States would replace all of the oil that we import from Russia on a daily basis.

By passing the \$555 billion investment in clean energy and climate justice, we can build a “made in America” clean energy economy that delivers real energy independence. We can unlock a safe, healthy future and untether ourselves from Putin’s dirty profits. With tax credits and rebates in wind and solar, offshore wind, transmission, electric vehicles, heat pumps, and advanced domestic manufacturing, we can cut costs at home while cutting off Putin’s money pipeline. These investments would reduce our dependence on global oil markets and instead power our country through localized clean energy.

Our Federal climate policies, our Federal energy policies are exactly what we need in this moment—this national security, moral, and economic moment. We don’t need to power our Nation on Russian oil and sell off our forest and seas for an unnecessary Big

Oil land grab when they already have an area the size of Indiana that they are not drilling on because that increases their profits right now. We don't need to pay for Russia's invasion of Ukraine through Russian imports while paying higher prices at the pump to support profiteering and exports.

Let's wake up and win the renewable race to the future. Let's reject fossil-fueled greed for what that is—just greed. Let's protect our allies by destroying Putin's business model and delivering a future powered by domestic clean energy. That is the promise of peace. That is the promise to the whole world, to live on a safe planet. This is the promise we must make to the next generation of American young people and young people of the world, that we are going to power a clean energy revolution of wind and solar and all-electric vehicles and battery storage technologies, and we are going to destroy the business model of Russia and destroy the business models of other petrostates around the world with American innovation.

That is what the young people of our country and the world should expect from this generation and this Senate in 2022 on the floor of the United States Senate. That is the debate which we should have this year on behalf of a safer, more peaceful, more healthy, and more moral world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UKRAINE

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I call on this body to support the people of Ukraine fighting for their lives right now, today. Our mandate to act is clear.

Here is a little bit of history for this body. In 1994, in the months following the end of the Cold War, Ukraine was very fragile, working through the challenges of establishing and sustaining democratic government, while sitting atop the world's third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, arms abandoned in the final days of the Soviet Union.

The United States intervened. In exchange for protection by the greatest superpower in the history of the world, Ukraine dismantled and surrendered their nuclear armament entirely. That agreement made the world a safer place, but Vladimir Putin called the United States to the carpet on our agreement last week. He gambled that America would again abandon our partners, as we did in Afghanistan. Putin gambled that U.S. treaties and agreements are no more valuable than the paper they are written on. He didn't bet against the Ukrainians, where he has every military advantage in a head-to-head conflict. His criminal invasion—now a bloody war of aggression against Ukraine—was a bet against American supremacy.

We cannot allow Putin to get away with it. The American people don't want us to either. Over 80 percent of Americans want us to do more to bring

down Vladimir Putin, stand with Ukraine, and end this conflict. They are not just feeling the impacts of the invasion at the gas pump, the grocery store, and in their retirement accounts; they feel it in their hearts.

We are the greatest Nation on the face of the planet. We stand for freedom. But our greatness and our standing are only as strong as our world. The American people know it, and they are looking for us to act.

Unfortunately, the U.S. response to this point is at best incomplete. It is tepid. It is halfhearted and impassive to the Russian bear that is looking to clamp down on the free world. This President and his administration are allowing the Germans, the Canadians, the Latvians, the Dutch, and the Swiss to lead in arming Ukraine.

This body, my colleagues, I implore you, we can do more, and we can do it better. We have seen the classified reports. We all understand, all 100 of us, that the Ukrainians are in dire need of our aid right now—not tomorrow, not next week, now. We also know the volume of not just combat capability but logistics supplies, secure communications equipment, and medical kits that we have purchased and staged all around the world to secure our partners.

My amendment does not spend another dime of taxpayer money; it calls on the Secretary of Defense to mobilize existing equipment, including provisions meant for Afghanistan, to arm Ukraine. This equipment will never be used by U.S. forces, but it is simply sitting in warehouses across the world. It belongs at the Polish border and in the hands of Ukrainians, who are fighting for their lives as I am speaking here on the floor today.

We know we have capabilities that we bought for the Afghans that could be loaded and flown to Poland to help our counterparts. That is open source. That information is out there. We have other capabilities as well that you all know belong in the hands of our Ukrainian friends. This administration's doctrine of appeasement has provided more arms for the Taliban than for the sovereign nation of Ukraine, and it is not even close.

The administration's abandonment of Afghanistan drew deserved condemnation from Democrats and Republicans in this body, but today and every day we don't act to arm our partners in Ukraine, we will be held to account. If we don't act now, this body's lack of immediate attention and action on this matter will be recorded in history.

We took an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." That obligates us to secure the homefront but also to stand with our allies and partners. Our oath demands Congress—just as it demands our men and women in uniform—protect the American people. That vow compels us to honor our commitments abroad, stand with freedom, and do

what the American people sent us here to do.

The fight for Ukraine doesn't end today. I will continue to advocate for already procured equipment and capabilities that are programmed, budgeted, contracted, purchased, and sitting in containers unused to go to those who need it the most.

Let's execute our oath today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

S.J. RES. 38

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise here today—we are going to be voting here later on. In a recent Monmouth poll in January, respondents were asked if they agreed with this statement: "COVID is here to stay and we just need to get on with our lives [and live with it]." Seventy percent said they did agree with this, including half of all Democrats.

We have been through 2 years where we have been from here to there on it—if an early believer, take it seriously. We didn't know what it was going to have in store for us, but I think we do now.

So often you hear: Listen to the data; look at the science. Too often, it has kind of been the political science of it.

Vaccinations and natural immunity mean that a large majority of our country is already protected. Hospitalizations, serious illness, and even death from COVID we can see are really going in the right direction, thank goodness.

As therapeutics continue to improve, it is clear that most Americans are right—COVID is here to stay. It is endemic. We can't marinate in fear. We can't have lockdowns. We can't have one-size-fits-all for across the country. We have got to get on with our lives.

President Biden recently extended the Federal state of emergency under the National Emergencies Act indefinitely. I would like to point out, he is not alone there in the sense that most of our Governors have done the same. I only think in Florida and in Iowa—I would say that I am guessing most citizens living in a lot of these places would like their Governors to do likewise. This state of emergency makes robust powers available to the President during a crisis. It includes forgiving student loans, imposing travel restrictions, capital investments in neighborhoods deemed to be disproportionately affected by COVID.

When this emergency was first declared 2 years ago this week, it was needed. It was uncertain. It was gratifying to see that, in a bipartisan way, in March of 2020, we came together. But we have learned so much since then. Now, I think it has become a burden.

I cite 3 weeks ago—it was in a classroom in Las Vegas. You ought to look it up. It was announced there—this is different, but it was a mandate. It was that you had to wear a mask in the classroom. The kids, I think, embodied

what this whole process has been about and that we are at a different place. It looked like they won the State championship in something.

We are there. Congress has a responsibility to vote on whether to approve these emergency declarations, as we will today.

Every State and community is easing COVID restrictions, and many of them have eliminated them entirely. Ideally, you fight something like this with maybe general guidance from here, but you let government where it is closest to the people dictate how this stuff should happen and how long it should be there.

It is past time for the President and Governors across the country to give up the extra powers granted to them under the COVID emergency declarations. If we are going to live with this virus and move forward as a country, we must end the national emergency authorization, and other Governors across the country should follow suit.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 38, a resolution to terminate the COVID-19 national emergency declaration.

After nearly 2 years of living under this state of emergency, the American people are worn out and yearning to breathe free. They long for their God-given freedoms and for leaders to take their side.

We as a nation must begin to learn to live with COVID. The robust powers this emergency declaration provides the Federal Government are no longer necessary, and Congress must debate and ultimately repeal them in order to begin the process of unwinding the powers the government took hold of during the peak of the crisis.

As we contemplate what returning to normal means, most Americans accept that COVID will likely never be entirely behind us, and setting zero COVID cases as a victory condition is more harmful than good.

That being said, of course, we have to respect the virus and protect the vulnerable, but we also must accept that personal responsibility, not government mandates and restrictions, must govern our approach to the virus going forward.

We must repeal this emergency declaration today to deliver a symbolic victory to our citizens that normalcy is around the corner and that limited government and our constitutional rights still reign supreme. It is high time to stop talking about restrictions and the unknown. We must chart a new course to victory today that respects the virus and our freedoms.

Let's look back on the recent history of this national emergency declaration. On March 13, 2020, President Trump first declared the national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak.

Two days prior, following an alarming rate of transmission, the World

Health Organization had declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic. Little was known about the rapidly spreading virus at the time, but President Trump's declaration was intended to grant himself, as Chief Executive, additional authorities to bolster the Federal Government's efforts to control the virus and ease the burden on our healthcare system.

Less than a week later, California became the first State to issue a statewide stay-at-home order, and lockdowns, mask mandates, school closures, and capacity limits commenced all across the Nation.

These were the earliest and most frightening days of the pandemic, when our understanding of the virus was minimal and all measures were needed to react to a globe contagion unlike anything seen in nearly a century.

Almost a year later, and just over a month after his inauguration, in February 2021, President Biden justifiably went on to extend the COVID-19 national emergency declaration for another year, a requirement under the National Emergencies Act that had it not been acted on, would have resulted in the automatic termination of the declaration.

At the time of President Biden's initial extension, only 50 million doses of the vaccine had been administered, and eligibility was largely limited to healthcare workers, first responders, and the most vulnerable populations. It would still be weeks or months before all adults would be eligible in all 50 States. Viral treatments and therapeutics were scarcely available to the public. All the while, the potentially more severe and contagious Delta variant was brewing in other regions of the world before it was detected and became the dominant variant here at home.

The situation on the ground in the United States has changed drastically since those early stages of the pandemic. Thanks to American innovation and Operation Warp Speed, the United States has now multiple vaccines available to all Americans over the age of 5. Everyone ages 12 and older is eligible for a booster shot if they want that inoculation.

In fact, more than 550 million shots have been administered in the United States, with 215 million people fully vaccinated, including 89 percent of individuals 65 and older. Additionally, the FDA has authorized two oral antivirals, and monoclonal antibody treatments are available for those at high risk of becoming seriously ill. Well done. Well done.

Omicron is now the dominant variant in the United States, accounting for 97 percent of the cases. While more contagious, Omicron tends to result in more mild symptoms in infected individuals. In Kansas, the daily case average in recent weeks has decreased 99 percent. Let me say that again. The daily case average has decreased 99 percent. Hospitalizations are down about

80 percent, and deaths are down 98 percent. Nationally, we are seeing drastic decreases in these same three categories as well. But perhaps even more importantly, today, at least 94 percent of Americans have some level of immunization.

Accordingly, States in every corner of the Nation are repealing indoor mask mandates, including blue States that have most adamantly enforced them. Yes, indeed, freedom-loving Americans who are worn out by the draconian lockdowns and mandates are giving a sigh of relief.

Despite all these advances in our position of a much greater understanding of the virus, President Biden stealthily extended the national emergency declaration once again on a late Friday afternoon 2 weeks ago.

Next, let us lay out some of the effects these policies have had on the American people and why we must abandon this approach, shrink the Federal response, and move toward a more nimble and effectively locally based community strategy that allows individual citizens and local health officials to exercise and promote old-fashioned self-responsibility and individual choice.

The first COVID-19 wave in the spring of 2020 took the world by surprise. The spread of the cases globally and in the United States was met with government-ordered lockdowns abroad and here at home. In just a few weeks, lockdowns put more than 10 million Americans out of work, with 6.6 million people applying for unemployment benefits in the last week of March alone.

These lockdowns, some of which extended for months in certain States, and the subsequent mandates and requirements that still remain in place have had dramatically negative impacts on our quality of life and had been minimally beneficial.

A recent study from Johns Hopkins University found lockdowns only reduced the COVID-19 death rate by 0.2 percent—0.2 percent—2 out of 1,000. These researchers noted that while “lockdowns have had little to no public health effects, they have imposed enormous economic and social costs where they have been adopted.”

These costs have been felt at an alarming rate in a number of aspects of American life. Drug overdose deaths rose by 30 percent in 2020, hitting the highest number ever recorded. Symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder and the use of mental health care among adults increased by 36 percent from August 2020 to February of 2021.

The numbers for our children are even more troubling—our children, our grandchildren. The CDC found between March and October 2020, emergency department visits for mental health emergencies rose by 24 percent for children ages 5 through 11 and 31 percent for children ages 12 to 17 years.

In addition, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts

increased nearly 51 percent among girls ages 12 through 17—51 percent—in early 2021 compared to the same period in 2019.

School closures in the 2020–2021 academic year left students, on average, 5 months behind in mathematics and 4 months behind in reading. Disadvantaged and low-income schools disproportionately, of course, felt that impact.

These societal ills have been compounded by mask mandates, vaccine mandates, and isolation orders. Keeping this emergency declaration in place will cause—will cause—public health officials and governments at all levels to maintain the possibility of allowing them to remain or resurrecting them.

And much like America's alcohol prohibition a century ago, these mandates will make criminals out of all of us, as we all are guilty of disregarding them at one time or another. This only creates more disrespect for law and order. We can't allow this to happen.

And I have to add this: The mortality rate from COVID for the United States is 75 percent higher than Sweden's—75 percent higher than Sweden's—despite Sweden issuing no shutdowns or mask mandates. Not surprisingly, Sweden's economy is humming ahead of ours at a 5-percent rate above prepandemic levels.

All this being said, once again, I beg this administration and the national media to stop fearmongering, to share all the science, and, please, let our people go.

The Democrats' COVID obsession has also resulted in out-of-control spending and massive debt. Congress has appropriated \$6 trillion. That is 6 times 10 to the 12th—6 with 12 zeroes after it—\$6 trillion to respond to this crisis. This means Federal spending to combat the pandemic has well surpassed the \$4.1 trillion the United States spent waging World War II. Throw in the roughly \$1.5 trillion on World War I, the Korean war, Vietnam, and the Gulf war combined, and it still would not exceed what has been spent on COVID relief.

Let me say that another way. We borrowed from my children, my grandchildren, your children and grandchildren. We borrowed and spent more money on COVID than all the major wars combined form the 20th century.

While the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act passed with nearly unanimous consent in both this body and the House, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress insisted more was needed.

Despite warnings from economists on all ends of the political spectrum that it would harm our economy, Democrats rammed through a highly partisan \$1.9 trillion more of a spending package that has overheated our economy. This bill was in response to a problem that was already fixing itself.

Shockingly, I have to point out, only 9 percent of this funding was related to healthcare, and less than 1 percent was dedicated to vaccines. Instead, the funding, like the drawdown, unneces-

sary, heavy-handed health restrictions, was meant to implement drastic changes in our way of life and system of governance and expand Big Government socialism, not to mention it has resulted in the highest level of inflation we have seen in this country in 40 years. As one economist put it, the U.S. stimulus has been in a "category of its own" and has resulted in more inflation than almost any other advanced economy in the world.

With hundreds of billions of dollars of funds for schools and State governments unspent, the President announced during his State of the Union that he plans to send a supplemental COVID relief funding request to Congress. Our Nation's emergency posture to this virus is driving out-of-control spending, fueling inflation, and strapping our children and, again, our grandchildren, with more than \$30 trillion in debt.

Indeed, at this time, our national debt is a greater threat to our Nation than COVID. This alone is another reason to end this declaration.

Now let me turn to the executive's emergency authority—the executive branch's emergency authority and Congress's role in delegating those powers. Since article II of the Constitution does not grant the President emergency powers, all such authority is granted by Congress. Many of these authorities are provided through three laws: the National Emergencies Act, which is what we are focused on today; the Stafford Act; and the Public Health Service Act.

All three have been applied by this administration to the COVID response, but the National Emergencies Act grants congressional oversight over a declaration by the President. Before I get into the need to exercise that congressional authority, let me quickly discuss what repealing this emergency declaration will not do. Let's talk about what it won't do.

First, terminating this emergency declaration will not impact the title 42 order currently in place and being exercised at our southern border that allows border officials to expel illegal aliens. Again, this will not impact title 42. The crisis at the United States-Mexico border has been fueled by this administration's decision to resume catch-and-release, halt construction of the border wall, and promise half a million dollars to immigrant families who broke our laws.

As a result, the number of illegal aliens crossing our southern border is at the highest level in more than 20 years under President Biden.

I can assure you, Republicans' intention is not to take away the only tool being utilized at our southern border to stem the tide of illegal immigrants pouring in. The authority for this order lies within the Secretary of Health and Human Services' public health emergency declaration made on January 31, 2020, under the Public Health Service Act.

The most recent internal review of title 42 submitted by CDC Director Walensky on February 2 found that the order needed to remain in place. Republicans agree—we agree—that the external threat of COVID coming across the border unchecked from other nations preserves the need for this order to remain in place and for us to pass legislation outside of these emergency declarations to further secure our porous border.

Second, terminating the emergency declaration would not impact the waivers issued by the HHS Secretary. Let me say that again. Terminating the emergency declaration would not impact the waivers issued by the HHS Secretary. These critical flexibilities—including increased access to care via telehealth—have been crucial to our ability to combat the virus. The telehealth waivers will not be impacted by removing the NEA.

And, in fact, I am a cosponsor of legislation to make many of these successful telehealth waivers permanent, and we must do so after the public health emergency expires, and we return to normal.

Until today, Congress has failed to fulfill our duty and oversight responsibilities laid out in the National Emergencies Act, ceding immense, unchecked power to the executive branch. We must, as the Democratic Representative from the great State of Kentucky, Romano Mazzoli, stated when this bill was being debated in 1975. I will quote Representative Mazzoli, the Democrat from Kentucky.

Consciously and deliberately [we must] force ourselves to come to grips periodically—and ultimately—[deal] with the vexing problems of national emergencies. The blame as well as the glory will be on the shoulders of the Congress. . . . But that is as it is supposed to be—that is the responsible course.

The blame and the glory should remain on the shoulders of Congress, and that is why we are here today. We are here today to debate this responsible course moving forward.

While the COVID-19 emergency declaration has not utilized all powers provided to the President, major actions have been taken as a direct result of the declaration. Our Ready Reserve remains active, our Coast Guard is stretched, and the staggeringly expensive student loan relief remains in place.

More importantly, though, this declaration drives our Federal Government to maintain its massive emergency response infrastructure and drives leftwing politicians in Congress to push harmful mandates and unrestrained spending.

These powers are no longer needed. We have tools to minimize the impact of this virus and truly live with it.

This idea of living with COVID is not a fringe position held by Republicans. Democratic New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy recently said it was time to, and I will quote him, "learn how to live" with it. Democratic Governors in

Nevada, Rhode Island, New York, California—I will say California again—Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, and Oregon have announced they are lifting certain mask mandates and easing other restrictions.

Internationally, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand are working towards “living with COVID” phases. Just last week, the British Prime Minister announced that part of his “living with COVID” plan would even include the repeal of legislation and legal requirements for those who test positive for COVID to self-isolate.

While President Biden claimed during his State of the Union Address that—and I will quote him—“we are moving forward safely, back to . . . normal routines,” his actions don’t match his words. His call for a “reset” and claims to be loosening government intrusion into our lives by way of COVID restrictions are only half-truths. We know this because all these next items are true:

Despite being presented with the devastating effects of lockdowns, school and indoor mask mandates, and other restrictions, the President renewed the Federal Government’s national emergency declaration again. In fact, the President just hours ago issued a veto threat of this resolution should it make it to his desk—the President promising a veto before we even have this vote on the Senate floor.

The CDC continues to hide data points they believe would be “misinterpreted” by those outside of the swamp they view as ignorant. The people—the people—are so much smarter than they are given credit for. This data gives information on who is receiving booster shots, the effectiveness of vaccines for certain age groups, and figures related to reinfections. This allows the Federal Government to suppress information that contradicts their one-size-fits-all policy and approach and preserves intrusive government policies.

Next, despite the President patting himself on the back for relaxing mask mandates, we still have in place the CDC order that requires masks on airplanes, in Ubers, and on your children’s schoolbuses.

The administration has only withdrawn one of their vaccine mandates, the OSHA mandate on employers with more than 100 employees, after—only after—the Supreme Court struck it down. Three mandates are thankfully enjoined by the courts, but deadlines for the CMS mandate on healthcare workers are beginning to be enforced.

Just yesterday, on this floor, 44 Senate Democrats voted to keep the mandate in place despite its constitutional violation of State police powers, harm to an already weak healthcare workforce, and outdated science that guided the promulgation of the rule.

Next, the President’s National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan asks Congress to approve funding that would expand the production of vaccines to 1 billion doses a year. That equates to

three doses for every person—three doses per American. Do they plan to mandate these? Dr. Fauci recently led us to believe that indeed might be the case, and I will quote Dr. Fauci: “The potential future requirement for an additional boost . . . is being carefully monitored in real time.”

While we prevented separated members of the military from receiving dishonorable discharges for choosing not to get the vaccine, the Defense Department has kicked out hundreds of our bravest service men and women.

How can the President downplay the progress we have made in our ability to combat the virus? And, more importantly, how can he continue to pursue an invasive and coercive Federal response that has eroded our freedoms and spread misery throughout this Nation? Does he not hear the cry of the people who have given him the power to be President?

As the United States enters the third year of COVID-19, 70 percent of Americans agree that it is time we accepted that COVID is here to stay and that we just need to get on with our lives—70 percent of Americans. We can’t get Americans to decide where to go to lunch together, let alone on an issue this big, and 70 percent of Americans maintain these policies are no longer about science or about public health or the will of the people. That is all a guise.

This is about power and using a global pandemic to grow government and lurch our Nation toward socialism. The suffering caused by the government’s actions has had an immense impact on the daily lives of Americans in ways that will take years to correct, if ever.

We now know that these actions were wrong. The same people who argued to keep this emergency declaration in place are the same people who were wrong in their advocacy for these government actions.

They were wrong when they told you not to be afraid to go to Chinese New Year celebrations when the first cases were detected in the United States.

They were wrong when they said it was racist to suspend inbound travel from China.

They were wrong when they called you a conspiracy theorist for believing it was possible for this virus to have developed in nature or to have leaked from a laboratory.

They were wrong when they told you lockdowns must remain in place.

They were wrong when they told you masking your children was the only way they could attend in-person classes safely.

They were wrong when they told you massive stimulus spending was necessary and would not lead to inflation.

They were wrong when they told you that inflation would be transitory.

And they were wrong when they denied that natural immunity provided a strong defense against COVID infection and severe symptoms. They were wrong when they denied that natural immu-

nity provided a strong defense against COVID infection and severe symptoms.

They have been wrong nearly every step of the way during the response to this pandemic—always a day late and a dollar spent in the wrong direction. Yet here they are, these same individuals who now reside in the White House and hold majorities in Congress, telling us it would be detrimental to our own health to repeal the President’s national emergency declaration. Their motivation is not genuine. It is a blatant effort to further extend the massive accumulation of power that the Federal Government has extended across America for the last 2 years.

Today, the Senate has an opportunity to act to rein in this control and reassert our article I authorities. The Constitution demands it. The authors of the National Emergencies Act demand it. The protection of American liberties demands it.

We have the tools to protect the vulnerable and our populous is near full herd immunity, with 94 percent of Americans having some level of immunity now. Let’s not listen to those who have wronged us and have been proven incorrect countless times before throughout this pandemic. Let’s listen to common sense and reason. Let’s listen to science, and let’s listen to the people.

Let’s abandon the COVID obsession and groupthink that has infiltrated the highest ranks of government, and let’s return the ability to make decisions related to the virus back to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Montana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3214

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, all in 1 year, President Biden killed the Keystone XL Pipeline; he banned new oil and gas leases on Federal lands; then, of course, he ended up begging OPEC and Russia to produce more abroad and then gave the green light to Russia’s Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. These actions diminished American energy security. It hurt our allies and empowered our adversaries. They put the United States and our partners in the crosshairs of Russia and Vladimir Putin.

At the State of the Union Address, I heard the President say we need more “made in America,” “made in America,” “made in America.” What I didn’t hear him say was that we needed more “made in America” energy or more “made in America” oil and natural gas.

My bill, the Supporting Made in America Renewable and Traditional Energy Act, or the SMART Energy Act, will help get the United States back on track and ensure that our country will remain not only energy independent and energy secure but that it will become a global energy dominant player.

My bill supports an “all of the above” American energy portfolio. I want to emphasize that. It is an “all of the above” American energy portfolio.

It doesn't exclude renewables; it includes renewables by requiring the Biden administration to restart oil and gas leasing and kick-start renewable energy development on Federal land and waters because now, more than ever, we need to be supporting American energy development to help lower energy costs for American families and support our allies.

Take a look at what is happening in Europe and Russia as it relates to energy prices and national security, all of which, of course, are interconnected. We should examine what Germany has done over the course of the last 10 to 15 years as an example of what not to do. By the way, it takes, I guess, a war on Germany's doorstep to suddenly provide clarity for the Germans to see, yes, they need to be increasing their investment in NATO. Now, they just in the last 2 weeks decided they are going to permit two new LNG ports. While looking in the rearview mirror, they shut down 11 nuclear plants, and they shut down coal plants. They were not moving forward with LNG plants. Instead, they wanted that Nord Stream 2 Pipeline built to Russia. Well, they have changed their thinking on it.

We can't let America get to that same point of following this path of the very dangerous ideology of shutting down "made in America" energy because, as Europe has continued to stop investing in traditional energy, they have become more dependent on adversaries like Russia for energy, and now, the cost of energy is skyrocketing. Sadly, this, indeed, is a sneak peek into the path that America is headed down if the Biden administration continues to stonewall traditional American energy development. We can't let this happen.

Listen, I support an "all of the above" energy portfolio. I am grateful I represent a State that has "all of the above energy." We have bright skies; we have solar potential; we are a headwater State; we have amazing hydro resources; we have got winds that come off of our mountains for wind energy. Yet an "all of the above" approach includes not just renewables but oil, gas, nuclear, and coal.

That is why it is critical that we pass my bill today to promote renewable and traditional energy here in the United States. It is good for growing jobs, strengthening our energy security, supporting our allies, and keeping a reliable and cost-effective source of energy for the American people.

The question we should all be asking ourselves is, Do we want the world to be looking to Russia for energy or to the United States for energy?

My bill supports the latter, and I urge my colleagues to pass it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3214 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. Further, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I rise today to object to the motion from the Senator from Montana to pass this bill through unanimous consent.

This push to put every square inch of Federal land up for sale is not a new one. It has been the plan of the American Petroleum Institute from the beginning of recorded time. It is not helping the Ukrainians in their fight, and it is not helping our European allies. It is helping inflate the profits of big oil and big gas companies.

In 2021 and 2020, we exported more crude oil and petroleum than we imported. Since 2015, when every Republican on their side lifted the ban on the exportation of American oil—that is what they wanted is their plan, that of the American Petroleum Institute—we now export 8.6 million barrels of oil out of our country every single day. Without question, whenever I have heard anything about energy independence, well, that was the natural consequence of lifting the ban on the exportation of our oil, and now, it is up to 8.6 million barrels a day.

As a matter of fact, in 2021, we actually exported 650,000 barrels of oil a day to China as we were importing 600,000 barrels of oil a day from Russia because that is what the American Petroleum Institute wanted—a globalization of this oil market—with the American consumer and the American economy just caught, ultimately, in an economic crossfire, which is where we are right now. We give China our natural resources so that they can produce a finished product. Meanwhile, we have to import 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia to make up for that, which they then use to pay for the planes for the navy and for the infantry, right now, working to destroy the democracy of Ukraine.

So the answer is for the United States to chart a new course. In 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2018, we exported more natural gas than we imported. We don't have a fossil fuel supply problem in the United States at all. We are supplying fossil fuels all around the world right now. We are sending our fuel to Japan, to China, to South Korea. Fossil fuel companies are sending their products anywhere they can get the highest price—raising costs for all of us at home.

By the way, again, understand that that is the key. Once they get it out of the United States and put it on a ship—natural gas or oil—they then get the highest price in the world for it, but they leave behind less oil and natural gas in the United States. With that diminished supply, that leads to an increase in prices for consumers for home heating oil, for gasoline, and for the

natural gas to heat their homes. That has been their plan since 2015, to lift the ban on the exportation of American oil and natural gas.

Still, they are unfinished, and they want to be able to drill and frack every single inch of our national forests, our public lands, our coastlines. They want to add to their stockpiles of leases that they are squatting on already. Here are the numbers. It is absolutely astounding. Again, it is all part of the American Petroleum Institute's control of our domestic and foreign policy.

Right now, onshore, in our forests and fields and plains, 53 percent of all of the leases that the American Petroleum Institute—Exxon, Chevron, you name it—already has one. By the way, it is 2 bucks an acre—2 bucks an acre. They are not drilling on them, and they have had their leases for 5 years, for 10 years, for 15 years, for 20 years.

Then we hear from the American Petroleum Institute that we need more land that you will lease to us on public lands that we can buy for a couple of bucks, and we promise—we promise—we will start drilling on it, but just give us more land—even though they already have an area the size of Indiana that they have bid for and now, from the American people, on public lands, have the right to drill. But they are not doing it.

Offshore is even worse. On our pristine coasts from Maine to Florida, 77 percent of the existing leases which the American Petroleum Institute has, they haven't even drilled on them yet. They are sitting there. Yet they are coming here and saying: We need even more that we can get at this bargain basement price of a couple of bucks an acre.

That is their business plan, and it is just so disingenuous for the American Petroleum Institute to just continue to try to exploit crises while they, themselves, are not doing their own job, because it is inconsistent with the huge profit-making goals which they have.

Using the crisis in Ukraine and rising oil prices to push for more pro-oil policies doesn't make sense. Our oil addiction is what added more than \$17 billion to Putin's pockets last year. Let me just say that again. We in the United States, at the gas pump, sent \$17 billion to Putin for his war machine just in 2021.

So let's just not pretend that we need to plunder every inch of our country in order to protect our allies or to lower gas prices. Oil and gas companies want to frack and extract so they can continue to send American fuel abroad while they plead energy independence and send that to China as the highest bidder.

That is not our plan. It can't be our plan. We have to have a true, clean energy independence that helps rid the world of Putin's business model and leads the way to an American-led, international clean energy revolution. The Republicans right now are blocking the clean energy package that we have in the U.S. Senate.

For every 16 million all-electric vehicles we deploy, we back out the equivalent of all the oil we import from Russia. With the next 16 million, we back out all of the oil we import from Saudi Arabia. That is the plan for young people in our country and for young people around the world. If we do that in coordination with our allies, that destroys, in the long term, the business model of Russia and of the Middle Eastern nations that have us addicted to their oil.

I just think that we are at a critical time, and we need big plans; but one of them cannot be that we are saying to the oil industry that you can exploit this crisis, because if they are serious—and I will just finish on this note.

When we debated in January of 2015 the Keystone Pipeline, I made the amendment here on the Senate floor, saying, if we build this Keystone Pipeline, that we have to keep all of the oil here in the United States—it is the dirtiest oil in the world, the tar sands of Canada. In a straw that they wanted to build right through the United States, with all the environmental risks taken by the American people, they would then export it. So my amendment said, if we build this pipeline and take all of the environmental risks, that the oil should stay here.

Every single Republican voted not to keep it here. They all said that that oil can be exported to any country in the world.

Secondly, back when I was in the House of Representatives, I would make the amendment each year. If you want to drill off the coastlines of the United States, then any oil which is found has to stay here in America; otherwise, the beaches and the fishing industries of the United States take all the risks, and the oil companies reap all of the profits by putting that oil and natural gas on the international markets.

Every Republican voted no. We are not going to have a ban on the exportation of that oil and gas even though it endangers the drilling and would endanger the beaches and the fishing industries of the United States.

So it has always been about an export strategy, and that is all this is as well. It is an attempt to get more leases that they would then hoard—squat on—wait for the price to go higher, and then in their own good time, they would begin to drill, but it would only be in their interests, not our national interests.

As a result, because of the long, unfortunate history of the relationship between the American people and the American Petroleum Institute, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, clearly, we have two different philosophies and strategies moving forward as we deal with the crisis that is unfolding in Europe and Ukraine.

We need more “made in America” energy. It is the Green New Deal, purely clean energy and not including an “all of the above” energy portfolio that I believe is a very dangerous direction to head, as we have seen exactly what Germany has encountered over the course of the last 10 years.

They marched down that path, and now, they find themselves in a very, very dangerous position. And they have had to reverse the course because they had the same kind of ideals that the Senator from Massachusetts was talking about. Now, they have had to wake up and look at the reality of the situation and change course.

By the way, it is not every inch. This bill simply says we need four lease sales. We are asking for a minimum of four lease sales. That is what we are asking for.

And when the President shuts down the Keystone Pipeline, shuts down oil and gas leasing in this country, combined with what we see going on with FERC being major impediments to building more pipelines, combined with nominees and those who have been appointed in the Biden administration and who are very anti-oil and gas, it chills the capital markets. This is a long-term direction we have got to continue to go down.

Again, this bill also includes wind, solar, and geothermal priorities as part of it. So it is all of the above.

I just think it is very dangerous to say we are going to bet the Nation's future on only one segment of the energy economy and not also ensure we have oil and gas and coal as part of our broader portfolio.

Just ask the Germans if they thought that was a good idea when they went down this path 10 to 15 years ago.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, just in response to the Senator, we have never had an “all of the above” strategy, truly. We have had an “oil above all” strategy. That is the problem that we have. That is the hole that we have dug for ourselves.

It is time for the United States to finally put a plan in place that backs out the imported oil from Russia, backs out the imported oil from the Middle East, and the only way we can do it is if we pass the climate provisions in President Biden's plan.

By 2030, the goal is to have 40 percent of all of our vehicles being all electric—no oil, no gasoline. Do you know what that does? It destroys the business model of Russia. It destroys the business model of the countries in the Middle East that need that petrol dollar from the American consumer in order to fund all of their nefarious activities.

Germany is going 65 percent all-electric vehicles by the year 2030—9 years from now, 65 percent all electric.

So if we put this together and we are serious about it right now, we will de-

stroy the long-term threat fueled by our own addiction to energy, Europe's addiction to fossil fuels, and it will just send us on a clean energy future.

But in order to do it, we need a true “all of the above” strategy, not “oil above all.” That is how we got here. And if we are going to do it, we have to pass that comprehensive clean energy package out of the Senate this year and put it on President Biden's desk.

That will scare Putin and his cronies vacationing in Sochi. That will put a fear into the hearts of the oil monarchs of the Middle East because they will know once and for all that we are serious about not allowing our American consumer dollars to fuel conflicts around the world.

Again, I appreciate the time.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled vote: Senator LANKFORD, myself, up to 5 minutes; Senator MARSHALL for 2 minutes; Senator SCHUMER, up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S.J. RES. 38

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are about to vote on an issue dealing with the national emergency here in the United States dealing with the pandemic.

There has been no great shock that we have functioned under a lot of additional authorities that are happening, but I want to provide a bit of clarity into this conversation as well.

The measure that we are dealing with right now dealing with COVID and the pandemic that is here, we also know there is a global pandemic; and improving the medical situation here doesn't necessarily mean improving the medical situation everywhere, nor should it change what is called title 42.

A quick explanation on this. The Surgeon General, the CDC, and HHS all work together with the President to be able to recommend that, based on the public health crisis that we are currently under, title 42 states this:

Whenever the Surgeon General determines that by reason of the existence of any communicable disease in a foreign country there is a serious danger of the introduction of such disease in the United States, and that this danger is so increased by the introduction of persons or property from such country that a suspension of the right to introduce such persons and property is required in the interest of the public health, the Surgeon General, in accordance with the regulations approved by the President, shall have the power to prohibit . . . the introduction

of persons and property from such countries or places [they] shall designate.

That is title 42.

Why that does matter to us? Because in the last 2 years, our country along our border has been managing much of the border based on title 42. Now, it is no secret to anyone in this room—I would assume everyone in this room knows—we had the highest number of border encounters—that is people illegally crossing our borders—last year in the history of our country. Over 2 million people illegally crossed our borders. What some may not know is, last year, 900,000 of those were brought into the system in the United States; 1.1 million of those were turned around at the border with title 42 authority; meaning, because of the pandemic, because of the risk and the crisis, the introduction of additional individuals who are likely to have COVID, they were turned around at the border.

The concern is—and I have raised this concern over and over with CBP—what is your plan postpandemic for the title 42 authority?

Now, I want everyone to think about last summer—last summer what was happening in Donna, TX, last summer what was happening in multiple places along the border where our facilities were overrun with people and not manageable. That was when we were introducing 900,000 people into the country. What does that look like this summer if there are 2 million people in that group coming across?

That is why I want to make it very clear that what we are voting on now has no effect on title 42 authority. We continue to have serious health concerns, as title 42 states, in many other countries; and I have continued to encourage DHS to have a plan in place. Currently, they do not. It appears that their plan is, once title 42 goes away, all 2 million will get into the country. I think that is a serious problem, and I think it is something we should address.

In the meantime, we should not relieve title 42, and this vote does not change anything with the Surgeon General's decision on title 42. By the way, it is a Surgeon General position that has been in two administrations in a row to be able to be maintained on this.

So just to clarify, for this body, this vote has nothing to do with title 42; that is a Surgeon General responsibility; but this body needs to do additional oversight to make sure DHS is paying attention to what is happening at our southern border because we could very well have 1.1 million additional people illegally cross into the country, not just across the border and be returned but actually into the country in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, one of my favorite tasks up here is to give folks from back home a tour of this

Capitol. We meet them in the Crypt, and we go through the Old Supreme Court, and we walk up the back steps into the Capitol's Rotunda. And I love to say nothing. I love to just watch the folks look up at the walls and gaze at all the famous statues—statues of Eisenhower and Reagan.

There are portraits in that Rotunda, each with a story to tell. Perhaps my favorite portrait is one by John Trumbull; it is a painting of General George Washington, depicting in 1783 his resigning his commission as Commander of the Continental Army. Everyone looks at that painting, and they see in the President—at that time General—George Washington's hands his commission, that piece of paper that he is handing off to the Continental Army.

Behind him, there is a throne; and importantly, it is an empty throne with King's robes on it, seemingly to say that George Washington said: I will not be a King; I will throw my robes off, and we will have a Republic, a democracy.

I would ask our President to throw off his robes. I would ask him to listen to the people and end this declaration of emergency.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. I will be brief as I conclude.

Mr. President, as our country turns the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, we stand at a crossroads. We can either take steps to keep America ready in case new variants arise—and the odds are high they will arise—or we can backslide and undo everything we have done, at great cost, to get our country closer to normal.

Today, the Senator from Kansas is advancing a proposal that would precisely handicap the Biden administration's ability to fight the pandemic and heighten the danger that all our progress is suddenly unraveled in the future. We have learned how to fight the pandemic; we are better at it; this undoes it for some kind of ideological reason.

This proposal to hinder our COVID preparedness is as damaging and risky as it is unnecessary, and it should be voted down. It is going nowhere if it passes.

The national emergency declaration, which this proposal would immediately terminate, has been one of the most powerful and best tools for mobilizing the Federal Government to combat the pandemic. It has made it easier to acquire medical supplies, to provide resources for healthcare works, and has helped cut redtape under the Defense Production Act. It has also offered student loan borrowers critical relief by clearing the path for suspending student loan payments—a lifeline for tens of millions. Do we want that undone?

Just as it looks like we are turning the corner, why on Earth would Republicans risk bungling it all by crippling America's ability to remain prepared

for the future? The best way to ensure that we keep schools open and cases low is by staying at the ready, and that is what these emergency powers enable us to do. We don't know if new variants will come or not, but if they do, they can appear with frightening speed, and we need to be prepared.

By prematurely terminating the national emergency declaration on COVID, it will be harder to ensure we have enough supplies, enough support for healthcare workers, and risks throwing tens of millions of student loan borrowers into needless uncertainty and anxiety. It is a wrong move. I will vote against it today.

And I ask for the yeas and nays.

VOTE ON S.J. RES 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Casey	Hickenlooper
Bennet	Coons	Hirono
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Kaine
Booker	Duckworth	King
Brown	Durbin	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Leahy
Cardin	Hassan	Lujan
Carper	Heinrich	Manchin

Markey	Rosen	Tester
Menendez	Sanders	Van Hollen
Merkley	Schatz	Warner
Murphy	Schumer	Warnock
Murray	Shaheen	Warren
Ossoff	Sinema	Whitehouse
Peters	Smith	Wyden
Reed	Stabenow	

NOT VOTING—5

Burr	Inhofe	Padilla
Feinstein	Kelly	

The joint resolution (S.J. Res 38) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, pursuant to section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622), the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994 (85 Fed. Reg. 15337) is hereby terminated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ENERGY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's speech to the European Parliament this week, he made it clear that the time for long-winded negotiations is over. He said that in Ukraine, "We're dealing with reality . . . we're dealing with real life."

The footage coming out of Ukraine is absolutely horrifying. Putin has shocked the world with the level of brutality he is inflicting on civilians—men, women and precious children. But remember that none of this happened overnight. These last 3 months of bluster and buildup from Moscow were more than just idle threats. We saw it coming. And still, it is abundantly clear that Joe Biden and his advisers have not accepted this reality.

I have come to the floor more times than I can count to remind my colleagues how dangerous it is to remain entangled with governments controlled by dictators and mad men.

I am encouraged by the growing level of bipartisan awareness of this danger but discouraged by how long it has taken us to get there. It took the better part of 2 years for this body to rally around supply chain security.

I am sorry to say my Democratic colleagues' priorities were out of order during the height of the pandemic, even when it came to something as simple as holding Beijing accountable for unleashing COVID and destroying the global economy.

Too many people had fooled themselves into believing that diplomacy with China required dependence on China. And just like that, we found ourselves at the mercy of Xi Jinping.

It has taken all-out war in Ukraine for many of my colleagues to learn the same hard lesson about Vladimir Putin and our entanglement with Russia's state-controlled energy sector.

It is the same old story. What started out as interdependence has turned into a serious vulnerability. It is especially true for our European counterparts who bet everything on their gamble with Moscow and played right into Putin's hands.

Now, here we are. Russia is the world's largest gas depot; Europe is on the brink of an energy crisis; and the world is dipping into strategic petroleum reserves to avert chaos. Yes, we are all in this mess together, but we ought not to be. It did not have to be this way.

It is hard to believe that before Joe Biden took his oath of office, the United States of America was energy independent. That is correct. Go back and look at the numbers, 2019, 2020—energy independent. It took a lot of hard work, but, yes, we got there.

President Trump opened up all Federal lands for new oil and gas exploration. He also approved the Keystone XL Pipeline, which created thousands of jobs and would have brought energy production closer to home.

Trump also used sanctions against Russian energy companies when he needed to. He used them against Gazprom and the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, and also against Rosneft for helping Venezuela evade oil sanctions. It worked. The proof was right there in front of us. You could see it.

Then, along comes President Biden, and what did he choose to do? He had a choice. He made a decision. Yes, it was intentional. It was to satisfy the leftists who are running the Democratic Party.

So what did Joe Biden do? He crushed American energy. That is right. He suspended all of those oil and gas leases on Federal land. On the very first day of his administration, he took great pride in saying one of his first actions, one of the very first things that he did, was to kill the Keystone Pipeline, and then he blocked new energy infrastructure. And then, for good measure, he made those pesky Nord Stream 2 sanctions go away.

What had Vladimir Putin asked for? He wanted Nord Stream 2, no sanctions. Joe Biden gave it to him. He did not even put any conditions on it. None. Zip. Old buddy, old pal, this is what you wanted? I am going to give it to you. I will give you Nord Stream 2—at the same time locking down U.S. energy production.

For the Members of this Chamber who come from energy-producing States, if you are supporting President Biden in this endeavor, then you are supporting actions that disadvantage your State. Think about that—jobs, Keystone, having energy independence, which, as we are seeing, this has quite an impact on our Nation's security and on our global security.

Well, for all of those actions that stopped energy production, the Democratic Party loved him for it, of course. As I said, they are being run by the far-left wing. The environmental lobby? Oh, they loved and praised Joe Biden for this, and at first the Europeans kind of liked it also.

But then look where it got us. We fell out of energy independence and into a rat's nest of entanglements with one of the world's most belligerent dictators.

Russia is now our third largest supplier of crude oil. The EU gets around 40 percent of its gas imports and more than a quarter of its oil from Russia. Instead of using Keystone to send 830,000 barrels of crude oil per day to refiners in Nebraska and Texas, we depend on Russia to give us over 600,000 barrels per day.

Our German friends have finally questioned the wisdom of their failed energy scheme with Moscow, but they are still vulnerable. Everyone is vulnerable.

Putin is using energy as a weapon. This is not up for debate.

There was an interesting article in Tuesday's Wall Street Journal, revealing that Russia is still exporting its oil and natural gas throughout the world. Gazprom and Rosneft pull in around 30 percent of Russia's budget revenues. That is right—two companies. As I said, Russia, is a big oil depot, and they have an army. Thirty percent of the country's oil revenues are from Gazprom and Rosneft. And as of right now, they have been able to completely avoid major Western sanctions. Shameful.

They have managed to do this even though we know this gives Moscow some level of control over the rest of the global economy. These companies are Putin's economic lifeline and his best leverage against the West, his best leverage against Ukraine.

I am quoting from the Wall Street Journal article:

In recent months, Mr. Putin deployed Gazprom, the largest exporter of natural gas to the European market, as a geopolitical tool by throttling deliveries to the continent. European officials and analysts have said. That exacerbated an already-growing gas deficit and led to a surge in prices.

Both companies have always denied having a political agenda and insisted they are pursuing legitimate business interests, but in recent years European officials and foreign-policy experts have said Gazprom in particular has been acting as a foreign-policy instrument for the Russian government.

The article goes on to detail how Putin is financing his war against Ukraine with the help of these puppet corporations. Energy is his most powerful economic weapon, and the only way to neutralize it is to cut off the revenue stream.

Sanctions related to the SWIFT banking system and other financial punishments are important, but they are not going to be a silver bullet.

The Biden administration has repeatedly said that sanctions against the Russian energy sector would be too radical, but I would suggest that perhaps the Biden administration is not the best judge of what is too radical when it comes to regaining energy independence.

I would remind my Democratic colleagues that it was the Biden administration that decided that oil and gas leases on Federal lands were too radical; that the Keystone Pipeline was too radical; and that sanctions on Putin's pipeline to Western Europe, that was too radical.

Joe Biden didn't let energy independence slip away. He was and is the architect of its destruction.

When you go fill up your car, every time, \$20, \$25 more, Joe Biden did that. When you look at logistics costs and delivery fees that are coming to you because of the price of gas, you can thank Joe Biden that you are paying these higher delivery fees. When you look at the cost of packaging and products and it is costing you more, because energy affects inflation, this is what Joe Biden has done in 1 year—in 1 year.

We were energy independent. We were a net exporter of oil and gas—an energy exporter. And now look at where we are.

In this week's State of the Union Address, the President made no indication he intends to clean up the mess he has made. Why is that? It was intentional. This is what they intended to do to you, the American citizen. This is what they have done: Keystone, new pipeline infrastructure, returning us to having to ask OPEC—who, by the way, the OPEC nations, they are the third largest holder of U.S. debt.

You know, colleagues, this makes no sense. When you could be exporting energy, but you are importing it from people who do not wish us well, from Russia—from Russia—who is using those proceeds to carry out this war in Ukraine, this makes no sense. It is why the President does not intend to clean up this mess.

No, the climate-obsessed Biden administration is going to drag the country into a future defined by many of the same unsustainable green energy policies that threw Europe into chaos. They would rather buy Russian oil and fund a war in Ukraine than produce oil here in the USA.

This is a policy that defies logic.

The time for passing the buck is at an end. Sanctions on the Russian energy sector aren't radical; they are a means of survival, and we need to use them now.

This week, we saw some truly stunning demonstrations of solidarity with Ukraine. And on behalf of our common cause for freedom and liberty, the free world has said no to Putin's war. But if we don't back up those declarations, we are inviting more chaos.

This week, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.N. reminded us of the cost of this willful blindness—and, yes, it is willful blindness. He said:

If we fail to respond now we will face much more than criticism. We will face oblivion.

It must not happen. Now it is time to act, time to help Ukraine, which is now paying the ultimate price for the freedom and security of itself and of the world.

Joe Biden won't be able to soft-talk his way out of this impending disaster that is unfolding right before our eyes.

I would implore all of my colleagues, each and every one who claims to be inspired by President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian freedom fighters, to fol-

low their example. Do your duty and put yourselves between the American people and the evil that Putin will surely inflict on us if we don't use every option available at our disposal to stop him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, while we gathered in the House Chamber for the State of the Union Address, the whole world was watching for President Biden's comments on Putin's rapidly escalating invasion of Ukraine. I thought the President did a good job expressing our steadfast support to Ukraine. That strong message was conveyed to the international community during his address, and the appreciation from both sides of the aisle was reflected in our collective response. It was a moment when we felt complete unity in the Chamber.

Unfortunately, it was the only moment of unity in the entire address. The overwhelming majority of the President's speech was geared toward a specific audience—his liberal base.

Over the course of an hour, the President boasted about spending billions on unnecessary wish list items, pushed his "climate first" agenda, and laid out his Big Government social justice platform.

It was a message tailored for residents of the Hamptons rather than those who live in Hampton, AR. The voters in Austin, TX, but not Austin, AR.

Arkansans are worried about paying their bills, putting food on the table, and the price of gasoline. The cost of almost everything is on the rise, and every American is feeling the pinch. And we are not talking about luxury items here; we are talking about necessities. A gallon of gas costs almost a dollar more than last year. Electricity bills are skyrocketing, and food inflation is at its highest rate since the Carter administration.

The main thing my constituents and, quite frankly, most Americans outside of the beltway needed to hear was a plan to bring down inflation, end the supply chain bottlenecks, and restore our workforce to full strength. President Biden barely touched on these issues. When he did, it was to cast blame for inflation on businesses and industries that are doing their very best to maintain operations in the face of historic supply chain and labor challenges.

The President claimed that businesses should simply lower costs to reduce inflation, as if lowering costs in the face of increasing government mandates, increasing input costs, labor shortages, and overregulation was possible. There is a major disconnect between the struggles Americans experience every day and the image the President and his team are desperately trying to project.

This is most apparent in rural America. The President and his team often

boast about record high farm income but never acknowledge the fact that the financial gains family farmers, ranchers, and foresters will see will soon be reduced by record high production costs. Land, machinery, labor, fuel, seed, and livestock feed prices are all increasing dramatically. Fertilizer prices have spiked as much as 300 percent in some parts of the country, and at the same time the administration is levying tariffs on our fertilizer imports. Every portion of the food chain remains strained as labor shortages and supply chain issues continue to hinder our ability to get food from farms to tables.

For many, the increased costs of farming are deterring them from continuing in the industry. It is pushing the next generation of farmers down a different career path instead of carrying on the family business. The family farm operations that once populated my home State of Arkansas in large numbers will be eroded away if we don't make rural America and farming more economically stable.

This is bad news for rural America. In most of our rural communities, agriculture is all that is left. Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry, adding around \$21 billion to our economy every year and accounting for approximately one in six jobs.

But rural Arkansas is hurting. My home State has 75 counties, and 55 of them lost population in the last census. I suspect the same trend is likely happening in each of our colleagues' States. The exodus is fueled by the desire to leave rural America to pursue economic opportunities outside of farming. And that is so unfortunate, as the family farms that color the landscape of rural America are the true building block for a better future.

Reversing this trend should be at the top of our to-do list. Our agenda needs to benefit more than urban and suburban America. It needs to reach and help the 60 million Americans living in our rural communities. When people leave our small rural towns, we run the risk of losing schools, hospitals, and other vital infrastructure needed to sustain these communities. We must find solutions to rebuild economies and secure livelihoods in rural America.

President Biden only mentioned the word "rural" once in his entire State of the Union Address. He continued to push his Build Back Better agenda, which favors big city liberals at the expense of rural America and pledged to resurrect this doomed package.

My advice to President Biden: It is time to stop pushing that boulder up the hill. Instead, make good on your pledge to unite the fractured country. That starts by abandoning these misplaced priorities and focusing on the needs of all Americans.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

POLICE REFORM

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, this week President

Biden's State of the Union speech addressed an issue I have long worked on. It is the issue of police reform. After years—and I do mean years—of Democrats' touting unpopular "defund the police" policies, they have finally seen the light—maybe it is the light on their sinking polling numbers—and are now voicing support for funding our men and women in uniform.

Crime is one of the top issues people across this country are facing. Homicides are up 44 percent in major cities since 2019, and minority communities that have been impacted the most are crying out for help.

Eighty-five percent—85 percent—is the number of the increase from 2019 to 2020 in the murders and the violent crimes in Black and Hispanic communities. In addition, last year was one of the most dangerous, deadliest years for law enforcement on record, with the most officers being shot in the line of duty since they began tracking the numbers. That is nearly a 70-percent increase in officers being shot while simply trying to do their duty, take care of the community, and return to their families.

So this is not an issue between law enforcement or the minority community; this is an issue of both. Today, 80 percent of African Americans all over the country want the same level of policing or higher levels of policing. They want their neighborhoods safe because they understand more than anyone else—with the 85-percent increase, they understand the importance of the presence of character-driven law enforcement officers patrolling our communities.

The numbers simply do not lie.

That is why we must increase funding for police departments so they can have the training and the equipment, the resources necessary to do their jobs, keeping themselves safe and the neighborhoods that they patrol safe at the exact same time.

In his speech this week, President Biden named things I have been working on and supporting for years along with my Republican colleagues. We have literally been supporting the issues he raised for the last 2 or 3 years.

My legislation, the JUSTICE Act, was filibustered on this very floor by Senate Democrats in 2020. It contained hundreds of millions of dollars for the very things President Biden, under duress and in an election year for so many Democrats, is now advocating for.

In my bill, as an example, we funded training; we funded storage; and we funded the purchase of more body-worn cameras for our officers because the polling and the stats are undeniable. When violent crime against our officers goes down, violent crime against the community goes down.

We funded training on alternatives for the use of force. We funded deescalation training. We addressed the issues of behavioral health. We funded

efforts to ensure law enforcement officers come from diverse backgrounds that reflect the communities that they serve, but Democrats refused to support those efforts.

Fast-forward to 2021. The legislation that I was negotiating over the last year would ban choke holds, with the only exception being the life of the officer. We took a strong stance on no-knock warrants. We worked to provide support for officers who were experiencing PTSD, and we supported providing co-responders to scenes where there was a mental health episode happening.

The truth is, we were almost there—getting a bill done—when my negotiating partners left the table.

In this election year, I am glad to hear that President Biden and Democrats are now, suddenly, talking positively about an issue that every community around the country has been talking about for the last 2 years.

I want more than talk. I want to see action. I am still at the table. I am still waiting for anyone, from anywhere, at any time, to show up at this table and take care of our police officers so they can continue to take care of our communities. I look forward to reintroducing legislation very quickly to refund the police after so many efforts to defund the police have succeeded in cities across our great Nation.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come back to the negotiating table, which I never left, so that we can ensure the proper level of funding for our officers, who provide great levels of safety for our communities.

Also, for the last 3 years, I have worked really hard with my friends across the aisle on lynching legislation—lynching legislation that has failed in this body 200 times—and we passed it. We passed it twice under Republican leadership, in this Senate, only for it to fall apart in the House. Well, the House has taken up that legislation, and they have renamed it. That is a good thing if they will pass it. If it takes a new name and minor tweaks to get this legislation signed into law—legislation that has failed 200 times—I welcome a new name; I welcome some technical changes. I think we are almost there on this, too.

This is the year, and now is the time that we do the right thing, not for Republicans or Democrats but for Americans, who have watched with bewildered eyes and confused hearts the government fall short on issues of importance to them again and again and again. Let this year be the year we put politics to the side, and we get it done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I want to start by commending my colleague from South Carolina. He just spoke about his police modernization efforts over the years and of his passionate commitment to this issue, which comes from his heart.

I hope that the other side is hearing that because I think there is an opportunity now to come together, particularly in light of the speech the other night by the President, to say, let's do two things. One, let's help these communities to be able to be safer and help the people who live there, but, also, let's increase the amount of respect and gratitude for our police officers. Those two are not inconsistent. In fact, they are complementary. That is why I appreciate the work that he has done and will do.

UKRAINE

Madam President, tonight, in Ukraine, the bombs are already raining down on the cities of Kharkiv, of Kyiv, and other towns and cities throughout Ukraine. Indiscriminate bombings—artillery, missiles—are killing innocent civilians. Already, thousands of civilians have been killed.

This was a totally unwarranted, unjustified, atrocious invasion of a free country, of an independent sovereign country. Here on the floor of the Senate we have an opportunity to do something about it, which is to act on legislation called the supplemental appropriations bill, which provides more funding and help for two things: one, the military response.

We need to do everything we can—we need to flood the zone—to help the Ukrainians be able to defend themselves. They want more help, and they need more help, and I think the American taxpayer, from what we have already done, should be proud of that, but we need to do more and do it quickly. We can't wait for the redtape and the bureaucracy to finish up before we send small arms, before we send more Stingers to be able to shoot down airplanes, or more Javelins to stop these tanks that are coming into Kyiv. You saw that long column.

We should do more. We should provide more funding for the kind of airplanes that we don't have but that other countries do that they might be willing to provide, we are told, if we provide compensation to them—MiG fighters that they can use—because airpower is so important.

We should provide more in terms of the drones that countries like Turkey can provide, and we can help finance, to be able to give them the ability to do things like stop that murderous column that is on its way to kill civilians in Kyiv tonight.

So my hope is that, on both sides of the aisle, we put aside whatever differences we have and focus on this immediately. The funding is needed to be able to ensure that we have a sustained effort here—because this is not going to be a matter of hours or days; it is going to be a matter of weeks and months—and we need to do everything we can do to help the freedom-loving people of Ukraine defend their liberty, their freedom, their independence, their sovereignty.

H.R. 3076

Madam President, today, on the floor of the Senate, we are also talking

about Postal Service reform. This is about saving the post office. It is in big trouble.

In my view, if we don't put some reforms in place in the post office and do it quickly, we are going to have a situation where, in the next few years, the post office will become insolvent. What will we do then? A huge taxpayer bailout.

We have an alternative, which is to put in place reforms now, both through congressional action—passing a law that I will talk about in a second—but also through internal reforms at the post office itself. With the current Postmaster General committed to those reforms, I am confident that those can move as well. The combination of those two things means saving the post office, and it is really important.

Think of the veterans you represent, if you are a Member here in the Senate, who get their medication prescriptions from the mail. I am sure you have heard from them, because I have. They don't like it when their drugs are a day late, much less 2 or 3 days late or a week late, because of the post office's not being able to perform.

How about the people who get their Social Security checks in the mail? I have heard from them, too, and I am sure the Presiding Officer has. They want a strong post office. They know that that universal service obligation—meaning the post office—goes to every mailbox. It is critical to them and their ability to get those lifesaving Social Security checks.

What about the voters who vote absentee? In Ohio, we have no-fault absentee. It works very well. It is a system that is fair, and it is a system that is secure, but it is a system that relies on the post office's doing its job—right?—to be sure those ballots are delivered properly both to the voter but also back to the boards of elections.

So the post office is critical. Again, no one else is going to pick up this function. That last mile is not going to be done by somebody else. The post office is absolutely critical to save because it is absolutely critical to the American people.

So what does our legislation do? Basically, it just does a few things.

First, it eliminates a burdensome prefunding requirement for retiree health benefits that the post office has to make that nobody else does.

Congress mandated this back in 2006. I am not quite sure why. They mandated it for all current employees regardless of age. This has crippled the post office financially. No other Federal Agency or Department does that, by the way. The Federal Government does not require the prefunding of retiree health benefits nor does the private sector, frankly. In the private sector, it is basically Medicare. So we take away that onerous burden, which, again, is crippling the post office financially.

Second, we require the post office retirees who are retiring and who have

been paying into Medicare their entire careers to actually enroll in Medicare Part B and Part D.

These are the hospital visits or prescription drugs. That saves the post office money, but it also saves the taxpayer a bunch of money because, right now, those employees—about 25 percent of them, of the postal employees—do not go into Medicare; they stay in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, soon to be the Postal Health Benefit Plan, which is a more generous plan that will still be there to back it up. But these employees going into Medicare will help to save the post office.

Third, we require the Postal Service to maintain its current standard of 6-day delivery.

Now, this is very important because a lot of Members in this caucus, on my side—the Republicans—feel very strongly about this, but so do Members of the Democratic side, particularly if they represent rural areas. The 6-day delivery, as I said, is so important for things like the Social Security checks, the rent checks, paying your utility bills, ensuring that you have the ability to get your prescriptions through the mail. So that is in this legislation—but also doing it through an integrated delivery network of mail and packages. Think about first-class mail and other mail and packages. To have those in this integrated service is far more efficient for the post office, obviously. That is what they are doing now. So this legislation simply says the status quo should continue there. Otherwise, it would be terribly inefficient for us to have a separate system for packages and a separate system for mail.

The combination of all of these things, by the way, means that the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this legislation will save the taxpayer \$1.5 billion. So it doesn't cost anything—this is not an appropriation—but over 10 years, it does save \$1.5 billion.

In response to legitimate concerns that I have heard from the shipping and the banking communities, let me also note what this bill does not do.

No. 1, it does not appropriate any new funds to the U.S. Postal Service—period.

No. 2, it does not change the accounting or costing structure for packages and letters. So it does not disadvantage private sector carriers. That is very important.

No. 3, it does not allow the Postal Service to enter into new commercial services like postal banking—period.

Those are important things that have sometimes been misrepresented as I have heard people talking about this legislation.

Finally and very importantly, despite the claims of some of the opponents of this legislation, this bill does not impact the solvency of the Medicare Part A trust fund—period. For the people who keep saying that, you are wrong, and you know it because the

CBO has now made that very clear. I have made it clear on the floor, and so have others. If that is the reason you are not supportive of this legislation, you ought to look twice at it because it does not affect the solvency.

This bill also, as we have found out from the CBO, does not impact or increase the Part B or the Part D premiums. Again, some people have said that. It is just not true. We know this because one of my colleagues asked the CBO these questions in a letter. Some of us were already saying this because, as an example, with regard to Part A, people have been paying in their whole lives, but they are also already eligible for Part A. So they are not going to add to Part A.

This colleague of mine wanted to be sure and get the answer from the CBO. So he asked the CBO this question:

What is the effect of the legislation on the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund?

Here was the answer from the CBO:

Most people aged 65 or older are entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) if they have worked and paid Medicare taxes for an adequate number of quarters; nearly all Medicare-eligible USPS—

That is the Postal Service—

annuitants are already covered. Because entitlement to Part A is related primarily to a person's age and employment history, CBO estimates that the legislation's Medicare requirements would not increase the number of people receiving benefits under Part A; therefore, the agency estimates that H.R. 3076 would not result in additional spending from the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

No impact.

My colleague also asked the CBO:

So what is the effect upon Medicare premiums in Part B and Part D?

The trust funds there, as you know, are funded by people paying premiums. But the question is, Are the premiums going to go up in Part B and Part D? The question really is, What is the effect on everybody?

Here is CBO's reply:

Our preliminary analysis suggests that the legislation is unlikely to have an effect.

CBO does not expect that Part D (Drug Coverage) premiums would change under H.R. 3076. Monthly premiums from Part B are set by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finance one-quarter of the expected annual monthly Part B spending for all enrollees age 65 or over, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10 cents. To cause a change under H.R. 3076, the group of new enrollees would need to be large enough and their healthcare costs would need to be sufficiently different from the current averages to affect [the] average. CBO projects that under current law, Part B enrollment will increase from 64 million people in 2025—the year that 3076 would begin requiring certain UPS annuitants to enroll in Part B—to 73 million [people by] 2031. CBO estimates that under the legislation enrollment in Part B would increase by between 13,000 and 40,000 people over that period of time, or less than 0.1 percent of the program's total enrollment. It is unlikely that an increase of that magnitude would affect the monthly Part B premiums.

In other words, what they are saying is it won't affect the premiums because it is a drop in the bucket. We are talking about 60 or 70 million people, and we are talking about 13,000 to 40,000 people coming into Part B and Part D. By the way, again, these people paid their HI taxes all throughout their careers.

CBO then continued, relative to part D—this is the drug benefit:

H.R. 3076 would require PSHB—

That is the Postal Health Benefit Plan—

to deliver prescription drug benefits using an Employer Group Waiver Plan under Medicare Part D. Part D premiums are based on the national average monthly bid amount, as calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services using information from applicable plan bids. Because Employer Group Waiver Plans are excluded from that calculation, CBO estimates that the legislation's requirements would not affect Part D premiums.

So let me, again, put it clearly. The bill does not impact the solvency of the hospital trust fund—the Part A trust fund—which is the trust fund we all talk about here—period. And the bill does not increase Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

By the way, because of this and because this saves the post office, this legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support. Just a couple of weeks ago, it passed by a vote of 342 to 92. Not much gets passed in the House with those kinds of big bipartisan numbers these days, but saving the post office is pretty popular, particularly when it is done the way this is done.

This was worked out between Members on both sides of the aisle and between both sides of the Capitol. We did it carefully. We did it in a way that, yes, will save the post office, along with the other reforms internally we talked about, but in a way that is actually a money-saver for the taxpayer.

It is also pretty popular with constituents. It is popular with postal workers because they want to have a post office that continues to survive. It is supported by the Citizens Against Government Waste, which wrote a letter acknowledging the importance of this bill for ensuring the solvency of the post office.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS
AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE,
February 7, 2022.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: You will soon be voting on H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has been the subject of a significant amount

of justifiable criticism for many years. The agency has been on the Government Accountability Office's High-Risk List since 2009 due to its unsustainable business model and financial condition. There have been 15 consecutive years of net losses since 2007, totaling \$91.2 billion.

H.R. 3076 does not address all of the agency's problems, including closing excess facilities, high labor costs, and greater work sharing. But Section 202 of the bill codifies an integrated delivery network of packages and mail together six days a week. This provision is supported by the USPS, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), mailers, shippers, and pro-taxpayer organizations. Requiring the USPS to create separate delivery systems for packages and mail would increase costs, slow down delivery, and raise prices for customers.

According to the PRC, separate networks would cost more than \$15 billion annually for a new fleet of vehicles and tens of thousands of new employees. That would make it highly unlikely that the USPS would ever be profitable, and very likely that taxpayers would be paying for a significant bailout, along with a large annual subsidy.

H.R. 3076 also prevents the USPS from getting into financial services and other non-postal commercial businesses. There is ample evidence that such activities are doomed to fail. In the fall of 2021, USPS began providing Visa cards of up to \$500 to customers who used business checks for the transactions. They sold six cards between September 13, 2021 and January 12, 2022, bringing in \$37.50 in fees, which is equal to the pay for about two hours of work for one USPS clerk. As the USPS said in 2014 in response to the suggestion by the USPS inspector general that the agency should provide financial services, its "core function is delivery, not banking."

The bill also increases financial transparency and strengthens inspector general oversight.

While H.R. 3076 does not solve all the issues currently facing the USPS, the legislation sets the agency on the path to a more sustainable future. For these reasons, I urge you to support H.R. 3076. Any votes related to H.R. 3076 may be among those considered for CCAGW's 2022 Congressional Ratings.

Sincerely,

TOM SCHATZ,
President.

Mr. PORTMAN. So I encourage my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation. Let's put the Postal Service in a position to succeed, and let's provide those essential services to the small businesses, veterans, the elderly, rural constituents, who rely on it so much—the prescription drugs we talked about, the Social Security checks, the rent checks, the utility checks, and the ballots.

I appreciate working with my colleague Senator GARY PETERS on this, over time, to try to find a consensus, to try to find a way forward that was bipartisan, bicameral, where we could actually do something after years and years of talking about what bad shape the post office is in financially, to do something to right the ship, to ensure it will be there for the future.

Let's pass this bill, and let's do ensure that the post office is healthy for all the folks we represent going forward.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. 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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 547.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

CLOTURE MOTION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. 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 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. 547, Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. 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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 719.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. 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 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. 719, Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Baldwin, Maria Cantwell, Mark R. Warner, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 3, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CALLOWAY COUNTY
BICENTENNIAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in 1822, pioneer settlers founded Calloway County in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase. Two hundred years later, in November, the residents of this community are celebrating their bicentennial and paying tribute to the adventurous forefathers who made it possible. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Calloway County for reaching this impressive milestone.

Like the rest of the Jackson Purchase, Calloway County was bought by the Federal Government from the Chickasaw Indians in 1818. This fertile land, bordered by the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers, was prime territory for American farmers seeking to move westward from the young Nation's eastern core. Those early settlers poured into Calloway County, on the Purchase's eastern edge, and incorporated the county in 1822, with the early settlement of Wadesboro serving as their county seat.

Calloway County developed like much of the rest of the Purchase, with large farms bolstered by easy access to Kentucky's inland waterways and the urban markets that lay beyond.

Calloway's early residents built a one-room, log courthouse in 1823—the first public building constructed in the Jackson Purchase—and founded several towns, including Murray, the current county seat. Calloway quickly grew into a prosperous community with thousands of residents.

By the end of the 19th century, Calloway County formed an integral part of Western Kentucky's commerce, culture, and governance. In recognition of the county's significance, Calloway native Rainey T. Wells started the Calloway Normal College in the 1890s to train teachers. Though that school closed in 1913, Wells secured State funds to construct Murray State Normal School in 1923, now known as Murray State University. Wells became Murray State's second president in 1926 and would go on to practice law in front of the Supreme Court in 1937, before returning to his Calloway County home until his death.

Another important moment in Calloway's history came when the Tennessee Valley Authority dammed the Tennessee River and created Kentucky Lake, a vast reservoir on the county's eastern edge. In addition to supplying hydroelectric power to Calloway County residents, the lake created new recreational attractions for the local community. Today, Kentucky Lake—and the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area that governs its neighboring forest areas—is one of the largest natural attractions in the Commonwealth, bringing millions of tourists to the region every year.

Today, Calloway County is a unique Kentucky community, navigating new pathways in education and recreation while still remaining firmly rooted in its agricultural and historical traditions. Murray is a burgeoning town with nearly 20,000 residents, serving as both a host to thousands of Murray State University students and a gateway to the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The county's attractions include museums, parks, Civil War forts, and miles of beautiful rolling hills. It is no surprise that, every year, more and more families decide to call Calloway County home.

Calloway County residents will have much to celebrate in their upcoming bicentennial. They and their pioneer ancestors have built a thriving community, complete with everything prospective newcomers could desire in a new home. Their upcoming celebration will include local civic groups, nonprofits, churches, sports teams, and businesses—a colorful tapestry of every organization that makes Calloway County great.

I want to give special thanks to the Calloway County civic leaders who are working so hard to make this year's bicentennial celebration possible. Through their hard work, their community continues to prosper, even 200 years after its founding. On behalf of the Senate, I share our congratulations

with every Calloway Countian and join them in honoring 200 years of proud Kentucky traditions.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S.
RES. 27

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC, March 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1536, the nomination of Ms. Gigi Sohn, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, having been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows:

1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 14 ayes to 14 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Commerce has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL,
Chair.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S.
RES. 27

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC, March 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1541, the nomination of Mr. Alvaro Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, having been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows:

1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 14 ayes to 14 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Commerce has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL,
Chair.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S.
RES. 27

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,

Washington, DC, March 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1542, the nomination of Ms. Mary Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, having been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows:

1) On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 14 ayes to 14 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Commerce has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL,
Chair.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES
CAMERON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. James Cameron on what would have been his 108th birthday. James Cameron was born in La Crosse, WI, on February 25, 1914. A civil rights pioneer, Dr. Cameron fought his entire life to create an accountable and equitable world. Dr. Cameron left an indelible mark on our country as the only known person in the United States to survive a lynching, an event in 1930 at the age of 16 which would inevitably change his life.

Dr. Cameron was an early activist for the Civil Rights movement, desegregating the movie theater in the Indiana town where he and his wife, Virginia, lived. He worked with the NAACP, founding branches in Madison, WI, as well as Muncie and South Bend, IN. He also served as Indiana's director of civil liberties.

In 1952, the Cameron family came to Milwaukee. Over the years, he acquired pieces like Ku Klux Klan robes, as well as a piece of rope that had been used during his own lynching. After visiting Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, he set out to create a museum with these pieces to educate the public about the injustices Black people faced in America. At age 74, he founded America's Black Holocaust Museum in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood of Milwaukee. Three years later, in 1991, Indiana Governor Evan Bayh gave him the key to the city of Marion where he had miraculously survived the lynching 61 years prior.

Dr. Cameron so rightly believed that only by sharing the hard truths about our Nation's history, could we move forward together to promote racial repair, reconciliation, and healing. The best word to describe Dr. Cameron was "survivor" and his life's work and legacy will now live on with the Grand Reemergence of America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee on February 25, 2022. With a mission to build public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery, lynching, and Jim Crow, America's Black Holocaust Museum is guided by a vision of a society that remembers its past in order to shape a better future, a nation undivided by race where every person matters equally. This will be a home for others to take the lesson that, in order to create an equitable world, we must first create a world willing to grow.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NEELEY FAMILY
DISTILLERY

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Neeley Family Distillery of Sparta, KY as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Today, I honor a business deeply rooted in Kentucky history. Founded in 1915, the Neeley Family Distillery bares a history far older than their date of official registration. The Neeley family has been distilling and bootlegging illegally in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky for 11 generations, with James Neeley distilling the first batch of Neeley family whiskey on American soil in 1740. James Neeley came to the New World with a mastery passed down to him by his Irish forefathers. Ten generations later, James' descendant and lead distiller Royce Neeley uses many of these same skills to craft fine Kentucky Bourbon.

Though his single-barrel bourbon earned him a gold medal from the 2020 World Spirits Competition, Royce is just as famous for his moonshine. Royce's great grandfather Leonard Neeley developed the moonshine over 100 years ago, by adding sugar to the original family recipe for rye whiskey. This concoction was so popular in the days of underground bootlegging that it led a vicious and at times violent rivalry with another local bootlegging family. Artifacts from this trialing era are all on display at the Neeley Family Distillery in Sparta, including the pistol Royce's great-grandfather used to shoot another moonshiner. Though the Neeley family business is no longer under threat of the law or mob rivals, Royce proudly bears that history in the creation of all of the distillery's products.

Carrying the torch that his forefather lit long ago, Royce brought the Neeley family name to the legal production of bourbon for the first time in 2015. Starting out as a young entrepreneur with a wealth of expertise, he steadily grew his business in the years to come. However it was not until 5 years later that Royce switched gears and entered into a new kind of production. Faced with gross shortages of essential products during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Neeley Family Distillery joined forces with other Kentucky distillers to produce nearly 125,000 gallons of hand sanitizer. Together, the distilleries donated the much needed product to frontline workers across the Commonwealth. Fulfilling this desperate need required immediate retooling of their facilities, sourcing of necessary products, and totally shutting down their production of bourbon. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated that an industry, once spurned by authorities during the days of Prohibition, could rise to be great stewards of their community during times of hardship and duress.

The Neeley Family Distillery has since returned to their regular production of Kentucky's iconic spirit, though they remain ready to answer the call of their community. Realizing the extent of destruction their western neighbors sustained in the 2021 tornados, the Neeley Family Distillery again joined forces with the Kentucky Distillers Association, as well as the Bourbon Crusader, to organize a benefit auction in support of relief efforts. This once-in-a-lifetime bourbon auction led to a \$3.4 million check benefiting the State's Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund. In their 7 years of operation, this small business has not only earned top ranking awards on the quality of their product, they have earned themselves a record for serving their community during times of adversity.

Small businesses like the Neeley Family Distillery are the lifeblood of towns across Kentucky, and the rich history of bourbon and its times of legal and illegal production is an intricate detail in the fabric of our State. The Neeley family proudly honors that history by continuing the tradition of fine Kentucky craftsmanship and looking out for one's neighbor. Congratulations to the Neeley family and the entire distillery team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13288 OF MARCH 6, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE ZIMBABWE'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—PM 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2022.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has not made the necessary political and economic reforms that would warrant terminating the existing targeted sanctions program. Throughout the last year, government security services routinely intimidated and violently repressed citizens, including members of opposition political parties, union members, and journalists. The absence of progress on the most fundamental reforms needed to ensure the rule of law, democratic governance, and the protection of human rights leaves Zimbabweans vulnerable to ongoing repression and presents a continuing threat to peace and security in the region.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288, as amended, with respect to Zimbabwe and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12957 OF MARCH 15, 1995, WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2022.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 OF MARCH 8, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with re-

spect to the situation in Venezuela is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2022.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2022.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:19 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 854. An act to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

S. 1543. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 1662. An act to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

S. 3706. An act to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 321. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 2 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3967. An act to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3757. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, and coal from the Russian Federation.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 3, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 321. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 854. An act to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

S. 1543. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 1662. An act to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

S. 3706. An act to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.

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-3302. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit Administration's fiscal year 2021 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3303. A communication from the Procurement/Policy Analyst, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Contractor Requirements for GSA Information Systems" (RIN3090-AJ84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3304. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 21st Century IDEA 2021 report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3305. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Asset and Transportation Management, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Updates to References to Individuals With Disabilities" (RIN3090-AK50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3306. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-04, Small Entity

Compliance Guide" (FAC 2022-04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3307. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2021-014, Increasing the Minimum Wage for Contractors" (RIN9000-AO31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3308. A communication from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Housing Administration's fiscal year 2021 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

*Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Jainey Kumar Bavishi, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

*Christopher A. Coes, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

*Carol Annette Petsonk, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3742. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3743. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to improve recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3744. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize and modify the boundary of the Bal-

timore National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3745. A bill to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to take risk profiles and business models of institutions into account when taking regulatory actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 3746. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to review certain provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations related to fiduciary standards under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3747. A bill to prohibit an employer from terminating the coverage of an employee under a group health plan while the employee is engaged in a lawful strike, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 3748. A bill to expand employees eligible for leave and employers subject to leave requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3749. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance compliance with hospital price transparency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3750. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941 to April 1, 1946; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3751. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1964 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve retirement plan coverage for part-time workers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3752. A bill to strengthen United States energy security, encourage domestic production of crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3753. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3754. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil and petroleum products from the Russian Federation, to impose sanctions with respect to persons involved in the importation of such crude oil and petroleum products who have engaged in acts of corruption or who are responsible for serious

human rights abuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3755. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3756. A bill to require a strategy for international cooperation to counter Russian energy influence globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3757. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, and coal from the Russian Federation; read the first time.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3758. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to assess the unintended impacts on the health and safety of people engaged in transactional sex, in connection with the enactment of the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 and the loss of interactive computer services that host information related to sexual exchange, to direct the Attorney General to submit a report on human trafficking investigations and prosecutions in connection with the same, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3759. A bill to require verification of the personal and biometric information of all individuals evacuated from Afghanistan and in-person interviews of such individuals, prohibit Afghan evacuees who do not provide such information or submit to such interviews from receiving Federal assistance, and require the declassification of intelligence related to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3760. A bill to continue the temporary waiver of interest on State unemployment loans during the pandemic to provide additional relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3761. A bill to support the provision of treatment family care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3762. A bill to provide greater output, price stability, and regulatory certainty with respect to domestic energy production in the United States and exports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3763. A bill to repeal the waiver and termination provisions of the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act of 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 531. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing flagrant acts of aggression and other atrocities rising to the level of crimes against humanity and war crimes against the people of Ukraine and others; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 532. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and the importance of preventing injury and saving more lives from injury around the globe; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 533. A resolution celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 534. A resolution condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities and reaffirming support for the students of historically Black colleges and universities; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 535. A resolution commemorating the 105th anniversary of the granting of United States citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 377

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 681

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to report data on COVID-19 immigration detention facilities and local correctional facilities that contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1811, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 1942

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1942, a bill to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1943

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 2042

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes.

S. 2921

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to protect our democracy by preventing abuses of presidential power, restoring checks and balances and accountability and transparency in government, and defending elections against foreign interference, and for other purposes.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. 3704

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3704, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to schools and school-based health centers to increase the number of behavioral health care providers in such schools and health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 3718

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3718, a bill to prohibit the importation of petroleum and petroleum products from the Russian Federation.

S. 3732

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3732, a bill to block the property of Russian state-owned entities.

S. 3733

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3733, a bill to prohibit investment by institutional investors in securities issued by Russian entities.

AMENDMENT NO. 4933

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4933 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3076, a bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3743. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to improve recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce, alongside the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN, and the Senator from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act.

This bill is the result of true collaboration and reflects a substantial amount of bipartisan effort to address our Nation's recycling and composting challenges. This bill aims to improve the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to gather data on our Nation's recycling systems and explore

opportunities for implementing a national composting strategy.

The availability of good data is one of the major challenges facing the public and private sector as they work make investments to improve our recycling systems. Upgrading recycling infrastructure, expanding recycling services, and increasing recycling education will all benefit from the availability of better data.

Specifically, this bill will create a comprehensive database of all curbside recycling and composting programs nationwide. It will also assess the materials those programs collect and their rates of contamination. The bill will also look at barriers communities and individuals face when trying to access recycling and composting services.

In addition to that, the bill will ask the EPA to study the end market sale of recyclable and compostable materials. It also directs the EPA to develop a way to measure how otherwise recyclable materials are being lost from the circular market. The reports from both of these studies will be immeasurably helpful to stakeholders, communities, and local and State governments.

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress provided unprecedented levels of funding for recycling infrastructure and educational programs. The bill I am introducing today represents our next step in building on these efforts—to turn the challenges of recycling and composting into opportunities to reduce planet-warming emissions and create good-paying jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this legislation this Congress. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the legislation be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3743

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 "Recycling and Composting Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) CIRCULAR MARKET.—The term "circular market" means a market that utilizes industrial processes and economic activities to enable post-industrial and post-consumer materials used in those processes and activities to maintain their highest values for as long as possible.

(3) COMPOST.—The term "compost" means a product that—

(A) is manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials;

(B) has been subjected to medium and high temperature organisms, which—

(i) significantly reduce the viability of pathogens and weed seeds; and

(ii) stabilize carbon in the product such that the product is beneficial to plant growth; and

(C) is typically used as a soil amendment, but may also contribute plant nutrients.

(4) COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL.—The term "compostable material" means material that is a feedstock for creating compost, including—

(A) wood;

(B) agricultural crops;

(C) paper;

(D) certified compostable products associated with organic waste;

(E) other organic plant material;

(F) marine products;

(G) organic waste, including food waste and yard waste; and

(H) such other material that is composed of biomass that can be continually replenished or renewed, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) COMPOSTING FACILITY.—The term "composting facility" means a location, structure, or device that transforms compostable materials into compost.

(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "materials recovery facility" means a dedicated recycling facility where primarily residential recyclables, which are diverted from disposal by the generator and collected separately from municipal solid waste, are mechanically or manually sorted into commodities for further processing into specification-grade commodities for sale to end users.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "materials recovery facility" does not include a solid waste management facility that may process municipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.

(8) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term "recyclable material" means a material that is obsolete, previously used, off-specification, surplus, or incidentally produced for processing into a specification-grade commodity for which a circular market currently exists or is being developed.

(9) RECYCLING.—The term "recycling" means the series of activities—

(A) during which recyclable materials are processed into specification-grade commodities, and consumed as raw-material feedstock, in lieu of virgin materials, in the manufacturing of new products;

(B) that may include sorting, collection, processing, and brokering; and

(C) that result in subsequent consumption by a materials manufacturer, including for the manufacturing of new products.

(10) STATE.—The term "State" has the meaning given the term in section 1004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903).

(b) DEFINITION OF PROCESSING.—In paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) of subsection (a), the term "processing" means any mechanical, manual, or other method that—

(1) transforms a recyclable material into a specification-grade commodity; and

(2) may occur in multiple steps, with different steps, including sorting, occurring at different locations.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) recycling conserves resources, protects the environment, and is important to the United States economy;

(2) the United States recycling infrastructure encompasses each of the entities that collect, process, broker, and consume recyclable materials sourced from commercial, industrial, and residential sources;

(3) the residential segment of the United States recycling infrastructure is facing challenges from—

(A) confusion over what materials are recyclable materials;

(B) reduced export markets;
(C) growing, but still limited, domestic end markets;

(D) an ever-changing and heterogeneous supply stream; and

(E) in some areas, a recycling infrastructure in need of revitalization; and

(4) in an effort to address those challenges, the United States must use a combination of tactics to improve recycling and composting in the United States.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON COMPOSTING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITIES.

The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(1) prepare a report describing the capability of the United States to implement a national residential composting strategy for compostable materials for the purposes of reducing contamination rates for residential recycling, including—

(A) an evaluation of existing Federal, State, and local laws that may present barriers to implementation of a national residential composting strategy;

(B)(i) an evaluation of existing composting programs of States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes; and

(ii) a description of best practices based on those programs;

(C) an evaluation of existing composting infrastructure in States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes for the purposes of estimating cost and approximate land needed to expand composting programs; and

(D) a study of the practices of manufacturers and companies that are moving to using compostable packaging and food service ware for the purpose of making the composting process the end-of-life use of those products; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit the report prepared under paragraph (1) to Congress.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEDERAL AGENCY RECYCLING PRACTICES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Administrator, shall make publicly available a report describing—

(1) the total annual recycling and composting rates reported by all Federal agencies;

(2) the total annual percentage of products containing recyclable material, compostable material, or recovered materials purchased by all Federal agencies, including—

(A) the total quantity of procured products containing recyclable material or recovered materials listed in the comprehensive procurement guidelines published under section 6002(e) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962(e)); and

(B) the total quantity of compostable material purchased;

(3) recommendations for updating—

(A) the comprehensive procurement guidelines published under section 6002(e) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962(e)); and

(B) the environmentally preferable purchasing program established under section 6604(b)(11) of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13103(b)(11)); and

(4) the activities of each Federal agency that promote recycling or composting.

SEC. 6. IMPROVING DATA AND REPORTING.

(a) INVENTORY OF MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(1) prepare an inventory of public and private materials recovery facilities in the United States, including—

(A) the number of materials recovery facilities in each unit of local government in each State; and

(B) a description of the materials that each materials recovery facility can process, including—

(i) in the case of plastic, a description of—

(I) the types of accepted resin, if applicable; and

(II) the container type, such as a jug, a carton, or film;

(ii) food packaging and service ware, such as a bottle, cutlery, or a cup;

(iii) paper;

(iv) aluminum, such as an aluminum beverage can, food can, aerosol can, or foil;

(v) steel, such as a steel food or aerosol can;

(vi) other scrap metal;

(vii) glass; or

(viii) any other material not described in any of clauses (i) through (vii) that a materials recovery facility can process; and

(2) submit the inventory prepared under paragraph (1) to Congress.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE BASELINE OF DATA FOR THE UNITED STATES RECYCLING SYSTEM.—The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall determine, with respect to the United States—

(1) the number of community curbside recycling and composting programs;

(2) the number of community drop-off recycling and composting programs;

(3) the types and forms of materials accepted by each community curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, or composting program;

(4) the number of individuals with access to recycling and composting services to at least the extent of access to disposal services;

(5) the number of individuals with barriers to accessing recycling and composting services to at least the extent of access to disposal services;

(6) the inbound contamination and capture rates of community curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, or composting programs; and

(7) where applicable, other available recycling or composting programs within a community, including store drop-offs.

(c) STANDARDIZATION OF RECYCLING REPORTING RATES.—

(1) COLLECTION OF RATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may use amounts made available under section 9 to biannually collect from each State the nationally standardized rate of recyclable materials in that State that have been successfully diverted from the waste stream and brought to a materials recovery facility or composting facility.

(B) CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY BUSINESS INFORMATION.—Information collected under subparagraph (A) shall not include any confidential or proprietary business information, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) USE.—Using amounts made available under section 9, the Administrator may use the rates collected under paragraph (1) to further assist States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes—

(A) to reduce the overall waste produced by the States and units of local government; and

(B) to increase recycling and composting rates.

(d) REPORT ON END MARKETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(A) provide an update to the report submitted under section 306 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224; 134 Stat.

1096) to include an addendum on the end-market sale of all recyclable materials, in addition to recycled plastics as described in that section, from materials recovery facilities that process recyclable materials collected from households and publicly available recyclable materials drop-off centers, including—

(i) the total, in dollars per ton, domestic sales of bales of recyclable materials; and

(ii) the total, in dollars per ton, international sales of bales of recyclable materials;

(B) prepare a report on the end-market sale of compost from all compostable materials collected from households and publicly available compost drop-off centers, including the total, in dollars per ton, of domestic sales of compostable materials; and

(C) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the update to the report prepared under subparagraph (A) and the report prepared under subparagraph (B).

(2) CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY BUSINESS INFORMATION.—Information collected under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall not include any confidential or proprietary business information, as determined by the Administrator.

SEC. 7. STUDY ON THE DIVERSION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM A CIRCULAR MARKET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop a metric for determining the proportion of recyclable materials in commercial and municipal waste streams that are being diverted from a circular market.

(b) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the development of a metric under subsection (a), the Administrator shall conduct a study of, and submit to Congress a report on, the proportion of recyclable materials in commercial and municipal waste streams that, during each of the 10 calendar years preceding the year of submission of the report, were diverted from a circular market.

(c) DATA.—The report under subsection (b) shall provide data on specific recyclable materials, including aluminum, plastics, paper and paperboard, textiles, and glass, that were prevented from remaining in a circular market through disposal or elimination, and to what use those specific recyclable materials were lost.

(d) EVALUATION.—The report under subsection (b) shall include an evaluation of whether the establishment or improvement of recycling programs would—

(1) improve recycling rates; or

(2) reduce the quantity of recyclable materials being unutilized in a circular market.

SEC. 8. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES.

The Administrator shall—

(1) in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, develop, based on the results of the studies, reports, inventory, and data determined under sections 4 through 7, and provide to States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes best practices that the States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes may use to enhance recycling and composting, including—

(A) labeling techniques for containers of waste, compost, and recycling, with the goal of creating consistent, readily available, and understandable labeling across jurisdictions;

(B) pamphlets or other literature readily available to constituents;

(C) primary and secondary school educational resources on recycling;

(D) web and media-based campaigns; and

(E) guidance for the labeling of recyclable materials and compostable materials that

minimizes contamination and diversion of those materials from waste streams toward recycling and composting systems; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report describing the best practices developed under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act for each fiscal year.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3760. A bill to continue the temporary waiver of interest on State unemployment loans during the pandemic to provide additional relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3760

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 “Continued Waiver of Interest on State Unemployment Loans during the Pandemic Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF INTEREST-FREE LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1202(b)(10)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1322(b)(10)(A)) is amended by striking “September 6, 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2022”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 531—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN SECURITY COUNCIL, THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES, AND RUSSIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS FOR COMMITTING FLAGRANT ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND OTHER ATROCITIES RISING TO THE LEVEL OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND WAR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND OTHERS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 531

Whereas the United States of America has a responsibility to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights across the globe;

Whereas there are several universal declarations promoting human rights, laws of war, and upholding the dignity of individuals;

Whereas the United Nations Charter Preamble states that member nations “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights [and] in the dignity and worth of the human person”;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Preamble states that “Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

Whereas the Russian Federation joined as an original member of the United Nations as the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on October 24, 1945, and as such has a duty to abide by the conditions of the United Nations Charter;

Whereas the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international tribunal that seeks to uphold the rule of law, especially in areas where no rule of law exists, by investigating and trying individuals charged “with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression”;

Whereas the ICC recognizes the grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions as constituting a war crime, including “wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly”;

Whereas the ICC also recognizes other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict as war crimes, including “[i]ntentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities” and “[i]ntentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives”;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, and President Putin’s military commanders have severely undermined the international rule of law through their various actions;

Whereas, prior to the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation has a long history of committing acts of aggression, human rights violations, and acts that constitute war crimes within the Russian Federation and around the globe, including in Chechnya, Georgia, Ukraine, and Syria;

Whereas, beginning in 1999, the Russian Federation engaged in the indiscriminate use of force against the people of Chechnya, including the use of cluster munitions against civilians, resulting in 50,000 Chechens, mostly civilians, dead or missing;

Whereas, during the Russian Federation’s invasion of Georgia in 2008, Russian Armed Forces engaged with cluster munitions in indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks that resulted in the death of civilians;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin violated the sovereignty of Ukraine and used military force to seize control and unlawfully occupy Crimea and eastern Ukraine, indiscriminately targeting and killing thousands of innocent civilians since 2014;

Whereas the Russian military was deemed responsible for shooting down Malaysia Air-

lines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, which resulted in the death of 298 civilians;

Whereas rebel forces supported by the Russian Federation were deemed responsible for a missile attack on January 24, 2015, in Mariupol, Ukraine that indiscriminately targeted civilians, resulting in the death of at least 30 and injuring many more;

Whereas, in 2016 and 2017, Russian aircraft deployed “bunker-busting” and incendiary bombs capable of destroying military installations on civilian structures in Aleppo, Syria, resulting in the death of hundreds of civilians;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin is complicit in war crimes and human rights violations in Syria through his continuing political, financial, and military support for President Bashar al-Assad;

Whereas intelligence assessments have concluded Vladimir Putin and his regime have destroyed the rule of law in Russia and engaged in countless crimes against humanity, including ordering the poisoning of Alexi Navalny, the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and the false imprisonment and torture ultimately leading to the death of Sergei Magnitsky;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, in February 2022, initiated a premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war against the sovereign nation of Ukraine;

Whereas, in February 2022, President Vladimir Putin and Russian Federation forces targeted and reportedly killed more than 300 civilians, to include children, while engaging in Ukrainian urban centers, causing chaos and fear among Ukrainian citizens;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, claimed President Vladimir Putin ordered the deployment of thermobaric weapons and cluster munitions to be used in the northeastern towns of Okhtyrka and Karkhiv;

Whereas Ukraine has twice submitted to the jurisdiction of the ICC for the purposes of prosecuting war crimes committed within its territory due to the Russian occupation of Ukraine;

Whereas Lithuania and Canada, members to the authorizing treaty of the ICC, have called on the ICC to open an investigation into possible war crimes committed by Russia;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, the Prosecutor of the ICC, Karim A.A. Khan QC stated that the ICC would open a third investigation against Russia for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Russian invasion into Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022;

Whereas Ukraine has also filed a claim in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation for genocide; and

Whereas the United States Government should use its voice, vote, and influence to pursue war crimes allegations against Vladimir Putin and his military commanders in international institutions of which it is a member and encourage other allies and partners to express the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the ongoing violence, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses continually being carried out by the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies and President Putin’s military commanders, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin;

(2) encourages member states to petition the ICC and the ICJ to authorize any and all pending investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies and

President Putin's military commanders, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin;

(3) supports any investigation into war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses levied by President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies, and President Putin's military commanders;

(4) encourages the United States Government and partner nations to use their voice, vote, and influence in international institutions in which they are members to hold President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces and their proxies, and President Putin's military commanders accountable for their sponsorship of ongoing violence, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematic human rights abuses; and

(5) stands with the people who have been affected by the brutality of the Putin regime.

SENATE RESOLUTION 532—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING INJURY AND SAVING MORE LIVES FROM INJURY AROUND THE GLOBE

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 532

Whereas traumatic injury is the most common cause of death for individuals aged 1–45 years and the cause of nearly 200,000 deaths per year in the United States;

Whereas 45,000,000 Americans live more than one hour away from a Level I or Level II trauma center;

Whereas trauma systems are designed to deliver optimal trauma care for injured patients, informed by best evidence and accessible to all injured patients, regardless of circumstance;

Whereas the Committee on Trauma was established by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in 1922 to develop and implement programs that support injury prevention and ensure optimal patient outcomes across the continuum of care;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma works to improve the care of injured patients through activities in trauma system evaluation, trauma center verification, trauma quality improvement, and education;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma endeavors to improve care for injured patients by setting standards of care, measuring risk-adjusted patient outcomes, promoting best practices, and driving performance improvement;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma has focused continuously and collaboratively through a public health approach to prevent injuries, with major reductions in the risk of injury, particularly from motor vehicle collisions;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma created the Consultation/Verification Program in 1987 to assist hospitals in the evaluation and improvement of trauma care and provide objective, external review of institutional capabilities and performance;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma created the National Trauma Data Bank, the largest aggregation of United States trauma registries ever assembled, in 1989, to generate data sets for expanding knowledge in trauma through research;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma created the Trauma Systems Consultation Program in 1996 to review State and regional trauma systems and provide recommendations for system improvement and enhancement;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma created the Trauma Quality Improvement Program in 2008 to elevate the quality of care for trauma patients by collecting data from trauma centers, providing feedback on performance compared to national benchmarks, and identifying institutional characteristics for optimal patient outcomes;

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma established the STOP THE BLEED campaign in 2015 to prepare the public to save lives by teaching people three quick actions to control serious bleeding and save lives; and

Whereas the ACS Committee on Trauma is committed to developing a National Trauma and Emergency Preparedness System that saves more lives from daily injury and mass casualty events by connecting local, State, and regional trauma systems and informing best practice through standards and research; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the 100th anniversary of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and its significant contributions to preventing injury and saving lives from injury in the United States and around the globe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 533—CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 533

Whereas 100 years ago, on March 20, 1922, following a 2-year conversion at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, the former USS *Jupiter* (Collier #3) was recommissioned as USS *Langley* (CV-1), the first aircraft carrier of the Navy;

Whereas USS *Langley* began as an experimental platform, laying the foundation for the future shipboard operations of aircraft;

Whereas, in fleet exercises beginning in 1924, the USS *Langley*, appropriately nicknamed the “Covered Wagon”, demonstrated the potential of the aircraft carrier as an invaluable weapons system that would transform how the Navy fought at sea;

Whereas, for the past 100 years, aircraft carriers have been the preeminent power projection platform for the Navy and have furthered United States interest in times of war and peace;

Whereas, from the great naval battles in the Pacific Ocean during World War II to strike and close air support missions in the battlegrounds of the Korean Peninsula and Vietnam, the execution of joint force operations over the sands of the Middle East, and present-day deterrence in numerous locations around the world, aircraft carriers have proven time and again that they invaluable in supporting the strategic goals of the United States;

Whereas, with an unequalled ability to provide warfighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict and to adapt in the face of ever-changing threats, aircraft carriers and their embarked air wings and associated strike groups are the foundation of United States maritime strategy;

Whereas aircraft carriers enable the Armed Forces to carry out operations from international waters, often obviating the need to obtain flyover and land-based rights from other countries;

Whereas Nimitz and Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers are modern, mobile military

bases each complete with an airfield, a hospital, and a hardened communications system from which the United States can strike at enemies, wherever and whenever it chooses;

Whereas there are more than 2,450 companies in 48 States and more than 364 congressional districts and more than 13,100 individuals, who proudly contribute to the construction and maintenance of these complex and technologically advanced ships; and

Whereas countless members of the Armed Forces have served the United States aboard aircraft carriers in war, peace, and times of crisis; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that aircraft carriers continue to be a cornerstone of the Navy and play a vital role in the defense of the United States;

(2) acknowledges that, in a time of great power competition that the world has not seen for over 30 years, aircraft carriers will continue to be an absolutely vital strategic platform that the United States can wield to ensure security and stability throughout the world, now and well into the future;

(3) in this 100th year since USS *Langley* (CV-1) was commissioned at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, recognizes the role aircraft carriers have played in securing peace for the United States and the continuing role aircraft carriers will play in maintaining peace and security for the United States; and

(4) celebrates the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 534—CONDEMNING THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENTS OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 534

Whereas a high-quality education is central to economic prosperity and social well-being in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this preamble as “HBCUs”) provide educational and economic opportunities for postsecondary students;

Whereas HBCUs have provided, and continue to provide, a high-quality education that allows students to attain their full potential;

Whereas HBCUs were founded to ensure Black students had access to a high-quality education.

Whereas, on January 4, 2022, at least 8 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Howard University, Xavier University, the

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Prairie View A&M University, North Carolina Central University, Florida Memorial University, Norfolk State University, and Spelman College;

Whereas, on January 31, 2022, at least 8 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Southern University and A&M College, Howard University, Bethune-Cookman University, Albany State University, Bowie State University, Alabama A&M University, Charles R. Drew University, and Delaware State University;

Whereas, on February 1, 2022, the first day of Black History Month, at least 18 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Shorter College, Philander Smith College, Arkansas Baptist College, the University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, Edward Waters University, Spelman College, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Xavier University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Rust College, Tougaloo College, and Harris-Stowe State University;

Whereas, on February 8, 2022, Spelman College received a bomb threat;

Whereas, on February 14, 2022, Howard University and Fisk University received bomb threats;

Whereas, on February 16, 2022, Fayetteville State University, Claflin University, and Winston-Salem University received bomb threats;

Whereas, on February 23, 2022, Hampton University received a bomb threat;

Whereas, on February 25, 2022, at least 3 HBCUs received bomb threats, including Norfolk State University, Elizabeth City State University, and Dillard University;

Whereas HBCUs provide an environment of belonging, safety, and security for students, faculty, and administrators; and

Whereas these threats against HBCUs disrupt campus environments, obstruct educational opportunities, and instill fear: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns violence and the threat of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this resolution as “HBCUs”), including the bomb threats made against several HBCUs on January 4, January 31, February 1, February 8, February 14, February 16, February 23, and February 25, 2022;

(2) honors the legacy of HBCUs; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to combat violence against the students, faculty, and staff of HBCUs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 535—COMMEMORATING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANTING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 535

Whereas, since 1898, after the Spanish-American War and following the ratification of the Treaty of Paris, Puerto Rico has been a territory of the United States;

Whereas Puerto Rico is located approximately 1,000 miles southeast of Florida;

Whereas, on this day, March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson recognized and welcomed the people of Puerto Rico into the United States as citizens by signing into law the Jones-Shafroth Act;

Whereas the Jones-Shafroth Act separated the Government of Puerto Rico into executive, judicial, and legislative branches and endowed Puerto Ricans with a bill of rights;

Whereas, since that time, Puerto Ricans have worked diligently to make countless contributions to the national identity of the United States by sharing their rich culture and heritage;

Whereas, since that time, Puerto Ricans have proudly served in the nation's Armed Forces, protecting Americans domestically and abroad;

Whereas the people of Puerto Rico continue to occupy a place of distinction in the civic fabric and discourse of the United States; and

Whereas the United States joins Puerto Ricans in celebration of the rights and responsibilities inherent in United States citizenship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 105th anniversary of the granting of United States citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate that anniversary; and

(3) honors the contributions made by, and celebrates, the people of Puerto Rico.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4970. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4971. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4972. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4973. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4974. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4975. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4976. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4970. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODE FOR SWANZEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Postal Service shall designate a single, unique ZIP code ap-

plicable to the area encompassing only Swanze, New Hampshire, in its entirety.

SA 4971. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ELIMINATION OF CAPS ON NONCAREER EMPLOYEES OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, any provision of an agreement (including a collective bargaining agreement) that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act and that limits the number of noncareer employees of the Postal Service shall have no force or effect.

(b) PROSPECTIVE LIMITATION.—The Postal Service may not enter into an agreement (including a collective bargaining agreement) on or after the date of enactment of this Act that limits the number of noncareer employees of the Postal Service.

SA 4972. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense may immediately transfer to Ukraine weapons, equipment, additional defense support capabilities, and relevant defense articles that have been authorized, procured, and contracted by, and are available to, the Department of Defense, as necessary to defend the territorial integrity of Ukraine against aggression and other malign influence by the Russian Federation.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The capabilities referred to in subsection (a) include the following:

(1) Defensive lethal aid.

(2) Intelligence, operational, logistical, planning, communications, and other sustainment capabilities.

SA 4973. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 210. NEW VEHICLE ACQUISITIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “zero-emission vehicle” means a vehicle described in section 88.1(b)(3) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) VEHICLE ACQUISITIONS.—The Postal Service may not acquire any vehicle that is not a zero-emission vehicle.

SA 4974. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and

for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—EASE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SEC. 401. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Nearly 18 percent of adults in the United States reported a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in 2015.

(2) Children are also significantly impacted. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 6 children ages 2 years through 8 years have a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder, indicating that disorders begin in early childhood and affect lifelong health.

(3) Moreover, 1 in 7 children and adolescents have at least one treatable mental health disorder.

(4) There is a critical link between mental health and substance use disorders. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1 in 4 adults with severe mental illness had a substance use disorder in 2017.

(5) Moreover, children who have had a major depressive episode are more than twice as likely to use illicit drugs.

(6) In 2017, approximately 19.7 million people aged 12 years or older had a substance use disorder related to their use of alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year.

(7) Despite this overwhelming need, access to behavioral health services remains among the most pressing health care challenges in our country.

(8) An estimated 56 percent of Americans with a mental health disorder did not receive treatment in 2017.

(9) Similarly, half of children and adolescents did not receive treatment for their mental health disorder in 2016.

(10) Further complicating access to care, as demand for behavioral health services increases in communities across the United States, the number of psychiatrists available to treat them continues to decline.

(11) The population of practicing psychiatrists declined by more than 10 percent between the period of 2003 through 2013, while the population of primary care physicians and neurologists grew during the same period.

(12) Technology has evolved to connect individuals to health care services in new ways, including via telehealth.

(13) Moreover, studies show that video visits are an effective strategy to provide mental health treatment to children and, in fact, may be preferable in some cases.

(14) During the 115th Congress, Congress recognized the potential of telehealth to ensure that those in urgent need of substance use disorder treatment receive the care they require.

(15) As passed and signed into law, sections 2001 and 1009 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115-271) expands the use of telehealth services for the treatment of opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders.

(16) It is widely recognized that there is a close relationship between mental health and substance use disorders.

SEC. 402. MEDICARE TREATMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.

Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and (7)” and inserting “(7), and (9)”; and

(B) in clause (ii)(X)—

(i) by striking “or telehealth services” and inserting “, telehealth services”; and

(ii) by inserting “or telehealth services described in paragraph (9)” before the period at the end; and

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

“(9) TREATMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.—The geographic requirements described in paragraph (4)(C)(i) shall not apply with respect to telehealth services that are behavioral health services furnished on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, to eligible telehealth individuals, including initial patient evaluations, follow-up medical management, and other behavioral health services, as determined by the Secretary, at an originating site described in paragraph (4)(C)(ii) (other than an originating site described in subclause (IX) of such paragraph).”.

SEC. 403. MEDICAID MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT THROUGH TELEHEALTH.

Section 1009 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115-271) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the header, by striking “TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS” and inserting “TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS”; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”;

(C) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “treatment for substance use disorders” and inserting “treatment for substance use disorders and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders”; and

(ii) by inserting “psychotherapy,” after “counseling.”;

(D) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” after “substance use disorders”;

(E) in paragraph (3), by inserting “and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” after “substance use disorders”; and

(F) by adding at the end, below and after paragraph (3), the following flush left text:

“The Secretary shall issue the guidance under this subsection not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, with respect to the matters described in the previous provisions of this subsection relating to substance use disorders, and not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, with respect to the matters described in such previous provisions relating to mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the header, by striking “TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS” and inserting “TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “treatment for substance use disorders” and inserting “treatment for substance use disorders and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “with respect to substance use disorders,” after “paragraph (1).”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1), with respect to mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders, together with recommendations for such legislation and ad-

ministrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.”; and

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” after “substance use disorders”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” after “opioid use disorder”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and mental health disorders and behavioral health disorders” after “substance use disorders”.

SEC. 404. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title shall take effect as is included in the enactment of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

SA 4975. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL-AREA SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C), by inserting “rural-area small businesses,” after “women-owned small businesses.”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)(iii), by inserting “rural-area small businesses,” after “women-owned small businesses.”.

SA 4976. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . INCLUSION OF BRAILLE GUIDES WITH COVID-19 TESTS.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide with each at-home test for SARS-CoV-2 sent to individuals by mail a braille guide describing how to use and interpret such test.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10:10 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 Thursday, March 3, 2022, 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 Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

JENNIFER MORENO DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3665.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3665) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3665) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COLONEL CHARLES AND JOANNE
POWELL DEPARTMENT OF VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2771.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2771) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2771) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2771

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Colonel Charles Powell and his wife, Mrs. JoAnne Powell, served the community of San Angelo, Texas, with character and dignity.

(2) Colonel Powell served as the base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980 to 1984.

(3) When the Powells moved to San Angelo, Charles was ordered to help Goodfellow avoid closure and the displacement of many members of the Armed Forces from the community they had grown to love.

(4) The impact of Charles' career can still be felt today at Goodfellow Air Force Base, as it serves as a training school for thousands of members from every Armed Force to train in cryptology, intelligence, and fire-fighting.

(5) JoAnne assisted thousands of constituents in the district offices of Representatives Tom Loeffler, Lamar Smith, K. Michael Conaway, and August Pfluger.

(6) One of the several duties JoAnne spearheaded was the annual process of nominations to the military service academies, which was always a year-round process for her.

(7) With JoAnne's assistance, many of the young men and women of the 11th congressional district of Texas went on to serve the United States and attend one of the military service academies.

(8) In addition, JoAnne was a fierce advocate of veterans and helped thousands of individuals gain access to the veterans benefits they rightfully earned.

(9) JoAnne's compassion and dedication helped make the Concho Valley a better place.

**SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED
OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN SAN
ANGELO, TEXAS.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

**CONDEMNING THREATS OF VIO-
LENCE AGAINST HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
SITIES AND REAFFIRMING SUP-
PORT FOR THE STUDENTS OF
HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 534, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 534) condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities and reaffirming support for the students of historically Black colleges and universities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 534) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**COMMEMORATING THE 105TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GRANTING OF
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO
THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 535, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 535) commemorating the 105th anniversary of the granting of United States citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 535) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3757

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3757) to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, and coal from the Russian Federation.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I now ask for a second reading, but, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 7,
2022

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 7; 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 conclusion of morning business,

the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 273, H.R. 3076, Postal Service Reform; and that the cloture motion filed during yesterday's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MARCH 7, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:43 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 7, 2022, at 3 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. PAUL FARMER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a pioneer of global health and the dear friend of many in the Congress. Dr. Paul Farmer sadly passed away last week in Rwanda at a hospital and university that he helped establish, while doing what he loved most: working to improve the lives of those in need.

Dr. Farmer saw a world in need and worked to heal it. A true revolutionary in the field of medicine, he forever altered our understanding of the fight against global poverty and how to care for those in need. Driven by an unyielding belief in the dignity of every person, he devoted his life to realizing this essential truth: health care is a human right, not a privilege.

As the Co-Founder of Partners In Health, Dr. Farmer brought his brilliant medical acumen, tireless work ethic and deep compassion to deliver his unique and innovative brand of compassionate care around the world. Alongside his dedicated colleagues Dr. Jim Yong Kim and Ophelia Dahl, he helped to fight HIV in Haiti, tuberculosis in Peru, Ebola in Sierra Leone—to name just a few.

With his life-changing work in Rwanda, he helped the government rebuild the nation's entire public health system and drastically improve outcomes for the Rwandan people. Personally, it was a privilege to see his saintly work first-hand on our Congressional delegation to Haiti in 2015, when we visited one of his initiatives to address the needs of orphan children.

Beyond his heroic work abroad, Dr. Farmer was also deeply committed to shaping the next generation of doctors and public health leaders. At Harvard Medical School, he served as the Kolokotronis University Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, where he inspired so many students to carry on his lifelong mission, as articulated by the title of one of his books: *To Repair the World*.

The world was in awe of Dr. Farmer's immense love for others—even those who lived half a world away and whom he had never met. Often, he would live in the communities he served, relocating his family for extended periods of time so they could be closer to those in need. It is a testament to his legendary ability to connect with others that he was godfather to more than 100 children, most of whom he met during his service in Haiti. And the partnership in public health and beautiful love he shared with his wife, Didi, was a joy to behold for all fortunate enough to know them.

While Dr. Farmer's passing is an enormous loss for the world, his powerful vision lives on in the institutions he built, the students he

mentored, the hearts he touched and the lives he saved.

May it be a comfort to Didi and their three children that so many in Congress, our Country and in the world join them in mourning this extraordinary hero. May he rest in peace.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, since Russia launched its unprovoked, premeditated war, the world has been awed by the extraordinary courage and resolve of the Ukrainian people, who—as we speak—are fighting against great odds to defend their sovereignty, their country's territorial integrity and their lives.

Their resilience is an inspiration. Their iron will is nothing short of heroic. And their determination to save their democracy is a beacon to which the world has rallied.

But as they fight, Ukrainians face a situation of severe violence and chaos unleashed by Putin. Congress remains extremely concerned about reports of potentially thousands of Ukrainian civilian casualties, including children. And we are concerned about the humanitarian situation facing the nearly 1 million Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their country.

During this time of suffering for the Ukrainian people, America and the world must be there for them: without delay or reservation.

Led by President Biden and our allies, the international community has come together with historic strength and coordination to hold Russia accountable and to support Ukraine.

President Biden prepared or this moment: for months, calling out Putin and countering his lies, building a coalition of freedom-loving countries, and making clear that we stand with Ukraine.

Indeed, instead of dividing the U.S. from its partners, Putin's actions have united the world, further isolated Russia and strengthened NATO.

Now, with our partners, we are imposing costs on Russia for its lethal aggression that will leave it diminished on the world stage and weakened in every way: economically, diplomatically, and strategically.

Our actions include powerful economic sanctions, cutting off Russia's banks, hamstringing its Central Bank, choking off its access to technology, going after the oligarchs that fund war, and much more.

And we are continuing to fully support the people of Ukraine—with America delivering over \$1 billion in direct security assistance over the last year alone. With our allies, we will continue to provide security assistance, humanitarian and economic assistance, and bolster NATO.

Today, with this resolution, Congress is sending a further message to Ukraine and the

world of our unwavering support for Ukraine, as we:

Demand an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces and end to their violence;

Support, unequivocally, Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and

Reaffirm our commitment to further action to support Ukraine and to isolate Russia, together with our partners and NATO allies.

As the resolution states, Congress “stands steadfastly, staunchly, proudly, and fervently behind the Ukrainian people in their fight against the authoritarian Putin regime.”

I thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman GREGORY MEEKS, and the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, particularly Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, who has been a champion for Ukraine in the Congress for decades. I also thank Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ (born and raised in Ukraine).

As President Biden said in his State of the Union Address yesterday evening: “When the history of this era is written, Putin's war on Ukraine will have left Russia weaker and the rest of the world stronger.”

“In the battle between democracy and autocracy, democracies are rising to the moment, and the world is clearly choosing the side of peace and security.”

“Putin may circle Kyiv with tanks, but he will never gain the hearts and souls of the Ukrainian people. He will never extinguish their love of freedom. He will never weaken the resolve of the free world.”

As we pray for the people of Ukraine, we remain resolute in our commitment to action to hold Putin accountable and to supporting democracy, peace, and security in the region and around the world.

I urge a strong bipartisan vote for this resolution to support Ukraine as its people fight for peace, freedom and the future of their nation.

IN HONOR OF L. ALLEN DOBSON, JR. MD FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DUKE ENERGY CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. L. Allen Dobson, Jr. for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award.

Dr. Dobson has provided his community with excellent service through medical and economic initiatives he has pursued as a doctor and small business owner. He began his career by opening Cabarrus Family Medicine where he established a residency program to train doctors for work in rural settings. Additionally, he served as the chair of the Board of Managers of the Community Care Physicians

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Network, LLC (CCPN) to create business and medical connections between more than 3,600 North Carolinian clinicians. He also helped found and served as the President and Executive Officer of Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) which currently offers primary care medical home services to over 1.5 million people across the state. His medical and management expertise is nationally renowned, and he serves as a steady consultant to the National Governor's Association, the White House, Congress, and the National Institutes of Medicine on account of the innovative success of the CCNC model.

In addition to his accomplishments in the medical field, Dr. Dobson's leadership has brought much economic growth and development to Cabarrus County. He founded 73 & Main in Mount Pleasant which remains one of the most popular restaurants in Cabarrus County. He also played a paramount role in establishing Southern Grace Distilleries at old Mount Pleasant Prison. These ventures affected great economic progress in the region by encouraging the development of many new small businesses.

Dr. Dobson's unmeasurable contributions to his community make him truly deserving of this award. His hard work and dedication to supporting those in need will serve as a model for all healthcare providers and entrepreneurs to emulate. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he continues to affect positive change through excellent leadership and service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Dr. L. Allen Dobson, Jr. on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP LEONARD
N. SMITH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay homage to an outstanding man of God, published author, distinguished educator, life coach, and mentor, Bishop Leonard N. Smith. Bishop Smith transitioned from labor to reward on Sunday, February 20, 2022. His homegoing service will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the Mount Zion Baptist Church located at 18410 Chapel Drive in Triangle, Virginia. He leaves behind a loving family, his dedicated church congregation at the Mount Zion Baptist Church (MZBC), and an appreciative community for his extraordinary life of service to God and humankind.

Bishop Leonard N. Smith was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised in Washington, D.C. He was a man of God, truly devoted to his calling—a calling from God, passed to him through his grandmother, whose powerful Christian teachings would later become the base for his powerful sermons.

Looking for further knowledge of the Word for himself and others, throughout his life, Bishop Smith pursued a bachelor's degree from Richmond Virginia Seminary, a master's

degree in Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Virginia University of Lynchburg in addition to receiving nine honorary degrees. He also taught online classes at two seminaries as he furthered his own education.

His commitment to pastoral ministry excellence began in 1985 when Union Baptist Church in Gordonsville, Virginia called on him to serve as their Pastor and spiritual leader. After four and half years at Union Baptist, Bishop Smith was chosen to shepherd the congregation at Rivermont Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1991, Mount Zion Baptist Church called him to become the successor to their then leader, Dr. Oswald G. Smith. Through Bishop Smith's dedicated leadership, Mount Zion grew both spiritually and numerically as it exemplified the teachings of Christ by provided tutoring, food assistance, financial and missions support to the surrounding community, and its residents as well as people and organizations throughout the state, nation, and world. Bishop Smith would go on to serve as the Senior Minister of Mount Zion Baptist Church for 30 years until his retirement from the ministry of God on December 31, 2021.

Bishop Smith believed strongly that involvement in his communities was an integral part of his calling as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Accordingly, he served in numerous roles that had as their purpose the uplift of humankind. In addition to being the beloved Pastor of MZBC, he served proudly as the President of the Richmond, Virginia Seminary (2005 to 2008) and the President of the Virginia Baptist State Convention (2009 to 2012), where he served with integrity, innovation, and impassioned leadership. Bishop Smith was also involved with numerous county, denominational, educational, non-profit, and state boards & commissions including the Arlington County Fire and Police Departments (where he served as the Chaplain); the Richmond Virginia Seminary (where he was the Chancellor); Virginia University (where he served as the Assistant to the President); the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (where he was an active member who served in several capacities); the Global United Fellowship (where he was the Vice Presiding Bishop and the Global Leader of Pastors); and the Gospel Heritage Foundation (where he was an advisory board member).

Bishop Smith was also a sought-after lecturer, teacher, and with the release of his book entitled, "We Need to Talk: Saying What We Need to Say Without Hurting Each Other", he was also an author.

Bishop Smith accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family including his wife, Yalonda; his children, Tiffany and Phillip; and all those in his congregation and community.

Mother Teresa once said that "At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by whether "... when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, when I was naked, you clothed me, and whether, when I was homeless, you took me in." Bishop Leonard N. Smith, in his life and ministry, did just that, for the "least of these", and the world is better because he did.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife,

Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout the nation in honoring Bishop Leonard N. Smith for his service to God, his ministry, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Dr. Smith's family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

IN HONOR OF MARKET STREET
STUDIOS FOR RECEIVING THE
2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY
IMPACT AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Market Street Studios for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award.

Market Street Studios has worked diligently to document many of Cabarrus County's important and historical events and milestones. In doing so, they have exerted sincere efforts to positively portray our community in order to uplift all those who experience their work.

Market Street Studios has captured some of the most significant moments in Cabarrus County's recent history. They organized the reveal of the local minor-league baseball team's new identity and documented the gathering in support of frontline healthcare workers at Atrium Health Cabarrus at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Market Street Studios' work has also provided integral support to nonprofit organizations in our community. In response to much adversity brought on by the pandemic, they implemented video and livestream services that nonprofits could employ for fundraising efforts. Market Street Studios also took initiative to create a documentary series to showcase the good work of local and small business, create public awareness for the many issues brought on by the pandemic, and reveal how businesses are adapting to cope with such issues. Through these initiatives, Market Street Studios has supported the Cabarrus Arts Council, the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Mental Health Alliance, the Three Rivers Land Trust and many other local organizations.

Market Street Studios exemplifies the highest level of commitment to our community and serves as a model for all other businesses to follow. I speak for all in our community in wishing Market Street Studios success and prosperity as they continue to affect positive change through excellent leadership and service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Market Street Studios on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award.

HONORING MARY CHAPMAN AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Chapman, a tireless advocate for economic, social, and racial justice who is working to close the opportunity gap for youth between the ages of 16 to 24.

Dr. Chapman serves on various community and civic boards including Bankers Trust Advisory Board, Iowa Corrections Board, Des Moines Branch NAACP Executive Committee (Women in NAACP Chair), Des Moines Public Arts Foundation, Des Moines Art Festival, Hoyt Sherman Foundation, and Urban Dreams Board. She also is a member of Des Moines Chapter of The Links, Inc. and a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Among the many awards she has received, Dr. Chapman is an Iowa African American Hall of Fame inductee, a 2013 inductee in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, and a Des Moines Business Record Woman of Influence awardee. The Iowa Department of Corrections has also named the Mary Chapman Computer Lab in the education center at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in honor of her.

Community leaders like Dr. Chapman make Iowa a great place to live, and I share her goal of making Iowa a more equitable and just place to live. I will continue that fight in Congress and always support advocates like Dr. Chapman and organizations like the NAACP. It is my pleasure to name Dr. Mary Chapman as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JOSH RICHMAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the public service of Josh Richman, an invaluable member of my district team for the past six years, as he moves on to his next professional endeavor. Josh joined my office in January 2016 after working nearly 24 years as a reporter in Pennsylvania and the San Francisco Bay Area. Immediately prior to joining our office, he was the senior political reporter for the Bay Area News Group, which includes the Oakland Tribune and the East Bay Times. Josh began his work with our office as Communications Director and was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor.

I first met Josh when he covered local Tri-Valley politics and I served as a Dublin city councilmember. In September 2012, I announced a long-shot run for Congress against a 40-year incumbent from my own party. About 30 people (including family members) showed up for the announcement, and only one reporter, Josh. Though Josh told me throughout the campaign that I didn't have a chance, I admired how he fairly covered the race. And I personally resolved that if I could ever hire him, I would.

Josh made an impact on my office immediately. He brought a fresh perspective to issues and cultivated strong relationships with

constituents and the media alike. His history in journalism helped tremendously when it came to working with the media and developing relationships with reporters, bills we introduced, or events we were holding back home. It is unusual for a communications director to be based in the district, but in our case, he was essential. Josh had an inherent understanding of the local media landscape, was a keen photographer, and could provide vital feedback.

I could always count on Josh for an honest, unfiltered, and well-reasoned opinion. Each one of us needs at least one trusted person that won't always say, "yes." Those people make us grow and become better. Josh was one of those people and he's made it clear he will still play that role, even while outside the office.

Josh was also an invaluable mentor to many on our staff, particularly the many communications aides who worked under him. Many of those aides have gone on, with the benefit of Josh's experience, to become communications directors themselves. Josh also had an intimate understanding of the work his colleagues did and could recognize the moments that they felt overwhelmed. At those times he took it upon himself to infuse levity, joy, and acts of genuine appreciation for his colleagues into the work day. He saw the value in maintaining a workplace that was as happy as it was productive, and he did all he could to create that environment.

I'd like to thank Josh's wife, Natalie, and son, Jack, for allowing me to borrow so much time that they may have otherwise spent together. I also thank Josh for his time, his expertise, his counsel, and his friendship. I wish him good luck in this next endeavor and know that this isn't the last he'll hear from me.

IN HONOR OF TASTEBUDS POPCORN CONCORD FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tastebuds Popcorn Concord for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year Award.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord has quickly become a local favorite. In just over a year, they have established themselves as a popular vendor of over 200 flavors of popcorn and gone above and beyond to provide invaluable support to our community.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord is a veteran-owned, minority-owned, and woman-owned business that has already made significant partnerships and connections to spur economic growth in Cabarrus County. Their collaboration with other businesses seeks to recognize and address many public needs in our community. Among many other partnerships and initiatives, Tastebuds Popcorn Concord worked with the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to assist with NASCAR's 2021 Drive for the Cure 250 and partnered with law enforcement to advance safety initiatives and community relations. Tastebuds

Popcorn Concord has also sponsored multiple public high school sports teams and the Teacher's Resource, a nonprofit that provides support to teachers in multiple cities nationwide. I join the rest of our community in thanking Tastebuds Popcorn Concord for their contributions to our local economy and dedicated charitable services.

Tastebuds Popcorn Concord has achieved swift and impactful success and is truly deserving of this award. I wish its management and employees success as they continue to provide excellent service to our community. I personally look forward to my next visit when I'm back home in Concord.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Tastebuds Popcorn Concord on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS-
ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2022**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2022, which would help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees would be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums and be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work-related injury or illness or pregnancy. This bill is more important now than ever with the prevalence of so-called "Long COVID."

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period, such as following surgery. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as many of their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates, an option unavailable to federal employees. This bill would not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on preexisting conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill would provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available for employees purchasing as individuals, as many

do. Under this bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group coverage available to workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's purchasing power to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own, at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6774, THE
BOXING THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S
ACCESS ACT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of access to effective therapies for Parkinson's disease for our veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 110,000 veterans have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. While the exact causes of Parkinson's are unknown, many veterans developed the disease after exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals while serving our Nation.

PD is a lifelong and progressive disease for which there is no cure, and frustratingly little progress has been made in recent decades in the race to find new effective treatments for Parkinson's. The most powerful and common drug for Parkinson's, levodopa, was developed in the 1960s.

But one of the strongest tools we have to fight Parkinson's isn't a drug, it's exercise. Exercise can help manage, slow, or even prevent the progression of Parkinson's symptoms, and help PD patients stay active and avoid isolation in their communities. While many types of exercise have shown to be beneficial for PD patients, boxing has become an increasingly popular exercise for improving the physical, mental, and emotional health of those with PD, and more and more gyms are offering boxing programs specifically for those diagnosed with it. One such gym in my district, Parkinson's Boxing in Kenmore, New York, is dedicated solely to helping those with PD and similar disorders.

But for many veterans with PD, these kinds of programs remain financially out of reach. We owe it to our veterans and active-duty service members to provide resources for them when dealing with the detrimental effects of toxic substances and degenerative diseases like PD. That is why I have introduced a bill, H.R. 6774, the Boxing Therapy for Parkinson's Access Act, that would require the VA to cover boxing exercise classes for veterans who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease or similar movement disorders. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to highlight

this issue and how we can better help our veterans access the therapies that we know can make a difference in their fight against Parkinson's disease.

IN HONOR OF CK SELECT REAL
ESTATE FOR RECEIVING THE 2021
CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate CK Select Real Estate for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

Since 2005, CK Select Real Estate has provided buyers and sellers with opportunities and resources in residential, commercial, and investment real estate. Originally founded as a local provider for the Concord and Kannapolis regions, CK Select Real Estate has since expanded to cover much of the Piedmont-Triad region and even parts of South Carolina.

CK Select Real Estate has thoroughly proven to be a trusted source for real estate endeavors. They provide exemplary customer service by employing collaborative and inclusive negotiating practices to benefit their clients. Although strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, CK Select Real Estate's staunch dedication to their clients did not waver as they adapted to the challenging circumstances by adopting new safety protocols to accommodate in-person services. Additionally, CK Select Real Estate has pursued multiple service-oriented projects to address public needs in our community. To list just a few examples, they funded the construction of a blessing box in Kannapolis to provide food to needy families and raised funds for Purple Heart Homes, a nonprofit that assists service-connected disabled and aging veterans find adequate housing.

CK Select Real Estate is truly deserving of this award on account of their impactful contributions to our local economy and dedicated charitable works. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking CK Select Real Estate for their committed service and wishing them continued success going forward.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating CK Select Real Estate on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR JOHN
WOODEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader, an outstanding educator, and a devoted man of God, Pastor John Wooden, on the occasion of his retire-

ment. A retirement service will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 11 a.m.

Pastor John Wooden was born in Bainbridge, Georgia on May 7, 1966, to the union of Mr. Arthur Dean Wooden and Mrs. Willie Mae Wooden. After receiving his Associate degree from Bainbridge Junior College, Pastor Wooden went on to receive dual Bachelor's degrees in Marketing and Management from Valdosta State College; an educational certificate from Albany State University; a Master of Science degree in Leadership and an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University; and completed religious training from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a staunch advocate for educating the next generation, Pastor Wooden served as an educator and school administrator for thirty years, serving as a Business Education teacher, Career Counselor, Assistant Principal at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, Middle School Principal, and as an Assistant Superintendent for schools in Decatur County, Georgia.

In addition to a three-decade career in public education, Pastor Wooden has also spent almost four decades teaching the word of the Lord. Pastor Wooden has been preaching for 38 years and pastoring for 35 years, first at First Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church from 1987 to 1990, and then at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church from March 1987 until his retirement this year.

Pastor Wooden's distinguished pastoral career has been mirrored by his extensive involvement in his community. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Pastor Wooden has served his community as a board member of the United Way, Salvation Army, and the YMCA as well as a member of Kiwanis Club (Bainbridge) and the Rotary Club (Bainbridge).

In addition to being a stellar educator, a distinguished spiritual leader, and dedicated community advocate, Pastor Wooden is also a published author. His literary works include "Uncensored Conversations", "Leading While Bleeding", "Don't Judge Me Unless You Have Walked In My Shoes", "Scarred, But Not Permanently Broken", and "Don't Live A Life Of Regrets".

He has accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the inspiration, love, and support of his wife, Deborah; and his children, LaShannon and Chelsea.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Bainbridge and Decatur County, Georgia are better because of Pastor John Wooden and his tireless commitment to making his community stronger. As a man of great faith and integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. But his heart for teaching and helping others, utilizing these qualities, has made his life's work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me and the more than 730,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Pastor John Wooden upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in the Ministry of Jesus Christ.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative of more than 20,000 veterans in California's 18th Congressional District, I rise in support of H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act. This long-overdue legislation makes good on our promise to care for those who have risked their lives to defend our country.

Today, most veterans who seek care and compensation from the VA for medical conditions resulting from service-connected exposure to toxic substances are denied because the VA maintains highly restrictive standards for what constitutes toxic exposure. For years, I've heard from veterans in my District who have described the great frustration of being denied the care and compensation they need.

The Honoring Our PACT Act addresses this issue by acknowledging that toxic exposure is a cost of war. The bill recognizes many new categories of veterans as eligible for care and compensation for toxic exposure, including veterans exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, PFAS, and other dangerous substances. If enacted, the CBO estimates this legislation will increase the number of veterans receiving VA healthcare by 15 percent over the next decade.

Importantly, H.R. 3967 finally puts into place a legal recourse for veterans and their families who were exposed to toxic chemicals in drink-

ing water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Many of these veterans suffer from cancer, Parkinson's disease, and ALS as a result of their exposure, but they've been denied compensation because of an anomaly in North Carolina state law. I've consistently advocated for remedying this injustice, and I'm pleased that the Honoring Our PACT Act does so by establishing a federal cause of action related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

When our country sends our brave women and men of the U.S. Armed Forces into harm's way, it is our collective responsibility to provide them with the health services, opportunities, and care they've earned. Passing the Honoring Our PACT Act strengthens this sacred promise, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and vote yes.

IN HONOR OF PRESENT AGE MINISTRIES FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Present Age Ministries for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Since 2009, Present Age Ministries has worked hard to fight back against and eliminate sex trafficking and abuse. They have served as a vital resource for teen victims of these crimes and have undertaken many ini-

tiatives to further prepare all in our community to successfully assist those impacted.

Present Age Ministries' services have provided resources to over 50 survivors and education and training initiatives to over 20,000 students and adults in Cabarrus County. Both the City of Concord and the City of Kannapolis employ their services to identify and assist all possible teen victims of sex trafficking and abuse, and Cabarrus County Schools partners with Present Age Ministries to maintain high quality and up to date sex trafficking education programs. Present Age Ministries has thoroughly demonstrated their ability to adapt to meet victims' needs under new and challenging circumstances. They introduced tutoring resources for victims after it became apparent that those seeking resources were also struggling to keep up with schoolwork. Survivors can now study with other survivors and receive aid from volunteer tutors. Furthermore, after being tasked with very unusual and difficult obstacles during the pandemic, Present Age Ministries shifted strategies by developing a virtual program through which teens received activities and resources to review and complete prior to connecting with case workers or mentors on the internet or over the phone. They also introduced an online portal to ease access to educational resources.

Present Age Ministries is truly deserving of this award on account of the invaluable resources they provide and their unwavering commitment to vulnerable members of our community. I join the rest of our community in gratitude as we acknowledge Present Age Ministries for such excellent service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Present Age Ministries on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S961–S999

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3742–3763, and S. Res. 531–535. **Pages S990–91**

Measures Passed:

National Emergency Designation: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 38, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, and by 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 68), the joint resolution was then passed. **Pages S965–82**

Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3665, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere, and the bill was then passed. **Page S998**

Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2771, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S998**

Condemning Threats of Violence Against HBCUs: Senate agreed to S. Res. 534, condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities and reaffirming support for the students of historically Black colleges and universities. **Page S998**

105th Anniversary of U.S. Citizenship to Puerto Rico: Senate agreed to S. Res. 535, commemorating the 105th anniversary of the granting of United States citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico. **Page S998**

Measures Considered:

Postal Service Reform Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S961–65**

Pending:

Schumer (for Peters) Amendment No. 4955, to modify the deadline for the initial report on the operations and financial condition of the United States Postal Service. **Page S961**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 7, 2022, Senate resume consideration of the bill; and that the motion to invoke cloture filed during the session of Wednesday, March 2, 2022, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 7, 2022. **Page S999**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages 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 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–23) **Page S989**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, with respect to Iran; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–24) **Page S989**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–25) **Page S989**

Pagan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade

Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S986**

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 H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service.

Page S986

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S986**

Gonzalez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security. **Pages S986–87**

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 Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

Page S987

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S986**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S986**

Messages from the House: **Page S989**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S989**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S990**

Executive Communications: **Page S990**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S990**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Pages S987–88**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S991–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S992–96**

Additional Statements: **Page S988**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S996–97**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S997–98**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—68) **Pages S981–82**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:43 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S999.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, including H.R. 4616, to deem certain references to LIBOR as referring to a replacement benchmark rate upon the occurrence of certain events affecting LIBOR, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair Pro Tempore, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Standards and Technology, Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Jainey Kumar Bavishi, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, all of the Department of Commerce, and Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, Christopher A. Coes, of Georgia, and Carol Annette Peterson, of the District of Columbia, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT

Committee on Commerce: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, after receiving testimony from Daniel B. Maffei, Chairman, and Rebecca F. Dye, Commissioner, both of the Federal Maritime Commission.

FERC NATURAL GAS PIPELINE GUIDANCE

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recent actions of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relating to permitting construction and operation of interstate natural gas pipelines and other natural gas infrastructure projects, after receiving testimony from Richard Glick, Chairman, and James P. Danly, Allison Clements, Mark C. Christie, and Willie L. Phillips, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Douglas T. Hickey, of Idaho, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, who was introduced by Senators Risch and Kaine, and Steven H. Fagin, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen, all of the Department of State, and Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency

for International Development, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FEDERAL VACANCIES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Senate confirmation process and Federal vacancies, after receiving testimony from Anne Joseph O'Connell, Stanford Law School, Stanford, California; and Kristine Simmons, Partnership for Public Service, and Adam J. White, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 6911–6940; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 77; and H. Res. 962 were introduced.

Pages H1301–02

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1303–04

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act: The House passed H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, by a yea-and-nay vote of 256 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 57. Consideration began yesterday, March 2nd.

Pages H1279–84

Agreed to:

Ruiz amendment (No. 22 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–253) that allows veterans in the burn pits registry to designate a registered individual or an immediate family member to update the registry with the cause of death of the individual (by a yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 55); and

Pages H1279–80, H1282

Ryan amendment (No. 23 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–253) that adds the text of the SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act, which requires the Department of the VA to document, track, and then notify Congress of specified data points related to exposure cases as reported by veterans to the VA (by a yea-and-nay vote of 348 yeas to 78 nays, Roll No. 56).

Pages H1280–82, H1283

H. Res. 950, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3967) was agreed to Tuesday, March 1st.

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003

is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2022—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–97).

Pages H1291–92

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995 is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2022—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–98).

Page H1300

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015 is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2022—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–99).

Page H1300

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1282, H1283, and H1284.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STATE OF THE SURFACE NAVY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness held a joint hearing entitled “State of the Surface Navy”. Testimony was heard from Admiral William K. Lescher, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy; and Vice Admiral Roy Kitchener, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Department of the Navy.

**THE NEGLECTED EPIDEMIC OF MISSING
BIPOC WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “The Neglected Epidemic of Missing BIPOC Women and Girls”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY,
MARCH 7, 2022**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, 6 p.m., SVC-217.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 7

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, March 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3076, Postal Service Reform Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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