United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 No. 62

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESAULNIER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 7, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK DESAULNIER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

On this morning, Lord, hear our voices as we lift up our prayers to You from the depths of our hearts. We lay our requests before You, appeals that are both simple and serious, of both concern and calamity, known and unknown to the people around us.

And we wait expectantly for Your response—not knowing how or when that will come—but in faith we anticipate Your answer, and with faith we pray we are ready to receive it.

And as You have listened to us, make us attentive to Your wisdom. With ears to hear, may we take note of Your whispers and open ourselves to hear Your divine voice breaking into our lives.

We incline our hearts toward You this day, that You would grant us understanding in all that confounds us. Help us to receive Your guidance as You lead us in the way we should go. And may we thrive on the depth of Your compassion in all that we do and say.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. DEAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

BRANDEN SISCA AND MARTIN MACK, III PROVIDED EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery County, Philadelphia, and all of Pennsylvania mourn the tragic loss of two State troopers: Branden Sisca and Martin Mack, III; and a pedestrian, Mr. Reyes Rivera Oliveras, of Allentown. All three were killed by an alleged drunk driver on I–95 near Lincoln Financial Field on March 21.

I want to take a moment to remember State Troopers Branden Sisca and Martin Mack, and their extraordinary lives of service.

From an early age, they both had an incredible drive to serve and were examples of leadership. Branden Sisca, just 29, volunteered for the Trappe Fire Company from the age of 16 and rose to chief. He is survived by his wife, Brittany. They are expecting a baby girl in July.

Martin Mack, just 33, first served as a member of the National Guard. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Stephanie, and father to two daughters, Olivia and Rowan.

It is heartbreaking to lose such extraordinary men so tragically so young. I pray for their families. God bless them. May their memories be a blessing.

AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS BURDENED BY INFLATION

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Biden's disastrous tax-and-spend policies, the American people are now facing the highest levels of inflation in more than 40 years. Americans have seen the effects of inflation in their paychecks, at the gas pumps, and in the grocery stores ever since Joe Biden took office.

The latest Bloomberg report concludes that the average U.S. household will have to earn an extra $5,000 this year just to keep up with inflation.

Instead of scaling back wasteful government spending, the President's budget calls for the highest sustained spending and taxes in American history. Fanning the flames of inflation with more reckless spending only makes it harder for American families to afford essentials.

Instead, Congress must work to eliminate waste and enable Americans to reclaim control of their money and their lives.

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PASTOR DAVID SMITH AND LADY LINDA SMITH SELFLESSLY SERVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Houston-area leaders, Pastor David Smith and his wife, Lady Linda Smith.

Many strong community leaders go unnoticed. They serve silently every day and draw very little attention to themselves, quietly doing their work. Yet through their service, they enrich and improve the lives of everyone around them.

Pastor Smith and Lady Smith are both quiet, everyday heroes who put smiles on faces across the district and particularly in the Eastex/Jensen Freeway community. Through their faith-based work, they spread positivity and hope to countless Houstonians.

They are also very active in community activities and are the lead organizers of the Houston area's annual Jensen Jubilee Fall Festival. Pastor Smith is more like the mayor of the Eastex/Jensen Freeway area.

Pastor Smith and Lady Linda Smith embody the Houston spirit of service, compassion, and volunteerism. I am proud they are my constituents, and I thank them for their selfless community service.

CONGRATULATING HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Huntington High School girls basketball team. The team won the championship title, and they finished their season with a 24–1 record. They are the only team to win in the newly developed AAAA division.

While there is no ''I'' in team, they were led by Dionna Gray and coached by the legendary Lonnie Lucas, who has devoted 54 years of his life to coaching.

Congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment.

HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY TO DAISY MURRAY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my incredible constituents, Mrs. Daisy Murray, who will be celebrating her 104th birthday on Monday, April 11. Mrs. Murray has been a resident of San Leandro for more than 30 years and has made many wonderful contributions to our East Bay community.

Mrs. Daisy Murray was born in 1919 to a family that was only a few generations removed from slavery, as her grandmother was the daughter of an enslaved person. Mrs. Murray's parents faced racism and violence living in the South, and when they got married, they relocated to Ohio, where Ms. Daisy was born and raised.

I think it was in the mid-1970s, Mrs. Murray founded the Sojourner Truth Manor, the first affordable residency for adults and seniors in the country created by an African-American businesswoman.

I worked very hard on this when I was a student at Mills College, and I remember a woman we called Ms. Dorothy, worked with Mrs. Murray on this. It is still a thriving community, the affordable housing community. It is located in Oakland on Martin Luther King Jr. Way. It still exists to this day, and it has housed generations of adults and seniors in need.

On behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I want to thank Mrs. Daisy Murray for her many good works and everything that she has done to enrich our East Bay community. I wish her a happy 104th birthday. Happy birthday, Mrs. Daisy Murray.

WORST INFLATION CRISIS IN 40 YEARS

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, Americans are facing the worst inflation crisis in 40 years because of the Democrats' reckless spending agenda, including President Biden's $2 trillion bailout bill.

President Biden's new budget deliberately doubles down on that agenda. It spends $73 trillion over the next 10 years, a 66 percent increase. The President's budget assumes inflation will average 4.7 percent this year. Right now, inflation is 7.9 percent. To hit their target, inflation would have to be 2 percent, starting today, every month for the next 10 years.

Despite ample warning that the President's agenda would fuel the inflation fire, inflation has now risen 8.9 percent since President Biden took office. Hardworking families have already paid a $3,500 inflation tax last year and are expected to pay a $5,200 inflation tax this year. The American people can't afford that.

VIRGINIA IS GRATEFUL FOR MARCUS TUCK'S SERVICE

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to recognize the service of Marcus Tuck of Crewe, Virginia.

During the Korean war, Mr. Tuck served in the United States Army. He was part of E Company, 223rd Infantry Regiment, 40th Division. He served honorably and dutifully, but for decades, Mr. Tuck never received the medals he was owed, the medals he earned.

This year, my office worked with Mr. Tuck and fought to get Mr. Tuck the medals he rightfully earned nearly 70 years ago. For his brave service to our country, Mr. Tuck earned the Good Conduct Medal. He earned the National Defense Service Medal. He earned the Korean Service Medal with two bronze service stars. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, and he earned the United Nations Service Medal.

On behalf of a grateful Seventh District, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our country, I thank Marcus Tuck for his commitment to our beloved Nation. I am humbled to call him a constituent, and I am honored to be able to deliver these physical reminders of his service to him and his family.

I also want to recognize the Crewe Gold Star Memorial VFW Post 7189 for getting Mr. Tuck in touch with our office and for making sure he received the medals and the recognition that had long been deferred.

As an American people, we are stronger when we honor our veterans, remember their stories, and carry onward the torch of their legacy. Thank you for your service, Mr. Tuck.

REMEMBERING ROY NUNNALLY ROBERTS, SR.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a great Georgian, a staunch conservative, a lifelong patriot, and a dear friend, Roy Roberts, Sr., from Walton County, Georgia. He was born in Atlanta, December 13, 1940.

He was an incredible athlete, playing basketball for the University of Kentucky, where he was credited as being one of their all-time best defensive players. While at Kentucky, he met Suzanne Polk, and they married in 1963 before putting their roots in Monroe, Georgia.

Roy was very active in his community. He was one of the biggest leaders in the Republican Party, which was his passion. In fact, in 2001, he became the chairman of Walton County Republican Party, which he proudly held that position for 20 years, leading Walton County's GOP to become one of the leading counties in our State.

He was famous for hosting an incredible barbecue every year that drew hundreds of people, and every candidate in the Republican Party really had to be a part of that incredible event.

Georgia lost a giant last week. I and Walton County lost a dear friend. We will miss Roy Roberts tremendously. To his family, we extend our heartfelt prayers and love.

REMEMBERING GLORIA TANNER'S LIFE OF SERVICE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and legacy of my dear friend and a proud Coloradan, Gloria Tanner, who we lost earlier this week.

In 1985, Gloria became the second ever African-American representative elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and in 1994 she became the first African-American woman State senator in Colorado history.

Long before her passing, she was inducted into Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. She was an incredibly accomplished leader. We have lost an extraordinary public servant, a remarkable human being, and a loving and devoted friend. Her commitment to advocacy benefited countless communities throughout the country, and she had a profound impact on my own life. I have no doubt that her leadership and dedication will continue to inspire generations for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, we all stand on the shoulders of giants, and Gloria Tanner was one of those giants. We will miss her deeply. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

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KEEP TITLE 42 IN PLACE

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing crisis on our border with Mexico.

Last week, the CDC announced they would officially rescind their title 42 order on May 23. Title 42 is an important tool for DHS to help mitigate the potential spread of COVID–19 and other infectious diseases.

Title 42 health restrictions should be in place until we have border security. Given the number of crossings we are seeing, we are far from having a secure border.

CBP is encountering more than 5,500 migrants daily. Some reports indicate that there could be upward of 18,000 migrants per day encountered when title 42 is lifted next month. To put this in perspective, President Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, stated in his tenure that 1,000 apprehensions a day would be considered a bad day.

Over a year ago, I introduced my first piece of legislation, the REACT Act, which would require DHS to test all migrants illegally crossing our border for COVID–19.

It is time to work in a bipartisan manner to secure our border; halt illegal drugs and human trafficking; support law enforcement; and ensure the safety of all of our communities.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3807

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 3807.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's request is accepted.

RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND REPLENISHMENT ACT OF 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1033, I call up the bill (H.R. 3807) to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1033, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–39, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 117–290, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 3807

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 ''Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION GRANTS.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—Section 5003(b)(2) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''$28,600,000,000'' and inserting ''$70,600,000,000''; and

(B) by inserting '', of which not more than $420,000,000 shall be for administrative expenses to carry out this section, and of which $7,500,000 shall be for the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration, $7,500,000 for the Department of Justice for investigative and prosecutorial activities related to fraud and abuse, and $7,500,000 for Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, for audits of grants under this section to investigate fraud and to identify improper payments and ineligible recipients, and for other necessary expenses'' before the period at the end; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), by striking ''$23,600,000,000'' and inserting ''any remaining amounts not used for a purpose authorized under subparagraph (A) or clause (i) of this subparagraph''.

(b) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator determines that the amounts made available to carry out this section are insufficient to make grants in the amount provided in subsection (c)(4) to each eligible entity that has submitted an application in accordance with the program guidelines in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection, but has not received an award as of such date, the Administrator shall make grants with the available amounts to each such eligible applicant—

''(A) such that the amount of the grant that each such eligible entity would have otherwise received under this section is reduced by an equal percentage;

''(B) by establishing a maximum amount for a grant made under this subsection to ensure that smaller eligible entities still receive grants in the amounts provided under subsection (c)(4); or

''(C) by providing full awards in the amounts provided under subsection (c)(4) below a certain threshold (as the Administrator may establish) and reducing grants above that threshold by an equal percentage.

''(2) RESERVING FUNDS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall prevent the Administrator from—

''(A) reserving funding for applicants that may be determined to be eligible for a grant under this section upon reconsideration; or

''(B) making partial awards to eligible entities on a preliminary basis until the amount of funding required to fund grants to all eligible applicants is established, upon the completion of the reconsideration process.''.

(c) REPORTS; RECONSIDERATION; VERIFICATION OF BUSINESS TYPE.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall—

''(1) on a biweekly basis until the amounts made available to carry out this section are fully expended, publish data that shows, for the period beginning on the date on which the Administrator began making grants under this section and ending on the date on which the information is published—

''(A) with respect to applications for grants under this section, the number of those applications—

''(i) that the Administrator has received;

''(ii) that the Administrator has reviewed or is in the process of reviewing; and

''(iii) with respect to which the Administrator has made a decision; and

''(B) the number and dollar amount of grants under this section—

''(i) that have been awarded; and

''(ii) that have been disbursed;

''(2) on a weekly basis until the amounts made available to carry out this section are fully expended, publish, with respect to the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on the date on which the information is published—

''(A) with respect to each eligible entity to which a grant is made under this section—

''(i) the name of the eligible entity, including the name or names under which the eligible entity does business if that name is different from the name of the eligible entity; and

''(ii) the address of—

''(I) the eligible entity; and

''(II) the physical location or locations for the eligible entity listed on the application, if different from the address of the eligible entity;

''(B) the amount of each grant described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) the business category listed in subsection (a)(4)(A) to which the eligible entity belongs.

''(f) RECONSIDERATION.—

''(1) EXPLANATION FOR DENIAL.—With respect to an applicant that applies for a grant under this section and is denied by the Administrator, the Administrator shall make available to the applicant a brief explanation identifying the reason why the Administrator denied the application of the applicant, which shall include, where applicable, a citation to the statutory, regulatory, or guidance provision with which the applicant

failed to comply and that was the basis for the denial.

''(2) PROCESS.—The Administrator shall establish a reconsideration process through which the applicant may—

''(A) submit to the Administrator additional information the applicant determines to be relevant to whether the applicant is eligible for the grant; and

''(B) receive a review of the application and such additional information submitted under subparagraph (A).

''(g) VERIFICATION OF BUSINESS TYPE.—If the Administrator verifies that an applicant for a loan under section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act is not an eligible business type for a grant under this section using credible information other than information obtained from the application of the applicant for such loan during 2020, the Administrator may reject the application solely on those grounds.''.

(d) REQUIREMENT OF CONTINUING OPERATION.—For any application for a grant under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act or for which the applicant has received an award notice but the Administrator has not disbursed amounts under the grant, the Administrator may not disburse amounts under the grant unless the applicant submits a statement to the Administrator indicating the applicant is still operating, or intends to reopen within 6 months after the date of the statement is submitted, the place of business for which such applicant is seeking such grant.

(e) OVERSIGHT AND AUDITS.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) OVERSIGHT AND AUDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall institute an oversight and audit plan with respect to eligible entities receiving grants under this section, which shall include—

''(A) documentation requirements that are consistent with the eligibility and other requirements under this section, including by requiring an eligible entity that receives a grant under this section to retain records that demonstrate compliance with those requirements; and

''(B) reviews of the use of grants made under this section by eligible entities.

''(2) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives the plan required under paragraph (1), which shall describe—

''(A) the policies and procedures of the Administrator for conducting oversight and audits of grants made under this section; and

''(B) the metrics that the Administrator will use to determine which grants made under this section will be audited under that plan.

''(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and once every 30 days thereafter until the date that is 180 days after the date on which all amounts made available to carry out this section have been fully expended, and upon request thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the oversight and audit activities of the Administrator under this subsection, which shall include—

''(A) the total number of grants approved and disbursed under this section;

''(B) the total amount of each grant received by each eligible entity;

''(C) the number of active investigations and audits of grants made under this section;

''(D) the number of completed reviews and audits of grants made under this section, including a description of—

''(i) any findings of fraud or other material noncompliance with the requirements of this section; and

''(ii) the total amount recouped from ineligible recipients; and

''(E) a description of any substantial changes made to the plan required under paragraph (1).

''(4) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—This subsection shall apply to grants and decisions made under this section before, on, or after the date of enactment of this subsection.''.

SEC. 3. HARD HIT INDUSTRIES AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) AFFILIATED BUSINESS.—The term ''affiliated business'' means a business in which an eligible entity—

(A) has an equity or right to receive not less than 50 percent of the profit distributions of such business; or

(B) has, on or before March 13, 2020, contractual authority to control the business.

(3) AWARD.—The term ''award'' means a financial assistance payment that an eligible applicant receives directly from the Small Business Administration.

(4) COVERED PERIOD.—The term ''covered period'' means the period beginning on February 15, 2020, and ending on the later of—

(A) March 31, 2023; or

(B) a date to be determined by the Administrator that is not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section.

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity''—

(A) means a small business concern that—

(i) employs not more than 200 employees; and

(ii) suffered a pandemic-related revenue loss of 40 percent or greater; and

(B) does not include a small business concern that—

(i) is a State or local government-operated business;

(ii) has received a grant under—

(I) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a); or

(II) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2);

(iii) is a publicly-traded company;

(iv) is an entity that is owned or operated by a private equity fund; or

(v) has a wage violation at the time of application.

(6) ELIGIBLE SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''eligible self-employed individual'' has the meaning given in section 7002(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (26 U.S.C. 1401 note).

(7) EXCHANGE; ISSUER; SECURITY.—The terms ''exchange'', ''issuer'', and ''security'' have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(8) PANDEMIC-RELATED REVENUE LOSS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''pandemic-related revenue loss'' means, subject to subparagraph (B) and with respect to an eligible entity—

(i) except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the average annual gross receipts during 2020 and 2021, as established using such verification documentation as the Administrator may require, of the eligible entity subtracted from the gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2019, if such sum is greater than zero;

(ii) if the eligible entity was not in operation for the entirety of 2019—

(I) the difference between—

(aa) the product obtained by multiplying the average monthly gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2019 by 12; and

(bb) the product obtained by multiplying the average monthly gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2020 and 2021 by 12; or

(II) an amount based on a formula determined by the Administrator; or

(iii) if the eligible entity began operations during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this section, an amount based on a formula determined by the Administrator.

(B) REDUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the pandemic-related revenue losses for an eligible entity calculated under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the sum of—

(i) any amount received from a covered loan made under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) in 2020 or 2021;

(ii) any amount received as a grant under section 1110 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (15 U.S.C. 9009); and

(iii) any amount received as a grant under section 331 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009b).

(C) PERCENTAGE DETERMINATION.—For the purposes of determining the percentage of pandemic-related revenue loss under this subsection, the percentage shall be equal to—

(i) in the case of an eligible entity for which subparagraph (A)(i) applies, the product obtained by multiplying—

(I) the quotient obtained by dividing the pandemic-related revenue losses for such eligible entity by the gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2019; and

(II) 100;

(ii) in the case of an eligible entity for which subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) applies, the product obtained by multiplying—

(I) the quotient obtained by dividing the pandemic-related revenue losses for such eligible entity by the product obtained by multiplying the average monthly gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2019 by 12; and

(II) 100; and

(iii) in the case of an eligible entity for which clauses (ii)(II) or (iii) applies, an amount based on a formula determined by the Administrator.

(9) PAYROLL COSTS.—The term ''payroll costs'' has the meaning given the term in section 7(a)(36)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(A)), except that such term shall not include—

(A) qualified wages, as defined in section 2301(c) of the CARES Act (26 U.S.C. 3111 note), taken into account in determining the credit allowed under such section 2301; or

(B) premiums taken into account in determining the credit allowed under section 6432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(10) PRIVATE EQUITY FUND.—The term ''private equity fund'' has the meaning given the term in section 225.173(a) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(11) PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANY.—The term ''publicly-traded company'' means an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is an issuer, the securities of which are listed on a national securities exchange under section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f).

(12) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) and includes——

(A) individuals who operate under a sole proprietorship, as an independent contractor, or as an eligible self-employed individual; and

(B) small business concerns described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of section 31(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(b)(2)).

(13) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms ''covered mortgage obligation'', ''covered operations expenditure'', ''covered rent obligation'', ''covered supplier cost'', ''covered utility payment'', and ''covered worker protection expenditure'' have the meanings given, respectively, in section 7A of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636m).

(b) AWARDS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under this Act, the Administrator shall establish a program to be known as the ''Hard Hit Industries Award Program'', under which the Administrator shall make awards to eligible entities that submit an application under paragraph (2).

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) CERTIFICATION.—An eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application for an award under this subsection. In such application, the eligible entity shall make a good faith certification that—

(i) the uncertainty of current economic conditions makes necessary the award request to support the ongoing operations of the eligible entity; and

(ii) the eligible entity has no pending application for and has not received a grant under—

(I) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a); or

(II) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c).

(B) VERIFICATION.—The Administrator shall use tax records or other reliable sources, such as certified accounting statements, with respect to an applicant for an award under this section to determine—

(i) the eligibility of the applicant for that award; and

(ii) the amount of that award to the applicant.

(C) ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall begin accepting applications for an award under this subsection.

(D) PRIORITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall prioritize eligible entities that have experienced significant pandemic-related revenue loss to receive an award under this section as follows:

(I) First priority to eligible entities that experienced a pandemic-related revenue loss of at least 80 percent.

(II) Second priority to eligible entities that experienced a pandemic-related revenue loss of at least 60 percent.

(ii) SMALLER ENTITIES.—Within each category of eligible entities described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (i), the Administrator may prioritize awards to eligible entities with 50 employees or fewer.

(iii) ADDITIONAL PRIORITY.—Within each category of eligible entities described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (i), the Administrator may prioritize awards to eligible entities that did not receive a covered loan made under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) in 2020 or 2021.

(3) AWARD AMOUNT.—

(A) AGGREGATE MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The aggregate maximum amount of awards made to an eligible entity and any affiliated businesses of the eligible entity under this subsection may not exceed $1,000,000.

(B) DETERMINATION OF AWARD AMOUNT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this paragraph, the amount of an award made to an eligible entity under this subsection shall be equal to the pandemic-related revenue loss of the eligible entity.

(ii) RETURN TO TREASURY.—Any amount of an award made under this subsection to an eligible entity described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subsection (a)(8)(A) that is greater than the average annual gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2020 and 2021 shall be returned to the Treasury.

(C) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—After selecting award recipients in accordance with paragraph (2)(D) and before disbursing any awards under this section, if the Administrator determines that the amounts made available under this Act for making awards under this section are insufficient to make awards to each eligible entity that submits an application under paragraph (2) in the amount described under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Administrator may make awards with the available amounts such that the amount of the award that each eligible entity would have otherwise received under those subparagraphs and in accordance with paragraph (2)(D) is reduced by a percentage, except that the Administrator may establish an aggregate maximum amount for awards made under this subparagraph and in accordance with paragraph (2)(D) to ensure that smaller eligible entities receive awards in the amounts provided under those subparagraphs.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—During the covered period, an eligible entity that receives an award under this subsection may use the award for the following expenses incurred as a direct result of, or during, the COVID–19 pandemic:

(A) Payroll costs.

(B) Payments to independent contractors, as reported on Form 1099–MISC, except that each such payment may not exceed $100,000.

(C) Scheduled payments of interest or principal on any covered mortgage obligation (which may not include any prepayment of principal on a covered mortgage obligation).

(D) Payments on any covered rent obligation and common area maintenance charges under a lease agreement.

(E) Covered utility payments.

(F) Maintenance expenses.

(G) Covered worker protection expenditures.

(H) Supplies, including protective equipment and cleaning materials.

(I) Expenses that were within the scope of the normal business practice of the eligible entity before the covered period.

(J) Covered supplier costs.

(K) Covered operational expenses.

(L) Paid sick leave.

(M) Capital expenditures (or expenses required under any Federal, State, or local law) relating to implementing social distancing measures.

(N) Any other essential expenses of the eligible entity, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) RETURNING FUNDS.—If an eligible entity that receives an award under this section fails to use all of the award on or before the last day of the covered period or permanently ceases operations on or before the last day of the covered period, the eligible entity shall return to the Administrator any funds that the eligible entity did not use for the allowable expenses under paragraph (4).

(c) DATA TRANSPARENCY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE.—The Administrator shall—

(1) in carrying out this section, maintain regular communication with applicants and representatives of such applicants, including by—

(A) hosting regularly scheduled information sessions with those persons; and

(B) providing opportunities to those persons to submit and receive answers to questions regarding awards made under this section;

(2) on a weekly basis until the amounts made available under this section are fully expended, publish data that shows, for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the information is published—

(A) with respect to applications for awards under this section, the number of those applications—

(i) that the Administrator has received;

(ii) that the Administrator has reviewed or is in the process of reviewing; and

(iii) with respect to which the Administrator has made a decision; and

(B) the number and dollar amount of payments awarded and disbursed under this section;

(3) on a weekly basis until the amounts made available to carry out this section are fully expended, publish, for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the information is published—

(A) the name and location of each eligible entity to which an award has been made under this section; and

(B) the amount of such award;

(4) with respect to an applicant that applies for an award under this section and is denied by the Administrator—

(A) make available to the applicant a brief explanation regarding the denial which shall include, where applicable, a citation to the statute, regulation, or guidance with which the applicant failed to comply and that was the basis for the denial; and

(B) establish a reconsideration process through which the applicant may—

(i) submit to the Administrator additional information the applicant determines to be relevant to whether the applicant is eligible for the grant; and

(ii) receive a review of the application and such additional information submitted under clause (i).

(d) TAX TREATMENT OF AWARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(A) no award made under this section shall be included in the gross income of the eligible entity that receives an award;

(B) no deduction shall be denied, no tax attribute shall be reduced, and no basis increase shall be denied, by reason of the exclusion from gross income provided by subparagraph (A); and

(C) in the case of a partnership or S corporation that receives an award under this section—

(i) any amount excluded from income by reason of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as tax exempt for purposes of sections 705 and 1366 of such Code; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall prescribe rules for determining a partner's distributive share of any amount described in clause (i) for purposes of section 705 of such Code.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT.—The Administrator may not require any eligible entity that applies for an award under this section to use the System for Award Management (or any successor system) with respect to that award.

(f) APPLICATION PROCESSING.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may, on an emergency basis and in order to expedite the processing and approval of applications for awards under this section, waive the requirements of part 200 of title 2,

Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) with respect to an award made under this section, if—

(1) the Director finds that such a waiver will prevent eligible entities from failing or suffering undue hardship; and

(2) each eligible entity that receives an award under this section is still required to submit to the Administrator ongoing reports regarding the use by the eligible entity of the award amounts.

(g) OVERSIGHT AND AUDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In cooperation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator shall establish an oversight and audit plan with respect to eligible entities receiving awards under this section, which shall include—

(A) documentation requirements that are consistent with the eligibility and other requirements under this section, including a requirement that an eligible entity that receives an award under this section retains records that demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this section; and

(B) reviews of the use, by eligible entities, of awards made under this section to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section, which shall include—

(i) a review and audit by the Administrator of awards made under this section; and

(ii) in the case of fraud or other material noncompliance with respect to an award made under this section—

(I) a requirement that the applicable eligible entity repay to the Administrator the amount of the misspent funds; or

(II) legal action by the Administrator to collect the misspent funds.

(2) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives the plan required under paragraph (1), which shall describe—

(A) the policies and procedures of the Administrator for conducting oversight and audits of awards made under this section; and

(B) the metrics that the Administrator will use to determine which awards made under this section will be audited under that plan.

(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, once every 30 days thereafter until the date that is 180 days after the date on which all amounts made available to carry out this section have been fully expended, and upon request thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the oversight and audit activities of the Administrator under this subsection, which shall include—

(A) the total number of awards approved and disbursed under this section;

(B) the total amount of each award received by each eligible entity;

(C) the number of active investigations and audits of awards made under this section;

(D) the number of completed reviews and audits of awards made under this section, including a description of any findings of fraud or other material noncompliance with the requirements of this section; and

(E) a description of any substantial changes made to the plan required under paragraph (1).

(h) RULES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue rules to carry out this section, without regard to the notice requirements under section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $13,000,000,000, for the Hard Hit Industries Award Program established under this section, to remain available until expended, of which not more than $380,000,000 shall be for administrative expenses to carry out this section, of which—

(1) $2,500,000 shall be for the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse with respect to funding made available for the Hard Hit Industries Award Program;

(2) $2,500,000 shall be for the Department of Justice for investigative and prosecutorial activities related to fraud and abuse, with respect to funding made available for the Hard Hit Industries Award Program; and

(3) $2,500,000 shall be for shall be for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee with respect to funding made available for the Hard Hit Industries Award Program.

SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR THE RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND AND THE HARD HIT INDUSTRIES AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any unobligated covered funds are hereby transferred to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration for purposes of carrying out section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) and the Hard Hit Industries Award Program established under section 3 of this Act.

(b) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered funds''—

(1) means any and all funds recovered, seized, reclaimed, or otherwise returned to the Federal Government received pursuant to—

(A) paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a));

(B) section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), with respect to a loan made under such section in response to COVID–19 during the covered period (as defined in section 1110(a) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009(a)));

(C) section 1110(e) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009(e));

(D) section 331 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009b);

(E) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a);

(F) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c);

(G) section 3 of this Act;

(2) includes any funds that as of December 31, 2022, are unexpended under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c); and

(3) does not include funds paid by person to the Federal Government for the purposes of tax obligations, servicing of loans, or standard payment of fees.

SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.

Section 324(d) of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) TIMING.—

''(A) EXPENSES INCURRED.—Amounts received under a grant under this section may be used for costs incurred during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on March 11, 2023 (or a later date, as determined by the Administrator).

''(B) EXPENDITURE.—An eligible person or entity shall return to the Administrator any amounts received under a grant under this section that are not expended on or before April 15, 2023 (or a later date, as determined by the Administrator), with respect to costs incurred during the period described in subparagraph (A).''.

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

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3807.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3807, the Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022.

This bill will provide $42 billion to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and allocate $13 billion to launch a new industry-neutral relief program for the small businesses most impacted by the pandemic.

Last year, Congress created the RRF under the American Rescue Plan to provide targeted relief to struggling small restaurants. The program delivered emergency aid to over 100,000 employers in communities across the country. This grant was a critical lifeline and allowed businesses to keep their lights on and continue to pay their employees.

Despite the program's success, approximately 177,000 small businesses are still awaiting relief. While these companies are dispersed throughout the country, they are united by a common message: Small firms are still hurting, and they are counting on Congress for more support.

That is why we must act to replenish the RRF and deliver long-awaited aid to hundreds of thousands of restaurants across the country.

H.R. 3807 also takes the crucial step of creating a new $13 billion hard-hit industries award program, which will extend aid to businesses with the greatest revenue losses that were ineligible or unable to access relief through other means. Rather than picking winners and losers, this industry-neutral program makes hard-hit companies the priority.

These programs are offset by utilizing recovered money from fraud cases in the pandemic relief programs. Congress will take the money that was fraudulently obtained and put it in the hands of small businesses that need it the most.

The SBA OIG, the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, and

the Department of Justice are all working aggressively to investigate and prosecute instances of fraud and abuse, and this bill provides them with much-needed support. By allocating $30 million to oversight funding, today's legislation ensures these offices have the resources needed to pursue bad actors and reclaim money Congress intended to help small businesses.

Small employers and entrepreneurs are the backbone of our communities and economies, and they cannot be ignored. Without today's legislation, our local communities risk losing these critical job creators. We simply cannot ignore them in their time of need.

Members on both sides of the aisle have come together numerous times throughout the pandemic to pass legislation to support small firms. Today gives us the opportunity to do that once more.

I urge my colleagues to meet this moment and pass this bill so that these businesses can stop treading water and start looking to the future.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3807, as amended. Here we are today to discuss yet another spending bill that will add to our Nation's debt and deficit and continue to spike inflation; another bill that creates a new government program without regard to the effectiveness or management of existing programs; another bill that has been rushed to the floor without a committee markup or a CBO score.

In fact, the latest draft of this legislation was sent out last Friday night and has been amended since. This is not how we should legislate, Mr. Speaker. We must do a better job for our Nation's small businesses that create two out of every three new jobs in America.

I am sure I am not the only one who has experienced déjà vu by my colleagues' agenda to spend now and think later.

This agenda is not working for Main Street America. The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council conducted a recent poll of small business owners and found that only 5 percent of small business owners report that ''Congress' policies are helping the economy and small businesses like mine.'' Just 5 percent, so that means 95 percent, Mr. Speaker, don't like what is going on.

While we are sitting here in Washington, D.C., deciding whether to spend more money for certain industries, Main Street is experiencing price shocks that have not been felt in over 40 years.

Inflation is burning through our Nation at a rapid pace. From food and shelter to gas and energy, prices in every category of life are increasing exponentially with no end in sight.

The Consumer Price Index stands at 7.9 percent annually, and the producer price index, which is the wholesale price index, is now at 10 percent. That makes short-term inflation look pretty bleak from the standpoint that if the wholesale price index is 10 and the CPI 7.9, we are going to have some more inflation, some high prices. There is no doubt about it.

American families are feeling the pain, Mr. Speaker. Businesses feel this pain. The Nation's smallest firms are suffering. In fact, small business owners are reporting that their number one problem is inflation.

The second most pressing issue for small business is the price of gas. These price shocks hit them every single day.

Today, we are considering injecting more money into the system, which will simply fuel the fire of inflation.

There is no doubt that small businesses suffered from the COVID–19 pandemic and the lockdowns that shut down Main Street. It has been just over 2 years since the CARES Act was signed into law. Since that time, we have spent approximately $6 trillion as a Nation to fight COVID–19.

Small businesses alone have received $1.2 trillion in forgivable loans and other grants. I am proud of the bipartisan relief that Congress provided small businesses throughout this pandemic, including the Paycheck Protection Program, which supported many small businesses, including restaurants, in keeping their businesses afloat and employees on the payroll.

The goal then was to quickly get dollars out the door to support our Nation's job creators during this time of crisis. But now, our Nation as a whole has learned much more about this pandemic. We have learned how to safely go about our lives.

This bill is a disingenuous attempt to posture to small businesses by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. If Democrats were serious about helping restaurants and small businesses, they would have called for an end to the ever-changing mandates and lockdowns that forced so many businesses to close their doors. They would have accepted my amendment during committee to adequately fund this program from the start. They would have considered my bill when it was introduced in July, the ENTREE Act, which responsibly refills the Restaurant Revitalization Program and is fully paid for, which this bill we are here for today is not.

When the government attempts to solve problems without the input of small businesses, they create more problems, Mr. Speaker.

Have my Democrat counterparts on the other side ever asked a small business owner if they are now capable of opening and operating safely?

Have they ever asked them whether they can now unlock their doors, turn on their lights, and protect their workers?

Have they ever asked them if they are able to now welcome customers and community members back into their storefronts carefully?

I have, and the answer from small businesses is a resounding yes.

Small businesses are some of the most innovative and nimble enterprises in America. They can pivot quickly, and most importantly, they can adapt to any situation with speed.

They are the entrepreneurs of our country that drive our country. They can figure out how to slice the bread thinner. They know how to do this. We saw this over the last 2 years.

At this time, small businesses need the freedom to operate independently without Washington watching over them. We must end the COVID economy of government handouts.

Furthermore, this bill creates another new grant program at the SBA. The SBA, in my judgment, is incapable of operating grant programs.

Let's briefly examine how they have performed over the last 2 years, Mr. Speaker. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, known as EIDL, is filled with fraud and identity theft issues. This is per the IG, the inspector general, in his report.

The SBA is a black hole when it comes to answering questions for constituent businesses. We have all had businesses in our district struggle with getting information for the grant application.

Frankly, this direct lending and direct grant program in the SBA has been a disaster with a 30 percent fraud rate. That is the IG report number. Yet, the SBA continues to defer EIDL payments.

The second program was the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. The SVOG was signed into law in December 2020. Disappointingly, and after long delays, the SBA attempted to launch this program in April, 4 months later.

My colleagues and I sent multiple letters to the SBA regarding this delay. The night before it went live, SBA's inspector general sent out a warning signal. He said: SBA, you are not ready to do this. You are not up and running yet.

But did they listen? Of course not. They went ahead anyway, and within hours, the whole program crashed. The program then took 2 more months to launch.

This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. We have to do a better job than this. They have to do a better job than this.

The last program was the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. I would like to remind everyone that this program was woefully underfunded by my Democrat colleagues.

However, more shocking was the fact that congressional Democrats, the Biden administration, and the SBA prioritized certain businesses over others. The RRF program was fundamentally unfair. They picked winners and losers with American taxpayer dollars.

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It was so bad, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals declared this program unconstitutional, Mr. Speaker. They declared the whole program unconstitutional.

The Court's majority opinion stated that the SBA injected explicit racial and ethnic preferences into the priorities.

Enough is enough. If you judge the future by the past, as my dad once said, it is clear the SBA is unable to properly and prudently manage grant programs and safeguard American taxpayer dollars.

Not only does the SBA have a disastrous past of administering grant programs, but any new dollars flowing will add fuel to the inflation fire.

I want to be clear; this bill is supposedly paid for by recovered funds. At best, this is an IOU, Mr. Speaker. It is not a real or immediate offset. I agree that we need to track down and hold fraudsters accountable, and I applaud that process. I support it entirely. But this process takes time, and it is not going to get all those dollars back.

For example, according to testimony provided by SBA's inspector general at a hearing in January, the total recoveries by his office in fiscal year 2021 was $4.2 billion. In the same testimony, and in collaboration with Secret Service, the inspector general reports that they have seized another $1 billion in the EIDL program. And lastly, and, again, according to the IG, financial institutions returned approximately $3.1 billion in fraudulent funding. That is not near enough to cover the $55 billion that this program wants to spend.

Now more than ever, small businesses need to escape the overbearing reach of the Federal Government.

If we want to help small businesses, then we need to stop this out-of-control spending. We should prioritize lowering taxes so small business owners and their workers can keep more of their hard-earned money. We must reduce regulations that bog small businesses down with paperwork and compliance costs.

I would argue that the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is the reason we have the good economy we have today because we continue to allow the business individuals to keep their hard-earned dollars and invest them as they see fit, whereas, if we tax them to death, those dollars come out of the system, and we limit their ability to drive our economy.

We simply need to move on from this COVID economy.

In my judgment, this is an irresponsible bill. I urge my colleagues to oppose it. This is about economic independence.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished House majority leader.

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

And I would respond, this bill is about economic resilience. You can't be independent if you go bankrupt. You can't be independent if you can't operate your business. I have gone into restaurant after restaurant in my district, and the owners of those restaurants have had thanks for me, for the Congress, and, yes, for the administration, including Donald Trump, who signed many of these bills, that at a time of extraordinary stress—through no fault of their own, but a pandemic that attacked all of us—they were able to keep their heads above water, pay their employees, even if they couldn't be open, transfer to carry out, and do so many things that they were able to do to remain viable, which is, by the way, why almost every State has a surplus.

Why? Because revenues did not fall as they were projected to fall. That is true in my State. I think it is true in almost every State.

Why didn't revenues fall? Because we kept people above water.

Now, in this particular program that passed—in many respects with bipartisan support in 2020, December of 2020, as well—there were some 250,000-plus who were eligible under the rules that we drafted and passed but only about 100,000 of them got relief, which means that we left behind 150,000 people who were eligible under the rules that we set.

And now some would say to those that were left behind, You are on your own. That is not what we are going to do today. We are not going to tell them you are on your own. We are going to tell them we understand how important you are to the life of our country, to the economy of our country, to the people of our country.

When we enacted the American Rescue Plan—which I want to make clear did not get any Republican votes—we set aside $28.6 billion in emergency grants to help restaurants and bars that have experienced significant revenue losses due to COVID–19 restrictions.

Those restrictions were necessary, which is why, hopefully, we are coming out of not only the initial assault but the variants' assault.

The aim was to help them stay open to keep their employees on the payroll. I suggest if we had not done that, it wouldn't be independence that they would have experienced, they would have experienced recession and perhaps depression.

That funding quickly ran out, however, with only a third of restaurants that applied for assistance ultimately receiving it.

The legislation before us today would replenish the Small Business Administration's Restaurant Revitalization Fund with an additional $42 billion so that the more than 150,000 restaurants still waiting in the cue can finally get the help they need.

Those applicants have been waiting since funding ran out last year. And according to the Independent Restaurant Coalition, Mr. Speaker, 86 percent of owners indicated that they may close down if they aren't able to access these grants.

More than 90,000 restaurants and bars already have shut down in this pandemic. Think about the impact of that on neighborhoods, communities, and local economies.

Congress should act and act quickly.

I share the view of the gentleman who spoke before me that we need to make sure that we eliminate fraud, we eliminate abuse, and that we claw back money that was received through fraud. All that does is hurt those who really need it. And what this legislation says is we are going to get back that money that was fraudulently received by individuals and give it to people who legitimately need it and qualify, such as restaurants, gyms, health clubs, salons, music venues, and other places where people hope to congregate but couldn't because of necessary pandemic restrictions.

They will get a lifeline as we all hope to get ''back to normal.'' We all want to be back to normal. But we want to be back to normal with businesses that are still alive, still able to serve the public.

Importantly, that lifeline to keep legitimate small businesses afloat is paid for, as I said, by recapturing funds that were earlier disbursed to fraudulent applicants.

We are going after bad actors and rewarding good actors.

While this is an issue important to so many members of our caucus, I thank Representative BLUMENAUER for sponsoring this legislation, as well as Representative PHILLIPS for his championing this cause over the past several months.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and the small businesses that it will help and the millions of employees that it will help.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the majority leader's remarks. I also support trying to help restaurants. That is the reason we are here this morning.

But I do have a bill that is paid for that this one does not do. And I think that the preferences that were allowed that were shown to be unconstitutional is the reason we are here this morning, so we can find a way to fund the rest of those folks, which I think is important for our communities. And I agree, and I appreciate those remarks by the leader.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), the vice ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and a small business champion in his own right.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 2 years since COVID–19 shut down the world and forced businesses to close for months. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Congress has spent—we have already talked about it—$6.6 trillion to help

American businesses get back on track to financial recovery after enduring months of forced government closures.

At that time, aid was critical for businesses to survive the pandemic, but we must now let the free market work and stop frivolously spending billions more in the name of COVID–19.

This attempt by Democrats to spend billions of taxpayer dollars is irresponsible and will only add fuel to the growing inflation crisis that we have. Americans are currently experiencing tough times right now trying to find out how to beat, frankly, the Federal Government.

Inflation and energy prices are the primary concerns for small businesses. And I am a small business owner for 51 years; I still employ hundreds of people. So those are the concerns they have. And more Federal spending is only going to strain businesses further.

It is simple: to lower costs for hardworking families and businessowners, we need to cut spending. We need to cut it, not spend more money that we don't have. When you spend money you print and you spend money you don't have, it is called inflation.

We should be focusing on getting control of the crisis at the southern border, lowering gas prices, managing supply chain disruptions—I am in the car business, so I can talk about that—that are leaving shelves empty and incentivizing people to get back to work, not not work.

In order to get back to the thriving economy we had prepandemic under the Trump administration, Democrats must end this emergency COVID spending charade. Hey, it is over. We are done with it. Let's move on.

And I always get a kick out of people that say they want to protect Main Street. Well, it is funny because a lot of those people wanting to protect Main Street are bureaucrats that never signed the front of a check. They never met a payroll. They have been up here all their lives. But they want to help Main Street. And the fact of the matter is we need to cut taxes. We need to cut regulations.

So if it is so important to help Main Street, why do Democrats and liberals want to raise taxes all the time? That doesn't help Main Street. I want to help Main Street, but I want to raise taxes. That is the wrong way to go about it.

So the bottom line is this: We have a better bill. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3807 and reject Democrats' false claims that this bill is fully paid for. It is fully paid for on the backs of Main Street America. In God we trust.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), the longtime champion of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy, as I appreciate her tireless leadership on this issue. Her committee has performed admirably. I am excited about the wide range of areas that you have enacted to be able to help the recovery that we have seen around the country, one of the reasons that we have had the largest increase in employment this last year in American history. I think what we have today is another chapter in that story.

Over 2 years ago, I received countless late-night texts and phone calls from the independent restaurants in my community. Portland, Oregon is known for its restaurant scene. We set to work listening to them to come up with an approach that would meet their needs. The so-called Paycheck Protection Program was not adequate. They didn't even know if they were going to be in business, let alone paying back a loan.

We developed this grant program after consulting with independent restaurants all across the country. The neighborhood bars and restaurants were the hardest hit since the beginning of the pandemic. They were the first to shut down in March of 2020, and they accounted for a quarter of the job losses; 5½ million workers in April 2020 alone. And they have been the slowest to reopen.

Yes, they can pivot and adapt, but frankly, the unemployment in the industry remains stubbornly slow to recover. Approximately 90,000 restaurants have already closed permanently since the start of the pandemic, and there are a number of others that are just hanging on by their fingertips, encouraged, in part, by the hope of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund being replenished.

□ 0945

Restaurants are the cornerstone of a livable community. They have employed nearly 60 percent of Americans at some point in their career, myself included, and I know a number of people in this Chamber identify with that.

They are a major source of employment for people of color. And they support a trillion-dollar supply chain all across America.

The Federal Government has provided some help to them through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, based on my RESTAURANTS Act that I first introduced in June of 2020.

But the program fell short. It did not have enough money to meet all the applicants. There were 100,000 grants that were life-changing for a number of them, but 177,000 hanging in the balance.

The Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act finishes the job and completes the promise.

This legislation is simple: It funds restaurants that did not receive awards that they were otherwise entitled to; it helps other battered industries, like live events, travel, hospitality, and fitness; and supports shuttered venues. And it will be paid for with the fraudulent pandemic relief funds yet to be recovered.

Now, while the COVID case numbers are low and the American public is ready to move beyond the pandemic, our small, independent restaurants and other businesses have not fully recovered. This is why the legislation is critical.

It is a response to very real challenges, thinking about what they faced in terms of that brittle supply chain; what they faced in terms of changing regulations; the public being deeply concerned in terms of health. It is time for us to finish the job that we started.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. It is time to finish the job that we started. We don't want any ruthless, free-market ideology getting in the way of these hardworking, innovative people who have put their lives and careers on the line investing everything, hoping that they could have the promise of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund fulfilled. This legislation does that, and I strongly urge its adoption.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what ruthless, idiotic ideology the gentleman was just talking about, but I think capitalism is a pretty good ideology with which to generate the kind of activity it takes to make an economy go. I think we saw the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 has done that job.

Whenever they talk about the largest increase in employment history, it is pretty easy to have a low bar when you start talking about where we were in the pandemic. The bar you should be talking about is where we were prior to the pandemic, and we are still below that number.

Mr. Speaker, it is exciting for me this morning to be able to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), who is the ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for the great work that he does for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak to small businesses throughout my district, they tell me that they are fraught by skyrocketing inflation, rising energy costs, workforce shortages, burdensome regulations, just regular hassles coming from the type of regulations that have been imposed and the type of tax burdens and such.

The Biden administration continues, however, to push a policy agenda that is absolutely detrimental to small business—there is no question about it—creating additional headwinds such as inflation. Let's talk about inflation.

The excessive and unnecessary spending enacted by Democrats in the last 14 months, exceeding $2 trillion, well over $2 trillion just in the rescue plan, almost $9 trillion over the course of the last couple of years, has obviously contributed to the record levels of inflation; up nearly 8 percent since last

year, just last year alone, the highest level since 1981.

We look back on that as the most historic inflation ever. Well, it is happening now, and yet, we are talking about exacerbating it with higher levels of spending.

Let's talk about energy prices. The Biden administration's blatant and deliberate detrimental policies on domestic energy production has caused prices at the pump to nearly double since last year, making it clearly more difficult for small businesses to get their goods to market; making it more difficult for customers to get to the small businesses.

We must support our domestic energy production and make energy affordable again. It is almost that simple.

Let's talk about the workforce shortages. Disincentives to work, extended by the American Rescue Plan, have made it very difficult for small businesses to recruit and retain workers. We should all know that. Go visit any small business and they will tell you just that.

Sure, it is starting to come back, as it would once those incentives not to work were minimized or eliminated. That is what we need to do, create incentives to work, not discourage work.

Let's talk about tax increases. The persistent threat of increased taxes from Democrats in Congress and the Biden administration send shivers down the spine of small businesses, creates enormous uncertainty, while it makes it difficult for them to plan and invest in their businesses.

Let's talk about regulations. Since taking office 14 months ago, the Biden administration has instituted hundreds of new regulations costing over $200 billion in real terms, and burdening businesses with what has been estimated as 130 million hours of additional paperwork.

Instead of saddling our small businesses with burdensome and costly regulations, we should be trying to actually create an environment that breeds growth and success and allows owners to invest in their business and employees.

The solution to the difficulties that America's small businesses are facing is not to pump $55 billion of new, unpaid spending into the economy. This will exacerbate much of what I just went through.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason just to criticize legislation without a solution. We have a solution, the ENTREE Act, introduced by Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, is fully paid for and delivers $60 billion in aid to America's restaurants who were excluded by the previous Democrats' unconstitutional and discriminatory RRF rollout which was proven illegal.

Unlike the bill we are considering today, the ENTREE Act would replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund by repurposing unused American Rescue Plan dollars and would not further contribute to the hyperinflation that all American small businesses—and our deficit—that all businesses are burdened by today and, again, the highest since nearly 50 years.

So, the real solution is a smart, responsible approach that provides targeted relief without exacerbating the many crises small business owners are facing today.

Every idea, Mr. Speaker, in this Congress cannot be solved by spending billions of dollars more of taxpayer money, as stated earlier, over $10 trillion in excess over the last 2 years. It has got to stop somewhere, sometime.

We need to stop this out-of-control spending, reduce inflation, stop the assault on domestic energy production, lower energy costs, and create a business environment that is friendly to growth, not friendly to a tax, spend, and over-regulatory Big Government.

The solution, again, is not difficult. But it must be definitely not adding another $55 billion of spending. American job creators need to be the most competitive in the world. We need to do what we can do to create an environment for that.

The policies of the Biden administration and far too many Democrats in this House have made life more difficult for small businesses. This must change.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), a member of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent southeast Louisiana in Congress, a region that is rightfully famous for its community, its culture, and its incredible food.

Around 9,000 restaurants in Louisiana applied for the Restaurant Revitalization Act in the American Rescue Plan. Less than 3,000 received funding. It is clear, the need to replenish this legislation is great and must happen.

Today, we will continue to fight for the help of small businesses and families during the pandemic as we pass the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act, providing an additional $60 million for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Louisiana thrives on tourism and hospitality, and the restaurant sector is critical in the State's economy. I am so grateful that this bill now includes provisions that I proposed in the bipartisan MUSIC Act, which would include members of the entertainment industry, like live event companies who have yet to have access to industry-specific economic relief funding.

I am proud to vote ''yes'' today and stand with small businesses that strengthen and enrich our local economies.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 11 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), one of our newest members on the committee.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for giving me such latitude.

$55 billion that we don't have, folks. 42 billion, goes into this new—the reauthorization of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Another $13 billion going to target business owners who have less than 200 employees.

I know that there are restaurant owners and small business owners in the United States who are looking for relief every single day. They are trying to find a way to make ends meet.

How do I know this? Because in the beginning of my career, a lot of what I did was analyze the very business owners who are struggling in today's economy. And in today's economy, they are struggling for a myriad of reasons.

Number one, our energy prices. When the price of oil shoots up so drastically, it impacts transportation; it impacts how they get the material that they sell in their stores every single day.

Wage inflation, which is completely out of control in the United States. When wages go up, the costs of doing business goes up, no matter what any politician on Capitol Hill says.

So throwing more money at this situation, especially money that has never been appropriated; money that is going to come out of thin air, is not going to make matters better for small business owners; it is going to make them worse.

The ranking member on the Small Business Committee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), has a bill, the ENTREE Act, that reauthorizes funds that have already been appropriated to be used to help small business owners who were caught in this lurch; money that they could use. It is paid for.

It will not put more dollars in circulation, which is one of the key issues we are having in our economy with respect to the inflation that is stifling small business. It is stifling working families. It is stifling seniors who are on fixed incomes.

But it is more than just money coming from Capitol Hill. It is the economic policy coming from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

When you have massive amounts of regulations that small business owners must comply with, two things occur: They spend more time devoted to compliance, or they go out of business. Or, I am sorry, there is a third; or they sell to a larger business.

We want small business owners to thrive in the United States. We need them to thrive in the United States. But it is not just money, folks. It is the rules that we force them to comply with.

And the last part—I started with energy; I am going to end with energy.

When energy costs go up in the United States, when they go up recklessly and willfully because of terrible economic and energy policy from the President of the United States, the lifeblood of our economy, which is small business, are the ones who feel it the most. They are the ones who are affected. They are the ones who struggle with it. They are the ones that can't get the materials they need. They are the ones whose workers are struggling to figure out how to get to work because gas is now $4.20 a gallon versus $2.20 a gallon.

We have to take a serious look about what we are doing from a complete economic perspective here on Capitol Hill.

And it is not just about new money. New money sounds good. Everybody likes getting new money. But new money rarely is the thing that fixes the problem. What really fixes the problem are sound policies that address our entire business economy, so that everybody can thrive.

What really makes sense is having a sound and sensible energy policy—where you have cheap and affordable, whether it is renewable, or whether it is fossil fuels—that people can rely on. That is the lifeblood of every economy.

And if we could ever get that stuff right, we might have enough sense on Capitol Hill to actually handle our spending problems.

□ 1000

If we can't get basic economics right, it is no wonder that Capitol Hill always spends far more than it possibly takes in.

We have a measure to actually help small business owners right now. It is called the ENTREE Act. Small business owners will get the help that they need. It will work. It will actually help us stop being reckless with money we don't have, which we, frankly, are borrowing from the revenues that small business owners have to pay in the future that they haven't even earned yet.

Don't pass this bill. It is not necessary. It is only more of the same. It is more of the problem. It is more inflation. It is the destruction of more purchasing power of the American people.

We must say ''no'' today. We need to reverse course in the United States.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), a senior member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to fulfill our commitment to the small businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, like the many in my Los Angeles-area district.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program have been crucial interventions to protect the industries most reliant on in-person, indoor crowds. These were some of the first businesses to close and among the last to return to full capacity.

That is why we must pass this legislation to fund $42 billion in pending restaurant applications, give live venues and theaters more time and flexibility to use their funds, and create a new program for the hardest hit small businesses that still need help to keep their doors open.

This bill would be paid for by going after funds stolen by fraudsters, showing the American public that the U.S. will not tolerate those who use the pandemic to take advantage of small businesses in their most dire time of need.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE), who is the ranking member on the Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations. In that position, she has been leading the way in protecting small businesses.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit, and my amendment affirms this Chamber's commitment to being a proper steward of taxpayer dollars and ensuring the integrity of SBA's programs.

Over 2 years ago, Congress enacted and activated numerous relief programs to rescue the American economy from the COVID–19 State and local shutdown orders that devastated small businesses across the country. Speed was of the essence, and Congress focused on getting dollars out quickly before parts of the economy collapsed.

However, criminal behavior took hold as many illegal applicants entered programs and scammed others to take advantage of this relief. According to the SBA inspector general's estimates, over $80 billion of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program payments and $4.6 billion of the Paycheck Protection Program are potentially fraudulent. These are American taxpayer dollars that are on the line, and they are being misused and stolen.

We must do everything in Congress' power to stop this illegal behavior and ensure that the fraudsters are brought to justice. Our oversight capabilities must be reinforced and strengthened.

As the ranking member of the Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations Subcommittee of the Committee on Small Business, I stand ready to ensure that these programs are adequately built to deter this fraudulent behavior.

However, we must also ensure that law enforcement has the tools at their disposal and enough time to complete the job. We must lengthen the statute of limitations for the loans and grants made during this emergency period and give the SBA's inspector general, the Secret Service, and the Department of Justice the necessary time to launch investigations and complete their process.

Five years is simply not enough, especially when the SBA continues to defer payments on EIDL loans. Therefore, my amendment moves the statute of limitations from 5 years to 10 years to capture, recover, and seize fraudulent dollars within these COVID–19 small business relief programs.

Criminals moved quickly, and they did so at a time when those folks who needed it the most were unable to get these dollars. They took advantage of an unprecedented worldwide epidemic. In due time, our authorities will find them and recover the money that was meant to assist Main Street America during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Our economy is driven by America's small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups, and protecting those relief dollars dedicated to them should be a top priority for all Members of Congress.

This amendment is a simple, commonsense, and necessary fix. I urge my colleagues to support it. It will give the time necessary for law enforcement to recover our American taxpayer dollars.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), a member of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor this bill, which is led by my Ways and Means Committee colleague from Oregon.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund has been a lifeline for small businesses in Philadelphia and across the country. We provided $28 billion to help more than 100,000 restaurants. Unfortunately, the need has been far greater than the initial funding.

This bill would extend the lifeline with another $42 billion to help our neighborhood restaurants and the people they employ as the pandemic continues.

Restaurants are part of our small business backbone that help to keep our communities together and our neighbors employed.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on our side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, restaurants and small businesses are the heart and soul of our communities, but

the pandemic has cost them over $280 billion in sales, and approximately 90,000 were forced to close.

That is why we created the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, a historic investment to increase aid to restaurants and bars hit hardest by the pandemic. The funding has run out, and restaurants are still struggling.

In Connecticut, the restaurants have been one of the hardest hit sectors by the pandemic. Due to high demand, I heard from far too many of my constituents who applied on the very first day the RRF funds were available and were still unable to receive them. We must do more to ensure that small businesses receive the funding they need to survive and continue to serve our communities.

The bill before us does just that by providing $42 billion to replenish the fund and putting $13 billion toward other businesses impacted by the pandemic. This bill is the center of our efforts to help these small businesses survive and thrive.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting in favor of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this measure. This is about economic survival on Main Street. This is about helping our friends and neighbors that have plowed their lifesavings into a small business.

Just a couple of days ago, I got a phone call from Mr. Antonio Cagnolo, who has had a restaurant in my neighborhood for dozens of years. He said: Lou, for 2 years, I have taken every penny that I have to stay in business. I am at the end of my rope. If I don't get help, I am out of business, and I am going to lay off dozens and dozens of workers. Lou, I don't want a handout; I want a hand. I have paid my taxpayer dollars for years and years, and now I want you, the Federal Government, to help me stay alive.

I said: Mr. Cagnolo, we are going to be there for you. We will get you that support.

Folks, today, I ask you to please support this measure. Please help our small businesses on Main Street stay alive.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3807, the Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act.

As you are hearing from my colleagues, the food service industry has been one of the hardest hit throughout this pandemic, with many restaurants temporarily closing their doors or dramatically limiting their capacity during the worst surges but still feeding their community. Far too many are never opening again.

Right now, many more are looking to close their doors permanently if we don't give them help and live up to our commitment to support them through this unprecedented time. We have all heard stories from our districts of small businesses seeking assistance, many of which have been eligible but just can't get the funds.

Like my colleagues, the Coney Island that I have gone to for 35 years is looking at closing. The waitress who worked there for 35 years was in total tears last week because she doesn't know what she is going to do. There are other restaurants throughout my district just needing help.

This legislation provides critical funding that we need to grant to these restaurants in our communities. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise to be grateful to the Honorable NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ and EARL BLUMENAUER for what they have done to bring this bill to the floor.

And still I rise for this job protections bill. This bill will not only protect jobs for restaurants; it also protects jobs in the $1 trillion supply chain. It will protect jobs for those distributors to restaurants. It will protect the jobs for those who transport to the distributors. It protects jobs for the farmers who produce the produce that we have in the restaurants.

There is a right time for all things. This is the right time. This is the right place. We are the right people to do the right thing and protect small businesses and, more importantly, protect the jobs that fuel America, the engines of opportunity.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I am glad to be able to speak on behalf of H.R. 3807, which will deliver more funding to restaurants and small businesses, which really deserve their Representatives to speak up, stand up, and work for them because they desperately need our help. We must deliver on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, and Congressman BLUMENAUER for their tremendous leadership in working so diligently in bringing this bill to the floor.

H.R. 3807 continues Democrats' effort to help our small businesses and restaurants recover from the economic costs of COVID–19. These small businesses are the economic and cultural lifeblood of our communities, so we established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and other support programs, in the American Rescue Plan.

The ARP delivered billions of dollars to help people in businesses make it through this crisis. Almost 600 restaurants and bars in my district alone received more than $212 million to keep their doors open and to support their employees and families.

□ 1015

However, we know that this crisis is still not over, and we must deliver more assistance. We must pass this bill today, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''aye.''

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, every Member of this Chamber has had the privilege of meeting with hard-working small business owners in their districts who overcame incredible challenges to stay open during the pandemic.

The stories that stick with me the most are the ones from family-owned establishments—community staples like Simply Khmer in Lowell and Terra Luna in Lawrence. These businesses accessed relief through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and it helped them keep their doors open and their employees on staff.

But for every Simply Khmer and Terra Luna, there are three or four other restaurants who applied but didn't get the relief they needed because the fund ran out of money. And that has left many businesses hanging on by a thread pleading for help. Passing the Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act will answer those calls for aid.

Madam Speaker, we owe these restaurants and small businesses this legislation. There is simply no reason anyone in Congress should oppose it.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in passing this bill.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has hammered every section of our economy. Small businesses have been hit the hardest; and among small businesses, restaurants have been crushed. An estimated 90,000 restaurants have permanently closed.

These are cornerstones of our communities and the linchpin of our economy. If more restaurants close, then more workers will be out of work, and transitioning to a new job will be a challenge for many of those workers. Now is not the time to abandon small businesses.

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

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3807.

Last month I held a roundtable in my district of small businesses, and their message was loud and clear: the restaurant industry is in a crisis. Small businesses need us to understand and send relief.

We know that this pandemic has disproportionately affected small businesses owned by women and people of color. Our small businesses are the backbone of our communities and local economy. If we are going to come back as a country, we must pass this much-needed legislation. Now is the time to take action.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I would inquire through the Chair if my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close.

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

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

Madam Speaker, we discussed this bill thoroughly this morning, and I think everybody understands that we have a $42 billion section of it that is wanting to help restaurants. I thoroughly support trying to get restaurants back on their feet.

In fact, it has been mentioned a number of times, we have an alternative bill called the ENTREE Act that actually fixed the constitutional problem that existed because the bill as originally structured, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, was incorrectly structured. It prioritized groups over something else and was quite unconstitutional.

It was underfunded. I told everybody at the time that the bill came through committee that was the case. I offered an amendment to try to fix it, and it was defeated. Today, here we are trying to fix a bill that I said wasn't structured right, it was underfunded, and we tried to fix it.

I have a bill to do that. It is paid for. This bill suddenly has no chance because it has never even been in committee yet. We can't get a hearing on it.

Why? Who knows?

We have known for a long time we had this problem. Suddenly, last Friday this particular bill shows up, and now, all of a sudden, we recognize we have a problem. We have said this for a long, long time, 6 months or more already.

Number two, we have a second part of this which hasn't been discussed very much this morning, which are the hardest-hit industries. We have $13 billion there. I can guarantee you, Madam Speaker, this isn't going to come close to fixing that problem. If you open this up to every single business that has been hard hit, we are going to wind up being back here—which is fine—but I am just telling you right now this is not going to fix it.

I think one of the comments made earlier was that this bill is about economic resilience. I think our businesses are resilient. That is why our economy has continued to bounce back. But it is not going to be resilient if we strangle it with higher inflation, pouring more money into this, higher energy prices, and more regulation.

This is about freeing up the entrepreneurial spirit of our people and our small businesses that drive this country, taking those burdens off, lowering inflation, quit spending money we don't have, and give them the support they need instead of choking them off with all these other sorts of things.

We have a bill before us that can fix this if we allow it to come up. But we are not doing it this morning. Instead, we have a bill that is poorly structured again. I guarantee you, Madam Speaker, it is not funded correctly either. We are trying to find a way to claw back money which we don't even know for sure if we can. We have got some so far, but we don't have enough.

So where is the rest of it going to come from?

It is going to be printed. That is not how we should operate as a Congress. That is not what the American people expect of us. They deserve better than this.

Madam Speaker, let me just close by saying that enough is enough.

Whenever we don't let alternatives be heard, to be able to hear the voice of the minority and to be able to be heard, then we don't have a bipartisan atmosphere that this body should be operating under.

When you have one-party rule and you throw bills on the floor without going through proper order, this is what you get—another bill that is poorly structured, that is not going to have a chance in the Senate because nobody has worked together to find a way to solve a problem which we all recognize exists.

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

By the way, to my friend across the aisle, I concur. I am eager for a return to regular order, and I hope we work towards that.

I want to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, the extraordinary staff of the Small Business Committee, my staff, and so many in the Capitol complex who have brought us to this day; Representatives BLUMENAUER and QUIGLEY; my good friend, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, from across the aisle, and so many others. In fact, 300 Democrats and Republicans are on bills right now to replenish the RRF, and I want to thank them all for getting us here today.

I am a small business owner myself. I have been listening to this debate with open ears and open eyes, a long business career, now I own a couple coffee shops. I used to have three, but we had to close one during the pandemic.

I know how hard it is, how hard it has been, and how hard it will be. But we didn't take PPP. We didn't take an IDA loan. We didn't take any of the government support programs. That is why I am here to advocate for the 177,000—177,000—small restaurants and cafes and millions of owners, operators, and employees all around the country in my district and yours who were approved for RRF funds and have been waiting for almost a full year for us to make good on a very simple promise.

I want to thank the thousands of other small entrepreneurs and enterprises in the fitness, live events, hospitality, and other hard-hit sectors who have been waiting so patiently—but desperately—for support.

A singular principle has guided me in this 8-month journey to get to today to see this bill become law, and it is the universal and core American principle of fairness.

We promised American entrepreneurs during the worst of COVID that we would be there for them. We promised that those who required financial support to survive that we would distribute it on a level playing field. We promised that there would be no program just for the wealthy or the well-connected, and we promised them that their government, the United States of America, would not pick winners and losers. It is a theme I hear constantly from my friends across the aisle, and I agree with it.

But lo and behold, what did we do?

We did just that. We picked winners and losers by woefully underfunding the RRF and all but ignoring other small businesses dependent on public gathering that were ravaged by the pandemic. Most of the 100,000 restaurants and cafes that received support weathered the storm because of that support. They kept their lights on and their people paid, and they are now returning to viability. I think we can all agree on that. But 177,000 restaurants and cafes, often next door to or across the street from those who received RRF support, got nothing. One restaurant on one side of the street got full support, and the other one applied, was approved, and got nothing. This is patently and grossly unfair.

Actually, let me correct myself. I shouldn't say they got nothing.

Do you know what they got?

They got nonforgivable bank loans. They took on credit card debt. They mortgaged their homes. Many lost

hope and closed their doors. And, yes, a number took their own lives. They lost hope and took their own lives. I have sat around tables with tears hearing those stories about how their debts mounted and their dreams slipped away.

So to my friends across the aisle who plan to vote against this measure, particularly those whose own businesses were recipients of COVID aid that was passed in this Chamber, I ask a very simple question: How would you feel if you and your business were among the 177,000 that got nothing?

How would you feel?

And was it not wasteful spending or inflationary spending when you took the money?

My goodness. Today, we have got one last opportunity. I do believe it is the last opportunity to make good on a very simple promise that we made at the outset of this pandemic. Best of all, we are going to convert the moneys recovered from the prosecution of fraud into fairness. That is right, from fraud to fairness. The money that was fraudulently obtained is rightfully supposed to go to those whom we hope to benefit if we pass this bill today.

Now, we may not always agree on policy. But, my goodness, I would like to think that Democrats and Republicans in the United States Congress can agree on the basic principle of fairness.

That is why I will not urge; rather, I will ask, that my colleagues vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3807, to vote ''yes'' for American small businesses, and to vote ''yes'' for fairness.

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, in my hometown of San Francisco, and in so many places across the country, small businesses are the heart of our communities.

They are the engines of our economy: creating good-paying jobs, delivering crucial goods and services, and helping power our historic economic recovery from the pandemic.

But tragically, when the virus struck two years ago, our small businesses—and especially our restaurants—were among the hardest hit.

Many were forced to scale back hours. Others had to lay off workers. And some even closed their doors for good.

That is why Democrats fought for and won billions in economic relief for our small businesses in COVID relief bills. In our historic American Rescue Plan, we established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund: a vital lifeline helping more than 100,000 restaurants reopen and rehire.

And today, the Democratic Congress will take another strong step to help our small businesses not only survive—but thrive.

With our Relief for Restaurants and Other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act, we deliver urgently needed relief to tens of thousands of businesses struggling in the wake of the latest COVID wave.

We salute Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ of the House Small Business Committee for her leadership and legislative mastery for the benefit of small businesses.

And let us thank Congressmen EARL BLUMENAUER and DEAN PHILLIPS for their tireless, committed leadership on behalf of our nations' restaurants and small businesses.

While small businesses have been on the path to recovery from the COVID crisis, the omicron variant sadly interrupted this progress. Now, many hard-hit businesses are in need of additional support.

Our bill delivers $42 billion to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund: offering a beacon of hope for the more than 170,000 eligible restaurants that applied for RRF funding last year but could not access this relief due to oversubscription.

We will also secure $13 billion to support many of our nation's smallest businesses who saw major revenue losses due to the pandemic.

And we will continue to support the live entertainment venues that bring rich vibrancy, culture and diversity to our communities: ensuring they have more flexibility to best make use of their relief funding.

Delivering desperately needed relief for America's small businesses—the heart and soul of our nation—is an urgent economic imperative.

In doing so, we:

protect good-paying American jobs;

secure the livelihoods of hard-working small business owners; and

ensure families get goods they need, without added costs of delays.

I urge a strong, bipartisan ''aye'' vote for this relief package—so that our small businesses can continue to flourish and to serve our communities for generations to come.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3807, the ''Relief for Restaurants and Other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022,'' which provides $70.6 billion in FY2022 for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this Congress is reconsidering this critical piece of legislation for America's restaurant owners. The American Rescue Plan made great progress in providing the funding in an equitable manner, prioritizing women, veteran, and economically and socially disadvantaged restaurant owners. In addition, the majority of funds were reserved for restaurants whose gross receipts were no more than $1,500,000 dollars.

It is essential to promote equity through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Madam Speaker, considering that only 8 percent of restaurants are owned by blacks and 23.8 percent Asian owned businesses are restaurants. As legislators we must do everything we can to ensure their survival.

Unfortunately, the funds appropriated from last year's lifeline did not reach enough of those businesses the Administration prioritized. Due to the efforts of Republican motivated court challenges, the prioritization program was ended just three weeks after it was enacted.

Records reviewed by The New York Times show that hundreds of the 24,000 grants made after the rule change went to applicants who were supposed to have been bumped to the end of the line. During that same period, the agency canceled at least 3,000 already-approved awards.

Additionally, more than 1,000 successful applicants filed their claims on or after May 19, the day after the agency said the fund had effectively run dry.

Countless black owned, veteran owned, and women owned restaurants were shuttered because of this heartless rule change, so it is essential we approve this new appropriation.

To further underscore the personal importance this funding holds to me, I would like to mention a widely loved black owned, and historic Third Ward restaurant: Cream Burger.

Cream Burger sits on the corner of Elgin and Scott and has been in operation for 60 years. It is a cash only restaurant that has only had two additions to the menu across the entirety of its existence: chili cheese fries and bacon.

The Greenwood family has been serving the residents of the Third Ward their delicious burgers and homemade ice cream for decades and has no plans of closing any time soon.

The original owners of the restaurant, Verna and Willie Greenwood, opened the restaurant to generate their own income and create generational wealth, which they certainly have done. Ever since their tragic passing, the business is now owned and operated by their daughters, Beverly and Sandra.

Beverly and Sandra hope to pass the business onto the next generation of children so they can, ''see it through. Maybe 100 years,'' Beverly said.

The restaurant sees a range of Third Ward customers every day, from the students at the University of Houston to the cashiers working at the historic Houston Food Mart just down the street.

Cream Burger is iconic in the city of Houston, and I hold it in the highest reverence. It, and so many restaurants like it, is one of those restaurants that would receive funds from this legislation.

It is for that reason Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3807, the ''Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022.'' It will help save so many businesses like the beloved Cream Burger, so I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation as well.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 1033, 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Van Duyne moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3807 to the Committee on Small Business.

The material previously referred to by Ms. VAN DUYNE is as follows:

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN COVID–19 PROGRAMS.

(a) PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(W) STATUTE OF LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal charge or civil enforcement action alleging that a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a covered loan guaranteed under this paragraph shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

(b) PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM SECOND DRAW LOANS.—Section 7(a)(37) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(37)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(P) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal charge or civil enforcement action alleging that a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a covered loan guaranteed under this paragraph shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

(c) CERTAIN ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (15) the following new paragraph:

''(16) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal charge or civil enforcement action alleging that a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a loan made under this subsection in response to COVID–19 during the covered period (as defined in section 1110(a) of the CARES Act) shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

(d) EIDL ADVANCES.—Section 1110(e) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal charge or civil enforcement action alleging that a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to the use of an advance received under this subsection shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

(e) TARGETED EIDL ADVANCES.—Section 331 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal charge or civil enforcement action alleging that a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to the use of any amount received pursuant to this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. 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 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 3807, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 219, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 122]

YEAS—205

Aderholt
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Zeldin

NAYS—219

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

NOT VOTING—5

Allen
Guest
Sherrill
Walberg
Wittman

□ 1119

Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Messrs. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, MCEACHIN, Mses. PINGREE, UNDERWOOD, SCANLON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mses. BROWN of Ohio, DEGETTE, Messrs. RUSH, SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Messrs. PAPPAS, ESPAILLAT, BEYER, and O'HALLERAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. MOOLENAAR, BIGGS, RESCHENTHALER, WILLIAMS of Texas, PERRY, DESJARLAIS, PALMER, JACOBS of New York, and LAMBORN changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the first vote in the series on April 7, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 122.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Bass (Beyer)
Bilirakis (Fleischmann)
Bowman (Evans)
Cárdenas (Soto)
Castro (TX) (Correa)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Clark (MA) (Blunt Rochester)
Cleaver (Blunt Rochester)
Cooper (Correa)
Crawford (Fleischmann)
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
Crist (Soto)
Cuellar (Correa)
Doyle, Michael F. (Evans)
Dunn (Salazar)

Frankel, Lois (Wexton)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Soto)
Gonzalez (OH) (Armstrong)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Gottheimer (Pallone)
Harder (CA) (Correa)
Harshbarger (Kustoff)
Huffman (Stanton)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Joyce (OH) (Garbarino)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore (UT))
Khanna (Correa)
Kilmer (Larsen (WA))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi (Beyer)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Levin (MI) (García (IL))
Long (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Jeffries)
McCaul (Ellzey)
Meeks (Jeffries)
Mfume (Evans)
Newman (García (IL))
Owens (Tenney)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Jeffries)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Roybal-Allard (Pallone)
Ryan (Beyer)
Schiff (Beyer)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Steube (Donalds)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Swalwell (Correa)
Taylor (Jackson)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (SC) (Norman)

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HOYER was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Senate has passed, and we have just had read, the passage of H.R. 7108, which is the Suspending Normal Trading Relations with Russia and Belarus Act. That passed 100 to zero in the United States Senate.

We expect at the end of this series of votes for that bill to be on the floor on suspension. So there will be no break. We will continue to that.

Thereafter, we expect the Suspending Energy Imports From Russia Act, which we voted on overwhelmingly, to be sent to us. That is currently 79 to zero in the United States Senate.

We are going to pass both of those bills in this House as soon as we get them, and it is my expectation that will complete the business for this week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. 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.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 203, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 123]

YEAS—223

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

NAYS—203

Aderholt
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Allen
Baird
Guest
Wittman

□ 1201

Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, on April 7, 2022, I missed the vote on H.R. 3807 due to a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3807, rollcall No. 123.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Bass (Beyer)
Bilirakis (Fleischmann)
Bowman (Evans)
Cárdenas (Soto)
Castro (TX) (Correa)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Clark (MA) (Blunt Rochester)
Cleaver (Blunt Rochester)
Cooper (Correa)
Crawford (Fleischmann)
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
Crist (Soto)
Cuellar (Correa)
Doyle, Michael F. (Evans)
Dunn (Salazar)
Frankel, Lois (Wexton)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Soto)
Gonzalez (OH) (Armstrong)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Gottheimer (Pallone)
Harder (CA) (Correa)
Harshbarger (Kustoff)
Huffman (Stanton)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Joyce (OH) (Garbarino)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore (UT))
Khanna (Correa)
Kilmer (Larsen (WA))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi (Beyer)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Levin (MI) (García (IL))
Long (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Jeffries)
McCaul (Ellzey)
Meeks (Jeffries)
Mfume (Evans)
Newman (García (IL))
Owens (Tenney)
Payne (Pallone)
Pelosi (Velázquez)
Peters (Jeffries)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Roybal-Allard (Pallone)
Ryan (Beyer)
Schiff (Beyer)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Sires (Pallone)
Steube (Donalds)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Swalwell (Correa)
Taylor (Jackson)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (SC) (Norman)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3113. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for

Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 270. An act to amend the Act entitled ''Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes'' to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2991. An act to establish a Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 3522. An act to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 400) ''An Act to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the ''William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building.''.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

SUSPENDING NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND BELARUS ACT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is committed to ensuring that the WTO remains an effective forum for peaceful economic engagement.

(2) Ukraine is a sovereign nation-state that is entitled to enter into agreements with other sovereign states and to full respect of its territorial integrity.

(3) The United States will be unwavering in its support for a secure, democratic, and sovereign Ukraine, free to choose its own leaders and future.

(4) Ukraine acceded to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement) and has been a WTO member since 2008.

(5) Ukraine's participation in the WTO Agreement creates both rights and obligations vis-à-vis other WTO members.

(6) The Russian Federation acceded to the WTO on August 22, 2012, becoming the 156th WTO member, and the Republic of Belarus has applied to accede to the WTO.

(7) From the date of its accession, the Russian Federation committed to apply fully all provisions of the WTO.

(8) The United States Congress authorized permanent normal trade relations for the Russian Federation through the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–208).

(9) Ukraine communicated to the WTO General Council on March 2, 2022, urging that all WTO members take action against the Russian Federation and ''consider further steps with the view to suspending the Russian Federation's participation in the WTO for its violation of the purpose and principles of this Organization''.

(10) Vladimir Putin, a ruthless dictator, has led the Russian Federation into a war of aggression against Ukraine, which—

(A) denies Ukraine and its people their collective rights to independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

(B) constitutes an emergency in international relations, because it is a situation of armed conflict that threatens the peace and security of all countries, including the United States; and

(C) denies Ukraine its rightful ability to participate in international organizations, including the WTO.

(11) The Republic of Belarus, also led by a ruthless dictator, Aleksander Lukashenka, is providing important material support to the Russian Federation's aggression.

(12) The Russian Federation's exportation of goods in the energy sector is central to its ability to wage its war of aggression on Ukraine.

(13) The United States, along with its allies and partners, has responded to recent aggression by the Russian Federation in Ukraine by imposing sweeping financial sanctions and stringent export controls.

(14) The United States cannot allow the consequences of the Russian Federation's actions to go unaddressed, and must lead fellow countries, in all fora, including the WTO, to impose appropriate consequences for the Russian Federation's aggression.

SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.

(a) NONDISCRIMINATORY TARIFF TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the day after the date of the enactment of this Act, the rates of duty set forth in column 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall apply to all products of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Belarus.

(b) AUTHORITY TO PROCLAIM INCREASED COLUMN 2 RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may proclaim increases in the rates of duty applicable to products of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, above the rates set forth in column 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(2) PRIOR CONSULTATION.—The President shall, not later than 5 calendar days before issuing any proclamation under paragraph (1), consult with the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate regarding the basis for and anticipated impact of the proposed increases to rates of duty described in paragraph (1).

(3) TERMINATION.—The authority to issue proclamations under this subsection shall terminate on January 1, 2024.

SEC. 4. RESUMPTION OF APPLICATION OF HTS COLUMN 1 RATES OF DUTY AND RESTORATION OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.

(a) TEMPORARY APPLICATION OF HTS COLUMN 1 RATES OF DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including the application of column 2 rates of duty under section 3), the President is authorized to temporarily resume, for one or more periods not to exceed 1 year each, the application of the rates of duty set forth in column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to the products of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or both, if the President submits to Congress with respect to either or both such countries a certification under subsection (c) for each such period. Such action shall take effect beginning on the date that is 90 calendar days after the date of submission of such certification for such period, unless there is enacted into law during such 90-day period a joint resolution of disapproval.

(2) CONSULTATION AND REPORT.—The President shall, not later than 45 calendar days before submitting a certification under paragraph (1)—

(A) consult with—

(i) the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) submit to all such committees a report that explains the basis for the determination of the President contained in such certification.

(b) RESTORATION OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to resume the application of the rates of duty set forth in column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to the products of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or both, if the President submits to Congress with respect to either or both such countries a certification under subsection (c). Such action shall take effect beginning on the date that is 90 calendar days after the date of submission of such certification, unless there is enacted into law during such 90-day period a joint resolution of disapproval.

(2) CONSULTATION AND REPORT.—The President shall, not later than 45 calendar days before submitting a certification under paragraph (1)—

(A) consult with—

(i) the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) submit to all such committees a report that explains the basis for the determination of the President contained in such certification.

(3) PRODUCTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.—If the President submits pursuant to paragraph (1) a certification under subsection (c) with respect to the Russian Federation and a joint resolution of disapproval is not enacted during the 90-day period described in that paragraph, the President may grant permanent nondiscriminatory tariff treatment (normal trade relations) to the products of the Russian Federation.

(4) PRODUCTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.—If the President submits pursuant to paragraph (1) a certification under subsection (c) with respect to the Republic of Belarus and a joint resolution of disapproval is not enacted during the 90-day period described in that paragraph, the President may, subject to the provisions of chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), grant nondiscriminatory tariff treatment (normal trade relations) to the products of the Republic of Belarus.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—A certification under this subsection is a certification in writing that—

(1) specifies the action proposed to be taken pursuant to the certification and whether such action is pursuant to subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1) of this section; and

(2) contains a determination of the President that the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (or both)—

(A) has reached an agreement relating to the respective withdrawal of Russian or Belarusian forces (or both, if applicable) and cessation of military hostilities that is accepted by the free and independent government of Ukraine;

(B) poses no immediate military threat of aggression to any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member; and

(C) recognizes the right of the people of Ukraine to independently and freely choose their own government.

(d) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

(1) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''joint resolution of disapproval'' means only a joint resolution—

(A) which does not have a preamble;

(B) the title of which is as follows: ''Joint resolution disapproving the President's certification under section 4(c) of the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act.''; and

(C) the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ''That Congress disapproves the certification of the President under section 4(c) of the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act, submitted to Congress on _____'', the blank space being filled in with the appropriate date.

(2) INTRODUCTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—During a period of 5 legislative days beginning on the date that a certification under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress, a joint resolution of disapproval may be introduced in the House of Representatives by the majority leader or the minority leader.

(3) INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—During a period of 5 days on which the Senate is in session beginning on the date that a certification under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress, a joint resolution of disapproval may be introduced in the Senate by the majority leader (or the majority leader's designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader's designee).

(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If a committee of the House to which a joint resolution of disapproval has been referred has not reported such joint resolution within 10 legislative days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereof.

(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which a joint resolution of disapproval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution with regard to the same certification. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(C) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

(5) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of disapproval introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Finance.

(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Finance has not reported such joint resolution of disapproval within 10 days on which the Senate is in session after the date of referral of such joint resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(C) MOTION TO PROCEED.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Finance reports the joint resolution of disapproval to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) shall be waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution of disapproval is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(D) DEBATE.—Debate on the joint resolution of disapproval, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution of disapproval is not in order.

(E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the joint resolution of disapproval and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

(F) RULES OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to the joint resolution of disapproval shall be decided without debate.

(G) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to the joint resolution of disapproval, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such joint resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(6) PROCEDURES IN THE SENATE.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the following procedures shall apply in the Senate to a joint resolution of disapproval to which this subsection applies:

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a joint resolution of disapproval that has passed the House of Representatives shall, when received in the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Finance for consideration in accordance with this subsection.

(B) If a joint resolution of disapproval to which this subsection applies was introduced in the Senate before receipt of a joint resolution of disapproval that has passed the House of Representatives, the joint resolution from the House of Representatives shall, when received in the Senate, be placed on the calendar. If this subparagraph applies, the procedures in the Senate with respect to a joint resolution of disapproval introduced in the Senate that contains the identical matter as the joint resolution of disapproval that passed the House of Representatives shall be the same as if no joint resolution of disapproval had been received from the House of Representatives, except that the vote on passage in the Senate shall be on the joint resolution of disapproval that passed the House of Representatives.

(7) RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of legislation described in those sections, and supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION.

The United States Trade Representative shall use the voice and influence of the United States at the WTO to—

(1) condemn the recent aggression in Ukraine;

(2) encourage other WTO members to suspend trade concessions to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;

(3) consider further steps with the view to suspend the Russian Federation's participation in the WTO; and

(4) seek to halt the accession process of the Republic of Belarus at the WTO and cease accession-related work.

SEC. 6. REAUTHORIZATION OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1265 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2(b) and in title XII of division A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) are each amended by striking the items relating to section 1265.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am relieved that the Senate has sent this measure back to

us after the House initially advanced the legislation a month ago. We are now considering this important legislation to suspend normal trade relations with Russia.

The facts, the atrocities, and the emotions are all packaged in the American and Congressional response in the coming moments. We will shortly consider this amendment to H.R. 6968 which will suspend Russian oil imports so that both measures may go directly to the President's desk.

We have no time to waste and must immediately further punish Vladimir Putin.

What we have witnessed in Bucha over the course of the last 72 hours alone more than justifies the positions we have taken in the past and to be even more assertive and aggressive going to the future. Innocent people are being slaughtered on the streets of Ukraine even as we meet, and the denial that has taken place from the Russian President is outrageous.

These atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine are unthinkable. The disinformation and the misinformation that has been generated from Russia defies modern logic. But in this modern era, the world can see the devastation in near real time.

President Zelenskyy is an inspiration to the world. People have been bombed out of residential neighborhoods, and refugees have been streaming across the borders to safety. There has occurred indiscriminate killings of civilians and of innocent children. Congress must do whatever we can to end this brutality and support the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. BRADY for his partnership in advancing this legislation to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and its enabler, Belarus.

The legislation to ban the import of Russian energy makes enormous sense today. These actions will further isolate Putin and inflict greater pressure on the Kremlin to end its campaign of terror on Ukraine—and that is exactly what it is: a campaign of terror.

We stand with NATO committed to democracy and to peace on the European continent.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation I know will receive broad support from our colleagues, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has finally taken action, and now we move forward on our bill to answer President Zelenskyy's passionate plea to the United States and all free nations to stand with the brave people of Ukraine against Putin's deadly ambitions and heartbreaking genocide.

Putin's onslaught has been relentless. Beautiful town squares have been leveled, children have been killed, and families have been abused. The bill we sent to the President today will stop American dollars from funding Russia's bloodletting.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are leading, and I thank Chairman NEAL for his great leadership and his work on this bipartisan provision to suspend Russia's special trade status.

I was proud to have helped lead this bipartisan effort of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. Both parties in Congress came together and worked in good faith on a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to immediately ban purchases of Russian energy and suspend our trading relationship with Russia and Belarus.

We don't take these steps lightly, but Russia's aggression requires this approach. Russia will no longer enjoy the same special trade status with America as the country it is invading so that it will no longer be able to sell made-in-Russia products into the United States at lower tariffs.

Combined with the energy import ban which targets 60 percent of what Russia sells us, this provision targets the remaining 40 percent, hurting Russia's economy and cutting off funding for its war effort. Said another way, American dollars will no longer fund Russia's war machine. This is another step in the right direction and includes further incentives for Russia to end its aggression.

This bill, by the way, includes tough but clear conditions to be met for restoring Russia's trade status—the same conditions as we are requiring to reverse the import ban on Russian energy products.

Going forward, we must continue to work closely with our allies to increase pressure on Russia and ensure this is an effective, global effort.

Neighboring Canada has also taken serious action to do both of these, and other nations have announced their intentions to do the same.

Finally, I am glad this bill no longer includes controversial changes to the Global Magnitsky Act sanctions authority. Instead, this bill merely includes a straight extension of the current Global Magnitsky authority.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that the Senate shared our concerns and removed that provision, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of the gentlemen for their bipartisan effort on this bill.

Six weeks ago today Putin began his bloody aggression in Ukraine. The next morning Representative BLUMENAUER and I introduced legislation to revoke normal trade relations with Russia and expel it from the World Trade Organization.

On March 9, this House overwhelmingly approved action on the World Trade Organization but deferred the PNTR provision and added the important Magnitsky provisions—which the Senate has weakened today in this legislation—and a ban on Russian energy. Thereafter, on March 17, the House approved overwhelmingly again the PNTR provisions.

It has taken 6 long weeks to approve this first economic sanctions legislation, but today it is finally done. We know that it will not immediately end the funding of the Putin war machine, but it is a step in the right direction.

Let us hope that the administration will move forward more expeditiously on getting Ukrainians every weapon they need to defend themselves and that it will move faster than this bill did.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), who is the Republican leader of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6968.

I think it has been well-laid out here that we could have done this some weeks ago on March 9 when the bill originally passed. It is regrettable that Speaker PELOSI chose to try to add some controversial provisions that actually slowed it down.

It is high time that we come together in an action like this.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to say that as the lead Republican on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, I support this, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

This bill has overwhelming support. It is time to act now.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's position was well-stated. I think this legislation is powerful in terms of the message it sends to the world. It reinforces what we have done here over the course of the last 6 weeks.

The House has been consistent on all of these measures from day one. I would ask that there be a very strong and assertive vote today to send a message to a dictator in Russia who is killing innocent women and children in the streets of Ukraine, and at the moment he appears to be still unrestrained.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 7108.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

□ 1215

SUSPENDING ENERGY IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA ACT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be known as the ''Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF ENERGY PRODUCTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

All products of the Russian Federation classified under chapter 27 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be banned from importation into the United States, in a manner consistent with any implementation actions issued under Executive Order 14066 (87 Fed. Reg. 13625; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine).

SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF ENERGY PRODUCTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to terminate the prohibition on importation of energy products of the Russian Federation under section 2 if the President submits to Congress a certification under subsection (c). Such termination shall take effect beginning on the date that is 90 calendar days after the date of submission of such certification, unless there is enacted into law during such 90-day period a joint resolution of disapproval.

(b) CONSULTATION AND REPORT.—The President shall, not later than 45 calendar days before submitting a certification under subsection (a)—

(1) consult with—

(A) the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) submit to all such committees a report that explains the basis for the determination of the President contained in such certification.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—A certification under this subsection is a certification in writing that—

(1) indicates that the President proposes to terminate under subsection (a) the prohibition under section 2; and

(2) contains a determination of the President that the Russian Federation—

(A) has reached an agreement to withdraw Russian forces and for the cessation of military hostilities that is accepted by the free and independent government of Ukraine;

(B) poses no immediate military threat of aggression to any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member; and

(C) recognizes the right of the people of Ukraine to independently and freely choose their own government.

(d) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

(1) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''joint resolution of disapproval'' means only a joint resolution—

(A) that does not have a preamble;

(B) the title of which is as follows: ''Joint resolution disapproving the President's certification under section 3(c) of the Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act.''; and

(C) the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ''That Congress disapproves the certification of the President under section 3(c) of the Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act, submitted to Congress on _____'', the blank space being filled in with the appropriate date.

(2) INTRODUCTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—During a period of 5 legislative days beginning on the date that a certification under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress, a joint resolution of disapproval may be introduced in the House of Representatives by the majority leader or the minority leader.

(3) INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—During a period of 5 days on which the Senate is in session beginning on the date that a certification under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress, a joint resolution of disapproval may be introduced in the Senate by the majority leader (or the majority leader's designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader's designee).

(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If a committee of the House to which a joint resolution of disapproval has been referred has not reported such joint resolution within 10 legislative days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereof.

(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which a joint resolution of disapproval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution with regard to the same certification. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(C) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

(5) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of disapproval introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Finance.

(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Finance has not reported such joint resolution of disapproval within 10 days on which the Senate is in session after the date of referral of such joint resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(C) MOTION TO PROCEED.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Finance reports the joint resolution of disapproval to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) shall be waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution of disapproval is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(D) DEBATE.—Debate on the joint resolution of disapproval, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution of disapproval is not in order.

(E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the joint resolution of disapproval and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

(F) RULES OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to the joint resolution of disapproval shall be decided without debate.

(G) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to the joint resolution of disapproval, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such joint resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(6) PROCEDURES IN THE SENATE.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the following procedures shall apply in the Senate to a joint resolution of disapproval:

(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a joint resolution of disapproval that has passed the House of Representatives shall, when received in the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Finance for consideration in accordance with this subsection.

(B) If a joint resolution of disapproval was introduced in the Senate before receipt of a joint resolution of disapproval that has passed the House of Representatives, the joint resolution from the House of Representatives shall, when received in the Senate, be placed on the calendar. If this subparagraph applies, the procedures in the Senate with respect to a joint resolution of disapproval introduced in the Senate that contains the identical matter as the joint resolution of disapproval that passed the House of Representatives shall be the same as if no joint resolution of disapproval had been received from the House of Representatives, except that the vote on passage in the Senate shall be on the joint resolution of disapproval that passed the House of Representatives.

(7) RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution of disapproval, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think that what we are doing here is to certainly reassert ourselves on what the Senate has done, which the House did originally. I strongly support the House taking swift action to concur in the Senate amendment before us so that the legislation to suspend energy imports from Russia that we passed a month ago now can move to the President's desk.

We have no time to waste, as Mr. BRADY and I have both indicated. We must immediately move to further punish Vladimir Putin, a ruthless dictator hell-bent on destroying an independent nation that he purports to suggest doesn't really exist. That will come as a vast surprise to the civilized nations of the world.

Congress must do what we can to end this brutality and continue to support the Ukrainian people.

I thank KEVIN BRADY for his partnership in advancing this legislation to ban the import of Russian energy, as well as our intent here to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and its enabler, Belarus.

These actions will further isolate Putin and his regime, and inflict greater pressure on the Kremlin, to end this campaign of terror.

I know this legislation will receive broad support from our colleagues.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join with Chairman NEAL in urging the House to take the final legislative step to ending the flow of American dollars toward Russian oil that acts as a treasury for Russia's war machine.

Soon, President Biden will have on his desk a bill that demonstrates we stand with the people of Ukraine.

As Chairman NEAL pointed out, the Ukrainian people have been waiting. The action we take today is long overdue but just as necessary.

Since we first debated this bill, the horrors of Putin's war in Ukraine have been on display for the world to see. Today, we will make sure American dollars will no longer fund Russia's war machine by blocking all Russian energy imports.

The bill also strengthens the sanctions by ensuring that before the ban can be lifted, Russia must meet three clear criteria: withdraws its forces from Ukraine; poses no immediate military threat of aggression to NATO; and recognizes the right of the people of Ukraine to independently and freely choose their own government.

This is an important, bipartisan victory. There is still more we can do and should do.

We should turn toward unleashing America's own ability to be energy independent, replace Russian oil with American sources, and use our energy strengths to wean the world from Russian energy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), the Republican leader of the Subcommittee on Trade.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity that we can work together. I appreciate the comments of the chairman and our ranking member.

It is only appropriate that we move to use the key trade tools at our disposal to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for these atrocities that he has committed against Ukraine because we know it is being felt around the world, in addition to what the people of Ukraine are feeling.

I am glad that we can act in this manner. I wish we would have done it sooner, but I am glad we can act today.

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

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this great bipartisan work from the House. I thank Chairman NEAL and the Ways and Means Democrats for working together with us and the Senate Finance Committee. I urge strong passage in the House.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge Mr. BRADY and the Republican Members of the House who have stood with Democrats in an unyielding position of support for the Ukrainian people. On this occasion, we send another message that civilized people of the world are all Ukrainians at this moment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 6968.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following:

Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7108; and

Concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 6968.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SUSPENDING NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND BELARUS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 3, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

YEAS—420

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann

Fletcher
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Gaetz
Greene (GA)
Massie

NOT VOTING—7

Allen
Ferguson
Gibbs
Guest
Higgins (LA)
Waltz
Wittman

□ 1257

Messrs. SCHWEIKERT, CONNOLLY, and SMUCKER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Bucshon)
Barr (Guthrie)
Bass (Beyer)
Bilirakis (Fleischmann)
Bishop (GA) (Thompson (MS))
Blunt Rochester (Williams (GA))
Boebert (Cammack)
Bowman (Evans)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Cárdenas (Soto)
Castro (TX) (Correa)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Clark (MA) (Williams (GA))
Cleaver (Williams (GA))
Cooper (Correa)
Crawford (Fleischmann)
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
Crist (Soto)
Cuellar (Correa)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Deutch (Rice (NY))
Doyle, Michael F. (Evans)
Dunn (Salazar)
Frankel, Lois (Wexton)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Soto)
Gonzalez (OH) (Armstrong)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Gottheimer (Pallone)
Granger (Ellzey)
Harder (CA) (Correa)
Harshbarger (Kustoff)
Higgins (NY) (García (IL))
Huffman (Stanton)
Jackson (Babin)
Jackson Lee (Cicilline)
Jacobs (NY) (Tenney)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Joyce (OH) (Garbarino)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore (UT))
Khanna (Correa)
Kilmer (Larsen (WA))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi (Beyer)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Letlow (Moore (UT))
Levin (MI) (García (IL))
Long (Fleischmann)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Jeffries)
McCaul (Ellzey)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meeks (Jeffries)
Mfume (Evans)
Newman (García (IL))
Norcross (Pallone)
Norman (Babin)
Owens (Tenney)
Payne (Pallone)
Pelosi (Velázquez)
Peters (Jeffries)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Roybal-Allard (Pallone)
Ryan (Beyer)
Schiff (Beyer)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sessions (Babin)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Simpson (Fleischmann)
Sires (Pallone)
Stansbury (García (IL))
Steube (Donalds)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Swalwell (Correa)
Taylor (Babin)
Thompson (PA) (Reschenthaler)
Tiffany (Fitzgerald)
Van Duyne (Bice (OK))
Wagner (Guthrie)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (SC) (Rice (SC))

SUSPENDING ENERGY IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 9, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—413

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney

Moore (AL)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—9

Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Bush
Gaetz
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Massie
Omar
Roy

NOT VOTING—8

Allen
Burgess
Ferguson
Guest
Higgins (LA)
Moore (UT)
Rodgers (WA)
Wittman

□ 1309

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 122, "nay" on rollcall No. 123, "yea" on rollcall No. 124, and "yea" on rollcall No. 125.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Bucshon)
Barr (Guthrie)
Bass (Beyer)
Bilirakis (Fleischmann)
Bishop (GA) (Thompson (MS))
Blunt Rochester (Williams (GA))
Boebert (Cammack)
Bowman (Evans)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Cárdenas (Soto)
Castro (TX) (Correa)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Clark (MA) (Williams (GA))
Cleaver (Williams (GA))
Cooper (Correa)
Crawford (Fleischmann)
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
Crist (Soto)
Cuellar (Correa)
Curtis (Moore (UT))
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Deutch (Rice (NY))
Doggett (Beyer)
Doyle, Michael F. (Evans)
Dunn (Salazar)
Frankel, Lois (Wexton)
Gibbs (Carey)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Soto)
Gonzalez (OH) (Armstrong)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Gottheimer (Pallone)
Granger (Ellzey)
Harder (CA) (Correa)
Harshbarger (Kustoff)
Higgins (NY) (García (IL))
Huffman (Stanton)
Jackson (Babin)
Jackson Lee (Cicilline)
Jacobs (NY) (Tenney)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Joyce (OH) (Garbarino)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore (UT))
Khanna (Correa)
Kilmer (Larsen (WA))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi (Beyer)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Letlow (Moore (UT))
Levin (MI) (García (IL))
Long (Fleischmann)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Jeffries)
McCaul (Ellzey)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meeks (Jeffries)
Mfume (Evans)
Newman (García (IL))
Norcross (Pallone)
Norman (Babin)
Owens (Tenney)
Payne (Pallone)
Pelosi (Velázquez)
Peters (Jeffries)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Roybal-Allard (Pallone)
Ryan (Beyer)
Schiff (Beyer)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sessions (Babin)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Simpson (Fleischmann)
Sires (Pallone)
Stansbury (García (IL))
Steube (Donalds)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Swalwell (Correa)
Taylor (Babin)
Thompson (PA) (Reschenthaler)
Tiffany (Fitzgerald)
Van Duyne (Bice (OK))
Wagner (Guthrie)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (SC) (Rice (SC))

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1297

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1297, the Air America Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1315

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, this is an important week for the future of American diplomacy, especially as it relates to cybersecurity. An open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet is foundational to U.S. foreign policy and national security in the 21st century, but this vision for the global digital ecosystem faces greater challenges than ever before.

Cybersecurity absolutely must become a core foreign policy priority of the United States and, this week, we have taken a major step forward in that regard.

On Monday, the Department of State formally launched the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy. On the international stage, this bureau will lead U.S. efforts to uphold standards of responsible state behavior in cyberspace, shape digital standards that govern new technologies, and protect digital freedoms around the world. I congratulate Secretary Blinken and Deputy Secretary Sherman on this significant accomplishment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this new bureau receives the funding it needs to accomplish its critical mission. And beyond that, I also look forward to enshrining this new bureau in statute through the Cyber Diplomacy Act, a bipartisan bill, which will ensure its long-term viability and the preservation of cybersecurity as a key foreign policy priority for the coming decades.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BILL RAMSAUR

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of a true patriot, Bill Ramsaur.

A native of Atlanta, Bill attended Baylor University in 1959 and graduated with majors in history and religion.

Upon graduation, Bill proceeded to Naval Officer Candidate School and was assigned to an aircraft carrier, the USS *Shangri-la*. Bill served as the Radio Officer in the communications department during his time aboard the ship. His ship was home-ported in Mayport, Florida, where Bill met his future wife, Gloria, a native of Brunswick, Georgia.

He obtained his master's degree in 1966 from Georgia State University and joined Arthur Andersen & Co., where he became a certified public accountant. Bill worked as an accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. for 30 years before he and Gloria relocated to St. Simons Island.

Bill loved this great United States with a fiery passion, and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Marshes of Glynn Chapter. He also performed as George Washington for thousands of local students and participated in the Veterans Council of the Golden Isles.

His love for his family, friends, and this country will forever be remembered.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS AND FAMILIES IN BUCHA AND ACROSS UKRAINE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we have all seen the horrific images coming out of the Kyiv suburb of Bucha and the surrounding areas, where hundreds of civilians have been killed, left lying in the street by Russian forces.

Bucha residents have recounted watching their family members being raped or shot right in front of them by the Russian forces, but we know this horrific brutality is occurring throughout Ukraine in every region where the Russian Army is positioned.

It is difficult to find words to express the unacceptable brutality that the photos and videos from Bucha have laid evidence of. Russian President Vladimir Putin has cemented himself in history as an evil war criminal.

I would like to use the remainder of my time for a brief moment of silence

to remember these victims and their families in Bucha and across Ukraine, realizing that historically, in this 21st century, this is the test of our time, and the world is watching.

RUSSIA SANCTIONS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support Congress' bipartisan approval of harsher sanctions on Vladimir Putin and his vicious Russian enablers. We all support suspending normal trade relations and support destabilizing the Russian economy as the price of their savageness.

The nations of the free world and all freedom-loving people have an obligation to stand up resolutely against the tyranny and murder being unleashed against Ukraine.

Let liberty lovers continue arming Ukraine's brave defenders. Let free nations send them the lethal and defensive equipment they need. And let civil nations continue to isolate this rogue and criminal state from all that it needs to function.

The murder of innocent, men, women, and children simply cannot be tolerated.

WHAT DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS ARE DOING

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

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, today, we found out that weekly jobless claims are the lowest since 1968 and, in fact, if you look at this month, their unemployment claims are the lowest in recorded history.

President Joe Biden and Congressional Democrats have done an amazing job on job creation. For the last 14 months, 7.4 million jobs were created, the most in U.S. history; jobs are up, wages are up, growth is up, and unemployment is down.

What are Republicans doing? I don't know. But last month, two Republicans spoke at a white nationalist conference. And today, we learned that Republican Congressman PAUL GOSAR is going to attend a white nationalist bash to celebrate Hitler's birthday, and he is listed as a guest speaker on April 20 at this bash.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAILURE TO ASSIST UKRAINE IN A TIMELY MANNER

(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, it has been 41 days since Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February. That means 2,685 civilian casualties, and more than 4 million fleeing Ukrainian refugees scrambling to the aid of the EU.

Twenty-five days after watching bloodshed, riots, and tears, the Biden administration finally came to their senses and released a statement to aid $1 billion in funding humanitarian assistance for the Ukrainian people, allowing the U.S. to accept 100,000 fleeing refugees; 25 days of watching; 25 days of letting other countries handle it; 25 days of fear. This is 1,081 Ukrainian citizens no longer breathing, lost in those 25 days.

Silence speaks louder than action. The Biden administration is responsible for this delayed deterrence.

After striking down a deal with Poland to aid the relocation of MiG–29 planes for Ukrainian use, the President also hesitated to provide military assistance to President Zelenskyy of Ukraine.

Two weeks of waiting into the invasion, President Biden delayed sanctions on Russian oil after much pressure from the House. Therefore, it ruined any chances of deterrence against Putin's aggression.

These actions have been shown on the world stage, and the U.S. now appears weaker than ever as a result of this hesitancy.

We need to bring aid hastily to the Ukrainian people; the help they deserve.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I want you to imagine a world where the Republican Party praised the President of the United States for raising the price of oil by 24 percent. That sounds crazy, right?

Well, that is exactly what happened 2 years ago this month when Trump threatened to remove U.S. troops from Saudi Arabia unless they cut oil production.

Oil prices, of course, are not set by the President, but they are a function of global supply and demand. And when the President pressures another country to slash supply, the price at the pump and oil industry profits surge accordingly. That is exactly what happened in April of 2020.

The GOP praised Trump's approach. What's more, nearly 50 of my Republican House colleagues wrote a letter directly to the Saudi Crown Prince demanding that he cut crude output. They wanted higher oil company profits, so they forced a reduction in supply to make that happen.

Fast forward to today. Those same Republicans who pressured Saudi to cut oil supply and increase prices 2 years ago are now berating President Biden for using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to boost supply, and blocking every effort to invest in energy efficiency and renewables that would cut our fossil fuel demand.

Why would a party that fought to raise oil prices 2 years ago fight to raise them again? Because given a choice between your wallet and the fossil fuel industry, they will always take from you and subsidize them.

Americans deserve better.

WE CANNOT LEAVE WORKERS BEHIND

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Act which included an amendment that I worked on with my team and many of the folks that led this effort to prohibit the funds from going to businesses who have committed wage theft against their employees.

This simple change will make sure that our valuable Federal dollars are being used to support businesses who do right by their workers, not those who rip off their workers and steal their labor.

There is no doubt that a thriving restaurant industry is good for everyone, but it is the workers who really make the restaurants and businesses who they are today. And workers are the reason that so many of them made it through this awful and continued pandemic.

We cannot leave those workers behind, as I said, and with this bill and my amendment, we are making clear that if you cheat or exploit your employees, the Federal Government will not do business with you.

As I continue to work in Congress to end wage theft and expand the powers of our workers, I want to thank my colleagues, again, Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, as well as Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS, for their work in improving this bill and moving it forward. I urge the Senate to take this bill up as soon as possible.

RELIEF FOR RESTAURANTS AND OTHER HARD HIT SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, restaurants are a driving force in South Florida's hospitality and tourism industry, but when the pandemic hit, their sales plummeted.

The $28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund helped over 100,000 restaurants, bars, and other small businesses in the food and beverage services sector keep their doors open and their staff employed.

Unfortunately, this program's limited funding failed to support roughly two-thirds of the eligible businesses that applied. Nearly 200,000 small businesses have been left behind, and now four out of five of these restaurants and bars are in danger of closing permanently.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3807, the Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4521

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 4521:

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. PALLONE, Mses. ESHOO, SCHAKOWSKY, MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Messrs. BUCSHON, CARTER of Georgia, DUNCAN, and CRENSHAW.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MEEKS, DEUTCH, Ms. BASS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mses. HOULAHAN, JACOBS of California, Messrs. KINZINGER, MCCAUL, CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mrs. KIM of California.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. JOHNSON of Texas, LOFGREN, BONAMICI, Mr. BERA, Ms. STEVENS, Messrs. BOWMAN, FOSTER, LUCAS, WEBER of Texas, BABIN, WALTZ, and GARCIA of California.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NEAL, BLUMENAUER, DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mses. DELBENE, CHU, Messrs. KILDEE, GOMEZ, BRADY, BUCHANAN, SMITH of Nebraska, LAHOOD, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of sec. 10407, title XV of division H, and division P of the House bill, and secs. 2217, 2507, and 2511 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 20221, 71104, and 80401 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2118, 2217, 2402, 2507, and subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sec. 71210, titles XIII and XIV of division H, and titles I–V and titles VII–IX of division J of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 2509, 3138, subtitle C of title I of division D, and subtitles B and C of title I of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, MORELLE, and Ms. FOXX.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 30299C, division G, secs. 110001, and 110004 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2508, 3138, 3219D, 3219E, 3250, 3405, 5103, 5202–04, and 5212 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. WATERS, GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. BARR.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of division F of the House bill, and subtitle C of title I of division D, secs. 4203, 4204, 4207, and subtitle B of title II of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. GUEST.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 30001, 30303, 30306, 30312, 30318, 61403, 61411, 61414, 71102, 80102, 80103, titles II–VI of division I, and sec. 90104 of the House bill, and secs. 3302, 3303, 3313, 4492, 4494–96, 5202–04, and title II of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. TIFFANY.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 70101, 70102, 70111–18, subtitle B of title I of division H, titles II–XII of division H, and titles XV–XIX of division H of the House bill, and secs. 2507 and 2518 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GRIJALVA, MCEACHIN, and Ms. HERRELL.

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of division E and division Q of the House bill, and title I of division D, subtitle A of title II of division D, title III of division D, subtitles A and B of title IV of division D, secs. 4493, 5202–04, and 73003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. KHANNA, and COMER.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 10691, 50107, 71208, and division R of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. VELÁZQUEZ, DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. FITZGERALD.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sec. 70121, subtitle C of title I of division H, division L, and division S of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 4114, and 4116 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. DEFAZIO, MALINOWSKI, and CRAWFORD.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TAKANO, PAPPAS, and BOST.

The Senate will be notified of the conferees.

There was no objection.

□ 1330

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the House that, pursuant to House Resolution 1037, the Speaker has certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of Peter K. Navarro and Daniel Scavino, Jr., to produce documents to or appear for a deposition before the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol as directed by subpoena.

SOUTHERN BORDER ISSUES

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chattanooga Bar Association on reaching the milestone of its 125th anniversary.

Since 1897, the Chattanooga Bar Association has made it its mission to work for the betterment of the legal profession and the administration of justice; to take an active interest in governmental affairs; to stimulate a feeling of respect, esteem, and good-fellowship among members of the Chattanooga Bar Association; and to provide and promote legal education of the legal community and the public at large.

During its 125 years, the Chattanooga Bar Association has produced many outstanding members who have shaped the history of Tennessee and our Nation.

J.B. Frazier was a member of the board of directors during the first 5 years of CBA's existence and is the only Chattanoogan elected Governor of the State of Tennessee. He later served in the United States Senate.

Estes Kefauver served as the secretary-treasurer and vice president of the association before being elected to serve as Tennessee's Third District Congressman. Incidentally, that is the seat which I presently hold.

He then went on to the United States Senate and made two bids for the Democratic Presidential nomination before being selected as Adlai Stevenson's Vice Presidential nominee during the 1956 Presidential election.

I am extremely proud, myself, to have been a member of the Chattanooga Bar Association since I began my law practice as a young man in 1986. In 1996, I became the youngest person to serve as president of the Chattanooga Bar Association, the 99th president, an honor that is still near and dear to my heart.

Throughout its 125 years, the Chattanooga Bar Association has shown our community, State, and the Nation the best of what it means to be a lawyer, to practice law, and to pursue equal justice for all.

I am proud to recognize and honor the Chattanooga Bar Association as they celebrate their 125th anniversary. I congratulate the CBA and wish them much continued success in the future.

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding. We will continue to engage in that.

With the permission of the gentleman from Wisconsin, I ask that he also yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) to engage in a colloquy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin controls the time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time from the gentleman from Wisconsin and his commitment to fighting to change this town, which, unfortunately, too many of our colleagues are unwilling to do. I am glad to have my friend from Virginia here as well.

Yesterday, we had an interesting exchange in the House Judiciary Committee. We had a number of different conversations about the issue of the ongoing threat at our border. I know that my friend from Virginia was also here on the floor of the House last night, where we had a continued conversation about the ongoing threat at the southern border of the United States.

I would imagine that the people who I represent, and the people of the State of Texas, would be horrified if they all got to see what I see every day and the exchange with my colleagues here in this body about what is actually happening at our border. What do I mean by that?

Yesterday, I had an exchange with the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee because I was acknowledging, in the context of a debate we were having about opening up visa waivers for the United States Virgin Islands, that those kinds of waivers had been abused in Guam and other territories of the United States. We were questioning why we are going to open up these waivers while our border is wide open.

I pointed out the abuses that are happening at our border and the abuses that are happening in Texas. I specifically talked about the sexual abuses, the rapes, and the tragedy of what is occurring to little girls and to people on the journey, in particular in Texas when they cross the southern border because they are at the hands of the dangerous cartels.

I said this at the time, that the committee chairman kind of scoffed. It wasn't the first time I had seen some of our colleagues scoff with respect to the perspectives that we are offering about what we see every day and the conversations we have with people on the ground.

Why I think it merits conversation here on the floor of the House is—and I want to get the gentleman from Virginia's perspective on this—on behalf of the American people who we represent, the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the people of the State of Texas, the many people we represent, we are trying to articulate, for a body of representatives of those people, that their lives are being impacted and harmed by virtue of the refusal of this administration and, frankly, many of the people of this Chamber to secure the border of the United States.

In very short outline form, it comes in the form of empowered cartels, dangerous individuals crossing our border, be they criminals, be they terrorist members, or be they folks from state-sponsors of terror.

It comes in the form of dangerous fentanyl and narcotics coming into our communities, poisoning our families, poisoning our young, killing people in schools.

It comes in the form of physical property damage to ranchers, business owners, and people dealing with the dangerous flow coming across the border.

It comes in the form of economic impacts and devastation.

It comes in the form of, for example, the town of Uvalde, Texas, where you have 100 a day being dropped off. They have to deal with: What do we do? Do we ship them to San Antonio? What do we do with our schools? What do we do with our hospitals?

It comes in the form of danger because Border Patrol can't monitor the border, and people come in, known gotaways.

It comes in the form of having criminals that exist in the United States that aren't being prosecuted because, allegedly, we don't have bed space, but really, we are not allowing ICE to do its job. You had, for example, 25,000 prosecutions last year as opposed to something like 250,000 at the peak of the Trump administration.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on and on. My point is, there is a direct consequence and direct harm to the American people: dead Americans, dead migrants, fentanyl pouring in, increased substance abuse, empowerment of cartels, empowerment of China. This is happening on a daily basis and getting worse.

Finally, now we are being told, even as the Speaker of the House has COVID—if you look at the top stories in Politico, oh, my gosh, everybody is running around. There are COVID-positive people in D.C.

Even as all of that is occurring, even as the extension of the proxy voting fraud that is occurring in the House of Representatives—by ''fraud,'' I mean that half of this body, or more, is signing up and standing up at this podium every day, saying, ''I am not voting because of COVID,'' signing documentation, and we know the vast majority has nothing to do with COVID.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in addition to not showing up here to do the job that their constituents sent them here to do, they are literally lying about the reason they are not here.

Mr. ROY. Well, I never have proxy-voted.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Same here.

Mr. ROY. There is some sort of form, and you sign the form. In that language, you say, ''due to the COVID emergency,'' or something to that effect. I don't want to misrepresent the exact legal language. ''Due to the COVID emergency, I cannot be here to vote, so I am allowing so-and-so colleague to vote for me.''

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I have been tempted to interrupt during the proxy voting to ask the Speaker to allow me to offer a prayer for the healing and recovery of the dozens of Members of Congress who are not at work and who are apparently too sick from COVID to show up and do their job.

□ 1345

Mr. ROY. Given that we have lines and lines of people voting by proxy, given that we have the Speaker of the House having COVID, given that Politico is writing stories about how COVID is impacting the swamp, given that you have to wear a mask on airplanes, given that we are continuing to require members of our military to get a needle stuck in their arm or potentially lose their job, given that we are continuing to require among Federal workers like Border Patrol that they get a needle in their arm or lose their job, then comes along the infinite wisdom of the CDC director and the head of DHS, Secretary Mayorkas, oh, let's get rid of title 42, literally the only thing that is actually being used to enforce the border and stop half the flow of people coming across our border.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Of course. That is why they are getting rid of it because it has been used to turn back some illegal immigrants at the border.

Mr. ROY. Is the gentleman aware of this?

Did we take a trip together to Del Rio, Texas, a month ago?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. We did. Where just a couple months ago you had ''Bidentown'' with some 20,000 illegal Haitian immigrants gathered under the bridge. We learned a lot while we were there, and I thank the gentleman for leading that trip.

I also want to say thank you to my friend, the Congressman from Wisconsin, for allowing us to do this, and Congressman ROY for allowing me to join him.

But we had the 20,000 illegal Haitian immigrants gathered in ''Bidentown'' under the bridge which they quickly—they weren't concerned that the immigrants were coming in the country illegally. They were concerned about the image and the embarrassment of 20,000 of them in ''Biden's village'' there under the bridge, so they wanted to distribute them into the interior of the country as quickly as they could to hide it from the American people.

The gentleman will remember at first they tried to keep the media from covering it. And then what they did was bus them into the country to wherever they wanted to go. They flew a few back to Haiti, but most of them they distributed into the country.

But we learned when we were in Del Rio—and my friend may have already known this—I learned it that day when we were there that there were 1,000 a day coming just through that corridor. Sadly, that is just a fraction of the 7,000 a day who are coming across the southern border along Arizona, New Mexico, Arizona, and, of course, Texas.

But to this President's policies now, what is the response?

We want to try to double or even triple that by rescinding title 42.

Mr. ROY. Does the gentleman remember that we stood at the river in Del Rio, and we were there at the spot where many thousands of Haitians had crossed last September? Does the gentleman remember that?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That is right.

Mr. ROY. Is the gentleman aware of whether or not the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, or, for example, the White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki—quickly en route to a deal with MSNBC—President Biden, or any other member of the administration who went to the microphone and accused Border Patrol agents—lifetime public servants serving on our border—of whipping human beings in the river; is the gentleman aware of any of those individuals apologizing to them and ensuring that they have been reposted in their jobs on horseback in Del Rio?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I'm not aware that they have apologized.

As a matter of fact, at least the President and the Vice President, to my knowledge, have never been to the border to see what is happening.

Again, my friend led one of the trips I was on. I have been to the border four times in my first 15 months here in Congress so that I could see better and experience in person the crisis at the border, to see the human toll, to see the environmental toll, and then to see exactly where that was happening.

These are Border Patrol officers who were trying to stand in the gap, to be on the front line, and trying to do their job despite the efforts of this administration to prevent them from doing their job, and putting their lives, literally, at risk.

The previous time I was at the border—not the Del Rio trip—but the previous time I was in Arizona, there was actually a shooting of a Border Patrol officer while I was there. And yet here we have—as my friend has said—the Department of Homeland Security Secretary besmirching, smearing, and demeaning his own employees knowing full well that is a lie, knowing full they are just leading those horses as they do and trying to protect us American citizens from what is happening at the border.

Mr. ROY. To make sure the RECORD is clear, I think the gentleman from Virginia is correct that neither the President nor the Vice President have been to the border in what I would call the spots where it matters.

I believe the Vice President of the United States did take a trip where she hopped through El Paso, met with a number of folks away from the border, went to the border for a quick photo, went back to El Paso, and hopped on a plane en route to California. I believe that transpired some time last year.

But never to Del Rio, never meeting with people right down on the river, never down to McAllen, never to Laredo, never talked to any of the people being affected directly by what is occurring at the border. Neither the so-called border czar—the Vice President—nor the President of the United States have been to the border.

To be clear, the Secretary of Homeland Security has only been there, I think, a couple of times. And when attending I do not believe he was received particularly well by the line Border Patrol.

Does the gentleman agree?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That is right.

They say they want to identify the root causes. I can tell my friend what the root causes are. The root causes of the massive surge across our border, if you will, the invasion at our border: is the cessation of the Trump policies that were working. It is the enhancement of the catch-and-release practice. It is ending MPP. It is stopping building the wall. And it is promising amnesty and an open border during the 2020 election for illegals to come. That is why they were coming with their Biden T-shirts on. It is not mandating E-Verify. It is allowing the economic incentive to come. It is allowing individuals to come and be apprehended and provided free social services, free healthcare services, free education, and to be flown or distributed wherever they want to go around the country at taxpayer expense with no specific court date to even appear to have their case heard.

I want to compliment the gentleman's Governor from yesterday. I hope that he will follow through on this. I hope this will actually happen. Perhaps the gentleman from Texas has some thoughts on that. He announced yesterday that he is going to bus these illegal aliens right here to Washington, D.C., so our Democratic majority and our Democratic administration who are willfully and purposely facilitating this invasion at our southern border through their policies can accommodate these illegal aliens when they are brought here.

I call on my Governor from Virginia and Governors throughout the country to do the same thing.

Mr. ROY. I appreciate the observation by my friend from Virginia about what the Governor of Texas is having to do to stand in the breach and to stand up in order to protect Texans in the complete and total absence of the Federal Government to do its constitutional duties: to defend the sovereign Nation and to deal with immigration which he refuses to do.

I would note that the Governor and the legislature has appropriated $3 billion in Texas. I don't know when we are going to get that paid back by this august institution when Texas is doing the job of the Federal Government, but, okay, we are a border State. Texas funded $3 billion, and we have used that to take our DPS agents and DPS troopers and move them down to the border to be able to back up Border Patrol. As the gentleman knows from our experience down there in meeting with DPS, he has been engaging in policy and building fences and other stuff, and now he is engaging in a policy shift where there is going to be some action with respect to vehicle inspections at ports of entry. I applaud that.

I would note that I would go so far as to say, I would support the Governor shutting down I–35.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Absolutely.

Mr. ROY. I would just shut down the port of entry. I would look at the rest of America and my colleagues around this Chamber and say, Do you like your cheap goods from Mexico right now when we have got high inflation and we want to go attack China?

Guess what?

I–35 is shut down—shut down—until you secure the border of the United States.

But I appreciate that the Governor's step is a step in that direction to say, We are going to have vehicle inspections.

I hope they are long, slow vehicle inspections. I hope they cover every car from beginning to end and take plenty of time doing it.

Secondly, using boats and having some sort of ability to deter crossing, there was some plan to do that, I haven't read the details of it. I hope it is sincere and robust.

And then the third part is what the gentleman from Virginia mentioned, taking some of these who are dumped off by Border Patrol in Texas, putting them on a bus, and shipping them to the front door of this building. I support that.

There are a couple of caveats. There is one metric, and one metric alone, that I will hold everybody in this Chamber accountable to, the Governor of Texas accountable to, and the President of the United States accountable to: Stop the flow now. That is your job.

That is your duty under the Constitution. That is what the law requires you to do.

That is why we have the Secure Fence Act. That is why we have laws on the books requiring you to follow the legal processes.

Do not allow the false name of asylum and compassion to be used as a rule to swallow the constitutional duty to secure the border.

I would give the same speech to the Governor and to my colleagues in the legislature in Texas: You have a duty to the people of Texas to secure the border under Article 4. There is an invasion, and the Federal Government is not doing its job. You have a duty to hold that line.

So that is the metric by which we should grade the actions of the Governor, the actions of this body, or the actions of the President.

I will see if the gentleman would agree.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Absolutely. And the four times that I have been to the border in the last 15 months, I have never seen a Democrat there. I have had Border Patrol, Texas State Police, sheriffs, and law enforcement who are working there at the border—not just Texas, but Arizona as well—where they tell me they never see Democrats at the border.

We only need seven Democrats to join our discharge petition to get a vote on maintaining title 42, but we can't get one Democrat, one majority Member, to do this. One would hope that just in the States of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California—the border States—that we could get, just in the State of Texas, in particular, that we could get Democrats to say, Hey, don't mess with Texas.

We are going to join our fellow Republicans, and we are going to support Texas' efforts to stand in the gap and do what the Federal Government will not do in violation of the Constitution and protecting the State from invasion.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I really appreciate my friend from Virginia pointing this out.

Let me note that we are sitting here on April, I believe, 7—actually, it is a couple of good friends of mine birthday. I am just glad I said that out loud.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Happy birthday to my brother Steve who is 55 today, April 7.

Mr. ROY. I will not mention that these two guys happen to be known publicly. They are a couple of twins who are good buddies of mine and their birthday is today.

But I sit here, and I say on April 7, it was a year ago almost to the day—I would have to go look at the date of the filing of our discharge petition down at the desk here in the Chamber—that I filed on behalf of us who wanted to do it.

Our friend YVETTE HERRELL had legislation to require the enforcement of title 42, the health provision that allows you to turn people away because of communicable diseases which, of course, we are dealing with during COVID. She had a bill that she filed last February. Now, keep in mind, that was only a month into the administration. But we knew full well what was happening because immigrants were showing up to the border with Joe Biden T-shirts and with ''thank you to President Joe Biden'' shirts. So we knew what was coming. We knew that the Members of this Chamber and Democrat friends in the administration would say: Oh, well, I don't know if we need to use title 42 enforcement. I don't know if we need to use migrant protection protocols and return to Mexico, because, frankly, we knew they would be fine with a flood across our border.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That is right.

Mr. ROY. So we filed a discharge petition of that bill.

Now, I want a little history here for 1 minute. We introduced that discharge petition, and we got our normal group of Members who like to fight for freedom. We had 30 or 40 of us get on that discharge right away. And then it was a slog. It was a slog for the better part of a year. We tried in the summer, we got it to 75. We went on Tucker Carlson. We said: Hey, here are the people who have signed it, and here are the ones who haven't.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Naming names.

Mr. ROY. Suddenly, that list grew to 125.

Then what?

We went back on Tucker. We went back: Hey, here is what the list number is.

Suddenly, that number grew to about 160. We got it up to 195, and then it stalled. Then 2 weeks ago, when all of the title 42 news started breaking that the CDC director in all her infinite wisdom—I'm not going to go down that rabbit trail at the moment—and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary said, Oh, yeah, we are not going to do title 42 anymore.

All of a sudden, people around here said, Whoa, well, that will be a thing.

I knew it was a thing a year ago, and my friend from Virginia knew it was a thing a year ago. The gentleman has been to the border four times in his brief tenure. I live 100 miles from the border. Well, my District is 100 miles from the border.

So we get this discharge petition. Now, we have got it. We have got 210, I think—give or take one—signatures on that, all Republicans. Not one Democratic colleague has yet to sign it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Not one.

Mr. ROY. Yet there are four Democratic Senators—Senator MANCHIN, Senator MARK KELLY, Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA, and Senator JON TESTER—who have all said, Hey, we shouldn't be getting rid of title 42.

Can my friend from Virginia explain why not one Member, even from a border State, of our Democratic colleagues will sign that discharge petition?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. There is no excuse for it.

If this President was doing everything else right—just use your imagination and just allow for a moment—if he was doing everything else right and some of his other policies were working—let's pretend some were working—what he has allowed to happen at the border as the head of the Democratic Party, never in the history of the country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States in what he has done in his first year. So it is no wonder that not one Democrat will join us in standing up for border security.

How did that become a partisan issue?

As you know, we were in an off-the-record meeting with Secretary Mayorkas so I can't share what he said. I can share what I said.

I asked him: What is the end game?

Here we are going to take it from some 7,000 a day—it is estimated 18,000 a day—that means every 3 days you will have the equivalent population of my home county, Campbell County, Virginia, 56,000 people, in 3 days we will have that many illegal border crossings.

By the way, in my hometown of Lynchburg, Virginia, right outside Campbell County there, we just had a murder conviction of an MS–13 gang member who came across illegally. Again, demonstrating that every town is a border town under this President. Every State is a border State under this President.

□ 1400

I appreciate you leading on this issue, Mr. ROY, so passionately and so consistently and so faithfully. Specifically, you helped lead that letter that we sent to leadership of both the House and the Senate on the Republican side, just 2 or 3 weeks ago, saying no Republican should support any government funding that does not secure the border.

So what did we do with the potential leverage that we had that was before us, if all Republicans would refuse to fund a government that doesn't secure the border?

Mr. ROY. Well, like any good Republican Conference, we did nothing. We did nothing. We let the moments of leverage just pass right on by and did nothing.

Yet, I sat here on the floor, while I had some of my Republican leadership colleagues saying: We got all this great stuff. Can you believe what we got? We got the Hyde amendment.

You are supposed to get the Hyde amendment. It has been law for 35 years. Just because Democrats say they are not going to use it, you say: Don't worry, we got the Hyde amendment, and then you pat yourself on the back.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. $1.6 trillion, less than 1 percent of which was for

Ukraine support. Some justified their vote for that because it was supporting Ukraine. So 99 percent of the bill had nothing to do with Ukraine. Yet, 54 Republicans, one-fourth of our body, voted against that $1.6 trillion spending, with no leverage, no concessions, nothing really gained. We didn't secure the border; we didn't end the vaccine mandates; we didn't unleash American energy independence.

Mr. ROY. $1.6 trillion, $1 billion of plussed-up spending, $14 billion for Ukraine, without a single debate here on the floor of the House about how much money we should spend and what we should get out of it.

No change to the mandate of vaccines being stuck in the arms of our men and women in uniform, Border Patrol, or the requirements for healthcare workers. No change on border security, none; no requirements whatsoever on border security. That is not getting a win.

Now, here we sit. The gentleman raised an important question.

We have got about 5 minutes, to be respectful of our friend from Wisconsin's time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Who also didn't vote for that bad bill, by the way.

Mr. ROY. Correct, and he understands what the swamp is all about.

The gentleman brought up the impact—I think that this is one of most important things we can say here in closing. The gentleman brought up the impact in Lynchburg, Virginia. People think this is just a border issue, and I come down here because it is Texas. Yeah, we are taking it on the chin. I have ranchers who are crying. I have people who are victims of crime. I have migrants in my district who are abused, all under the false name of compassion, about open borders.

We have got to sit back and find dead bodies of migrants on ranches, get a morgue brought down to put 115 dead bodies in, in one county. My Democratic colleagues are like: Whatever. Who cares? It is just some problem we have just got to deal with.

That is the reality. But it stretches throughout the country.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That is right.

Mr. ROY. If the gentleman will oblige, if he agrees with these numbers, we are looking at about a million illegal encounters in just 6 months of this year. We have seen more than six times as many daily apprehensions since Mayorkas took office. In March alone, there were 97,000 southern border encounters, through half of the month. Of those, 51 percent were removed under title 42.

So it tells you half are being removed for title 42, and they are about to end it. Mayorkas has used title 42 as the basis for almost every one of those removed. So what would it look like, this past year, without title 42? Title 42 has been used, I think the gentleman would agree, more than 1.7 million times during this pandemic.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That is right, for 2 years.

Mr. ROY. In fact, under Secretary Mayorkas at DHS, we have seen more than 2.2 million encounters, and everyone who wasn't turned away under title 42 was released.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Into the interior of the country.

Mr. ROY. That is 700,000 releases last year.

Now, what about this: In fiscal year 2021, the Border Patrol encountered 10,700 criminal noncitizens. 3,662 have been arrested thus far in 2022. The combined timeframes include roughly 85 convictions of manslaughter or homicide; 604 sexual offenses; almost 3,000 convictions of illegal drug possession; and based on reports, at least 14 who are on the terrorist watch list.

In just the first 5 months of fiscal year 2022, Border Patrol encountered 525,000 people, other than Mexicans. In just the first 5 months of fiscal year 2022, Border Patrol encountered 421 Chinese nationals. In just the first 5 months of fiscal year 2022, Border Patrol encountered 7,191 Russians out on the southwest border.

I say all of that to say this: When we don't secure our border, when we turn Border Patrol into a processing organization, we leave our borders wide open for got-aways. Then we have dangerous narcotics and fentanyl pouring into our communities, we have people dying, and we have gangs.

Can the gentleman speak to the deaths and the gangs and the crime and the impact in Virginia, 1,500-miles away from where we are even talking about?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Yes. The illegal drugs that are pouring in across the country, fentanyl and other dangerous drugs, at record levels, is the reason why we had 100,000 overdose deaths last year in this country. In 2021, the number one cause of death for individuals between 18 and 45 was not COVID; it was overdose.

On the border trips that I have been on—again, a couple of those with you—when you meet with the folks who live there, who live on the front lines, and they talk about these illegals, they will find the carpet shoes. We saw them. You see the carpet shoes and the camos. Once they get picked up by their crime cartel contact and picked up to go wherever they want to go in the interior of the country, you find the carpet shoes and you find the camos left behind.

You will have those folks who live there tell you they are coming onto their property, they are knocking on their doors, they are threatening them and making demands of them. These folks who live on the border are finding dead bodies. The previous trip I was on in Arizona, they said they apprehended 30 Chinese nationals on their property.

They are from 160 different countries, not just Central and South America, as if that wasn't enough. But to your point, 160 different countries are making every town a border town and every State a border State.

It is a dereliction of duty on behalf of this President's administration. It is a threat to the national security of our country, to the sovereignty of our country, to the health and security of our country, and to the financial security of our country. I appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Mr. ROY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I am at just over 29 minutes, so I would tell the gentleman from Wisconsin that I am going to wind down here in the next minute. I appreciate his time, his leadership, and his indulgence.

I also want to thank the Speaker and the staff for being here while we are continuing to talk about this important topic.

I will just close by saying, this is a massive national security issue. This is a massive issue of the most important relevance to the safety and well-being of the people that we represent.

Why this body is not engaged in just a complete, full, and robust review, hearings, oversight, and legislation to ensure that we protect the sovereignty of the United States and enforce the laws of the United States, is beyond me.

The people's House has an obligation. Article I has an obligation to check Article II and to demand that those executing the laws actually do so.

I respectfully submit to the Speaker and to my colleagues on the other of the aisle:

When are we going to do our job?

How many dead migrants found on ranches is enough?

How many dead Americans from fentanyl overdoses—fentanyl poisonings, to be more accurate—is enough?

How much money flowing into the hands of dangerous cartel organizations, transnational organizations, turning Mexico into a narco-terror state, is enough?

How much do we have to suffer, as a people in this country, as a State in Texas?

Again, the migrants who seek to come here are getting sold into the sex trafficking trade, getting abused and dying in the heat along the southern border, how much of that do we have to tolerate before my colleagues on the other side of the aisle wake up?

Madam Speaker, I appreciate gentleman from Wisconsin for all that he does in representing his constituents and for his indulgence.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would now like to address several issues today and maybe give it a little bit of a different spin or a little bit of different observations than people are getting from some of the other congressmen.

I was glad today to vote to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and, hopefully, reduce the number of oil imports we are getting from that country.

Every day, you cannot help but be touched by the reports from Ukraine and what is happening to the civilians there.

Nevertheless, I am a little bit concerned about the public statements coming out of Washington. I believe we should all be working to end this war and wind up with a free Ukraine.

Nevertheless, to end this war, we will eventually have to get to the bargaining table, and I am afraid that statements being made by both sides will make it more difficult to reach an end result. The sooner the war ends, the more lives of Ukrainian troops will be saved, the more lives of Ukrainian civilians will be saved, and, quite frankly, the more lives of Russian troops will be saved.

To negotiate a final deal, both sides must realize and respect that deal, and both sides must feel that they came out of the negotiation with something.

I sure hope we are not in the current position we are right now 3 or 4 months from now. I would encourage all of my colleagues, and also the President of the United States, when they make public statements, to ask themselves: Are we getting closer to ending this war by my statements, or are we not getting closer to ending this war?

I suppose politicians always think about politics. But I sometimes think statements are made for political effect rather than reaching the serious goal of ending this conflict.

I would also like to follow up on what is going on on the border and the danger that we may soon end title 42. I think for the future of the United States, the most important thing going on—what is going on in Ukraine is important. The most important thing is what goes on at the border.

We all know that around the time President Biden took office, about 20,000 people a month, and sometimes well under 20,000 people a month, were crossing the border, for a variety of reasons. The major one is, I think the current administration isn't really thrilled about enforcing our laws. We have gone from having under 20,000 to 80,000 or 100,000 people a month cross our southern border, people who are not vetted, people who we, in many cases, would not want here under any circumstances.

There is a danger that in May, that 80,000 to 100,000 figure is going to jump to 400,000 or 500,000 people a month. People are not being vetted, and people are coming from all around the globe.

I will be there next week. When you get down there and you talk to the Border Patrol, you will find people not only coming from Mexico but more people from Central America, people from the Caribbean, people from South America, people from sub-Saharan Africa, people from eastern Europe, people from countries that are currently hostile to us are being waved through after they get a minimal amount of paperwork. We do not need to increase that to 300,000 or 400,000 or 500,000 people a month.

The last time I was down there, I noticed that there were a lot of photo IDs of people from Central America and South America being thrown away before they checked in. What does that tell you? It means people don't want us to know about their past. They are running away from their past as they enter our country.

I remember the statement of John Adams: ''Our Constitution is only fit for a moral and religious people.'' We have to make sure we are getting a moral group of people crossing our southern border, not to mention we have to make sure we are getting people who respect our laws.

We, right now, swear in over 800,000 people from around the world every year. That is fine. They are appropriately vetted. I encourage all citizens to watch as people come here legally and are sworn in.

Our economy cannot accept another 400,000, and we know a given number of these people, perhaps, have a criminal background and are not going to help our country.

□ 1415

Not to mention, no country as successful as ours, can accept an unlimited number of people. We are not prepared for them. They have not been adequately trained in the way of the American ideals, the importance of our Constitution, why we have our Constitution.

Furthermore, having been down there, the more people you let in, the more it strengthens the Mexican drug gangs, and those gangs make $3,000 or $5,000 or $9,000 or $20,000 per person who comes across here. We are strengthening their power. We are making them wealthy. Why would we want to expand the current fiasco south of the border?

Last time I was down there, the Border Patrol told me about fights between Mexican and Chinese gangs on our side of the border. How do these people from these gangs get here? They cross the border illegally. Is it helpful for the United States to have open warfare between Chinese and Mexican gangs? That is what we are getting more and more.

Our poor, underappreciated Border Patrol, more shots directly at them. And what does the administration do? Rather than strengthen the border, we propose legislation giving them free college, college that American citizens have to go $30,000 or $40,000 or $50,000 in debt to get.

Rather than hire more Border Patrol to enforce the border, we hire more people to investigate the Border Patrol. I am not sure what psychological problem we have going on here. It is the same psychological problem that looks at, say, a city like Milwaukee that is approaching 200 homicides a year, and saying we have to investigate the police, or we have to make it easier to sue the police.

That same mindset at the southern border says we have 100,000 people here who shouldn't come here every month? I know what we will do, we will hire more people to investigate the Border Patrol and make sure they are not doing anything wrong. They think the Border Patrol are the bad people.

Another problem, and I don't know whether this has occurred to President Biden's advisers, I don't know whether you wanted a war in Ukraine, but I don't believe that war would have started if we wouldn't have had an open borders policy. What do you think countries like Iran or China, or Russia make of us having an open border and not enforcing our border laws? Normal countries don't do that. They think it is because we have such a weak President who will never do anything. It invites trouble.

I have felt for a year-and-a-half or 2 years that the open borders policy was inviting mischief; and that is what we have now, mischief that I don't believe would have happened had we tried to enforce our border laws.

Please, Mr. President, keep title 42. Fire the Vice President from her position as border czar. That is another problem we have.

As mentioned, next week I will go and tour part of the border in San Diego and Yuma. I have been in many other parts in the past. But I go down there to learn more directly from the Border Patrol. As is common from all agencies, you learn a lot more from the people doing the work than the bureaucrats at the top, and I look forward to coming back and reporting whatever grim statistics I gather from talking about the Border Patrol and their suggestions to save our country.

I hope all Americans listening and paying attention are contacting their Representatives and Senators about what is going on on the border. I personally believe one of the reasons that President Biden is threatening to remove title 42 is because the news is dominated with what is going on in Ukraine, and now is the time you could get away with really opening the floodgates. But if we are going to save our country, we have to enforce the borders like we would in any normal country.

By the way, an excuse for removing title 42 is saying that they feel that COVID is no longer a threat. If you look, over 500 people a day on most days are dying of COVID. It is still a problem. Right now, or at least the last time I was down there, they didn't even feel they had the legal ability to test people as to whether or not they had COVID. As long as that situation is out there, I beg you to keep title 42 in place. It is bad enough having 80,000 to 100,000 people crossing here every month who we have not vetted.

The next crisis that I would like to address today is an ongoing crisis. It has been a problem in this country for 50 years, but I think things keep getting worse. And that is the decline in which Black Lives Matter would refer to as the Western traditional family. Again and again, bills are introduced

around here to provide benefits, and the traditional nuclear family is left out of those benefits; be it an increase in the earned income tax credit or flooding more money into low-income housing, increases in food share, increases in Pell grants, increases in childcare.

All of these programs an average married couple are not eligible for because in the traditional family, usually at least one parent and sometimes two are working. In order to be eligible for these programs, you have to put yourself in a position in which you are considered in poverty, and if you are in poverty, you are eligible for governmental assistance.

I had a woman in my district who had two children who were both $30,000, $40,000 in debt from going to college complain why did her sister's kids get free college while her own kids are stuck paying off their debt? She was proud of her children; she was proud they were current on their student loans, but it didn't seem right to her that her niece, who was raised in a nontraditional family, or what Black Lives Matter would consider a traditional family, her niece got free college paid for by the government, whereas her kids had to work to pay off the student loans.

I hope in the future, as we dole more money out of this place, we stop discriminating against and showing hatred for the traditional family. I will point out, that I think over time more and more Americans are catching on to the idea that materially they can get benefits that they wouldn't get if they didn't get married.

I will point out some statistics on SNAP benefits. Between 1996 and 2016, a 20-year gap—and these are both years in which the economy is doing well, so I am comparing apples to apples—the number of people on SNAP jumped up from about 25,000 to 44,000. Taking those two years, about a 50 to 60 percent increase in the number of people on SNAP.

Now, we have to make sure people can eat. I realize all people can go through a tough time in their lives, where there are some people who may have mental problems or such, that makes it very difficult to hold a job, but when you have a 50 to 60 percent increase in 20 years on the number of people who have arranged their life that they are eligible for SNAP, people better wake up because we are destroying the traditional family in America.

I hope in the future the majority party, as they put together more budgets, or if the Republicans ever get the majority, when they get the majority, that they would begin to look at this problem. It is not a new problem that gets press like a surge at the border will get press or a disaster in Kyiv will get press, but it is an ongoing problem as we eat away at the traditional nuclear family of this country, and it is being eaten away by the programs that are passed by this Congress. I hope if the Republicans take control, even though it is not a sexy issue because it is an ongoing issue, I hope they do something about this hatred or discrimination against the traditional family.

Now, I will make one more point, I make it as much as I can, before I leave this podium today. One more time I am going to talk about vitamin D. In part I am going to talk about it because there was an expert in vitamin D who I ran into last night from Maryland who, again, brought up that he felt he had a cocktail which was about 100 percent successful in curing people from COVID if they get it.

If any of the Speaker's office is paying attention, I would be happy to give them the name of this individual. Maybe it is something that should be given to the Speaker.

But the new cocktail, in part, is based on substantial amounts of vitamin D. A week and a half ago I talked to Dr. Dror of Israel who commented on the importance of being vitamin D sufficient. In his Israeli study, with a small number of people, he found that people who were vitamin D deficient were 11 times as likely to die of COVID if they were hospitalized as people who were not vitamin D deficient. He was using a very low threshold, 20 nanograms per milliliter. Eleven times more likely to die if you were vitamin D deficient.

I don't know what is wrong with our Department of Health and Human Services on this. I talked to Secretary Becerra. It is something that the American public should have been educated on 18 months ago. I personally have known nine people who have died of COVID. I always wonder how many of those would still be alive today if they had done half as much to push vitamin D as they did with all the other advertising, pushing masks, pushing social distancing, what have you.

But with 500 people dying a day, it is still something that should be publicized. I have written a letter to Secretary Becerra; and 14 times less likely to wind up with serious COVID once hospitalized. Among people hospitalized, of the people who didn't have enough vitamin D—under 20 nanograms—25 percent died. If they had over 20 nanograms, 2.3 percent died who wound up hospitalized in Israel. Kind of dramatic numbers. News you can use.

Those are some of the comments or issues of the day that I think the press should be paying attention to. I thank the indulgence of staff for giving us the hour. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Beyer:

H.R. 5681. An act to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the ''Shadow Wolves'') in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2022, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ISRAEL, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 14 AND FEB. 22, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Ted Deutch	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Barbara Lee	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Bill Keating	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ISRAEL, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 14 AND FEB. 22, 2022—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Eric Swalwell	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Ro Khanna	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Hon. Andy Kim	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		(3)				1,110
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		1,237.20				2,347.20
Gen. William Walker	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		1,237.20				2,347.20
Wyndee Parker	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		1,237.20				2,347.20
Terri McCullough	2/16	2/17	Israel		710		674.30				1,384.30
Kelsey Smith	2/11	2/17	Israel		3,330		1,074.30				4,404.30
Reva Prince	2/15	2/17	Israel		1,110		1,237.20				2,347.20
Shane Smith	2/16	2/17	Israel		710		674.30				1,384.30
Carlos Paz	2/16	2/17	Israel		710		674.30				1,384.30
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Adam Smith	2/17	2/20	Germany		1,510.58		712.40				2,222.98
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Ted Deutch	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Barbara Lee	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Betty McCollum	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		676.97				2,942.84
Hon. Jim Himes	2/18	2/20	Germany		2,134.87		1,039.80				3,174.67
Hon. Bill Keating	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Sean Patrick Maloney	2/18	2/20	Germany		2,134.87		536.80				2,671.67
Hon. Eric Swalwell	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Ruben Gallego	2/18	2/20	Germany		1,510.58		N/A				1,510.58
Hon. Seth Moulton	2/18	2/20	Germany		2,134.87		568.80				2,703.62
Hon. Ro Khanna	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Hon. Andy Kim	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Gen. William Walker	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Wyndee Parker	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Terri McCullough	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Kate Knudson	2/15	2/20	Germany		3,645.45		1,599.80				5,245.25
Kelsey Smith	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Reva Price	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Shane Smith	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Carlos Paz	2/17	2/20	Germany		2,265.87		(3)				2,265.87
Paul Arcangeli	2/17	2/20	Germany		1,510.58		712.40				2,222.98
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Adam Smith	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Barbara Lee	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Jim Hines	2/20	2/21	United Kingdom		608.53		2,445.87				3,054.40
Hon. Bill Keating	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Sean Patrick Maloney	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Eric Swalwell	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Ro Khanna	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Hon. Andy Kim	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Gen. Brian Monahan	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Wyndee Parker	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Terri McCullough	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		831.10		N/A				831.10
Kate Knudson	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Kelsey Smith	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Reva Price	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Shane Smith	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Carlos Paz	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Paul Arcangeli	2/20	2/22	United Kingdom		1,217.10		(3)				1,217.10
Committee total											$111,567.86

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Mar. 21, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 18 AND FEB. 24, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	2/20	2/24	Belgium		1,479		6,137.57				7,616.57
Hon. Michael Turner	2/20	2/22	Belgium		837		3,965.57				4,802.57
Hon. Rick Larsen	2/20	2/23	Belgium		1,158		8,832.07				9,990.07
Hon. Neal Dunn	2/20	2/24	Belgium		1,590		7,797.27				9,387.27
Hon. Brendan Boyle	2/20	2/23	Belgium		1,158		6,793.87				7,951.87
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/20	2/23	Belgium		1,246		3,818.07				5,064.01
Hon. John Garamendi	2/20	2/23	Belgium		1,479		7,366.37				8,845.37
Hon. James Costa	2/20	2/23	Belgium		1,158		6,685.37				7,843.37
Hon. Austin Scott	2/20	2/24	Belgium		1,479		10,799.27				12,278.27
Collin Davenport	2/20	2/24	Belgium		1,479		2,161.47				3,640.47
Phil Bednarczyk	2/19	2/24	Belgium		1,797		2,161.47				3,958.47
Adam Howard	2/20	2/22	Belgium		837		2,161.47				2,998.47
Committee total					15,697.00		68,679.84				84,376.84

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY, Mar. 22, 2022.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–3730. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-368, ''Office of the State Superintendent of Education Pay Parity Program for Early Childhood Educators Authorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3731. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2022

to March 31, 2022 (H. Doc. No. 117—107); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC–3732. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting one legislative proposal and four technical amendments for consideration by the Congress for the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Reform, the Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Veterans' Affairs.

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. TONKO (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 7434. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 7435. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that coverage under Medicare is permissible for purposes of contributions to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 7436. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the quality assurance program of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. BUDD, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BOST, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CAREY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. DUNN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BENTZ, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COLE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. LONG, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CARL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. HILL, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H.R. 7437. A bill to prohibit the importation of wood and related articles from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 7438. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend certain regulations to clarify that livestock auction owners may have an interest in small meat packing businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CROW, Ms. OMAR, Ms. BASS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 7439. A bill to promote United States energy security and independence by bolstering renewable energy supply chains in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma (for herself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MEIJER, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 7440. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a plan to improve customer service and establish new modes of communication with the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 7441. A bill to provide for the exemption from numerical limitation of certain employment-based immigrants for purposes of filling a labor shortage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 7442. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide employment authorization to certain alien spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 7443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an income tax on excess profits of certain corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 7444. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for diversity and inclusion reporting requirements for certain Department of Defense contractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 7445. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to establish an independent convening authority for certain offenses, randomize jury selection, and improve reporting on racial and ethnic demographics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 7446. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to modify the treatment of certain controlled substance violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 7447. A bill to direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct a study on the modernization of aeronautical standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 7448. A bill to require a study on the resiliency of space access infrastructure for national security requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 7449. A bill to establish prohibitions on the use of automated systems in a discriminatory manner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Armed Services, Science, Space, and Technology, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MACE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 7450. A bill to remove legal impediments preventing construction of a border barrier along the international border between the United States and Mexico, improve the construction requirements for such barrier, make previously appropriated funds available for constructing such barrier until expended, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, Agriculture, Small Business, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 7451. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Texas:

H.R. 7452. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to tighten asylum laws and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 7453. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to complete and publish a study and develop a plan related to the ability of the electric system to meet the electricity demand of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. TITUS, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. MENG, Ms. PORTER, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 7454. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CASE, Mr. KAHELE, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 7455. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to secure existing Tribal contract support cost reimbursements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 7456. A bill to address the supply chain backlog in the freight network at United States ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Armed Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 7457. A bill to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed approximately 981,000 Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, Oversight and Reform, Armed Services, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Ways and Means, Rules, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 7458. A bill to establish a procedure for terminating the suspension of entries and imports from designated places related to the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 7459. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue a strategy to improve hiring and retention of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel in rural or remote areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 7460. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Foreign Affairs, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 7461. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify competency-based education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 7462. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Early Migration Alert Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 7463. A bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HERRELL (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 7464. A bill to place certain limitations on migrant caravans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 7465. A bill to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BACON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 7466. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define ''State of residence'' and ''resident'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SEWELL, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 7467. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 7468. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress a report on the effects of increased production and consumption of alternative proteins on the long-term national security interests of the United States; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 7469. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of James Weldon Johnson; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 7470. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include a full-time job with a veterans service organization as a public service job eligible for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 7471. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Virginia as the Coastal Virginia National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 7472. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant eligible researchers access to eligible products at a discounted price for qualified research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 7473. A bill to prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from interfering with therapeutically equivalent or interchangeable substitution decisions by health care providers to limit competition from a generic drug or biosimilar biological product, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 7474. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the transparency of pharmaceutical research costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 7475. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicaid program for services provided by doulas and midwives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 7476. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 7477. A bill to exempt grants received under the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act from Federal taxation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 7478. A bill to promote youth athletic safety, 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. PENCE (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 7479. A bill to provide a means for Congress to prevent an organization's designation as a foreign terrorist organization from being revoked by the Secretary of State; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. CAWTHORN):

H.R. 7480. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit the use of the authorities under title I and title III of such Act for electric vehicles or related technologies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 7481. A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds relating to the Office for Environmental Justice and any other program, project, or activity relating to climate change of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 7482. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities for creating or enhancing capacity to treat patients with Long COVID through a multidisciplinary approach; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 7483. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the direct and indirect costs of serious mental illness for nongovernmental entities, the Federal Government, and State, local, and Tribal governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 7484. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 7485. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 7486. A bill to promote environmental literacy; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7487. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that individuals who have access to certain healthcare services through a worksite health clinic are eligible to make pre-tax contributions to a health savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. LETLOW):

H.R. 7488. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for certain freedom of association protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H. Con. Res. 85. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should consider the potential impacts to the workforce, economy, and energy security of Pennsylvania and the greater national energy industry when pursuing domestic and international energy policy, including the purchase of energy resources from foreign adversaries, the approval of pipelines, and the consideration of permits for energy and minerals development; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. CHU, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. ESHOO):

H. Res. 1043. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Sikh Americans and Sikhs worldwide; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H. Res. 1044. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 10, 2022 as ''Venture Smith Freedom Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BASS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Res. 1045. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Res. 1046. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the weeks of April 10, 2022, through April 23, 2022, as ''National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Weeks''; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

H. Res. 1047. A resolution reaffirming the economic partnership between the United States and the Caribbean nations and recognizing the need to strengthen trade and investment between the United States and the Caribbean nations, our ''Third Border''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. SCHRADER:

H. Res. 1048. A resolution recognizing small business leadership in combating climate change; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. VALADAO):

H. Res. 1049. A resolution recognizing the significance of California ricelands to wildlife conservation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 1050. A resolution addressing the hardships and disparities faced by Black women in order to encourage more inclusive policymaking; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. TONKO:

H.R. 7434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 7435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 7436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 7437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the powers granted under Article I, Section 8, clauses 1 and 3; and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 7438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 7439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma:

H.R. 7440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1, Article 8

By Ms. BOURDEAUX:
H.R. 7441.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, clause 4
By Ms. BOURDEAUX:
H.R. 7442.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, clause 4
By Mr. BOWMAN:
H.R. 7443.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States.
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7444.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7445.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7446.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7447.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7448.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H.R. 7449.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 7450.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution: ''Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''
Article I, Section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution: ''Congress shall have Power To . . . establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.''
By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:
H.R. 7451.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl 18).
Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.
By Mr. CARTER of Texas:
H.R. 7452.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution—to provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States
By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 7453.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:
H.R. 7454.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS 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. COLE:
H.R. 7455.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mrs. FISCHBACH:
H.R. 7456.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 7457.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Mr. GOLDEN:
H.R. 7458.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GOLDEN:
H.R. 7459.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:
H.R. 7460.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 7461.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII
By Mr. GUEST:
H.R. 7462.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. HARDER of California:
H.R. 7463.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Ms. HERRELL:
H.R. 7464.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 7465.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 7466.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KIND:
H.R. 7467.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:
H.R. 7468.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:
H.R. 7469.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1. Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof
By Mr. LEVIN of California:
H.R. 7470.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mrs. LURIA:
H.R. 7471.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
''U.S. Constitution, Article 8, Necessary and Proper Clause''
By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 7472.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States (the Necessary and Proper Clause) grants Congress the power to enact this legislation.
By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 7473.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States (the Necessary and Proper Clause) grants Congress the power to enact this legislation.
By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 7474.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States (the Necessary and Proper Clause) grants Congress the power to enact this legislation.
By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:
H.R. 7475.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 7476.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 7477.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18
By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 7478.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. PENCE:
H.R. 7479.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the authority 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. PERRY:
H.R. 7480.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 7481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 7482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 7483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 7484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 7485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 7486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 7487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 7488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 60: Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 95: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 413: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 426: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 471: Mr. ESTES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 515: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 554: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 623: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 675: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 829: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 911: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 1179: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1182: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1219: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 1334: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1340: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1361: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1381: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 1553: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1627: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1636: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1729: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1731: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 2011: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2166: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 2198: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 2222: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2228: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2252: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 2256: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 2294: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 2326: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2350: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2549: Ms. DEAN and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2565: Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GAETZ, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2654: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 2718: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 2965: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 3095: Mr. BROOKS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. CRAIG, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 3134: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 3165: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 3173: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3366: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 3369: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 3402: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3456: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3482: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3650: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 3693: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3749: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 3816: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4042: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4066: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4085: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 4122: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4268: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 4390: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4402: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4429: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 4437: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4442: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4479: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4567: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4568: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. MACE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 4766: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4827: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4853: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BASS, and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 5004: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 5129: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5149: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 5409: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 5425: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 5585: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5605: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5713: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 5735: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5754: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. MENG, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FALLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 5815: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5818: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 5874: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 5919: Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 5975: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5984: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 6018: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 6037: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6054: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 6109: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 6132: Mr. UPTON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 6222: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 6228: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 6265: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 6300: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 6308: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 6339: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6398: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 6544: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 6569: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 6577: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 6629: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 6699: Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 6707: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6737: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 6759: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 6860: Mr. PAPPAS and Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 6929: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 6937: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 6982: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 6990: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 7004: Ms. DEAN and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 7018: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 7073: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 7089: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 7116: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 7173: Mr. MCNERNEY and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7185: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 7222: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 7253: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 7255: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 7272: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 7281: Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 7294: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 7309: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 7323: Ms. NORTON, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 7330: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 7355: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 7356: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 7359: Mr. BABIN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BRADY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. MACE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 7363: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 7366: Mr. BROOKS, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 7403: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 7433: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.J. Res. 1: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.J. Res. 53: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.J. Res. 72: Ms. FOXX.
H. Con. Res. 33: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Ms. PLASKETT.
H. Con. Res. 45: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 515: Mr. TONKO and Mrs. KIM of California.
H. Res. 582: Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 892: Mr. WELCH.
H. Res. 1002: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 1003: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H. Res. 1010: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H. Res. 1013: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H. Res. 1015: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H. Res. 1028: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1297: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3807: Mrs. SPARTZ.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 2 by Mr. ROY on House Resolution 216: Ms. Salazar.

Petition 9 by Mr. BUCK on House Resolution 823: Ms. Salazar.

Petition 11 by Mr. SCHWEIKERT on H.R. 6009: Mr. Cline.

Petition 12 by Mr. GOSAR on House Joint Resolution 46: Mr. Reschenthaler, Ms. Stefanik, and Mr. Rice of South Carolina.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 *No. 62*

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GARY PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for the throb of eternity within us, reminding us that life is not measured by mere heartbeats. Lord, we are grateful also that You continue to guide our Nation and world. As You guide the migration of birds, so Your hand guides us. Help us on our journey to be warned from our past mistakes, as we continue to believe that the price for freedom remains eternal vigilance. Lead us away from the illusion that we are standing strong and cannot repeat past failures.

Lord, keep our lawmakers faithful to You and this land we love. May they strive to have a clear conscience before You and the people.

And, Lord, we continue to pray for Ukraine.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GARY PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PETERS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4022) to codify in statute the CDC title 42 expulsion order, which suspends the right for certain aliens to enter the United States land borders, until February 1, 2025.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, the Senate gavels in this morning for a joyous, momentous, groundbreaking day. This morning, we will vote to end debate on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, and, later this afternoon, the Senate will fulfill its constitutional duty to finally confirm this remarkable and groundbreaking jurist.

The cloture vote is scheduled to take place at approximately 11 a.m., and we will aim to vote on final confirmation in the afternoon, the time depending on how many Members wish to speak.

Today is a culmination—a culmination for more than 6 weeks where this Chamber has examined and debated and questioned Judge Jackson on her record and her qualifications. Every step of the way the judge has proved herself exceptionally qualified, thoughtful, and prepared to serve on the Court. As I said, she encapsulates the three b's: brilliant, beloved, and belongs. She belongs on the Supreme Court. It is now up to us to finish the work that the President entrusted us to do.

So today is also a joyous celebration in another way. In the 233-year history of the Supreme Court, never, never has a Black woman held the title of Justice. Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first, and I believe the first of more to come.

This milestone should have happened generations ago—generations ago—but we are always trodding on a path toward a more perfect Union. Nevertheless, America today is taking a giant step toward making our Union more perfect.

People sometimes talk about standing on the shoulder of giants. Well, Judge Jackson will go down in history as an American giant upon whose shoulders others will stand tall, and our democracy will be better off for it.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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I will have more to say later this afternoon, prior to the final vote on the confirmation, but for now I want to thank Chairman DURBIN of the Senate Judiciary Committee for beautifully executing the nomination, all the members of the Judiciary Committee for their thoughtful and respectful—all my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for their thoughtful and insightful examination of the judge's record, and I want to thank those Republican Senators who chose to take this process seriously.

So it is truly a joyous day; joyous for the Senate, joyous for the Court, joyous for America.

Let us finish the work today of confirming Judge Jackson, finally, to the Supreme Court of the United States.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on the final day of the work period, the Senate is going to pass a much sought after piece of legislation: revoking Russia of permanent normal trade relations with the United States.

The legislation will go a long way to landing a painful, severe blow on Putin's economy. It will hinder his ability to keep funding his war machine, and adds Russia, as well as Belarus, to a list of nations, including North Korea, that are ineligible for free trade with the United States.

I want to thank my colleague from Idaho Senator CRAPO for working so closely with me on into the night last night to make sure that this got done.

We will also vote separately on legislation regarding an oil ban, and I thank my colleagues who worked together to reach a compromise on this measure. We are moving forward today.

Putin must absolutely be held accountable for the detestable and despicable war crimes he is committing against Ukraine.

The images we have seen coming out of that country, most recently out of the town of Bucha, are pure, pure evil—hundreds of civilians murdered in cold blood; dozens of bodies of men, women, children, the elderly, the defenseless; people with hands tied behind their backs and left dead in the streets. Some of the bodies showed signs of torture.

According to a new report by Der Spiegel, German intelligence now believes that some of these murders were discussed by Russian troops over radio intercepts. And why were these people killed? Simply because they were Ukrainians. So many were children, civilians, young people, women. No nation whose military is committing war crimes deserves free-trade status with the United States.

Let me say that again. No nation whose military is committing war crimes deserves free-trade status with the United States.

No vile thug like Putin deserves to stand as an equal with the leaders of the free world. He is a menace and a pariah who has ensured that his place in history will be one of everlasting shame.

So today's votes approving PNTR revocation are significant. It is very important that the Senate pass this bill, and I want to thank Senator CRAPO as well as Senators MANCHIN and CARDIN and WYDEN and MURKOWSKI and MENENDEZ and all others who worked in good faith with us together on these measures. We wouldn't have reached this outcome without their diligence and good faith.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I want to close with a few thoughts on what the Senate has accomplished over the past 6 weeks.

There are two words that I believe perfectly summarize the work period we are about to conclude: productive and bipartisan.

In this work period alone, we passed a major postal reform bill over a decade in the making; we passed a bold and robust government funding package, which will help millions of Americans in thousands of different ways; we passed critical emergency aid for the people of Ukraine; we passed the Emmett Till anti-lynching bill after a century of waiting; and topping it all off, we will confirm the 116th Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, before I yield, I also want to applaud the administration's action in extending the pause on payments and interest of Federal student loans. The pandemic continues to impact families economically, and that is why extension is critical for so many borrowers.

And while the extension provides relief, I continue to urge the President to use his existing authority and cancel up to $50,000 in debt in order to provide immediate relief to millions of borrowers, boost our economic recovery, and help narrow the racial wealth gap in our country.

So it has been a very busy April; it has been a very busy March work period, and when we come back in May, it is going to be very busy again. We have a whole lot to do.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the follow nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief, and I want to echo what the majority leader said, particularly with respect to revoking permanent normal trade relations with Russia.

The Senate, and those who are following this, should understand that in just a few minutes, the Senate is going to take another crucial step in bringing every tool of economic pressure to bear on Vladimir Putin and his oligarch allies. Ending normal trade relations hammers home that Putin has made Russia into a full-fledged pariah state.

As the leader noted, Americans have been watching these atrocities—these brutal acts perpetrated by Vladimir Putin—day after day—on TV, phones, and the like—and now the Senate is saying ''there is going to be clear, clear, clear evidence that what he has done has forfeited the right to normal trade relations.''

And I will just wrap up by way of saying that when we get done, on the Senate Finance Committee, we are going to continue to work in a bipartisan way to send Putin additional messages that are going to rein in his economic power.

In particular, I think it is high time to take away the subsidies he gets from American taxpayers for his war machine. That happens when you have American companies doing business in Russia. They pay taxes to the Russian Government, and they get foreign tax credits. I don't believe the people of Michigan or Oregon or anywhere else believe that their tax dollars—their hard-earned tax dollars—should be used to subsidize Putin's war machine.

So this is a very important step today towards making sure, as I indicated, we are putting in place every single economic tool to hammer Putin and his oligarchs.

I urge my colleagues, as Senator SCHUMER has just done, to vote yes, and I also want to thank the ranking member of the Finance Committee. I talked to him a few minutes ago. He continues to do everything he can, every step of the way, to make this a bipartisan effort.

That is the message we ought to send. I urge colleagues to vote yes when we take away normal trade relations from Russia here in a few minutes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL (Ms. ROSEN). Madam 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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, here is a quote from Candidate Biden's campaign website in 2020:

> The U.S. has a right and a duty to secure our borders and protect our people against threats.

Well, that was then; this is now.

The Biden administration's weak border policies set a new record in 2021. Customs and Border Protection had to make—listen to this—2 million—2 million—arrests, and it doesn't appear that that new record will last long; 2022 is already trending even worse.

CBP is currently seeing about 7,000 encounters every single day, and they fear they could see as many as 18,000 per day—a truly staggering figure.

To put this in perspective, President Obama's former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson has reflected that a daily count above 1,000—above 1,000—was ''a relatively bad number, and I was gonna be in a bad mood the whole day,'' reflecting back on his experience.

Now we are at seven times that figure and still climbing. It is a President's responsibility to fix this crisis, but this President is taking major steps to make it even worse.

The Biden administration has announced they will cancel legal authorities that have helped CBP contend with these massive surges. A group of States led by Arizona have explained in court that title 42 is ''the only safety valve preventing this Administration's disastrous border policies from devolving into an unmitigated catastrophe.''

The administration's attempts to explain why they are caving to the far left and throwing our borders open make no sense whatsoever. The White House keeps claiming this is a public health decision; they cannot keep title 42—leading you to ask, why?

Democrats don't act like they think COVID is finished. They give speeches daily about the need for more funding. They say we should be sending health assistance around the rest of the world. The only place on the planet where Democrats say COVID is over apparently is at our southern border.

A growing number of House and Senate Democrats have expressed concern and anger over President Biden's awful decision. But press releases are one thing. What matters is how people vote.

Senate Democrats have taken every meaningful opportunity to back the administration's border policies and vote down Republican efforts to improve security. Their votes have helped create this mess. We will see if they finally change course and begin voting to help Republicans end the crisis instead.

BUDGET

Madam President, now on another matter, last week, President Biden released his budget request for next year. The President got to take a blank canvas and sketch his policy vision for the country. But in the critical area of defending our Nation, the President's vision came up way, way short.

Even amidst a hot war in Europe, bipartisan recognition of threats from China, North Korean nuclear and missile proliferation, and Iran's nuclear, missile, and terrorism trifecta, President Biden proposes to underfund our Armed Forces.

Even if Democrats manage to magically get their runaway inflation under control faster than anyone predicts, their proposal would only flat-fund defense. While China keeps ramping their military spending way up, the Biden budget would have America treading water, at best. More likely, if Democrats' high inflation sticks around, the President's proposal would actually cut the military's purchasing power.

As we speak, Secretary Austin, General Milley, and DOD Comptroller Michael McCord are testifying before the Armed Services Committee to provide some answers about their boss's baffling budget request. These senior leaders have a responsibility to be strong advocates within the administration for the resources that our servicemembers actually need.

When the far-left wanted President Obama to slash military spending, Secretary Leon Panetta waged an impassioned public and private campaign to stick up for our national defense. But if Secretary Austin is advocating for the military's bottom line, he is not doing it very effectively. The administration's proposed defense increase of 4 percent before inflation doesn't come anywhere near meeting our military's requirements to compete with China and preserve peace well into the future.

Yet the same budget lavishes a gigantic—gigantic—14-percent increase on domestic discretionary spending. If our colleague Chairman SANDERS wrote a budget and gave the Pentagon zero input or influence, it might not look much different than the administration's actual product.

So, the world is a dangerous place. China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other adversaries remind us of this basic fact every single day. Our Commander in Chief needs to get with the program.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Madam President, now, on one final matter. The last few weeks have confirmed a pattern that has played out repeatedly in recent decades. When Republican Presidents make Supreme Court nominations, the far-left and the media melt down. Absurd allegations, conspiracy theories, cheap gimmicks, and apocalyptic rhetoric are all guaranteed. But when Democratic Presidents make nominations, Senate Republicans inquire about past rulings and judicial philosophies, and the country gets the serious process it deserves.

On Tuesday, I explained how 30 years of escalation by Democrats ushered in this assertive period for the Senate regarding judicial nominations. Now and for the foreseeable future, the Senate views itself as a co-partner in the process.

On Wednesday, I walked through Judge Jackson's long and disturbing record of using judicial activism to go soft on crime. Today, I need to discuss how these disagreements affect the very bedrock of our Republic.

For multiple years now, the Democratic Party has waged an aggressive campaign to bully our independent justice system and attack the legitimacy of their institution. When the plain text of our laws and Constitution disappoint liberals' policy preferences, they mount radical campaigns to wreck the Court itself. This civic cancer began on the fringe, but it has quickly metastasized throughout their party.

Three years ago, sitting Senate Democrats sent the Court an absurd amicus brief, threatening retribution for a certain ruling. Two years ago, the Democratic leader rallied with radicals on the Court's steps and threatened multiple Justices by name if they didn't produce the policy result he preferred.

Last year, when fringe activists wanted to dig up the discredited concept of partisan court packing, President Biden lent it legitimacy with a Presidential commission. Now, just recently, the Senate Democratic whip said that his side's court-packing proposals don't matter because they lack 60 votes to pass the Senate. Well, that was cold comfort considering the Senator just voted to destroy the 60-vote threshold a few months back.

So this nomination has occurred against a strange, strange backdrop. The Senate Democrats, who spent weeks—weeks—fulsomely praising Judge Jackson, have spent years attacking her soon-to-be workplace.

This is why I needed to hear Judge Jackson denounce court packing. Justices Ginsburg and Breyer had no trouble—none—condemning these schemes loudly as sitting Justices. Surely President Biden could find himself an institutionalist in their mold.

But, alas, Judge Jackson was the court packers' favorite pick for the vacancy, and she refused to follow the Ginsburg-Breyer model. She signaled the opposite. She said she would be ''thrilled to be one of however many''—''one of however many.''

The left's escalating war against the judiciary is a symptom of a profound misunderstanding. Judicial activism sees the Court as a third legislature. The left wants one policymaking body with 435 Members, one with 100, and one that consists of nine lawyers.

Let me say that again.

The left wants one policymaking body with 435 Members, one with 100, and one that consists of nine lawyers. That isn't what the Founders created, and it is not what the American people signed up for.

We have seen over and over that when judicial activism triumphs over fidelity to the rule of law, our courts mutate—mutate—into clumsy proxy battlefields for arguments that belong in this Chamber and out in 50 State legislatures. This is unfair to the American people, and it damages our institutions, not the least the courts themselves.

So there is only one way to lower the temperature, depoliticize the courts, and protect the rule of law: confirming only judges who will honor the Constitution and not supplant it.

The road to a healthy Court and a healthy country is not striking some balance where some Justices stick to the text and some Justices try to make policy. The solution is for all the Justices to stay in their lane.

There is one right number of Justices who seek to follow the law. The number is nine. Ginsburg said it. Breyer said it. There is one right number of Justices who seek to make policy: zero.

There are jurists and scholars with personal views across the political spectrum who understand that all judges should be textualists and constitutionalists in their day jobs. And that must be the Senate's standard.

I see hallmarks of judicial activism in Judge Jackson's record; and, therefore, I will vote no. Nevertheless, our Democratic colleagues are on track to confirm our next Supreme Court Justice.

And do you know what won't happen? Top Republicans will not imply she is illegitimate. We will not call for court packing. I won't be joining any mobs outside her new workplace and threatening her by name.

Democrats must stop their political siege of the institution that Judge Jackson is about to join. They must stop their assault on judicial independence.

We are about to have a new Justice whose fan club has openly attacked the rule of law. So Judge Jackson will quickly face a fork in the road. One approach to her new job would delight the far left. A different approach would honor the separation of powers and the Constitution. The soon-to-be Justice can either satisfy her radical fan club or help preserve the judiciary that Americans need—but not both.

I am afraid the nominee's record tells us which is likely. But I hope Judge Jackson proves me wrong.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SUSPENDING ENERGY IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA ACT

SUSPENDING NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND BELARUS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6968 and H.R. 7108 en bloc, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5021 to H.R. 6968 and amendment No. 5020 to H.R. 7108 are agreed to, and the bills, as amended, are considered and read a third time.

The amendment (No. 5021), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 6, 2022, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The amendment (No. 5020), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 6, 2022, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bills to be read a third time en bloc.

The bills were read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 7108, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—- 100

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

The bill (H.R. 7108), as amended, was passed.

VOTE ON H.R. 6968, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

The bill (H.R. 6968), as amended, was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 860, Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie K. Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Jon Ossoff, Patty Murray, Raphael G. Warnock, Sherrod Brown, Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Luján, Jacky Rosen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The senior Senator from Vermont.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today is a historic day. Today, each Member of the Senate will have the opportunity to cast a vote on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. I say ''historic'' because throughout our Nation's history, only 115 people have served on the Supreme Court. Until now, only five of the Supreme Court Justices have been women. Only two of the Justices have been Black. And none has been a Black woman. So history, indeed, and long overdue.

But I am not going to cast my vote in support of Judge Jackson's confirmation because she is a woman or because she is Black; I will cast that vote because she is eminently qualified to serve in the position to which she has been nominated.

Her nomination shouldn't just be welcomed; it should be celebrated. It is a major step forward for our democracy. It is further widening the lens to help make our Nation more inclusive and more representative with each passing generation.

She is one of the most qualified nominees to the Supreme Court that I have ever considered in my 48 years here: a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School; a judicial clerk at the district, circuit, and Supreme Court levels; a Federal appellate judge; a Federal district court judge; a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission; an attorney in private practice. And she will be the first ever Justice who has served as a public defender, bringing that much needed perspective to the Court. No one—no one—can argue that Judge Jackson is not objectively qualified to be confirmed.

The manufactured accusations that were thrown at her by some of our committee during our hearings not only fell flat, but they have been refuted and debunked by serious voices across the political spectrum. They hold no water. They serve only to showcase the vitriol and the contempt with which some Members of this body approach their sacred constitutional role of advice and consent.

I said it during the hearings, and I will say it again: It is distressing, it is disheartening, and as the dean of the Senate, it is saddening. Yet I find hope in the fact that Judge Jackson's confirmation to our highest Court will have the bipartisan support it deserves and it commands. I commend the Republican Senators who have lauded her qualifications and staked their support of her nomination. Judge Jackson has earned the President's nomination, and she has earned confirmation from the Senate.

Each and every day, millions of American families are living their lives, and how they live those lives—from the salaries they make to the education their children receive and scores of issues in between—is directly impacted by the decisions made at the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court—in fact, all of our courts can't be ivory towers, accessible only to and bending to the will of a select few in our society. They have to be accountable to all—all—all Americans. To do so, they must reflect the diversity of our Nation, the diversity that is at the foundation of our democracy—diversity of gender, of race, of creed, of education and history—but also diversity of thought and life experiences. Judge Jackson brings that and more to the Bench.

Mr. President, I am proud to be the President pro tempore of the Senate, and I was proud to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee in the past. In that regard, I voted for the first woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court. I voted for the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court. I voted on thousands of judicial nominations, nominees of both Republican and Democratic Presidents. I voted for nominations to the Supreme Court who were put forward by Republican Presidents.

I have long lamented the increasing political gamesmanship that has infected our current confirmation process, and many times on this floor, I have warned about the dire consequences for our courts and for our democracy of converting our confirmation process into a zero-sum game where one party wins and one party loses. But to change that gamesmanship requires that we have some adults in the room, that we all come here to the floor of the U.S. Senate not to score a headline or a trending tweet but simply to do our jobs. There are only 100 of us to represent this whole country. So who is going to do that today, simply do their job?

I have taken a clear look at Judge Jackson's record. I heard her testimony 2 weeks ago. I met with her. I read opinions that she has written. I spent hours listening to her. I saw her intellect, her humility, and her temperament on full display.

Mr. President, she is the Justice we need now. For America today, for the generations to come, for our children and our grandchildren, for all of us, I will cast my vote to confirm Judge Jackson, and I will do it proudly.

I hope the Senate can rise to this moment. I hope it can be the deliberative body the Founders envisioned when they conceived of this great experiment. Our independent judiciary—in fact, our democracy—demands it of us.

Mr. President, history will remember the votes cast here today. I will proudly vote aye.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today to express my joy in voting to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

What a great day it is for the United States of America, for our system of government and the grand march toward the fulfillment of the sacred covenant we have with one another as an American people—''e pluribus unum'': out of many, one.

Ketanji Brown Jackson's improbable journey to the Nation's highest Court is a reflection of our own journey, through fits and starts, toward the Nation's highest ideals. She embodies the arc of our history. The very fine product of public schools, both her parents attended segregated primary schools before graduating from historically Black colleges and universities.

She is a two-time graduate of Harvard; a former clerk to Supreme Court Justice Breyer, to whom the Nation owes enormous thanks for his decades of public service; a former Federal public defender who would be the first of her kind to serve on the Supreme Court; a jurist who has gone before the Senate on three separate occasions and each time has garnered strong bipartisan support; a judge who has heard cases both in the U.S. district court and our Federal court of appeals; a judge who has the strong endorsement

of critical stakeholders from across our justice system. From the American Bar Association to those who advocate for civil rights, to organizations representing our Nation's brave law enforcement officers, all of them respect Ketanji Brown Jackson.

She is a wife and a working mom. She is America at its best. That, I believe in my heart after meeting with her in my office, talking to folks whom I trust who know her, and hearing her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Under intense questioning before the committee—much of it appropriate and necessary; some of it outrageous and beyond the pale—she demonstrated her legal acumen, sharp intellect, and the kind of temperament we need on the Bench, especially at a time like this. If there were any doubts about her character, she more than proved her poise, her skill, composure, and the depth of her patriotism through the process—amazing grace under pressure.

As a voice for Georgians in the Senate, I have said from the beginning that people in my State want someone on the Court who is fair, eminently qualified, and has a record of protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of Georgians and Americans. That is why my office has received thousands of emails and phone calls from Georgians in every corner of our State voicing their support for Judge Jackson's confirmation.

After hearing from Georgians and thoroughly evaluating her nomination, I am ecstatic to say that Judge Jackson is an excellent jurist who has the temperament and discernment to sit on our Nation's highest Court.

The people of Georgia made this appointment possible by making history last year. So in addition to thanking Georgia for this moment, I want to acknowledge that the historic nature of her appointment isn't lost on me. Like my brother Senator BOOKER, I know what it has taken for Judge Jackson to get to this moment, and nobody is going to steal my joy.

Yes, I am a Senator; I am a pastor, but beyond all of that, I am the father of a young Black girl. I know how much it means for Judge Jackson to have navigated the double jeopardy of racism and sexism to now stand in the glory of this moment in all of her excellence. For my 5-year-old daughter and for so many young women in our country—but, really, if we are thinking about it right, for all of us—seeing Judge Jackson ascend to the Supreme Court reflects the promise of progress on which our democracy rests.

So what a great day it is in America. Today, the word of justice and equal protection under the law becomes flesh and lives among us in new ways. Today, at the highest levels of our government, the administration of our Constitution looks a little bit more like what it says. And it fills me with great pride for our country, how far we have come and what we can achieve together.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is beyond qualified, and I am beyond thrilled to speak for Georgia in voting to confirm her to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3609

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, while we all gather to acknowledge this historic day and prepare to vote to—in my case, at least—confirm Judge Jackson, I rise to bring up another issue. I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass into law commonsense legislation to bring down oil and gas costs for Americans.

As many of my colleagues have discussed on this floor, Americans across the country, including in my State of New Hampshire, are facing higher costs from the grocery store to the gas pump. As we work together to build a stronger, more resilient economy that strengthens our supply chains and invests in American manufacturing, we must also bring relief to American families right now, an issue that has become even more urgent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has sent gas prices soaring.

As we continue to counter Putin's aggression and inflationary challenges facing our economy, we have an obligation to work together to bring down costs.

That is why I am working to hold Big Oil accountable for profiting off of the pain that Americans are experiencing at the pump. That is why I pushed the administration to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an action I was glad to see the administration take, again, just last week. As we look at all options to bring down costs, one clear way to provide immediate relief is by suspending the gas tax for the remainder of this year.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I introduced a bill to do exactly that. The Gas Prices Relief Act will temporarily suspend the Federal gas tax through the end of the year, helping bring economic relief to families.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3609; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Reserving my right to object, let me begin by saying my friends and colleagues across the aisle are right about one thing: Gas prices are incredibly higher right now in this country.

The effort to blame this on what has happened in Ukraine, however, overlooks the real cause of the phenomenal rise in gas prices that we have seen for a year before Putin even invaded. Definitely, the invasion did increase pressure on gas prices, but the problem is that this administration's policies have dramatically reduced the supply in the United States and Americans across this country know how supply and demand impacts price.

The gas tax holiday that is now being proposed is not a solution; it is a political gimmick that would not stop skyrocketing gas prices or inflation. In fact, Larry Summers said in a Wall Street Journal podcast:

> I think a gas tax idea is saved only by its triviality from being one of the worst public policy ideas of the decade. It will have little effect over any reasonable horizon on gas prices. It will be counterproductive from an environmental point of view. It is the ultimate policy gimmick.

Rather than accept responsibility for 14 months of reckless spending or the more than 40-percent increase in gas prices that had already occurred before the Russian invasion, Democrats want to blame higher gas prices on the Russian invasion or corporate greed. They also want to ignore the consequences of their relentless attacks on the American oil and gas industry, the administration's overly bureaucratic permit and regulatory process for domestic energy production, and the misguided policy decisions like canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The solution to rising gas prices is not a tax holiday, which would offer little relief but threaten infrastructure investments and worsen our national debt situation; nor is the solution a tax on American companies who increase their production of oil and gas to try to help us become more energy independent; nor is it stimulus checks, which have the potential, as the past ones have, to increase gas prices even further and push inflation even higher; nor is it to encourage other hostile regimes to produce more oil.

The only lasting solution to our current problems is to bolster American oil and gas production to replace not only Russian imports but to facilitate exports to support our allies and end their dependence on Russia. Indeed, I, along with a number of my Republican colleagues, have sponsored proposals to enhance energy independence and undo many of President Biden's misguided energy policies.

Republicans believe we can and should be doing more to unleash America's domestic energy potential, reduce reliance on volatile foreign actors like Russia, and deliver cost savings to middle-class families across the country. Hard-working American families need real relief, not political gimmicks, and that is why I oppose this gas tax holiday.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to abandon the reckless spending-and-tax policies that have already failed but which seem to be contemplated in the President's newly reintroduced budget and support proposals that will actually lower prices for everyday Americans. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. HASSAN. Before I wrap up, I just want to point out what you just heard—what the American people have just heard—is talking points straight out of Big Oil's playbook.

A gas tax holiday is a commonsense solution that would provide immediate relief for Granite Staters and Americans all over the country. Big Oil holds thousands of unused permits at their fingertips that they could use right now to increase supply. Instead, what is happening is Big Oil is padding its pockets at the expense of Americans.

Let's be clear. This would not take a dime out of the highway trust fund because this bill instructs Treasury to replenish the trust fund, something it has done half a dozen times in about the last decade. This is something that has bipartisan support across the country—Democratic and Republican Governors, Democratic and Republican legislators are moving to suspend their gas taxes. This is something we could do right now to help American families balance their budgets and make ends meet.

While I am disappointed to see my colleague block this critical legislation, I will keep working to bring down costs for American families and get this bill passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Jackson nomination expire at 1:45 p.m. today.

For the information of the Senate, there will be a rollcall vote at 1:45 p.m. today on confirmation of the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Senators are encouraged to be seated prior to the start of the vote and are encouraged to cast their vote from their desks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Louisiana.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about saving school choice or, perhaps, parental choice.

Some students learn differently than others do. I am the parent of a child with dyslexia. I can tell you that any such parent knows one-size-fits-all education does not work.

Parents and students should have the ability to choose the learning environment that is best for that child, and I think the parent can make the choice better than the school board and certainly better than bureaucrats in the Department of Education here in Washington, DC.

The charter school program was created by Congress for that exact purpose: To ensure that parents could choose what is best for their child. Power to the parent. Giving parents the power is crucial to allowing every student to succeed.

Unfortunately, there are groups working to undermine the power the parent should have to choose their child's school.

The U.S. Department of Education has decided to disregard what is in the best interest of the student with a new proposed rule that adds new requirements for applicants completely unrelated to student outcomes. Applicants would have to demonstrate an unmet need for a charter school, provide evidence of overenrollment at existing public schools in order to establish a charter school.

It seems as if the Department of Education is putting up arbitrary barriers to opening a charter school simply out of prejudice. They don't want the parent to have the power.

Our country's charter schools are under threat from the far left and from teachers unions who seek to shut them down because charter school staffs are difficult to unionize.

Now, these unions know it is much harder to spread their influence in charter schools; and in some cases, it is, frankly, impossible for a charter school to unionize. And the giant unions see this as a simple problem. They know the more charter schools there are, the less revenue they get. So their solution is equally as simple, take power away from parents with layers of new bureaucracy and government regulation. We should not let that happen.

And let's just put this in perspective. Since the pandemic began, it has been public charter schools that have seen a substantial increase in demand. They opened up sooner, and they stayed open in larger numbers than traditional public schools. And we know that open schools are better for children. Parents should have the power to send their child to a school where they feel like they, the parent, have a voice, and where they know their child is more likely to succeed.

Now, let's be clear who this rule is written for—not for the parent and not for the child. It is not written to help the student. It is written to help unions exercise more control over a student's life. This rule makes no mention of how many of these new restrictions improve student achievement or actually help students. And at a time when students are falling behind in record numbers, we need new and innovative approaches to our education system, not just hand the keys over to a special interest group. The truth is, these rules give less choice to families, will hold students back, and do more harm than good.

Now, the charter school program has enjoyed bipartisan support for nearly 30 years. Any substantial change to the program should go through Congress and receive thoughtful consideration. And parent choice for the school their child attends should not be gutted by an informal committee of union employees and education department officials.

Those of us who care about the student, those of us who see the role of charter schools, we have one message to Secretary of Education Cardona: Back off of our charter schools.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. WRIGHT

Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the career of a beloved and trusted Louisiana journalist, radio host, and friend to all, Robert J. Wright of Shreveport, LA. After 50 years of radio, Robert announced he retires later this month. His last day is Friday, April 29, 1 day after his 70th birthday—a well-earned retirement. Robert is a masterful storyteller and a critical thinker, always finding the other side of a story. He has been a voice of reason and always looking for the truth. He took his first job in radio while attending LSU Shreveport. As he says: ''It was indoors, and you didn't have to carry stuff''—about as good a summary of a good job as you could ever ask.

He went on to host morning shows in Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Orlando before eventually moving back to Shreveport in 1996. That is when he first teamed up with his long-term cohost, Erin McCarty, to start their morning show that has been a part of Northwest Louisiana's morning commute for over 25 years.

He and McCarty moved their show and has been the ''Townsquare'' of Shreveport on KEEL ever since. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. Their show has been as much a part of many in Northwest Louisiana's daily routine as a morning cup of coffee. When you interview with Robert, it is clear you are speaking with someone who cares about the issues facing his community, just as much as usual. He has earned the time and trust of his listeners.

So congratulations to Robert J. Wright on an impressive and meaningful career. Robert, I can tell you there are many who are pretty upset about this news, and that is a testament to the positive impact you have had on our community.

Robert, we of Louisiana wish you a happy and well-earned retirement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator for Iowa.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Soon, we will be voting on Judge Jackson's nomination, and I would like to explain why I am voting against her appointment to the Supreme Court.

Since the White House announced Judge Jackson's nomination, I have emphasized the need for a thorough and fair process. Unfortunately, the majority party weren't concerned about the rigorous examination of her record. The White House and the majority party have shielded important information. We don't have any nonpublic document from her time at the Sentencing Commission, and the Obama White House held back more than 48,000 pages.

Judge Jackson also gave the White House confidential, nonpublic probation recommendations for some of her

cases, but when we asked about a probation document filed on the Hawkins case, Judge Jackson claimed that she was not able to access records for her old cases because that was allegedly because she was no longer on the district court. And we now know that she sits on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, if that is true, there are many unanswered questions about how information the White House thought was helpful was so easily obtained. So we should take into account that all the helpful information has already been leaked.

That brings me to the merits of Judge Jackson's nomination. For judicial nominees, their philosophy ought to decide—how to decide cases ought to be a primary consideration.

Part of having a judicial philosophy is having an understanding of the fundamental principles of our Constitution. Natural rights are a part of that system. Judge Jackson explained to us that she does not ''hold a position on whether individuals possess natural rights.''

Now, that ought to be very shocking. Natural rights are basic to our constitutional system and principles of limited government. Because we all know our country was founded on the belief that is expressed in the Declaration of Independence:

> All men are created equal [and] they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are the Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

And that was further nailed down in the Constitution of the United States.

Our Constitution vests the three branches of government with very limited power. All other powers not given to the Federal Government are reserved for the States and to the people thereof.

The principle of limited government is what makes America an exceptional nation and sets our Constitution apart. Judges must have a proper understanding of those basic principles; and the way Judge Jackson answered those questions, particularly the answers she gave to Senator CRUZ, shows that she lacks that very necessary foundation.

Now, I want to go on to a few other examples. At the hearing, Judge Jackson testified about one of her decisions involving the First Step Act. In that case, prosecutors had rock-solid evidence against a dangerous drug kingpin, but Judge Jackson was displeased the government pursued a mandatory minimum sentence.

So she misused a motion for compassionate release to resentence that person to a sentence she thought he deserved.

As the lead author of the First Step Act, I know that is not what we wrote the statute to do. The act was supposed to allow elderly inmates and those suffering from terminal illness to petition the court for a sentence reduction. The statute also allows for a reduction if the court finds an ''extraordinary and compelling reason.''

Judges should use great discretion. Judges should weigh against the charge, the dangers to society, and the risk of recidivism.

At her hearing, Judge Jackson said that she based her ''extraordinary and compelling'' finding on the nonretroactive changes to the law. This radical interpretation is terrible and dangerous.

Congress chose which provisions the First Step Act would apply retroactively. The Senate is currently considering legislation that I cosponsored with Chairman DURBIN that makes some of the First Step Act provisions retroactive, but that is Congress's role, not Judge Jackson's role.

Senator DURBIN and I wouldn't have been able to broker a compromise on that legislation if Senators thought the judges would rewrite the law and insert their own views from the bench. Decisions like this will make bipartisan work, particularly on criminal justice reform, harder to do.

A case by the name of Young is just one example of Judge Jackson's lenient approach to criminal law and sentencing. She also declined to apply a number of sentencing enhancements that Congress put into the sentencing guidelines.

A case by the name of Make the Road New York v. McAleenan is another case that shows how Judge Jackson used her methodology to reach a result that contradicts the plain text of the law. Congress gave the Secretary of Homeland Security—and these are the words from the law—''sole and unreviewable discretion'' to decide whether illegal immigrants should be subject to expedited removal within 2 years. Judge Jackson reviewed the Agency's decision anyway, and it seems clear why.

She went out of her lane to comment on the policy as, in her words, ''a terrible proposal.'' And she claimed that the government attorneys made an argument that ''reeks of bad faith.'' ''Reeks of bad faith'' are her words.

In fact, her decision and her rhetoric are unfounded. So that is why her decision earned a strong rebuke from the panel of liberal and conservative judges when she was reversed by the DC Circuit.

Judge Millett, an Obama appointee, explained it this way in the opinion:

> [T]here could hardly be a more definitive expression of congressional intent [than] . . . ''sole and unreviewable discretion.''

These are just a few examples of Judge Jackson's judicial activism. Because her record clearly shows she does not believe in or act within the limited and proper role of a judge, I will vote against her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Based on my careful review of her record and experience, as well as my assessment of her character and judicial philosophy, I believe that she warrants confirmation to the High Court.

The Constitution delineates the roles of the President and the Senate in nominating and confirming members of the Federal judiciary. Article II grants the President the power to nominate judges, and it gives the Senate the power of advice and consent for such nominations.

Evaluating a nominee to serve a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court is one of the most consequential responsibilities of any Senator. Accordingly, I closely examine each nominee's qualifications, experience, writings, judicial philosophy, and personal integrity. One factor I do not consider is the political party of the nominating president.

I have spent the last several weeks reviewing Judge Jackson's record, both before and after she became a Federal judge. Prior to and after her hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson and I spent more than 2 and a half hours discussing her jurisprudence and approach to deciding cases. I explored her views on precedent and her understanding of the role that the judicial branch plays within our constitutional design.

I also watched Judge Jackson's confirmation hearing and, on numerous occasions, requested additional information from the White House and Senate Judiciary Committee.

There is no question that Judge Jackson is qualified to be a Supreme Court Justice. She has sterling academic and extensive professional credentials. She has been a Supreme Court clerk, an attorney in private practice, a Federal public defender, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and a Federal district court judge for more than 8 years. She now serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Her qualifications have been confirmed by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which has unanimously rated Judge Jackson as ''Well Qualified''—its highest rating.

Having determined that Judge Jackson possesses the requisite qualifications and experience, my consideration of her nomination then turned to whether she has the judgment and approach to deciding cases that are necessary to serve on the Supreme Court.

Words that I spoke—years ago—when announcing my decision to vote to confirm Justice Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court remain my standard today: ''I believe it is . . . critical for nominees to have a judicial philosophy that is devoid of prejudgment, partisanship, and preference. Only then will the decisions handed down from the bench be impartial and consistent with legal precedents and the constitutional foundations of our democratic system.''

Federal judges at all levels who are entrusted with lifetime appointments must avoid the temptation to exceed their constitutional role. That is particularly important for Supreme Court

Justices, who issue rulings from which there is no further opportunity for appeal.

Judge Jackson testified that, as a judge, she seeks to ''decide cases from a neutral posture'' and rules ''without fear or favor, consistent with [her] judicial oath.'' She also correctly acknowledged that the role of a judge ''is a limited one'' and that she is only empowered to ''decide cases and controversies that are properly presented.'' She added that her ''judicial role is further constrained by careful adherence to precedent.''

During her hearing, Judge Jackson was asked whether she believes that the Constitution is a living document with a meaning that evolves over time. In response, she discussed the importance of ''adherence to the text'' and how her judicial powers are constrained by the meaning of the text at the ''time of the founding.'' She also explained that she does not believe in a ''living Constitution,'' rejecting the theory that it is a changing document ''infused with [her] own policy perspective or the policy perspective of the day.''

In these responses, she demonstrated an understanding of the limited role of the judiciary. As Chief Justice John Marshall wrote in the 1803 decision Marbury v. Madison, the Court must ''say what the law is.'' For any judge to do more would undermine the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution.

I also valued the testimony of Judge Thomas Griffith, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by President George W. Bush. He explained that, on several occasions, he reviewed Judge Jackson's decisions on appeal. Although they did not always agree on the outcome, he ''respected her diligent and careful approach, her deep understanding, and collegial manner.'' He added that, in his view, Judge Jackson ''is an independent jurist who adjudicates based on the facts and law and not as a partisan.''

To be sure, I do not agree with some of the decisions that Judge Jackson has rendered as a Federal judge. For instance, in Make the Road New York v. McAleenan, I believe that Judge Jackson was wrong to review a decision that Congress—through Federal law—left to the ''sole and unreviewable discretion'' of the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Court of Appeals rightly reversed her ruling in that case. When I asked Judge Jackson about her decision, however, I respected the fact that she was able to articulate the thoughtful—albeit ultimately mistaken—analysis that she employed.

Similarly, I disagree with the sentences that she has imposed in some of the criminal cases that have come before her. As a general matter, I believe that judges should have some discretion in sentencing. This allows them to take into account the unique circumstances of each case—whether aggravating or mitigating—to determine an appropriate punishment for the crimes committed.

Other Federal judges—appointed by Presidents of both parties—have deviated from the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines in some of the same types of cases handled by Judge Jackson. For instance, a 2021 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission explained that ''[l]ess than one-third (30.0%) of nonproduction child pornography offenders received a sentence within the guideline range in fiscal year 2019.''

The recent surge in crime, exacerbated by the vilification of law enforcement, is causing tremendous harm in cities across America. Thus, in evaluating Judge Jackson's approach to criminal cases, I appreciate the input from the Fraternal Order of Police, which concluded that she ''has considered the facts and applied the law consistently and fairly on a range of issues.'' That organization explained that it is ''reassured that, should she be confirmed, she would approach her future cases with an open mind and treat issues related to law enforcement fairly and justly.''

Just as I have disagreed with some of her decisions to date, I have no doubt that, if Judge Jackson is confirmed, I will not agree with every vote that she casts as a Justice. That alone, however, is not disqualifying. Indeed, that statement applies to all six Justices, nominated by both Republican and Democratic Presidents, whom I have voted to confirm.

I have concluded that Judge Jackson possesses the experience, judicial philosophy, and character to serve our country honorably as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to speak on the profoundly disturbing trend of politicizing the courts and the judicial nomination process. This trend dates back decades and, sadly, continues to damage the reputation of this body and the independence of our courts. Today, calls to ''pack'' the Supreme Court in an apparent effort to dictate the outcome of cases are dangerous and undermine the public's confidence in our judiciary.

Part of the reason for this politicization is that, in recent years, the process has increasingly moved away from what I believe to be appropriate for evaluating a Supreme Court nominee. In my view, the role the Constitution assigns to the Senate is to examine the experience, qualifications, philosophy, and integrity of the nominee. It is not to assess whether a nominee reflects the ideology of an individual Senator or would rule exactly as an individual Senator would want.

It used to be common for Senators to give the President, regardless of political party, considerable deference in the choice of a nominee as long as the President's choice possessed the requisite credentials, experience, integrity, and respect for the Constitution. One need look no further than the 98–0 vote that conservative Justice Scalia received in 1986 and the 96–3 vote that liberal Justice Ginsburg received in 1993.

This approach served the Senate, the Court, and the country well. It instilled confidence in the independence and the integrity of the judiciary and helped keep the Court above the political fray. And this is the approach that I plan to continue to use for Supreme Court nominations because it runs counter to the disturbing trend of politicizing the judicial nomination process.

I urge my colleagues to denounce partisan attacks on our courts and to join me in working to reverse this harmful trend.

Similarly, I urge the Court itself to strive to forge consensus. A defining characteristic of a democracy, one that differentiates it from an autocracy, is that we are all, from the humblest to the most powerful, governed by the rule of law. That protection is inevitably weakened when those charged with upholding the primacy of the rule of law cannot agree on what the law provides. The perception held by some, whether fair or not, that Supreme Court Justices are guided by their personal views undermines respect for the law, posing a threat to the principle that holds us together as Americans.

This danger will only grow if the Court continues to exhibit recurring and predictable differences on the most significant legal issues of our time. Thus, I think it is essential that the Justices endeavor to reach consensus, especially on matters with the greatest potential to cause conflict.

To state this point in simpler terms, at times when our country is deeply divided along political and ideological lines, the Supreme Court is uniquely positioned to ensure that we adhere to the ties that bind us. Its ability to perform that function is diminished, however, when its members appear no less divided than the rest of the country.

I will cast my vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it gives me tremendous honor and pride to offer remarks in recognition of this truly historic moment. I was first elected to the Senate in 2008 and came to Washington alongside our Nation's first African-American President. I remember the aura of historical significance that permeated the whole country during those early days of the Obama administration. In particular, I remember the awe and joy surrounding the inauguration, with Americans lining our streets, packed on the National Mall and glued to television screens in New Hampshire and across our country. I have thought a lot about this recently because I see that same excitement, anticipation, and recognition of history unfolding before our eyes as we as a nation are on the cusp of elevating our first female African-American Justice to the highest Court in our land.

Our Constitution has served as a model for modern democracies around the world. Important pillars of our society like equality under the law, freedom of speech, press, and religion and the separation of powers are all innovations that have made America a beacon of democracy around the world. What makes our Constitution particularly exceptional is its ability to be adjusted and adapted to more faithfully reflect the interests and values of our diverse citizenry which it serves. Important amendments have expanded rights for women and communities of color, making our society more inclusive and pushing the needle toward justice. The Constitution guards our basic rights and freedoms, and the Justices of the Supreme Court serve as the guardians of that Constitution.

It is precisely because of the importance of this Court and each of its nine precious seats that the seating of a new Justice is such a momentous occasion. And in this instance, the significance of the moment has been met by a singular nominee whose achievements, experience and integrity are fully worthy of the history books. In addition, for the first time in history, a former public defender will soon serve on the highest Court in the land. Judge Jackson has already—truly—rendered outstanding service to her country.

Judge Jackson's lived experiences as a Black woman and a mother will bring essential insights to the Supreme Court which, for the first time in 232 years, will approach gender parity. While I fully believe Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would have loved seeing Justice Jackson ascend to her beloved Court, we still have a long way to go before we get to Justice Ginsburg's vision of nine female Justices. But one step at a time, we are building a better, more inclusive country. More succinctly put: We are building democratic institutions that represent the public they serve. Justice Jackson will make history and bring the full bounty of her rich and diverse personal history to the Court, just as Louis Brandeis, Thurgood Marshall, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Sonia Sotomayor did before her.

I will end with one last reflection: Judge Jackson's historic nomination offers hope and optimism at a time when partisanship and division threaten to unravel our very democracy. During my conversation with her, I was struck by her genuine candor in discussing how she would approach working with other Justices from different ideological backgrounds. She seeks to appeal to shared experiences and values with Justices whose ideological backgrounds differ from her own. This recognition that we all have more that unites than divides us gives me faith not only in Judge Jackson's ability to forge consensus, but also that we as a nation have a brighter future ahead of us than behind us, and that we can, and must, work together to bridge our divides—ideological and otherwise.

If I can paraphrase a fellow Granite Stater, the great Senator Daniel Webster whose desk I occupy today: ''Justice is what binds civilized nations together.'' And I believe that Judge Jackson will faithfully use her seat on the Supreme Court to deliver just that kind of justice. Judge Jackson is the very best of America, and I am honored and excited to cast my vote to confirm her to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this Capitol Building has served as the backdrop for some of the most notable moments in America's history. In this building, wars have been declared, peace treaties have been signed, and the march toward progress has either moved forward or has been stopped in its tracks.

Today, the Members of this Senate have the opportunity to take a monumental step forward. We will vote to confirm a once-in-a-generation legal talent, a jurist with outstanding credentials and a lifetime of experience, and the first-ever African-American woman to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court—Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Judge Jackson's confirmation will be a glass-shattering achievement for America.

Consider this moment in history. When the Supreme Court first met in this building in 1801, there were 1 million slaves in this Nation—a Nation of 5 million people. This very building was built with the labor of enslaved people.

And at the time the Court met, neither Black Americans nor White women had a constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. Women had no place in that first Supreme Court chamber, and Black women would only enter to clean it in the dark of the night.

We know what followed. America's battle to end slavery saw a bloody civil war and decades of efforts to break down racial barriers, and the efforts continue to this day.

Our struggle to enfranchise and empower women did not end with the 19th Amendment, 102 years ago. It continues to this day, as well, as we strive to give our daughters the same opportunities we give our sons.

This confirmation of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court honors the history that has come before it. It honors the struggles of the past and the men and women who waged them.

And this confirmation draws America one step closer—one step—to healing our Nation, one step closer to a more perfect Union.

Nearly a century after our founding, we guaranteed the rights of citizenship, finally, to every American, including, for the first time, those who were born into bondage, with the ratification of the 14th Amendment.

It took a long century later for us to expand the bounds of liberty again. We ensured the Federal Government could vigorously protect the right to vote, the most fundamental of rights, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One victory for progress begat the next.

Two years after the Voting Rights Act, we confirmed the first Black American to ever serve on the Supreme Court—Justice Thurgood Marshall. But I would like to remind you: That was 50 years ago.

Now, with the passage of that time, we are beginning to write another chapter in our Nation's quest for equal justice under the law, and that chapter begins with three letters: K-B-J.

With Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation to the highest Court in the land, we are not only making history; we are carrying on a great American tradition: elevating one of our Nation's best and brightest legal minds to an honored position of service.

There is no one more deserving of this high honor. As we have learned over the past month, she is the best of us. She has devoted her life to serving our country. She has done so at every level of the Federal judiciary, and at every turn, she has distinguished herself.

But I hear the critics say she is soft on crime. I wonder how they explain that she was endorsed by the largest law enforcement organization in America, the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as an army of Federal prosecutors who have appeared in her courts.

She is dedicated to protecting judicial independence, to advancing freedom and liberty, and deciding every case, as she says, from a neutral posture. That is exactly what you will find in evaluating nearly 10 years of service on the bench.

I hear Senators come to the floor and say: Well, there is one opinion I disagree with.

For goodness' sake, she has issued almost 600 written opinions in 10 years on the bench in the district court. She has been reversed a small percentage of the time. Her work speaks for itself, and when you evaluate it, you will find out she is thoughtful and evenhanded.

As the American people saw during last month's hearing in the Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson has the right judicial temperament. Calm, collected, she answered every question, even when the questions were hostile and confrontational. She answered them with dignity and grace and stood by for more than 24 hours of questioning.

She is a proven consensus builder. She has been confirmed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis more than three times—three times, I should say—and soon, we hope, she will be confirmed again by a bipartisan majority.

She has earned the support from leaders across the political and ideological spectrum. Civil rights leaders,

leaders in law enforcement, former Federal judges appointed by Democrats and Republicans—all of them have lined up proudly to endorse her.

Perhaps most importantly, Judge Jackson will help ensure that the law works for the people and that the people understand the workings of the courts.

For many Americans, what happens in a courtroom can be cold and impersonal. Judge Jackson has made a habit of making it real. She looks people in the eye, walks them through her decision making with patience and empathy, and she reaches every one of her decisions by following the facts and the law, wherever they lead.

She said that her opinions can run long. That is by design, because she wants America to rest assured—whether she writes in the majority, the concurrence, or dissent—they will know exactly where she stands on the most important issues.

Serving as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee during Judge Jackson's confirmation has been one of the highest honors of my Senate experience.

I want to give a special thanks to the man who spoke before me, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa. His friendship and fairness have really guided our relationship throughout this historic process.

In the weeks since President Biden announced her nomination, Judge Jackson has already lifted the spirit of countless Americans, inspiring a new generation of aspiring jurists and public servants. Millions of Americans see themselves in Judge Jackson—Black Americans, members of law enforcement families, working moms, public high school graduates like her fellow Palmetto Panthers in Florida.

Everywhere I have gone for the last few weeks when I go home—visiting law schools, going to the grocery store—I have been approached by people who have been following this nomination closely. They tell me how deeply impressed they are with Judge Jackson, even under fire from her critics.

Hannah Amundsen is one of those people. She is a law student in Waukegan, IL, a city on the shores of Lake Michigan. In a letter to my office, Hannah wrote:

> If you can see it, you can be it. [And] I'm very excited to see . . . [America's] first black female justice.

Reverend Krista Alston is a Baptist minister in the city of Chicago. She comes from a long line of Baptist ministers. She calls herself ''a civil rights baby,'' born in 1964, the year LBJ signed the Civil Rights Act.

Rikki Jones is also from Chicago. She has been working for civil rights for nearly 60 years—since she was a teenager.

Well, late last month, Reverend Alston and Ms. Jones, with four other people, drove 11 hours from Chicago to attend an hour of Judge Jackson's hearing.

Rev. Alston said she was moved by the judge's courage, grace, integrity, and wisdom. She imagined what it will be like years from now to tell her future grandchildren what it was like to be in that room for that historic moment.

And Rikki Jones said she had never even expected to hear about a Black woman being nominated to the Supreme Court, let alone to be in the room for her hearing. She said that as she watched Judge Jackson, ''it felt like the fulfillment of everything I've worked for my whole life.''

She thought of all the strong Black women who came before her and helped make the movement possible: Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and my personal late friend, the Reverend Willie Barrow, a Black woman minister from Chicago who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King. This moment was about them too, she said.

And this moment is possible because of Judge Jackson and who she is—her qualifications, her integrity, her record of excellence. She has earned her seat on the Supreme Court.

That is why it is so unfortunate that several Republicans on the Judiciary Committee did not approach Judge Jackson's hearing with that same level of fairness and respect as their colleagues.

Thankfully—thankfully—there are Members of the Senate who are willing to rise above the partisan fray.

I want to particularly commend Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska, and Senator MITT ROMNEY of Utah for their political courage and their willingness to support a singularly qualified and historic nominee to the Supreme Court.

You know, when Senator ROMNEY announced his support for Judge Jackson's confirmation, I couldn't help but remember his father, the late George Romney, who served as Governor of Michigan in the 1960s, during the height of the civil rights movement. Governor George Romney knew a thing or two about political courage. As a proud Republican Governor, in 1963, he marched alongside the NAACP Detroit President Edward Turner in support of civil rights. That same year when Dr. Martin Luther King organized a march in Detroit, Governor George Romney declared the occasion ''Freedom Day'' in Michigan.

To my colleague, Senator MITT ROMNEY, you are your father's son.

This week marks 54 years since the shot rang out in Memphis, TN, claiming the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, an American who spoke with greater moral clarity than nearly any other in our history. The night before he died, Dr. King spoke at a rally in support of the city's striking sanitation workers. There was tension in the air. From the moment he set foot in Memphis, he had received a barrage of death threats.

As Dr. King spoke to the crowd at the Mason Temple, death was on his mind. He said:

> Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain.

His next words proved prophetic. Dr. King said:

> I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.

Rikki Jones said that she thought about Dr. King's prophecy when she realized the Judiciary Committee was voting on Judge Jackson's nomination on the anniversary of Dr. King's death. It felt like the prophecy had come to pass.

Dr. King didn't make it to the Promised Land, but Judge Jackson's ascension to the Supreme Court brings us closer to that longed-for place.

I would like to close with one last personal plea to my Senate colleagues. I hope you will think about this. In the years to come, long after we have left the Senate, one of our grandchildren may ask where we were on this historic day, April 7, 2022, when America broke down what seemed like an impossible racial barrier and voted to send the first African-American woman to serve on our highest Court. I will be proud to say I was on the Senate floor, standing at my desk, and casting my vote with pride for the next Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. I hope my colleagues will join me in sharing this historic moment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Biden was elected on the promise that he would govern as a moderate and unite the country. He insisted the radical left would not be calling the shots on his watch. But when it came to one of the most consequential decisions a President can make—a lifetime appointment to our highest Court—the Biden administration let the radicals run the show.

With Washington Democrats in power, the far left got the reckless inflationary spending they wanted; the far left has gotten the insecure border they wanted; and today, the far left will get the Supreme Court Justice they wanted.

The fringe activists who demand partisan Court packing, attack the Justices, and describe our Constitution as ''trash'' made up their minds from the start of this administration that if a Supreme Court vacancy should arise, they wanted one nominee and one nominee only: Judge Jackson. They spent dark money to promote this person specifically. They pushed her for the D.C. Circuit. Then they badgered

Justice Breyer to quit. In February, one of these groups announced Judge Jackson would be the nominee before President Biden actually did make the announcement. So think about that for a moment.

The Senate has examined Judge Jackson's qualifications with the seriousness and vigor that a lifetime appointment deserves. Unlike when the parties' positions are reversed, the country was not subjected to uncorroborated smear campaigns, committee boycotts, stunts with cardboard cutouts, or mobs chasing Senators around the Capitol.

Now a few of our Democratic colleagues seem to have decided in advance they would claim that Judge Jackson was treated shabbily. I have heard that script recited, even though it didn't happen. It didn't happen.

Let's be clear. No nominee before the Senate for any position deserves a cakewalk or a coronation. Tough questions about a Federal judge's own rulings and statements are the definition of ''fair game.'' My Republican colleagues' vigorous inquiry shed important new light on a frequently disturbing judicial record. So I applaud my colleagues for focusing on substance and not following the Democrats' recent precedents into the gutter.

Unfortunately, what the Senate's process turned up was disturbing.

First, the nominee would not follow the Ginsburg-Breyer precedent and denounce the insane concept of partisan Court packing.

Second, her judicial record is full of cases where Judge Jackson ruled like a policymaker implementing personal biases instead of a judge following the text wherever it led.

Third, her aggressive judicial activism frequently focused on treating convicted criminals as gently as possible. In literally case after case, from deadly fentanyl to open borders, to child exploitation, Judge Jackson tilted the scales of justice away from public safety and innocent victims in favor of her career-long passion for softening up criminal sentencing. In Judge Jackson's courtroom, plain legal text and clear congressional intent were no match for what the judge admits are her personal ''policy disagreements.''

Even as a violent crimewave sweeps America, Democrats are pursuing a nationwide campaign to make the justice system softer on crime. They are stacking the deck with far-left prosecutors, woke warriors at the Department of Justice, and Federal judges who believe criminals deserve lighter treatment. This project is terrible for innocent American families. And every piece of evidence suggests Democrats' view Judge Jackson as its crown jewel.

I will close with this: These debates about judicial philosophy are not just academic. The charged political atmosphere around confirmations, the outsized role that unelected judges play in our national life—these are direct consequences of liberal judicial activism. They are direct results of the effort to misuse Federal courts as a progressive legislature that voters can't kick out.

A republic of self-serving citizens should not spend every June watching with bated breath to see if five or six lawyers will hand down sweeping policy changes with zero basis in the written Constitution.

The solution is not to make the Court even more of a superlegislature, like liberals want—a delegitimizing death spiral that would destroy the rule of law. There is only one solution. The Senate should only confirm Justices who will follow the text of our laws and our Constitution wherever it leads, who will leave subjective policy judgments on this side of the street, where they belong. That is how we lower the temperature. That is how we shore up the courts. That is how we protect the rule of law. Staff the judiciary with brilliant men and women who understand and embrace this limited role. No other road leads anywhere good for our great Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is a wonderful day, a joyous day, an inspiring day for the Senate, for the Supreme Court, and for the United States of America.

Today, we are here to vote to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson as the 116th Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Now, a few days ago, I spoke with a group of eighth graders from Cheektowaga, NY. Many of them were students of color. It was amazing. When I mentioned that this week we were confirming the judge, you could see them light up, the unmistakable look in their eyes. ''One day,'' each young lady thought to herself, ''I can do it too.''

You know, it has been a dark 2 years with COVID—people getting sick and dying, many of whom we knew, stores closing, and schools shutting their doors. But even in the darkest times, there are bright lights. Today is one of the brightest lights, and let us hope it is a metaphor, an indication of many more bright lights to come.

As I have said over and over again, there are three words that I think best fit Judge Jackson: brilliant, beloved, belongs.

Judge Jackson is, in every sense and by all measures, a brilliant jurist. She is, indeed, a brilliant person. By the judge's own telling, she first discovered her calling to the law not in a classroom or by reading a book or by talking to lawyers but by sitting at the kitchen table, next to her dad, filling out her coloring book while her dad pored through case law.

Years from now, other parents and other daughters will do the same, and it will be Justice Jackson's opinions that will lay open on the table. The judge's parents and her entire family should beam with pride that this day has come. At every step of her upbringing and career, Ketanji Brown Jackson ranked among the highest of achievers.

And, look, we should take a moment to note that Judge Jackson will be the first and only Justice with experience as a public defender. We are proud of that, and America is proud of that. It will enhance the Court's ability to preserve a basic truth in our country—that all deserve equal justice under the law, from the privileged to the impoverished. In an imperfect world, the judge conquered so many hurdles and today stands as one of the most experienced individuals ever nominated to the Supreme Court.

For this reason, the judge is also beloved by individuals and organizations across the political spectrum. I went through her record carefully, and never did I find one instance of a peer or a colleague or an associate saying one negative word about her. It was incredible. When we go through these records, you often find someone here or there who will bad-mouth the individual who knew them but not with Judge Jackson.

And, lest we forget, the judge is popular in the minds of the American people. A Gallup poll released after her hearings showed nearly 60 percent of the public supports her confirmation—10 points above the historical norm. There is no question here the country, by and large, wants the Senate to confirm Judge Jackson. Police chiefs want to confirm Judge Jackson. Conservative and moderate and liberal judges all want us to confirm Judge Jackson.

And I thank my colleagues in this Chamber who worked in good faith to make sure the Senate can finish its work today.

Finally, as I have said many times, the judge belongs on the Supreme Court. By that, I mean something very specific. In our Nation's history, 115 individuals have been confirmed by this body to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Of those, 108 have been White men; only 5 have been women; only 2 have been African American. But Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first African-American woman ever to hold the title of ''Justice.''

Think about the impact that will have on our democracy. Untold millions of kids will open textbooks and see pictures of Justice Jackson among the highest ranks of our public figures. How many millions of kids in generations past could have benefited from such a role model? How many would-be Justices, lawyers, doctors, generals, businesspeople have been lost to history precisely because their history books had few, if any, role models that they could relate to?

We certainly have a long way to go on the road to true justice, but by confirming Judge Jackson today, we are taking a bold step forward toward reaching the full realization of our country's promise. We will make it far more likely that girls across America will feel precisely what Judge Jackson

felt herself when she was a kid: Nobody can stop me. I can do this too. I am brilliant too. I belong too.

For all of these reasons, increasing the diversity of the Court has been one of my highest priorities and one of the highest priorities of our Senate Democratic majority of whom I am so proud.

Justice Jackson is the most important example, but we have been working on this for over a year. Of the 58 Senate-confirmed Federal judges since we took the majority, three-quarters have been women, and two-thirds have been people of color. It is not just racial and gender diversity that matters. We have strived to lift up judges who bring diversity through their experience: more public defenders in our courts, more civil rights lawyers, more election lawyers.

When Americans of all walks of life come before the court, they should have confidence that those who don the robes have the ability to walk in their own shoes, to see and understand their side of the story, and then apply the law properly according to the facts.

One judge at a time—one judge at a time—this majority is expanding the possibility of who merits consideration to the Bench; and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my Republican colleagues who joined us on this occasion and over the year to achieve this goal.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman DURBIN for beautifully executing this nomination process. It was equal parts fair, thorough, and expeditious—no easy feat in this modern Senate.

I want to thank all of my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. You were just fabulous—every one of you—in your respectful and insightful examination of the judge's record.

And I want to thank my Republican colleagues who chose to take this process seriously no matter which side you voted on.

The President sent us an impressive nominee. She merited robust and thoughtful and lively examination. I thank the Members who did precisely that.

In short, this is one of the great moments of American history. At the time of our Constitution's ratification, in most States, you had to be a White male, Protestant landowner to be considered part of American society. So, from the get-go, generations of Americans have sought to establish the United States as a full democracy. We fought a bloody civil war to end slavery. Women organized and reached for the ballot. The civil rights movement brought an end to the vicious segregation of the mid-20th century. And, today, we are taking a giant, bold, and important step on the well-trodden path to fulfilling our country's founding promise.

This is a great moment for Judge Jackson, but it is an even greater moment for America as we rise to a more perfect Union.

I thank my colleagues for their work.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BROWN JACKSON NOMINATION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown Jackson nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, very happily, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I am here today to speak in support of the nomination and confirmation of Christopher Lowman to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment. We are in a fight for the free world and that requires maintaining a robust military presence of our allies, including and especially NATO countries.

Any U.S. mission also needs a strong logistics chain. That means being able to move troops, medical supplies, fuel, tents, anything else throughout the world at any given time. And this is no longer an abstraction. We have seen what happens when it isn't in place. We are seeing it in real time with Russia's equipment and training problems in Ukraine.

And that is why we have an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment to lead on logistics. As we are watching the Ukrainians bravely push back this unprovoked Russian war, part of the reason that they are having success is that the Russian logistics chain is absolutely broken. We, in the United States, and our Armed Forces take logistics extraordinarily seriously. But we don't have the person in charge of that confirmed to lead the Department on logistics.

This position is left unfilled because JOSH HAWLEY is blocking Mr. Lowman's nomination. Senator HAWLEY apparently disagrees with the Biden administration policy on Afghanistan, and so he is punishing our servicemembers and our NATO allies while a war in Europe is raging. It is worth repeating. Senator HAWLEY is mad about what happened 6 months ago in a different part of the world, and in response, he is harming the Department of Defense and our national security.

Mr. HAWLEY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCHATZ. I will not yield.

Mr. Lowman is well-qualified for this job, and no one is disputing that. He is a Marine Corps veteran who spent nearly four decades working for the Army. He has the exact expertise necessary to help support our logistics chain and help to make sure that our military remains the best fighting force on the planet. It is time for Senator HAWLEY to release this hold and move the nomination forward.

This is preposterous. You can do a hold. Members do a hold. The Presiding Officer has done a hold. I have done a hold. I voted no on nominees. I retaliated against Democratic and Republican administrations when I disagreed with policy. But a blanket hold on the Department of Defense and holding the person in charge of our logistics chain is absolutely inexcusable.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination, Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. HAWLEY. Reserving the right to object, now that I have the floor, will the Senator from Hawaii answer a question?

Do you agree with this administration's policy to denying MiGs to the Ukrainians?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may not interrogate the other Senator.

Mr. HAWLEY. Well, the Senator doesn't want to answer any questions. I see. He denied my request to ask a question a moment ago.

Mr. SCHATZ. Is there an objection? Does he object or not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Regular order has been called.

Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, thank you for finally giving me an option to speak. It is interesting, the Senator will come to the floor but doesn't want to engage in a colloquy or answer questions.

Let's talk a little bit about the policy—disastrous policy—that he is supporting. This is the White House's latest talking points that their failure in Ukraine is now due to some logistics problem and the Department of Defense—they, of course, can't be responsible for what they are doing, just like they are not responsible for anything. They are not responsible for what happened in Afghanistan—their policy. They are not responsible for what has happened in Ukraine—their policy.

Let's talk about their policy in Ukraine.

Mr. SCHATZ. Will the Senator yield to a question?

Mr. HAWLEY. So what has President Zelenskyy been asking for for weeks, indeed, months on end? He said: ''Send us planes.''

What has this administration done? No. Actually, first they said yes, then they said maybe, then they said no.

Today, the Secretary of Defense testified before the Armed Services Committee, under oath, that even though this Congress has appropriated $3 billion in military lethal aid to the people of Ukraine, the Defense Department has so far given them less than one-third of it. Why, because of logistics? No. He was asked that. No, because of policy. His comment was: We are giving them what we think they need.

I would just point out that that is not what the Ukrainians think. If you listen to President Zelenskyy, if you listen to the Ukrainian parliamentarians who have been here, if you talked to them, what they will say is they need more military aid; they need more help.

This administration won't give it to them, not because of logistics but because of policy. We don't have a logistics problem; we have a Joe Biden problem, and we have had that problem in Ukraine from day one.

This administration's policy was to deter a Russian invasion of Ukraine. It failed. Why did it fail? It is not hard to see. President Biden came to office, what did he do?

Mr. SCHATZ. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. HAWLEY. When Ukraine asked for military assistance, he denied it.

Can we have order?

Mr. SCHATZ. I am asking, will the Senator yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri has the floor.

Mr. HAWLEY. When Joe Biden came to office, the people of Ukraine asked for military assistance a year ago—a year ago. Did he give it to them? No. He denied them military stance. He denied them lethal aid. What did he do, though, for Vladimir Putin? When he came to office, he green-lighted Vladimir Putin's pipeline. He turned their pipelines on. He turned our pipelines off. What did he do with American energy production? He throttled it down. He turned it off.

His first actions in office were to, among other things, cancel the Keystone Pipeline, halt the leasing program in ANWR, issue a halt to new oil and gas leases and drilling permits on Federal lands, impose tougher regulations on oil and gas and methane emissions, and a host of new regulations on other energy production.

And that had the desired effect. Russian energy production—up. Russian revenues—up. What has happened since then, since the invasion of Ukraine? It has been one gaffe after another. He won't send them planes.

Today, the Secretary of Defense also confirmed that this administration has, in fact, not been sharing intelligence with the Ukrainians. In fact, today the Secretary of Defense had to admit that the administration was going to be forced to change policy—his words—change policy in Ukraine because of the fact we had not been sharing all the intelligence we might have with Ukrainian soldiers and the Ukrainian military despite their request for that. Whose decision was that? Joe Biden's. It is his policy.

The President hasn't been entirely silent. He did have this to say:

> For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power.

Now Joe Biden doesn't appear to know whether we are fighting or struggling to help the Ukrainians defend themselves or whether we are launching a war of regime change in Russia, itself.

You know, the bottom line is this: On one issue after another, when it comes to Ukraine, this President has been wrong. On every aspect of policy that has mattered, he has been wrong. Is it any wonder the Ukrainians are saying: Change policies, share your intelligence, send us the aid that we have requested.

I say again, we don't have a logistics problem. The White House shouldn't point fingers and shift the blame. We have a Joe Biden problem. That is the nub of the issue here.

There was Joe Biden's comment sounding like we are going to send ground troops:

> You're going to see when you go there—

He said to servicemembers.

> And you . . . some of you have been there. You're going to see—you're going to see women, young people standing . . . in front of a damn tank, just saying, ''I'm not leaving. I'm holding my ground.''

The President—it is one gaffe after another. It is one switch in policy after another. It is disaster from beginning to end. And let's not forget where these foreign policy disasters really kicked off in a big way. Yeah, I was in Afghanistan. Am I concerned about Afghanistan? You are darn right I am. Thirteen servicemembers were killed at Abbey Gate, including one from my home State. I will never forget talking to his father as soon as we learned of the attack—before, in fact, the official notice of his son's death had been released. His father asked me to do everything in my power to hold this administration accountable, and that is exactly what I am going to do.

Has anyone been held accountable yet for Afghanistan? Has somebody been fired? Has somebody been relieved of command? No. Has somebody been shown the door? No. Has there been a change in policy at the Department of Defense? No.

We just stumble from one crisis to another. Why? Because we have a Joe Biden problem. This administration is doing exactly what their Commander in Chief wants them to do and it is wrong, again and again and again and again.

Until we see some change in policy from this administration, until this Senate gets serious about its oversight responsibilities at the Department of Defense, I am going to ask that for senior defense leaders, we at least observe regular order. I can't block a nomination. I can't halt it, but I can ask that regular order be followed. That is exactly what I am going to ask with regard to this nomination and other senior leaders until there is accountability, until we have a change in policy, and until this administration admits that on issue after issue, in virtually every aspect of its foreign policy, it is just dead wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. What Senator HAWLEY wants is an excuse to go through his litany of criticisms of the Biden administration. And the truth is that every Senator has that right without blocking the logistics guy from the Department of Defense.

He could have brought his floor charts out here and given a withering speech about all of the things that he thought went wrong. But he is doing a very specific thing: He is damaging the Department of Defense. We have senior

DOD leaders, we have the Armed Services Committee coming to us and saying: I don't know what to tell him. I don't know how to satisfy him, but he is blocking the staffing of the senior leadership at the Department of Defense.

This comes from a guy who raised his fist in solidarity with the insurrectionists. This comes from a guy who, before the Russian invasion, suggested that maybe it would be wise for Zelenskyy to make a few concessions about Ukraine and their willingness to join NATO. This comes from a guy who, just about a month ago, voted against Ukraine aid. He is saying it is going too slow. He voted no. He voted no on Ukraine aid, and now, he has the gall to say it is going too slow.

And this final insult is that until—what—Secretary Austin resigns? That is not a serious request. People used to come to me during the Trump administration all the time: Do you think Trump should resign? Do you think Tillerson should resign? That is stupid. Of course, I think all the people I disagree with should quit their jobs and be replaced with people I love; of course, I think they should all resign. That is not how this world works. That is not a reasonable request from a U.S. Senator: Until the Secretary of Defense quits his job, I am going to block all his nominees. That is preposterous—and coming from a person who exonerated Donald Trump for extorting Zelenskyy for withholding lethal aid.

They withheld lethal aid until—unless—Zelenskyy would release false smears against Joe Biden's son, and then he voted to exonerate President Trump for this. So spare me the new solidarity with the Ukrainians and with the free world, because this man's record is exactly the opposite.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UKRAINE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I just want to make some comments regarding what the junior Senator from Missouri was just talking about on the floor, and I know that my colleague from Hawaii was providing commentary as well.

It is hard to comprehend how any Member of Congress, House or Senate, could come to the floor and make the criticism of the Biden administration regarding its Ukraine policy, especially with regard to the military assistance provided by this administration, and that same Senator, along with a long list of Republican Senators, voted against all the money for Ukraine just a couple weeks ago, $13.6 billion.

But, unfortunately, it is entirely consistent with what those same 31 Senators have been doing for the last couple of weeks. They voted against all the money in March, and then they criticize President Biden. In fact, the day of President Zelenskyy's speech to the Congress—that inspiring speech—that so many of us were moved by, people in both parties, both Houses, all across the country, in fact, across the world were moved by what he said and, frankly, challenged by what he said.

We have to do more, even in my judgment, than the $13.6 billion. But as the junior Senator from Missouri should know—I hope he knows this—since the beginning of this administration, just on the military assistance, we have provided $2.6 billion. So more than $2.5 billion dollars just in military assistance, but the bulk of that is in that spending bill that we passed a couple of weeks ago that has the $13.6 billion.

Here is what the Washington Post says, and I will read the headline and the date, and then ask consent to enter it into the RECORD. Here is the headline:

More than two dozen Senate Republicans demand Biden do more for Ukraine after voting against $13.6 billion for Ukraine.

Mr. President, dated March 17, 2022, a story by Mariana Alfaro and Eugene Scott, I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[March 17, 2022]

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN SENATE REPUBLICANS DEMAND BIDEN DO MORE FOR UKRAINE AFTER VOTING AGAINST $13.6 BILLION FOR UKRAINE

(By Mariana Alfaro and Eugene Scott)

THIRTY-ONE SENATE REPUBLICANS VOTED LAST WEEK AGAINST THE $1.5 TRILLION SPENDING BILL TO FUND THE GOVERNMENT, INCREASE U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING AND PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE. IN RECENT DAYS, MANY OF THEM HAVE CLAMORED FOR MORE WEAPONS AND AID.

More than two dozen Senate Republicans are demanding that President Biden do more to aid war-torn Ukraine and arm its forces against Russia's brutal assault, after voting last week against $13.6 billion in military and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Consider Sen. Rick Scott (R–Fla.), who heard Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's emotional plea in a virtual address to Congress on Wednesday for more weapons and a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

''President Biden needs to make a decision TODAY: either give Ukraine access to the planes and antiaircraft defense systems it needs to defend itself, or enforce a no-fly zone to close Ukrainian skies to Russian attacks,'' Scott said in a statement. ''If President Biden does not do this NOW, President Biden will show himself to be absolutely heartless and ignorant of the deaths of innocent Ukrainian children and families.''

Last week, Scott was one of 31 Republicans to vote against a sweeping, $1.5 trillion spending bill to fund government agencies and departments through the remainder of the fiscal year, a bill that also included $13.6 billion in assistance for Ukraine. Biden signed the bill into law Tuesday, saying the United States was ''moving urgently to further augment the support to the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their country.''

After casting a ''no'' vote, Scott assailed the overall spending bill as wasteful, arguing that it was filled with lawmakers' pet projects. ''It makes my blood boil,'' Scott said last week.

Democrats quickly condemned what they saw as glaring hypocrisy among the Republicans who voted against the aid but were quick to criticize Biden as a commander in chief leading from behind in addressing Ukraine's needs. ''We should send more lethal aid to Ukraine which I voted against last week' is making my brain melt,'' tweeted Sen. Brian Schatz (D–Hawaii).

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted divisions in the Republican Party on U.S. involvement overseas and the standing of the NATO alliance. For decades, during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, the GOP embraced a hawkish view, with robust military spending and certainty about coming to the aid of allies.

President Donald Trump's ''America First'' outlook and efforts to undermine NATO, including questioning why the military alliance even existed, secured a foothold in the GOP, reflected in the response of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R–Ga.) to Ukraine. In a video Wednesday, Greene blamed both Russia and Ukraine, and warned against U.S. intervention. Biden has said repeatedly that he would not send U.S. troops to fight.

Potential 2024 presidential candidates such as Scott have been highly critical of Biden, who also announced Wednesday that the Pentagon was sending nearly $1 billion in military equipment to Ukraine, including 800 Stinger antiaircraft systems, 100 drones, 25,000 helmets and more than 20 million rounds of small-arms ammunition and grenade launcher and mortar rounds.

In early February, Sen. Josh Hawley (R–Mo.), another possible White House candidate, sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggesting that the United States would be worse off if Ukraine were admitted to NATO, the military alliance of 30 mainly Western countries—including the United States—bound by a mutual defense treaty, and argued that the United States should instead focus on countering China.

Hawley, who voted against the spending bill with billions for Ukraine, said Wednesday that Biden needs to ''step up'' and send MiG jet fighters and other weapons to Ukraine, accusing the administration of ''dragging its feet.''

The Pentagon has rebuffed Poland's offer to send MiG fighter jets to Ukraine amid fears of further escalation involving a NATO country.

In a statement Thursday, Hawley said, ''Aid for Ukraine should not be held hostage to the Democrats' pet projects and I did not support the massive $1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill stuffed with billions in earmarks.''

Sen. Ben Sasse (R–Neb.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee who also voted against the spending bill, told MSNBC on Thursday that the United States ''can do more'' for Ukraine.

''There were all sorts of particular ways where the administration yesterday said a lot of the right things, but just because the pen was in President Biden's hand yesterday doesn't mean that weapons are in Zelensky's hands today. And at every point we're too slow, and it feels like a huge part of the administration's audience is internal lawyers, and they do these offensive and defensive legal-hairsplitting arguments,'' Sasse said.

On the Senate floor Thursday, Sasse argued that the spending bill wasn't ''really about Ukrainian aid,'' but a ''whole bunch of schlock.''

''Ukrainian aid was a little bit of sugar on the larger medicine of a $1.5 trillion bill that nobody would actually want to go home and to defend to the voters, and to the taxpayers of America, as well thought out,'' he said.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D–Conn.) countered that the only way to deliver aid to Ukraine

and massive legislation is through compromise.

''Inside every piece of legislation are elements that many of us disagree with,'' Murphy said. ''Inside that budget that you voted against are all sorts of things that I disagree with. But in the end, in order to govern the country, you have to be able to find a path to compromise.''

Schatz, in an interview with The Washington Post after the exchange between Sasse and Murphy, said the vote in favor of the aid was an ''easy'' one.

''It's very simple: If you don't vote for the thing, you're not for the thing,'' Schatz said. ''That is literally our job, to decide whether we are for or against things as a binary question.''

''So you don't get to say: 'Even though I voted against Ukraine aid, that I'm actually for it, and here's my explanation,' '' Schatz added, arguing that Republicans were trying to have it both ways by maintaining their fidelity to Trump—who has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin—and become ''Zelensky fans'' at the same time.

''They voted to exonerate Trump for this specific reason, which was to withhold aid from Zelensky, and here they are again, opposing aid to Zelensky,'' Schatz said. ''So now they're doing it twice. They're still acting as if they're defenders of Western-style democracy.''

The day before voting against the bill, Sen. Tom Cotton (R–Ark.), another possible presidential candidate, posted on Twitter about the need to come to Ukraine's aid. ''Helping Ukraine defend itself against a ruthless dictator is in our best interest,'' he tweeted.

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R–N.D.) tweeted a clip declaring the importance of assisting Ukraine. ''It's not much of a deterrent when the assistance you provide comes after the invasion,'' he wrote. ''We need to have President Zelensky's back and expedite aid to Ukraine.''

Hours later, Cramer voted against the spending bill. Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R–La.) tweeted a clip the day he voted against the bill of him speaking to the need to give Ukraine more aircraft.

''The Ukrainian people and President Zelensky are fighting well above their weight, but they need planes,'' he said on Fox News. ''He made that very clear to us on the phone Saturday.''

''Give the man his planes,'' Kennedy added.

Sen. Mitt Romney (R–Utah), the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee, was widely mocked when he called Russia the ''number one geopolitical foe'' during a debate with President Barack Obama, a remark that in hindsight seems prescient.

Romney, like other Republicans, has pressed Biden to send more aid to Ukraine. He also voted against the spending bill with billions for the country. Romney said that while he ''strongly'' supports providing aid to Ukrainians, he ''ultimately could not support the rest of this bloated spending bill for the aforementioned reasons.''

''Forcing us to swallow the bad to get the good is concerning, unsustainable, and no way to govern over the long term,'' he said.

In a statement to The Post Thursday, Romney added that he has ''and will strongly support aid for Ukraine'' and that he ''called for a stand-alone bill to get a vote on Monday, four days sooner than the omnibus did.''

Romney and Sen. Joni Ernst (R–Iowa) are separately leading an effort with 40 of their Senate GOP colleagues to urge Biden to work with Poland and other NATO allies to expedite the transfer of aircraft and air-defense systems to Ukraine. Of those 40 Republicans, 25 voted against the aid package.

While increasing domestic spending and keeping the government open, the sweeping spending bill also increased spending for the U.S. military by 5.6 percent, totaling $762 billion. The bill includes a 2.7 percent pay increase for all active-duty troops. Several Republicans were critical of Ukraine in 2017, when Trump began spreading a conspiracy theory that it was Ukraine—and not Russia—that interfered with the 2016 election. Two years later, Democrats accused Trump of leveraging military assistance and an Oval Office meeting with Zelensky in exchange for investigations of Biden and his son Hunter Biden, and the debunked theory alleging Ukrainian interference in the election.

The House impeached Trump; the Senate acquitted him on charges that he abused the powers of his office and obstructed Congress. All the Senate Republicans except Romney voted for acquittal.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D–Hawaii) told The Post on Thursday that Republican lawmakers arguing for more aid for Ukraine days after voting against a bill to provide assistance is ''the height of hypocrisy.''

''Some of them will find every way they can to criticize Joe Biden,'' Hirono said. ''And I think it's more than ironic that the president that they continue to support withheld aid to Ukraine for political purposes.''

As several of these Republicans who voted against the bill criticized Biden, one Republican pointed to the disconnect.

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R–S.C.), who voted for the bill, advised his party to stop sending ''mixed messages'' and lamented that the spending bill with nearly $14 billion for Ukraine didn't pass the Senate 100–0, according to Politico.

And on Thursday, Zelensky's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, tweeted that the was ''grateful'' to the United States, which he described as Ukraine's ''reliable partner.'' ''[Biden] does more for [Ukraine] than any of his predecessors,'' Yermak tweeted.

Mr. CASEY. Here is the subheadline:

Thirty-one Senate Republicans voted last week against the $1.5 trillion spending bill to fund the government, increase U.S. defense spending and provide humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine. In recent days, many of them have clamored for more weapons and aid.

And it goes on from there, and I am not going to read all of it, obviously, but it chronicles the hypocrisy that we just heard here today and that we have heard for days now and weeks now, criticizing the President when they voted against all the money—so all the money from the $13.6 billion that will go to pay for the Javelin missiles that are taking out Russian tanks every day and have for weeks—every penny of that out of the $13.6. You could probably cut it in half in terms of what the military assistance will be.

So let's say, for sake of argument, probably half of that, $6 or $7 billion, but whatever the exact number is, that money is going to help pay for a lot more Javelin missiles that have been so effective. The Stinger systems that they have used, the antiaircraft systems, they are all going to be paid for. The ammunition and the body armor and all of the other assistance that we are providing is going to be made possible because most of the Senate—50 Democrats and just 19 Republicans, but we are grateful for their support—voted for the money.

So if you have a criticism about the administration's policy, you are certainly entitled to criticize the administration, but I think you lose your right to criticize the administration on military assistance and what we are doing or not doing on military assistance when you just voted against all the money—all the money. And yet they do it over and over again, as if no one is watching.

Well, I think the American people get it, and I think they know the difference between someone who can justifiably criticize any administration on foreign policy or defense policy or anything else. But I think you should admit on the record that you didn't vote for the money. Don't throw sand in the eyes of the people. Admit on the record that you didn't vote for the money, and then lodge your criticism. But, of course, he didn't do that and so many who voted the wrong way.

Now, the Washington Post also notes in this article that, obviously, it was a spending bill that will allow us to fund the government. We could talk about that, whether you support funding the government. But here is a point that was made in the article that I think a lot of people may have missed: It is that this funding bill also paid for a pay increase for our troops.

U.S. servicemembers got a pay increase in this bill, and yet you would never know that by listening to some of the folks who voted the wrong way on the bill. You would think that that wasn't part of this legislation.

So I think a lot of Americans probably expect that when you are making an argument against an administration, you have the right to do that, but I think it would be a lot more truthful if you were clear about where you voted on the biggest Ukraine spending measure in recent history, likely not just the biggest ever for Ukraine but the biggest ever for a lot of countries that we help.

So I hope that people across this Chamber and across the country will make note of that contradiction, because when you voted against those dollars for Ukraine, you were voting against not only the people of Ukraine and their ability to fight this war and obviously the soldiers in the field, but you were voting against that humanitarian support, as well, that will provide food and medical care and so much else.

Now, I am in no way satisfied that we have done enough. We have got to do a lot more. We have got to provide, in my judgment, a river, an ever-rushing stream of weapons—as many weapons as it takes to defeat Vladimir Putin.

So we are going to have more debates, and Senators will have more opportunities to vote the right way when it comes to supporting the people of Ukraine. But I think it would be better for the debate if folks would mention how they voted, that they voted against the Ukraine money, that they voted against the pay raise for the troops, and they voted against a lot of other provisions.

But to come on to the Senate floor and to criticize the President on military assistance, that is the height of hypocrisy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The majority leader is going to come to the floor, and I will yield the floor for him when he comes here, but I would like to yield the floor without losing the right to the floor.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STAFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank my staff who worked on this nomination.

First, I would like to recognize the contributions of Kolan Davis, my chief counsel and staff director. Kolan was assisted by Brendan Chestnut, my chief counsel for nominations.

The staff in the nominations unit also worked incredibly hard on this nomination. They include Lauren Mehler, Gabi Kenny, Vetan Kapoor, and Raija Munk.

The permanent nominations team received some reinforcements for this Supreme Court nomination. Annie Croslow joined my staff to lead the team of special counsels assisting on this nomination. That team includes Annika Boone, Kyle Cole, Isaac Fong, Jenna Lorence, Daniel Morales, and Luke Zaro. This team scoured Judge Jackson's record. They spent countless hours reviewing her opinions, her speeches, and pulling filings and transcripts for her cases. Their exhaustive review helped the Republicans on the committee prepare for her confirmation process.

I also want to thank the communications director, Taylor Foy, as well as the deputy communications director, George Hartmann, Aaron Britt, Annie Richardson, Jennifer Heins, and Megan Behrends also contributed to the communications effort.

Other staff also helped review and prepare for the nomination, including Dave Lewen, Lauren Stimpert, Rachel Wright, Erin Creegan, Tianna Torrejon, and Chesney Mallory, as well as law clerks Carly Hviding, Luke Bunting, and Noelle Daniel.

Finally, I want to thank the rest of my Judiciary Committee staff for their continued work during this process and also thank my deputy staff director, Rita Lari, for her advice and leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 808.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 808, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Luján, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 844.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2010.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 844, Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2010.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Luján, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 848.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 848, Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that

the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 7, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor to my colleague and friend from the great State of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, lots of pundits are trying to get into President Putin's head and looking for some so-called off-ramp. Now, I am not a pundit, and I do not pretend to be able to read Putin's mind. However, I do listen carefully to those closest to Russia who have better insights than the American pundits, academics, and foreign policy theorists.

I happen to be cochair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, so I interact regularly with Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians—three countries that in 1940 the Soviet Union absorbed into it, and then since about 1990, they have been independent of Russia. So you can see these countries are historically Western in every sense except geography, but they have had a long and often painful exposure to the Russian-Soviet-KGB way of thinking.

Our Baltic friends can help others in the West who cannot seem to fathom what is going through Putin's mind. The fact that we cannot understand Putin's mindset is because he doesn't think like modern Western leaders.

Now, this is important insight from my Baltic contacts. Putin is stuck in the 17th and 18th centuries. Now, you know I like history, so this is something that I can understand. Putin thinks like a czar expanding his empire. He regrets the collapse of the Soviet Union—not because of communist ideology but because it reconstituted the Russian empire.

In foreign policy, it is easy to assume other countries are just like us. Experts don't know what to make of an 18th-century imperialist.

Some observers have speculated that Putin has gone crazy because he does not seem to be acting rationally, but from the standpoint of someone who thinks Ukraine is not a real country, as Putin has said for decades, and who regrets the collapse of the ''evil empire,'' he is acting rationally.

Our Baltic allies have been warning the West that Putin is an aggressor since well before the current invasion of Ukraine, before the 2014 invasion of neutral Ukraine, before the disastrous Obama administration ''reset'' of relations with Russia, and before the 2008 invasion of Georgia.

The Baltics have often been dismissed as hysterical or Russophobic or at least exaggerating when they warn about Russia. Well, the world has awakened to the fact that the Baltics were right all along.

We should have armed Ukraine to the teeth years ago. Putin only understands strength.

What lessons should have been learned from Putin's pattern of aggression over the years? Putin only understands strength, and weakness is provocative.

During the Hungarian uprising of 1956, when the Hungarian people were protesting to break free of Soviet control, the Eisenhower administration in this country paid lipservice to the aspirations for freedom but was secretly obsessed with not provoking the Soviets.

Eisenhower's Secretary of State, Dulles, made his speech in Dallas, TX, where he said this:

> The [United States] has no ulterior purpose in desiring the independence of the satellite countries. . . . We do not look upon these nations as potential military allies.

So you can see the expansion of NATO today proves how wrong Dulles was at that time.

However, after the Dulles speech, he then cabled the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, instructing that this be brought to the attention of the highest Soviet authorities. Any wonder why Hungary wasn't freed at that time?

The Estonian historian and also its former Prime Minister, Mart Laar, maintains that this message from Dulles was interpreted by Moscow as a carte blanche to intervene and the Americans would not stand in the way. That is why he titled the relevant chapter in his book on the rise and fall of communism in the region ''The lost opportunity: 1956.''

So what do our Baltic friends advise right now in the face of Putin's threats to escalate if we supply Ukraine with fighter jets or other advanced weapons?

Believe it or not, their advice is to relax. In other words, don't overreact to Putin's threats.

We have a nuclear deterrent and Putin knows that. The more we show we are scared by his threats, the harder he will push. And we absolutely need to stop declaring what we will not do in regard to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That just seems to embolden Putin to push harder.

The failure to push back the previous Russian aggressions—and that is not just a Biden problem. That is a problem of both Republican and Democratic Presidents before. Also the failure to enforce previous redlines in Syria and the perception of weakness from the Afghanistan pullout debacle—those three things are at least part of the reason for what is going on in Ukraine.

I hope President Biden has picked up on this as well.

Now is the time to redouble our efforts to reinforce Ukraine. Putin appears to have accepted that he cannot conquer all of Ukraine, but he is very definitely repositioning his forces to take as big of a chunk of the country as he can.

Ukraine must win this war—on to victory. Anything short of a Ukraine victory is an invitation for further Russian aggression elsewhere and, who knows, maybe even encouraging China.

We have got to stop the finger-pointing. We have got to stop the excuses, and we have got to get Ukraine air defenses, drones, and anything else to shift the balance.

To date, the United States and our allies have supplied the heroic Ukrainian military with the kinds of weapons that have allowed them to hang on while their cities are shelled and civilians are massacred.

The battle for Kyiv may have been won, but the battle for the east is only going to intensify. Unless we tip the balance, this could go on for a long, long time.

We have seen how brutal the Russian occupation has been in just 1 month. Imagine months and months of this in eastern Ukraine.

I have a bill with my friend Senator DURBIN to guarantee that the United States will backfill certain critical weapons transferred to Ukraine by our eastern flank of NATO allies. Many NATO countries have been very generous in handing over their weapons to Ukraine. This is leaving a security gap in those very countries. But they know that if Putin isn't stopped in Ukraine, then those countries are at greater risk. As Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas says, Putin cannot even think he has won or his appetite will only grow.

Some of our NATO allies also have air defense systems and drones that could make a big difference in Ukraine.

There are rumors of negotiations to supply items needed in Ukraine, provided there is agreement to acquire American replacements. My bill with Durbin would provide that assurance up front without the redtape that seems to be involved in almost everything we do to help Ukraine.

Putin has talked constantly about what he calls ''demilitarization and denazification'' as his justification for launching this brutal invasion of Ukraine. That phrase does not make much sense on its face, but, again, we have to keep in mind that Putin has an imperial mindset.

No military analyst looking at Ukraine and Russia could possibly think that Ukraine posed any military threat to Russia. The Russian military dwarfs the Ukrainian one in manpower as well as equipment. In fact, it is clear that Putin and his military leaders underestimated the fighting ability of the Ukrainians.

The same is frankly true of NATO's military power along Russia's borders. What Putin means by ''demilitarizing'' is to shrink Ukraine's military to the point that that country is indefensible. He wants Ukraine totally susceptible to Russian threats, meaning back within Russia's sphere of influence.

Now, what about the term ''denazification''? Ever since World War II, Soviet leaders routinely labeled those in the Soviet Republics who expressed a desire for independence that they were fascist or Nazi. It is pretty clear that Putin's initial goal was to

eliminate Ukraine's current government, starting with President Zelenskyy. So despite being descended from Holocaust survivors, denazification starts, from Putin's point of view, by eliminating a Jewish President, Zelenskyy.

A recent article in a Russian state-run publication, RIA Novosti, confirmed that denazification means that the elected government must be eliminated as well as the Ukrainian military. But this article goes on to say:

> However, in addition to the top, a significant part of the masses who are passive Nazis, accomplices of Nazism, are also guilty. They supported and indulged Nazi power. . . . Denazification will inevitably be de-Ukrainianization.

This ought to be very chilling to all of us, especially in light of the massacre at Bucha that we saw on television this week and other Ukrainian cities.

That statement reminds me of this quote from Catherine the Great after she completed her takeover of an independent Ukrainian state just 10 years before our own Declaration of Independence:

> Every effort should be made to eradicate them and their age from memory.

''Them'' meaning the Ukrainians.

Stalin killed millions of Ukrainians by intentionally starving them to death with the same goal in the early 1930s.

Now, you know that Putin has praised Stalin and is now imitating Stalin.

The U.N. Genocide Convention defines genocide to mean ''any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.''

That sure seems to fit with what we know about Putin and his occupation of Ukraine.

There is one last lesson that we can learn from our Baltic friends. Despite the murder and deportation to Siberia of masses of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians to suppress their national identity, there were 10 years of active guerilla warfare by bands of what they called Forest Brothers. In fact, resistance never really ended until the Baltic countries threw off Soviet rule.

I will leave you with the first few lines of the Ukrainian national anthem:

> The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished.
> Luck will still smile on us, brother-Ukrainians.
> Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,
> And we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the confirmation of now Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as a Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

It is an important moment for our country but also a special moment for me because Angela, my wife, and two of our sons are here visiting the Capitol this week. They witnessed history in the making when we voted to confirm, just a few minutes ago, Justice Jackson. Angela and I take great joy in knowing that not just our three sons but young people across the country will see Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as an example of the great heights that they, too, can achieve.

For the very first time in our Nation's history, the Senate has confirmed a Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States. For only the sixth time, we have confirmed a woman to the Supreme Court, and for the fourth time, we have confirmed a working mother. It is also the first time in 50 years that the Senate has confirmed a Justice with public defense experience.

This nomination represents progress, and I am heartened that it was a bipartisan majority of Senators who came together to make history today. I also know that this progress would not have been possible without someone who was brave enough to step ahead on her own; without someone willing to work twice as hard in order to be the first; without someone able to persevere no matter how challenging, how difficult, or how full of doubt her path ahead may sometimes be.

It shouldn't have been this hard. As you know, I am a member of the Judiciary Committee, so I can attest that, when then-Judge Jackson came before the committee with an outstanding judicial record, with bipartisan acclaim, and historic qualifications, she came prepared. She did answer a whole range of important questions, and she was forthcoming. She was clear and gracious.

Many Senators took the opportunity to engage deeply on issues that will shape the future of our Nation—issues like the role of technology and innovation, voting rights, Tribal sovereignty, and much, much more; but, sadly, as has been referenced, some of our colleagues chose to fill their time with hostility, bad faith, and misleading smears.

They chose to hold Judge Jackson to a different standard than other Supreme Court nominees whom they themselves had previously supported. In the same breath as they tried to praise Judge Jackson's character and qualifications, they denigrated her motives; they questioned her impartiality and made up excuse after excuse for why they couldn't support her nomination. It was painful to watch, not just for me but for people across the country.

Judge Jackson was in the spotlight for days, but she continually met disrespect with calm composure. It is an experience that is all too common for those with the audacity to break new ground. Judge Jackson was unfairly tested, but she persevered.

I believe that Judge Jackson deserved better than the treatment she received during the confirmation process. When you see Senators cast aside their good faith in questioning nominees, the threat to the integrity of our justice system is very real, and the cynicism it breeds for our institutions is real. These are the issues that this Senate and that each Senator must confront.

But, today, I want to—and I choose to—celebrate the historic achievement of this confirmation.

Over the last few weeks, I have received thousands of letters and emails and other messages, including on social media, from Californians who support Justice Jackson's confirmation. The messages have come from people of all backgrounds and from every corner of my home State. I have heard from Californians who admire the tenacity, the grace, and the integrity that Justice Jackson showed in committee. I have also gotten messages from so many Californians, young Californians, who see themselves in Justice Jackson's story and from Californians who say that the Court and our country will be better because of her service.

So, as we cast our historic votes, I celebrate the better America that we are building, wherein our courts better reflect and understand the diverse country that they serve. I celebrate the joy that Justice Jackson has brought to people across not just California but across the Nation. I celebrate the commitment to equal rights and equal justice that she will bring to the Supreme Court; and I celebrate the inspiration that she provides to young people, especially young people of color, who will write the next chapter of our American story.

When Judge Jackson introduced herself to the American people in the course of the confirmation hearing in the Judiciary Committee, she said that she stood on the shoulders of the civil rights icon and her personal hero, Judge Constance Baker Motley. For many in the next generation, their hero will be Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

I have shared with others and want to share again today that this confirmation represents one more step toward making our institutions and our courts more inclusive for all Americans.

So it is in that spirit that I ask unanimous consent to make a few additional remarks in Spanish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PADILLA.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Today, we are celebrating a historic moment. We are celebrating the progress that we made to ensure that the Supreme Court better reflects our country.

Judge Jackson is more than qualified and is going to bring important and necessary perspectives to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, she was attacked by Republicans during her confirmation process; but to every attack, Judge Jackson responded with grace and patience. She showed the country that she will be an exceptional Supreme Court Justice, and she will keep being an inspiration for the next generation.

Madam President, Judge—now Justice—Jackson has earned her place on the Supreme Court.

I will end by acknowledging that, while one person alone, sitting on a Court of nine equals, can't single-handedly create faith in the institution, I have every confidence that Justice Jackson will strengthen the Supreme Court and help our country progress forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, an hour or so ago on the floor of the Senate was an amazing sight. It has been a long, long time since I have seen the Galleries full. COVID–19 kept us apart. I missed it. I didn't realize how much until those full Galleries were here to witness the vote on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.

It was a time of great celebration for most Members of the Senate and I think for the Nation because we have achieved something which many doubted would occur.

It has been 50 years since the first African American—Thurgood Marshall—was appointed to be a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. It was another 50 years for us to wait for the opportunity to put a person, a woman of color, on the Court. And we did it today.

Soon, in the coming future, the President will be swearing in Judge, now-Justice Jackson. I am certain that she will be a credit to our Nation. She has already proven that in her lifetime of service.

Many Members of the Senate, of course, were excited and happy about it. I was one of them. I want to thank my colleagues for their kind words, but I also want to acknowledge the obvious.

All of the hard work that led up to this successful vote happened a lot behind the scenes. There were members of our staff who worked long hours—20-hour days—to prepare for this and to be ready to handle the important Judiciary Committee hearings. I would like to acknowledge the staff members on both sides of the aisle who worked tirelessly on Judge Jackson's nomination.

I have got quite a team on my side, and I am very proud of them. I want to recognize the following individuals who played an important part in this historic process: Pat Souders, my chief of staff; Joe Zogby, my Senate Judiciary Committee staff director; Dan Swanson, general counsel; Stephanie Trifone, deputy general counsel; Sally Brown-Shaklee, my deputy chief of staff; Maalik Simmons and Miriam Wheatley, my floor staff who are often sitting right in the back of this Chamber; Claire Reuschel and Riley Foti, my schedulers; my press staff, including Emily Hampsten, my communications director; Jenna Valle-Riestra; Maddie Carlos; Theresa Bordenave; and Laura Keller, and many others on my Judiciary team, including Phil Brest, who was my chief nominations counsel—he worked so hard on this, and he is so good—Sarah Bauer, who was right by his side working every minute; and Gabe Kader, as well; Ziya Smallens, speechwriter; Joe Charlet; Vaishalee Yeldandi; Maggie Hopkins; Anna Shepard; David Adeleye; Eric Chung; Eliza Lehner; Samir Sheth; David McCallum; Mady Reno; Katya Kazmin; Rachel Martinez, Yashi Gunawardena; Doug Miller; Chastidy Burns; Nicole Walton; Lane Giardina; and many, many others.

I also would like to recognize some members of Senator GRASSLEY's staff. Now, he—for those who wouldn't know—is my Republican counterpart. I chair a committee evenly divided—11 to 11—and Senator GRASSLEY is in charge of the Republican side. We have developed a strong friendship and trust over the years that really meant a lot during this process.

I want to recognize Senator GRASSLEY's staff members, in particular: Kolan Davis, his staff director of many years; Brendan Chestnut, his chief nominations counsel; and Lauren Mehler, his senior counsel for nominations.

Our two staffs worked very well together in this process, and I really appreciate that. I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY, again, for it.

I want to thank the committee's non-designated staff, including Heather Vachon, Michelle Heller, Bryan Palmer, Kara Dubbs, Shannon Bartley, Chuck Papirmeister, and others.

I want to also express my gratitude to the larger Senate community who played a part in Judge Jackson's nomination process: the staff of the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms, and of course the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police Force who were critical to the success of the hearing and markups for Judge Jackson's nomination. More than 1,000 people occupied the chairs in the back of the committee room in the 4 days of hearings. It was the largest gathering, largest crowd, short of the State of the Union Address, in modern memory on the Senate. And today's Gallery attendance, again, was something, a welcome change from the forlorn empty Chamber's Galleries that we have come to be used to.

I also want to thank and add the names of the Senate staff who were so instrumental in supporting the committee's proceedings.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of Senate staff who were instrumental in supporting the committee's proceedings.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ronda Stewart	SAA—Security Planning and Police Coordination Director
Wendy Colmore	SAA—Access Control and Transportation Director
Jaivon Gibbs	SAA—Police Coordination Analyst
Amanda Simmons	SAA—Senior Program Manager
Mike Mastrian	SAA—Radio & TV Director
Erin Yeatman	SAA—Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Tamara Robinson	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Charles Moxley	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Jeff Kent	SAA—Press Photographers Director
Mark Abraham	SAA—Press Photographers Deputy Director
Tricia Munro	SAA—Press Photographers, Senior Assistant Director
Matt Grant	SAA—Press Photographers, Assistant Director
Justin Wilson	SAA—Periodical Press Director
Spencer Barks	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Lindsey Bowen	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Laura Lytle	SAA—Daily Press Director
Kristyn Socknat	SAA—Daily Press, Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Amy Gross	SAA—Daily Press, Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Kate Leavitt	SAA—Daily Press, Media Relations Assistant
Inspector John Erickson	USCP Senate Division
Captain Kenneth Wheeler	USCP Senate Division
Captain Matthew Tighe	USCP Senate Division
Lieutenant Vidal Adams	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Adam Descamp	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant David Van Benschoten	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant John Ruskoski	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Howard Jaslow	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Jeffery Andrews	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Charles Nelson	USCP Senate Division

Mr. DURBIN. With that, 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. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am one of the few parents of young children in the Senate. But almost every one of us here is a parent, so you know that one of the most spectacular things your kid can do is to write you a letter. Sometimes—frankly, most of the time—when I have gotten those letters,

it is because my kid wants to protest something that I have done. I have gotten a few of those where my kids are so upset about a rule or a decision that we have made as parents, they sit down and they catalog their grievances on paper.

Maybe if you are lucky, you get a nice letter. My in-laws have one still plastered up on their wall from their youngest daughter who wrote them a nice list when she was young about the things she appreciated. But those ''Dear Mommy'' or ''Dear Daddy'' letters, that is one of the rare joys of parenthood.

On March 6, 2018, Patricia Verbeeck awoke to find one of those letters for her left by her child Eric. It was laying on the pillow of his bed. She picked it up, and she read it to herself. ''Dear Mommy,'' her child wrote. Maybe her eyes twinkled thinking of what sweet or funny thoughts might come next. But this is what the letter said:

> Dear Mommy, I am sorry to do this to you, but I have killed myself by jumping off the top floor, the 12th floor, of your building . . . at the nearest stair exit to the elevators on that floor.
>
> I felt I could no longer live my life as a lie, living as a boy, instead of the girl I knew I could become. I am sorry I lied to you. I was losing hope in the world and could not see my way out of the wrong body and I decided it was time for my life to end . . .

As you might imagine, Patricia didn't get beyond that first line. Upon reading it, she dropped the letter, and she ran straight to her balcony and below, she saw the vague outline of a body and police officers surrounding it.

I follow President Trump's family members on social media. I do it because I know how influential they are. I know how many Americans—good, decent Americans—admire them and listen to what they say.

Lately, the posts from Trump's family members have just been of one theme: America should fear transgender children. The Trump family and their network of supporters and sycophants have decided that Eric Verbeeck and other kids like them are the No. 1 problem facing America today. And over the past year, this crowd has orchestrated a relentless and unceasing campaign to marginalize, demonize, and bully kids whose gender identity is different from their biological sex.

This year alone, Republican State legislatures across the country have introduced 150 bills to deny rights to transgender Americans.

Today, the Alabama legislature introduced legislation that is fast-tracked, from what I understand, to become law that makes it a felony—a felony—for a doctor to provide healthcare to a transgender child. In Texas, the Governor directed his child welfare agency to investigate parents like Patricia who are simply determined to support their children if they help them secure the gender-affirming treatment they need. Criminalizing parents of transgender children is just around the corner in some States.

In Congress, Trump's allies spent more time talking about transgender kids than they spent talking about healthcare or taxes or education. Congresswoman MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE—perhaps Trump's best ally in the House—had a sign outside her office calling the experience of transpeople a ''fiction'' just to bully her hallway neighbor, Representative MARIE NEWMAN, who has a transgender daughter.

And in the Supreme Court hearings here last month, at least one Senator used their time on the national stage to suggest that the entire idea of being transgender is a leftwing hoax.

All across America, Republicans—not all Republicans but the Trump wing of the Republican Party has declared war against transgender kids, and these children have noticed. A recent survey of transgender youth showed that half of them—52 percent—had contemplated suicide over the last year.

Just think about that for a second, my colleagues, half of all the kids who are transgender come to the conclusion at some point in their young lives that they would be better off dead than live in a world that believes they are threats to be marginalized or expunged. That is a national crisis, and we need to talk, honestly and candidly, about what has led us to this moment.

We need to start by acknowledging that this conversation is long overdue. This dialogue about transgender children, it may feel new, but transgender kids aren't, transgender adults aren't. The only difference between today and, say, 50 years ago, is that today there is space for kids and adults to be open about who they truly are.

We are all born with a biological sex. And centuries of tightly controlled constructs about what a man should be and what a man should act like and what a woman should be and what a woman should act like, they have sorted human beings into personality and professional profiles based on that gender.

But there are many of us—this has been the case for human history—who don't associate with the gender that biological chance ascribed to us. There are people who are assigned male at birth who feel, in their bones, that they are female. That is what Eric felt. That is what Eric knew. And there are people who are assigned female at birth, but know, they just know, that they are male.

And there is nothing wrong with that. That process of figuring out which gender you identify with, it poses no threat to anyone. But we do have to acknowledge how hard it is, given those centuries of gender identity and stereotypes, for some Americans to understand what a kid like Eric was going through.

For Americans, for instance, who were born a male and feel like a male and who are surrounded by family and friends who associate with a gender that matches the sex they were born into, the whole notion of a boy becoming a girl or a girl becoming a boy—I get it—that can be disconcerting. It can be difficult to understand. But I also know that this discomfort will pass as more Americans learn what I have learned. Transgender and nonbinary children aren't any different than any other kids.

You might not know a transgender or nonbinary kid, but, trust, me, you do. You know what these kids are like because they are no different than any other children. My son has transgender and nonbinary friends. He has nontransgender friends, but when they are all sitting around our kitchen after school, there is no difference between them in terms of how they act and how they talk, what they are like, what they like, what they don't like. They are kids. They are just kids.

And so here is my message to the adults with power who have decided to spend their days bullying these kids: Stop it. Grow up. So you are not ready to accept transgender people, fine. I hope you come around someday. But these kids threaten no one. They are hurting no one.

And, well, there are important conversations we need to have about how we include transgender kids fully in sports. I could walk into a room of a thousand people in my State and ask how many of them have had a child lose a sporting event to a transgender girl and not a single hand would raise.

Saving girls sports is not the reason why Donald Trump and MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and their whole political movement has made bullying transgender kids their top priority. No, it is their top priority because they know hate and fear of what some people don't understand has a habit of selling in this country. I wish that weren't true, but it has always been true.

There is always going to be a constituency in America that will listen to an argument for why Black people or Mexicans or Muslims or gay people or transgender people are ruining America, why we should fear them.

It is not true. It has never been true. But demagogues and their movements, they tend not to have actual ideas, things they are for. Demagogues normally just focus on what they hate.

Let me say it again. Half of all transgender children in this country have thought to themselves, at some point, that they would be better off dead than live in a world where so many people fear them. That is heartbreaking to know that we are doing that to these kids.

Being a teenager today—I know; I have one—with social media and the pandemic, it is hard enough, but imagine being a teenager who wakes up every day knowing that they aren't the gender they were assigned by biology at birth. Imagine keeping your feelings about that secret for years, worried—worried—about what your parents or your friends might say.

Imagine the anguish of a scared 12-year-old or 14-year-old sitting in bed

awake for hours each night trying to process all of that alone with no help. Imagine the courage it then takes for that kid to have the first conversation with a parent or a friend. And then layer on top of that some of the most powerful people in the world deciding to use their power not to cure disease or end poverty or hunger but instead to use their power to target those very scared, desperate kids and to use their powers to harass and bully and shame them.

Imagine how small, how insecure, how weak a person must be to have all that power and to use it to bully children.

Seth Walsh was gay, not transgender, but his experience was not much different than Eric's. Students at his school were systematic in their targeting of him because of his sexual orientation. They pushed him down the stairs. They kicked him until he was badly bruised. They screamed at him. They called him names. No doubt these bullies took direction and inspiration from adults who paved the way, who endorsed this kind of hateful behavior.

One day, after one of these incidents, a frightened Seth called his mom and he said: ''Mom, you have to come get me right now.'' His mom could feel—hear the fear in his voice, and so she grabbed Seth's little brother and they got in the car and they rushed to pick him up. His mom was so supportive. That afternoon they sat and they talked.

Seth took a shower to calm himself down, and afterward he asked his mom for a pen and told her that he was going to go outside and play with the dogs. About 10 minutes later, his mom went outside to continue this conversation with her son, but it was too late. Seth had hung himself from a tree. The pen that he asked for was for his suicide note.

I tell you these stories because they are consequences of adults' behavior. Donald Trump and MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and their ilk, they aren't murderers, but make no mistake, there is a direct through line from the hateful words and the policies of leaders and the misery that too many transgender, nonbinary, and gay kids are going through today.

But I am also here to tell you that Trump and TAYLOR GREENE, others like them, they are not the majority. And I want to make sure that I finish by sending a message to transgender children and adults that these hateful people, this movement that is growing out there to try to target you, it is not going to win. We are going to build a community of love and protection for you. No matter how bad things may seem right now, they are going to get better. The world is going to get kinder. Adults are going to learn their lessons. And if you don't have it now, as you are struggling with your identity, you will find a support structure that will nurture and support you. It is out there for you. You should be who you are. Don't feel like you need to hide your true self just because of these idiot adults who feel big by bullying people who are different from them.

Be who you are and know that there are a whole lot of us who are going to work our tails off to support you, to love you, and to make sure that you get a chance to thrive—because in the long run, the bullies never win. They never do.

I yield the floor.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Afghanistan War Commission: Seth Jones of Virginia.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117–2

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 7, 2022, by the President of the United States: the extradition treaty with the Republic of Albania, Treaty Document No. 117–2. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Albania (the ''Treaty''), signed at Tirana on December 22, 2020. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty would replace the extradition treaty between the United States and Albania, signed at Tirana on March 1, 1933. The Treaty follows generally the form and content of other extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States. It would replace an outmoded list of extraditable offenses with a modern ''dual criminality'' approach, which would enable extradition for such offenses as money laundering, cyber-related crimes, and other newer offenses not appearing on the list. The Treaty also contains a modernized ''political offense'' clause and provides that extradition shall not be refused based on the nationality of the person sought. Finally, the Treaty incorporates a series of procedural improvements to streamline and expedite the extradition process.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 7, 2022*.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 646, 790, 814, 863, 864; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Oren E. Whyche-Shaw, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; Steven H. Fagin, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen; Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy; and William A. LaPlante, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment? The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2021

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 304, S. 2687.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2687) to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Tester substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5024) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1)(A) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this section, may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and this section, which in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, such subpoena shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate district court of the United States.

''(B) The Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony under subparagraph (A) of—

''(i) any current Federal employee; or

''(ii) any witness as part of any criminal proceeding.

''(2) The authority to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1) may not be delegated.

''(3)(A) The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General of the intent to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1).

''(B) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Attorney General may object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena if the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and, if the Attorney General makes such an objection, the Inspector General may not issue the subpoena.

''(C) If the Attorney General does not object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena during the 10-day period described in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

''(4) Before requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the degree practicable—

''(A) notify the witness of the intent of the Inspector General to issue the subpoena; and

''(B) provide the witness an opportunity to attend and testify voluntarily.

''(5) Whenever requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the greatest extent practicable, travel to residence of the witness, the principal place of business of the witness, or other similar location that is in proximity to the residence of the witness.

''(6)(A) Along with each semiannual report submitted by the Inspector General pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), the Inspector General shall include a report on the exercise of the authority provided by paragraph (1).

''(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the most recently completed six-month period, the following:

''(i) The number of testimonial subpoenas issued and the number of individuals interviewed pursuant to such subpoenas.

''(ii) The number of proposed testimonial subpoenas with respect to which the Attorney General objected under paragraph (3)(B).

''(iii) A discussion of any challenges or concerns that the Inspector General has encountered exercising the authority provided by paragraph (1).

''(iv) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

''(7)(A) The authority provided by paragraph (1)(A) shall terminate on May 31, 2025.

''(B) The termination of authority by subparagraph (A) shall not affect the enforceability of a subpoena issued under paragraph (1)(A) before the date of such termination.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of such section, as so added, shall apply beginning on the date that is seven months after the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2687), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS' EMERGENCY CARE CLAIMS PARITY ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1875 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1875) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rounds substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, that the bill, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 5026) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Emergency Care Claims Parity Act''.

SEC. 2. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FURNISHED TO VETERANS.

(a) TREATMENT FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections (f) and (g):

''(f) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR DIRECT PAYMENT.—An individual or entity seeking payment under subsection (a)(2) for treatment provided to a veteran in lieu of reimbursement to the veteran shall submit a claim for such payment not later than 180 days after the latest date on which such treatment was provided.

''(g) HOLD HARMLESS.—No veteran described in subsection (b) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

''(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (f); and

''(2) such claim was submitted after the deadline established by such subsection due to—

''(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency, under the wrong reimbursement authority (such as section 1728 of this title), or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

''(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.''.

(b) TREATMENT FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1728 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) No veteran described in subsection (a) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

''(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (b)(2); and

''(2) such claim was submitted after a deadline established by the Secretary for purposes of this section due to—

''(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of

the claim to the wrong Federal agency or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

''(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(1) in section 1705A(d), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)'';

(2) in section 1725(b)(3)(B), by striking ''subsection (f)(2)(B) or (f)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''subsection (h)(2)(B) or (h)(2)(C)'';

(3) in section 1728(d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(4), by striking ''section 1725(f)(1)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)(1)'';

(4) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)''; and

(5) in section 1787(b)(3), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)''.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF CLARIFYING INFORMATION FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on one or more publicly available internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the main internet website regarding emergency care authorization for non-Department providers, the following information:

(1) A summary table or similar resource that provides a list of all authorities of the Department to authorize emergency care from non-Department providers and, for each such authority, the corresponding deadline for submission of claims.

(2) An illustrated summary of steps, such as a process map, with a checklist for the submission of clean claims that non-Department providers can follow to assure compliance with the claims-filing process of the Department.

(3) Contact information for the appropriate office or service line of the Department to address process questions from non-Department providers.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 180 days, the Secretary shall review the information published under subsection (a) to ensure that such information is current.

(c) CLEAN CLAIMS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''clean claims'' means clean electronic claims and clean paper claims (as those terms are defined in section 1703D(i) of title 38, United States Code).

The bill (S. 1875), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF TENNIS STAR PENG SHUAI

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 323, S. Res. 503.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 503) expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately guarantee the safety and freedom of tennis star Peng Shuai.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on November 2, 2021, 3-time Olympian Peng Shuai went missing after she said in a since-deleted post on Chinese social media site Weibo that she had been sexually assaulted and forced into a sexual relationship with Zhang Gaoli, who was the senior Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China from 2013 to 2018;

Whereas authorities of the People's Republic of China imposed a media and internet blackout of discussions of Peng's case;

Whereas, on November 14, 2021, after Peng had not been seen or heard from for 12 days, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon requested a ''full, fair, and transparent'' investigation into Peng's allegations;

Whereas the hashtag ''#WhereIsPengShuai'' trended across social media worldwide, with the exception of the People's Republic of China where it was censored;

Whereas, on November 17, 2021, the Women's Tennis Association received a statement purporting to be from Peng, recanting her abuse claim and saying ''everything is fine'';

Whereas, in response, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon said the statement ''released today by Chinese state media concerning Peng Shuai only raises my concerns as to her safety and whereabouts'';

Whereas the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that it was ''encouraged by assurances that she is safe'';

Whereas, on November 19 and 20, 2021, photos and videos of Peng appearing in her home, in a restaurant, and at a youth tennis event in Beijing emerged on Twitter accounts affiliated with government-run media;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the White House is ''deeply concerned'' over Peng's disappearance and seeks ''independent and verifiable proof'' of her location and condition;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, Liz Throssell, the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, told reporters ''. . . it would be important to have proof of her whereabouts and wellbeing, and we would urge that there be an investigation with full transparency into her allegations of sexual assault'';

Whereas, on November 21, 2021, the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that its President, Thomas Bach, had a 30-minute video call with Peng, joined by a Chinese sports official and an official of the International Olympic Committee;

Whereas the statement said that, during the call, Peng appeared to be ''doing fine'' and appeared ''relaxed'', and said she ''would like to have her privacy respected'';

Whereas the International Olympic Committee did not explain how the video call with Peng had been organized, given the difficulties other concerned parties have had reaching her;

Whereas, on November 30, 2021, in an interview with CNN, International Olympic Committee official Dick Pound defended the handling of the situation by the Government of the People's Republic of China and said the ''unanimous conclusion'' by International Olympic Committee officials on the call is that Peng Shuai is ''fine'';

Whereas the annual report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China for 2020 finds that gender-based violence in China remains a serious issue, and highly publicized cases of sexual assault continue to surface;

Whereas, on December 1, 2021, the Women's Tennis Association suspended all Women's Tennis Association tournaments in China and Hong Kong;

Whereas Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon stated, ''In good conscience, I don't see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured to contradict her allegation of sexual assault. Given the current state of affairs, I am also greatly concerned about the risks that all of our players and staff could face if we were to hold events in China in 2022.''; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has repeatedly detained ''#MeToo'' activists in China and censored online and public discussion around sexual assault and harassment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the case of Peng Shuai is directly related to broader international concerns around the freedom of speech and safety of athletes participating in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing;

(2) the failure of the International Olympic Committee to clearly and forcefully challenge the claims of the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning Peng's safety raise questions about the ability and willingness of the International Olympic Committee to stand up for the human rights of athletes participating in the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China would help reduce concerns about athlete safety at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing by assuring Peng's freedom and safety and investigating her allegations in a fair and transparent manner;

(4) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately take steps to—

(A) provide independent and verifiable proof of Peng's whereabouts and that she is safe;

(B) allow Peng to engage directly with the Women's Tennis Association and the United Nations to independently verify her safety and explain her absence from public life since making her allegation;

(C) open an independent and transparent investigation into Peng's allegations against former senior Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli;

(D) publicly commit to hold sexual violence abusers accountable;

(E) cease all censorship of reporting and discussions of Peng's case; and

(F) allow Peng to leave China if she so desires and prevent any retaliation against family members remaining there;

(5) by failing to clearly and forcefully challenge the Chinese Communist Party's narrative, the International Olympic Committee has failed to uphold its own stated commitments with regard to ''[r]espect for international conventions on protecting human rights'', as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee;

(6) the conduct of the International Olympic Committee runs counter to efforts by the United States Government, human rights organizations, the Women's Tennis Association, and other international bodies and individuals to secure Peng's safety; and

(7) in an effort to regain lost public confidence, the International Olympic Committee should publicly call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to undertake the actions called for in paragraph (4).

That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the case of Peng Shuai is directly related to broader international concerns around the freedom of speech and safety in China;

(2) the failure of the International Olympic Committee to clearly and forcefully challenge the claims of the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning Peng's safety raises

questions about the ability and willingness of the International Olympic Committee to stand up for the human rights of athletes participating in the Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing, as well as in future games;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately take steps to—

(A) allow Peng to provide independent and verifiable proof of her own whereabouts and safety without retribution;

(B) allow Peng to engage directly with the Women's Tennis Association and the United Nations to independently verify her safety and explain her absences from public life since making her allegation;

(C) open an independent and transparent investigation into Peng's allegations against former senior Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli;

(D) publicly commit to hold sexual violence abusers accountable;

(E) cease all censorship of reporting and discussions of Peng's case; and

(F) allow Peng to leave China if she so desires and prevent any retaliation against family members remaining there;

(4) the International Olympic Committee, by failing to clearly and forcefully challenge the Chinese Communist Party's narrative, has failed to uphold its own stated commitments with regard to ''[r]espect for international conventions on protecting human rights'', as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee, and runs counter to efforts by the United States Government, human rights organizations, the Women's Tennis Association, and other international bodies and individuals to secure Peng's safety;

(5) to regain lost public confidence, the International Olympic Committee should publicly call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to undertake the actions called for in paragraph (3); and

(6) to demonstrate commitment to Olympic athletes and their human rights, the International Olympic Committee should deny the ability of the People's Republic of China to serve as an Olympic Games host nation or to bid to become a future Olympic Games host nation until the Government of the People's Republic of China ceases its horrific abuses of internationally recognized human rights, including the genocide against the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, and undertakes the actions called for in paragraph (3).

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. MURPHY. I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adopting the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 503), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

BANKRUPTCY THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3823, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3823) to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5025), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act''.

SEC. 2. BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR.—Section 101(51D)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting ''under this title'' after ''affiliated debtors''; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking ''an issuer'' and all that follows and inserting ''a corporation described in clause (ii).''.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''1182(1),'' after ''707(b),''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''1182(1),'' after ''707(b),''.

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) Only an individual with regular income that owes, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts of less than $2,750,000 or an individual with regular income and such individual's spouse, except a stockbroker or a commodity broker, that owe, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts that aggregate less than $2,750,000 may be a debtor under chapter 13 of this title.''.

(d) DEFINITION OF DEBTOR.—Section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) DEBTOR.—The term 'debtor'—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning single asset real estate) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than $7,500,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and

''(B) does not include—

''(i) any member of a group of affiliated debtors under this title that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than $7,500,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);

''(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or

''(iii) any debtor that is an affiliate of a corporation described in clause (ii).''.

(e) TRUSTEE.—Section 1183(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''possession, perform'' and inserting ''possession—

''(A) perform'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—

(A) by striking '', including operating the business of the debtor''; and

(B) by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) be authorized to operate the business of the debtor;''.

(f) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1191(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) The debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; or

''(B)(i) there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; and

''(ii) the plan provides appropriate remedies, which may include the liquidation of nonexempt assets, to protect the holders of claims or interests in the event that the payments are not made.''.

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) and (f)''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsections (b) and (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''needed to offset the amount'' after ''amounts''.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (c) and the amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) shall apply with respect to any case that—

(A) is commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after March 27, 2020; and

(B) with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020 and before the date of enactment of this Act, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO BAIA.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2021.

(i) SUNSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as such subsection read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) DEBTOR.—The term 'debtor' means a small business debtor.''.

(2) AMOUNTS.—For purposes of applying subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1)(A), the amounts specified in such subsection shall be the amounts that were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 3823), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ELIMINATE THE RESTRICTION ON VETERANS CONCURRENTLY SERVING IN THE OFFICES OF ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. 3785.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3785) A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to eliminate the restriction on veterans concurrently serving in the Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MURPHY. 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 bill (S. 3785) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3785

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

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON VETERANS CONCURRENTLY SERVING IN THE OFFICES OF ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

Section 106(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking '', a retired regular officer of an armed force, or a former regular officer of an armed force''.

SAMYA ROSE STUMO NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACT OF 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4070, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4070) to designate the National Air Grant Fellowship Program as the ''Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. 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. 4070) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4070

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 ''Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. SAMYA ROSE STUMO NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 131 of division V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting ''**SAMYA ROSE STUMO**'' before ''**NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**'';

(B) in the paragraph heading of subsection (a)(4), by inserting ''SAMYA ROSE STUMO'' before ''NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM''; and

(C) by inserting ''Samya Rose Stumo'' before ''National Air Grant Fellowship Program'' each place it appears.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 101(b) of division V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking the item relating to section 131 and by inserting the following:

''Sec. 131. Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program.''.

(b) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, any reference in a law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the ''National Air Grant Fellowship Program'' shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program''.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the lives of 189 passengers and crew, who died in the Lion Air Flight 610 crash on October 29, 2018, are commemorated and recognized, including, but not limited to, Captain Bhavye Suneja, First Officer Harvino, Permadi Anggrimulja, Liu Chandra, Chairul Aswan, Resti Amelia, Reni Ariyanti, Daniel Suhardja Wijaya, Mardiman, Dadang, Diah Damayanti, Dolar, Dony, Dwinanto, Eryant, Cici Ariska, Fendi Christanto, Dr. Ibnu Fajariyadi Hantoro, Inayah Fatwa Kurnia Dewi, Hendra, Hesti Nuraini, Henry Heuw, Khotijah, Jannatun Cintya Dewi, Ammad Mughni, Sudibyo Onggowardoyo, Shintia Melina, Citra Novita Anggelia Putri, Alviani Hidayatul Solikha, Damayanti Simarmata, Mery Yulyanda, Putri Yuniarsi, Putty Fatikah Rani, Tan Toni, Tami Julian, Moedjiono, Deny Maula, Michelle Vergina Bonkal, Mathew Darryl Bongkal, Adonia Magdiel Bonkal, Fiona Ayu Zen S, Agil Nugroho Septian, Wahyu Alldilla, Xherdan Fachredzi, Deryl Fida Febrianto, Bambang Rosali Usman, Nikki Bagus Santoso, Andrea Manfredi, Muhammad Luthfi Nurrandhani, Shandy Johan Ramadhan, Muchtar Rasyid, Rebiyanti, Eka Suganda, Yulia Silvianti, Syahrudin, Sekar Maulana, Fais Saleh Harharah, Natalia Setiawan, Alfiani Hidayatul Solikah, Robert Susanto, Rudolf Petrus Sayers, Muhammad Syafi, Sian Sian, Arif Yustian, Vicky Ardian, Wanto, and Verian Utama;

(2) the life of Samya Rose Stumo and the lives of 156 passengers and crew who died in the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crash on March 10, 2019, are commemorated and recognized, including, but not limited to, Abdishakur Shahad, Abdullahi Mohammed, Adam Kornaski, Adam Mbicha, Professor Agnes W. Gathumbi, Ahmednur Mohammed Omar, Alexandra Wachtmeister, Ama Tesfamariam, Ambassador Abiodun Oluremi Bashua, Ameen Ismail Noormohamed, Amina Ibrahim Odawaa, Amos Namanya, Angela Rehhorn, Ann Wangui Karanja, Anne Mogoi Birundu, Anne (last name unknown), Anne-Katrin Feigl, Anushka Dixit, Ashka Dixit, Kosha Vaidya, Prerit Dixit, Bennett Riffel, Benson Maina Gathu, Bernard Musembi Mutua, Captain Yared Getachew, Carolyne Karanja, Ryan Njuguna, Kerri Pauls, Rubi Pauls, Cedric Asiavugwa, Chunming Jack Wang, Cosmas Kipngetich Rogony, CP Christine Alalo, Danielle Moore, Darcy Belanger, Dawn Tanner, Djordje Vdovic, Doaa Atef Abdel Salam, Dr. Ben Ahmed Chihab, Dr. Manisha Nukavarapu, Ekta Adhikari, Elsabet Menwyelet, Father George Mukua, First Officer Ahmednur Mohammed, Ayantu Girma, Sara Gebre Michael, Carlo Spini, Gabriella Viciani, George Kabau, George Kabugi, George Kamau Thugge, Getnet Alemayehu, GaoShuang, Ghislaine De Claremont, Harina Hafitz, Siraje Hussein Abdi, Hussein Swaleh, Isaac Mwangi, Isabella Beryl Achieng Jaboma, Jackson Musoni, Jared Babu Mwazo, Mercy Ngami Ndivo, Jessica Hyba, Joanna Toole, Jonathan Seex, Jordi Dalmau Sayol, Josefin Ekermann, Joseph Kuria Waithaka, Julia Mwashi, Karim Saafi, Karoline Aadland, Kodjo Glato, Marcelino Rassul Tayob, Marie Philipp, Maria Pilar Buzzetti, Matthew Vecere, Max Thabiso Edkins, Mel Riffel, Micah John Messent, Michael Ryan, Meraf Yirgalem Areda, Juliet Otieno, Mulugeta Asfaw Shenkut, Mulusew Alemu, Mwazo, Nadia Adam Abaker Ali, Oliver Vick, Paolo Dieci, Peter DeMarsh, Professor Adesanmi, Saad Khalaf Al-Mutairi, Sam Pegram, Sara Chalachew, Sarah Auffret, Sebastiano Tusa, Shikha Garg, Sintayehu Aymeku, Sintayehu Shafi Balaker, Sofia Faisal Abdulkadir, Stéphanie Lacroix, Stella Mbicha Konarska, Tamirat Mulu Demessie, Anthony Wanjohi Ngare, United States Army Captain Antoine Lewis, Vaibhav Lahoti, Victor Tsang, Virginia Chimenit, WangHeo, Xavier Fricaudet, Yekaterina Polyakova, Alexander Polyako, Zhen Zhen Huang, ZhouYuan, Pannagesh Vaidya, Hansini Vaidya, Joseph Waithaka, Blanka Hrnko, Martin Hrnko, Michala Hrnko, Sergei Vyalikov, Suzan Mohamed Abu-Farag, Nasser Fatehy Al-Azab Douban, Asraf Mohamed Abdel Halim Al-Turkim, Abdel-Hamid Farrag Mohamed Magly, Essmat Abdel-Sattar Taha Aransa, Jin Yetao, Derick Lwugi, Reverend Sister Florence Wangari Yongi, Melvin Riffel, Mwazo Mercy Ngami, Reverend Norman Tendis, and Pius Adesanmi;

(3) the life of Indonesian diver Syachrul Anto, who died during search and rescue recovery operations in the aftermath of the Lion Air Flight 610 crash, is commemorated and recognized; and

(4) the Senate and the House of Representatives express their condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who died on Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 and commend their ongoing advocacy to advance aviation safety for the flying public at large.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2021

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 658.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 658) entitled ''An Act to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 592, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 592) designating April 6, 2022, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 592) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF KANEASTER HODGES, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 593, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 593) relating to the death of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Arkansas.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. 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. 593) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 533.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Kaine amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 533) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5027) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the preamble, in the fourth whereas clause, strike ''have been the preeminent power projection platform for the Navy and''.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

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 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 unequaled 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 706, 765, 766, 767, and 770; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under

Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs; 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; and Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

RUSSIAN LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, among the many barbaric atrocities committed by Russian soldiers in Ukraine where civilian infrastructure including hospitals, schools, and apartment buildings have been repeatedly bombed and shelled and countless civilians have been summarily executed in the streets, the New York Times reports today that the Russians are using a new kind of landmine.

This mine, called the POM–3, is inherently indiscriminate like other mines in that it cannot distinguish between a civilian and a combatant, and it is apparently equipped with a sensor that triggers the explosive when a person approaches. With a kill radius of 50 feet, it is even more deadly than a typical anti-personnel mine. And, unlike typical landmines, it cannot be disarmed by a human deminer because anyone who approaches it is likely to become a victim before reaching it. So it will be necessary to use robots to clear these mines, at great additional time and expense. As in other countries affected by armed conflict, it will be many years and almost certainly decades after the fighting ends, before the people of Ukraine can walk safely without fear of mines and other unexploded ordnance.

Human beings seem to have an unlimited capacity to devise new ways of destroying the lives of others. Landmines are especially insidious because they maim or kill whoever comes into contact with them, or, in the case of the POM–3, whosever's footsteps it detects. It could be anyone, including a young child.

No matter how ''sophisticated'' the technology, mines are an exceedingly primitive weapon because they are designed to be indiscriminate in an age of so-called precision munitions.

Mines are the opposite. While landmines are so easy to make that it will never be possible to completely eliminate them, in 1997, the international community took an historic step, thanks in large part to the leadership of former Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the tireless advocacy of the International Campaign to Ban landmines.

In December of that year, countries came together to sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, known informally as the Ottawa Treaty or the Mine Ban Treaty. Today, the treaty has 164 states parties. But one of the reasons anti-personnel mines have yet to be universally stigmatized is because key countries including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and the United States have not joined the treaty.

Of course, when one country joins a treaty, it does not guarantee that others will. But the more countries that do, the harder it is for others to fail to do so, as they become the outliers, the pariahs. So if the United States, which has not used anti-personnel mines since 1991, were to join the treaty it would not guarantee that Russia would. But it would greatly enhance our credibility to call out their use of mines, their devastating effects on innocent civilians, and the need to universalize the treaty.

In 1994, President Clinton, at the United Nations, called for ridding the world of anti-personnel mines. He also directed the Pentagon to develop alternatives. They never did. While we can drive a robot on Mars 100 million miles away, our own military continues to stockpile landmines that are triggered by the victim. Whether a U.S. soldier or a child, our landmines, like Russian landmines, cannot tell the difference.

If anything good can come of this catastrophic and senseless war in Ukraine, it would be for the international community to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and for the United States to once and for all renounce the use of anti-personnel landmines. These are not weapons that belong in the arsenals of civilized nations and certainly not in the arsenal of the most powerful, modern military on Earth. Let us be the country that not only denounces their use in Ukraine, but denounces and renounces their use everywhere. What a gift to the world that would be.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article entitled ''New Russian Land Mine Poses Special Risk in Ukraine'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The New York Times, April 6, 2022]

NEW RUSSIAN LAND MINE POSES SPECIAL RISK IN UKRAINE

(By John Ismay)

WASHINGTON—Russian forces in Ukraine appear to be using a new type of weapon as they step up attacks on civilian targets: an advanced land mine equipped with sensors that can detect when people walk nearby.

Ukrainian bomb technicians discovered the device, called the POM–3, last week near the eastern city of Kharkiv, according to Human Rights Watch, a leading human rights group, which has reviewed photos provided by Ukraine's military.

Older types of land mines typically explode when victims accidentally step on them or disturb attached tripwires. But the POM–3's seismic sensor picks up on approaching footsteps and can effectively distinguish between humans and animals.

Humanitarian deminers and groups that campaign against the use of land mines said the POM–3 would make future efforts to locate and destroy unexploded munitions in Ukraine vastly more complicated and deadlier.

''These create a threat that we don't have a response for,'' said James Cowan, who leads the HALO Trust, a British American charity that clears land mines and other explosive remnants of war to help countries recover after conflicts. The group began removing unexploded munitions from the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine in 2016, after Russian-backed separatists started fighting the Ukrainian government.

''We'll need to find some donors to procure robotics that can allow us to deal with these threats at some distance,'' Mr. Cowan added.

The POM–3 is typically launched by a rocket and falls back to earth by parachute before sticking into the ground—where it waits, according to CAT–UXO, an online resource for military and civilian bomb technicians. When the mine senses a person, it launches a small explosive warhead that detonates midair, producing fragments that are lethal up to about 50 feet away.

Mr. Cowan, a retired British Army major general, said his staff of 430 Ukrainians clearing unexploded munitions in Donbas had been unable to continue working since Russia launched a full invasion of the country in late February, with many staff members temporarily relocating in Ukraine. He anticipates that in the future, HALO's operation across the country will require about 2,500 workers, given that many areas outside Donbas are now contaminated with unexploded munitions as well.

U.S. government officials have said Russia appears to be moving troops to consolidate its hold on Donetsk and Luhansk, which could mean that even more weapons like the POM–3 will be used in the war.

''The war is entering a static phase—trenches are being dug,'' Mr. Cowan said. ''This is the time when I would expect the Russians to start using land mines on a massive basis.''

HALO, which stands for Hazardous Area Life-Support Organization, has about 10,000 employees around the world and is among the few international nonprofits that have remained in Afghanistan since the Taliban took control of Kabul, the capital, in August. Mr. Cowan said the future cleanup in Ukraine would require roughly the same number of workers as HALO's current operation in Afghanistan, which is recovering from decades of armed conflict.

The POM–3 is just one new hazard among many that his organization expects to encounter, in addition to an untold number of rockets, bombs and artillery shells that failed to detonate on impact. Russia has also attacked Ukrainian arms depots, causing fires and explosions that typically fling hundreds or even thousands of damaged munitions into surrounding areas.

Once widely used around the world, anti-personnel land mines often kill and maim civilians long after hostilities have ceased. Ukraine is one of the 164 nations that have signed a 1997 treaty banning the use of anti-personnel land mines and pledged to purge their stockpiles. The United States and Russia have refused to join it.

The treaty does not prohibit the use of antitank land mines—which typically have a much larger explosive charge and are designed to detonate only when a vehicle drives over or near them—nor does it address improvised explosive devices built to destroy vehicles. Videos posted on social media purport to show both antitank mines and improvised bomb attacks on Russian vehicles in Ukraine.

Russia's use of land mines was among the discussions at an event on Tuesday on Capitol Hill for the United Nations' international mine awareness day, which brought together groups that focus on the issue and lawmakers from Congress's Unexploded Ordnance/Demining Caucus.

''Wars end, they stay,'' Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, said of land mines and unexploded munitions. ''The targets are invariably civilians, and they are in places where you have a limited ability to provide lifesaving medical care.''

''Look at what's happening in Ukraine—Russia is placing land mines in people's homes, as well as children's playgrounds and places where people go,'' Mr. Leahy said. ''That's using it as a weapon of terror.''

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor because today has been a good day for our country. Earlier today, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Not only did this Chamber make history, we also bore witness—in a small but powerful way—to the bending of the moral arc towards justice. We realized the promise of America: the promise that every child—regardless of their skin color, their ethnicity, or the ZIP code they are born into—can rise to their highest station in life. We cemented our fundamental belief that, here in America, if you reach further and aim higher, anything is possible.

I submit to my colleagues that the story of Judge Jackson is the story of our great Nation. Together with her impeccable credentials and evenhanded record, there was simply no reason to oppose the confirmation of such a talented, well-qualified, and fair-minded jurist. It is why I could not have been prouder to cast my vote, a vote on behalf of New Jerseyans everywhere, to elevate her to the highest Court in the land.

Judge Jackson has lived a life in the mold of the great strivers in our history. Her nomination alone was a testament to the progress—often deferred or denied—but nonetheless the progress we have achieved on our 246-year struggle for a more perfect union.

I could not be prouder that we etched it into stone and confirmed her to the Court, proving to women and girls everywhere that, if they work hard and reach for the stars, they too can be one of the nine guardians entrusted by the Constitution to ensure equal justice under law for all people. As we celebrate this historic moment, consider the senior quote ascribed to Judge Jackson in her high school yearbook: ''I want to go into law and eventually have a judicial appointment.''

As we stand here, after extending her the judicial appointment of all judicial appointments, it may seem predestined. It may have seemed like this day is the culmination of her destiny. But to hear Judge Jackson tell it herself, one realizes that, in fact, none of it was predetermined. None of it was fate. Simply put, it was the brilliance and grit of a young woman from South Florida—and the love of her family who surrounded her—that made this vote possible. As a student at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Ms. Ketanji Brown was class president, chess club president, and a star on the powerhouse speech and debate team.

Her parents, Ellery and Johnny Brown, were teachers who taught her the value of education as they rose to lead their peers as a principal and chief counsel for Miami-Dade County schools. In addition to public education, her family is steeped in a law enforcement background. Her younger brother worked in undercover drug stings for the Baltimore Police Department. One of her uncles was a detective attached to a sex crimes unit, while another uncle was Miami's chief of police.

And yet it is the experience of seeing a third uncle, her Uncle Thomas, sentenced to life in prison for a nonviolent cocaine offense, that rounds out her early understanding of our criminal justice system. In 2005, Judge Jackson would eventually set in motion a chain of events that ended with President Obama commuting her uncle's sentence. But before that could happen, before she joined major law firms and the Federal public defender's office—before she served as Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission and as a judge on the Federal bench—she was first a daughter, a sister, and a niece.

And it is there, in the pages of Judge Jackson's story, as a product of public schools who saw our country's justice system up close, where we can find her judgment. It is there where we can find the reasons for my colleague, Senator BOOKER, to declare to her on national television: ''You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American.''

So much ink has been spilled about the historic nature of Judge Jackson's nomination and now confirmation. She stood before the Senate as a nominee descendant from slaves who grew up listening to her parents' stories of attending segregated schools, a nominee who was once told by a guidance counselor that she shouldn't set her sights so high when applying to Harvard; a nominee who not only graduated as the second generation in her family to earn a college degree but who silenced naysayers and doubters alike by graduating, with honors, from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Simply put, soon-to-be Justice Jackson belongs on the highest Court in the land. Her confirmation is a milestone in the grand tapestry of our country—not only because she has broken barriers as the first African-American woman and the first to have served as a public defender, but rather, it is because she is supremely qualified to interpret our Constitution and hear cases on their merit. When she is sworn in, Justice Jackson will have more experience as a trial court judge than any of her colleagues on the Court. In fact, she will be the second Justice ever to have experience at all three levels of our Federal judiciary. The first, a legal trailblazer in her own right, is Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

It is therefore only fitting that, as I have thought about what this day means for our country, I am reminded of the parallels between this historic nomination and the historic nomination for Justice Sotomayor. Back then, in 2009, I said, ''when she takes her seat on the United States Supreme Court, we will only need to look at the portrait of the justices to see how far we've come as a nation, who we really are as a people, and what our founders intended us to be.''

Those words have never rung more true. A woman who, when the Constitution was written, would have counted in the eyes of the law as three-fifths of her fellow Americans, will now carry out justice for every single citizen who calls this Nation home. In the midst of disgusting attacks, racial dog whistles turned into foghorns, and gross mischaracterizations of her record, Judge Jackson maintained a calm demeanor throughout her nomination with almost superhuman poise.

For my colleagues who opposed her nomination today, yet voted to confirm her to the Sentencing Commission, the district court, and to the appeals court just last year, I leave them to iron out their double standards. But to all who rejoice in what is to come, when Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will soon place her hand on the Bible and takes her solemn oath of office, I submit the following:

More than ever before, the newest portrait of our nine Supreme Court justices will more clearly reflect who we are as a nation and what we stand for as a fair, just, and hopeful people.

Unlike other nations, those united by a singular history, language, and culture, this nation—our Nation—is united by our diversity. It is evident in our national motto—the one stamped on every coin in our pocket and etched on the ceiling of our Capitol dome, E pluribus Unum: out of many one. And it is despite these differences that our country comes together as a vast melting pot, one forged in common values and an ideal of freedom that stands as a beacon to the world.

As Judge Jackson takes her rightful place on the Supreme Court, the full realization of that ideal is closer than it has ever been. I know this for I have lived it—as Judge Jackson has lived it—and I feel it, as so many others in this country have felt it. I stand here, the son of Cuban refugees, the first in my family to attend college, and now, in a nation of 330 million, as one of only 100 Members of the U.S. Senate.

It is indeed possible, my colleagues, to make our ancestors' wildest dreams come true.

And so, in closing, as I reflect on our vote earlier today, I can't help but feel joy for my three granddaughters: Evangelina, Ofelia, and Olivia. Granted, they are still young; my oldest is barely out of pre-K. But each one of them will grow up knowing that, thanks to Justices like Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and now Ketanji Brown Jackson, there isn't a single thing they can't accomplish. Let their dreams be our dreams today. Let every child in America look at their parents the way that Judge Jackson's daughter looked at her during her confirmation hearing.

Let there be no barriers to what is possible now that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been confirmed to the Supreme Court.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 863, Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1555, the nomination of David Uhlmann, of Michigan to be Assistant Administrator of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, of the Environmental Protection Agency, having been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 10 ayes, to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

THOMAS R. CARPER,
Chair.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1556, the nomination of Carlton Waterhouse, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator of Solid Waste, of the Environmental Protection Agency, having been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Environment and Public Works has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

THOMAS R. CARPER,
Chair.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 14, the fiscal year 2022 congressional budget resolution, included authority in section 4004 to allow the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust budget aggregates and committee allocations related to program integrity, disaster relief, wildfire suppression, and veterans medical care funding.

H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, was enacted on March 15, 2022, and designates funding eligible for several of these adjustments. Specifically, the bill provides $18.9 billion in budget authority for disaster relief, $2.1 billion in budget authority for program integrity activities to combat waste, fraud, and abuse, and $2.5 billion in budget authority to fight wildfires. Accordingly, I am adjusting the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the spending aggregates upward by these amounts and by the amount of outlays flowing therefrom.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)

($ in billions)

	2022
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,146.077
Outlays	4,500.492
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	23.516
Outlays	3.046
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,169.593
Outlays	4,503.538

Note: Adjustments reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. They exclude $89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)

($ in billions)

	Current allocation	Adjustments	Revised allocation
General Purpose Discretionary:			
Budget Authority	1,498.483	23.516	1,521.999
Outlays	1,679.766	3.046	1,682.812

Note: Adjustments reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. They exclude $89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)

($ in billions)

Detail of adjustments made above	Disaster relief	Program integrity	Wildfire suppression	Total
Financial Services:				
Budget Authority	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.143
Outlays	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110
Homeland Security:				
Budget Authority	18.799	0.000	0.000	18.799
Outlays	0.477	0.000	0.000	0.477
Interior and Environment:				
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	2.450	2.450
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.841	0.841
Labor-HHS-Ed:				
Budget Authority	0.000	2.124	0.000	2.124
Outlays	0.000	1.707	0.000	1.707
Total:.				
Revised Discretionary Budget Authority	18.942	2.124	2.45	23.516
Revised Discretionary Outlays	0.587	1.707	0.841	3.135

Note: Totals reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 and also include $89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about the extraordinary accomplishments of the University of Kansas's men's basketball team. As the Nation saw on Monday night, KU beat the University of North Carolina in the NCAA championship game, doing so in a historic fashion.

The game started strong for the Jayhawks, taking an early 7–0 lead, but after some back and forth, North Carolina seemingly broke the game open, ending the first half on an 18–3 run to go up 15. This deficit proved to be the largest ever overcome in an NCAA championship game. Going into the locker room, one could only imagine the sense of determination running through their minds. To win this game, they literally needed to pull off the biggest comeback in championship history in front of thousands of Kansas schoolchildren who look up to these young men as role models and student-athletes. How would they respond to this adversity?

This question was answered as the referee handed the ball to a Tar Heel player and he looked up to see a Jayhawk in his face. The Jayhawks had a look of champions in their eyes. This game meant too much to everyone back home to give up. They stormed out of the locker room after inspirational words from power forward David

McCormack, who started the half by giving Jayhawk fans back home something to cheer about with an electrifying, signature Jayhawk alley-oop. That play ignited a 20–6 run that brought the Jayhawks within 1 point. In true Kansas fashion, the Jayhawks ramped up their defense and began executing the fundamentals of basketball Kansans learn in the front driveway and haymounds across the state. The game became a slugfest at that point with KU and North Carolina trading body blows back and forth until McCormack sank one last shot to take the lead with just over a minute left. That shot ultimately sealed this KU team's spot in the history books, brought KU its fourth NCAA national championship, and added to their lead as the winningest basketball program in NCAA history.

For all of us who saw the game, it was clear that this championship lived up to the March Madness hype. Every Kansas basketball fan will remember this team for their ability to share the ball—or as Coach Self says, ''to not let the ball stick.'' Each game during this tournament seemed to have a different hero, but in this historic championship game, every player was a hero, and everyone's contributions were necessary to win. This Jayhawk team made us all proud to be Kansans and delivered the greatest final game comeback ever.

This group should relish in that fact, and I hope they also understand the enormity of the impact they have made with this title on so many fans, young and old alike. This team gave us hope and entertainment to distract us from a challenging past couple of years. They showed up every day and did their job. With this title, current KU students now have the experience of a lifetime, alumni and fans everywhere are connected forever through this one game, and every little girl and boy across Kansas has learned what hard work, teamwork, and a never-give-up attitude can accomplish.

To the players graduating or heading to the draft,I wish you the best of success and happiness in your future endeavors. To Coach Self and everyone else returning, I look forward to current and future generations of Kansans cheering you on and celebrating the tradition of Kansas Basketball. ''Rock Chalk!''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RALPH BENNIE ''BEN'' GRAHAM

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a distinguished lawyer, educator, and loving husband, father, and grandfather, Ralph Bennie ''Ben'' Graham, Jr. Ben passed away on February 3, 2022. He leaves behind a powerful legacy of public service and dedication to Nevada's criminal justice system and legal community.

A Washington State native, Ben moved to Las Vegas in 1977 and worked as a prosecutor at the Clark County District Attorney's Office. After 31 years, Ben retired as chief deputy district attorney. Throughout this time, Ben also represented the Nevada District Attorneys' Association, the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Administrative Office of the Courts in the Nevada Legislature. In these roles, he lobbied to improve Nevada's criminal laws and the State's judicial system. Outside the courtroom, Ben taught courses on criminal justice at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law and the Community College of Southern Nevada, providing invaluable lessons for our Nation's next generation of lawyers.

Throughout his career, Ben placed a great focus on the well-being of members of Nevada's legal community. In 1986, he cofounded Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, LCL, a confidential program dedicated to helping members of the Nevada bar recover from substance abuse issues. In large part due to Ben's mentorship, countless attorneys were able to obtain the assistance they needed to heal and move forward in their legal careers. Ben received numerous awards in recognition of his service with the program.

Nevada has benefited immensely from Ben's commitment to the legal profession and community. Earlier this year, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak recognized Ben's contributions to the State by proclaiming February 17, 2022, as ''a day in honor of Ben Graham.'' Many in the Nevada Legislature remember Ben for his kindness and generosity, as exemplified through his famous chocolate chip cookies, which he annually gifted to colleagues and friends. Whether it was through his baking skills or charitable efforts, Ben improved the lives of those who knew him in the Silver State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Ben for his significant impact in Nevada. I celebrate Ben's legacy, and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Elana; his children; grandchildren; and his family and friends during this difficult time.•

TRIBUTE TO IDAHO PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we congratulate Idaho-connected athletes Jake Adicoff, Dani Aravich, Jesse Keefe, and Josh Sweeney for their hard work and dedication in representing the United States at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games. We also congratulate Sam Wood, Jake Adicoff's friend and guide, on his important role in helping to earn three medals.

Jake Adicoff, of Sun Valley, with Sam Wood, earned three medals in Nordic skiing. They were instrumental in earning a gold medal in cross-country skiing for the U.S. 4x2.5-kilometer mixed relay team. They also earned two silver medals: one in long-distance cross-country skiing and one in sprint cross-country skiing. These were the third Paralympic games for Jake Adicoff, who also won a silver medal in the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games. Jake, now a four-time Paralympic medalist, graduated from Wood River High School before Bowdoin College and earned three medals in cross-country skiing in the 2021 World Championships: gold in middle-distance, silver in sprint, and bronze in long-distance.

Boise native Dani Aravich competed in Nordic skiing in her second Paralympics. She finished eighth in the sprint cross-country, ninth in the middle-distance cross-country, 11th in the middle-distance biathlon, and 13th in the sprint biathlon. Dani graduated from Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, where she competed in cross-country running and track and field, and later she competed in these events at Butler University.

In his Paralympics debut, Jesse Keefe, of Bellevue, competed in multiple Alpine skiing events. He placed ninth in the slalom, 15th in the super combined and giant slalom, and 22nd in downhill. Jesse, an avid outdoorsman who started skiing at age 2 and won his first race at age 3, placed first in the 2021 U.S. National Championships in the giant slalom and slalom and placed third in the super-g.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Josh Sweeney, who received a Purple Heart for his service in Afghanistan, competed in Nordic skiing in his second Paralympics. He earned 16th in the long-distance cross-country, 19th in the sprint cross-country, and 24th in the middle-distance cross-country. Josh Sweeney is originally from Arizona and currently a Boise resident. He also earned a gold medal in the Paralympic Winter Games Sochi 2014 on the U.S. sled hockey team. From 2010–2013, he played on the San Antonio Rampage, a club sled hockey team made up entirely of injured military athletes, and he played on the Dallas Stars club team in 2012, helping the Stars earn the 2012 USA Hockey Sled Classic title.

These athletes have pushed themselves remarkably far to compete in their respective events. Their examples of strength and triumph serve to inspire fellow Americans and people around the world. As we share in congratulating them on their achievements, we are reminded of the remarkable work it has taken each of them to reach their goals.•

REMEMBERING BRETT THOMAS BOSS

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Albert Lea Fire Lieutenant Brett Thomas Boss, who passed away on February 5, 2022, at the age of 38 after a decade-long battle with stage 4 Ewing's Sarcoma.

Brett was born to Karen Boss on November 30, 1983, in Fargo, ND, and was later adopted by Todd Boss in 1992. From a young age, he demonstrated a clear drive to help others. In high

school, he participated in the local Fire Explorers program, which gave him both the skills to save lives in his community and a dedication to public service that guided his entire life.

Brett's 17-year firefighting career was nothing short of extraordinary. As an EMT, a hazmat technician, a fire investigator, and a firefighter instructor, he worked every day to keep the people of Albert Lea safe. Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Laskowske put it best: Brett was a true hero.

Brett's heroism only became clearer following his diagnosis. In the words of his loving family, he ''fought cancer like a boss.'' But Brett didn't just fight for himself; following an alarming string of cancer cases among firefighters in Albert Lea and Austin, he became a fierce advocate for his brothers and sisters in the field. He played a key role in passing State legislation that secured funding for equipment to keep firefighters safe from carcinogens as well as a grant program for firefighters living with cancer or heart disease. In 2018, we held an event together in support of legislation to create a national firefighter cancer registry, and days later, the President signed it into law. Brett also collaborated with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, a group of firefighters that worked to provide resources, support, and education to first responders in need.

While Brett had a lot to be proud of in his career, he was even prouder of his family. He married his wife Danielle in 2006, and they went on to have two great kids, Jaelyn and Aiden. Brett could often be found cheering them on from the sidelines of sporting events or sharing with them his love of camping and fishing.

While it is hard not to feel like Brett's life was cut short, his legacy as an incredible firefighter, advocate, son, husband, and dad will last forever. He changed lives; he saved lives; and he made the world a better place.●

WEST KENTUCKY VETERAN AND PATRIOT MUSUEM

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, stories of the past and the memorabilia and photos that often accompany them serve many important purposes in our culture. They can entertain us and provoke laughter and joy. They can reinforce the values that were important to our parents and grandparents. And they can teach difficult or even painful lessons from our history. The West Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum, now celebrating its 10th year, is a place where such stories can be discovered.

Founded by Sandy Hart, whose husband, Ray, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then went on to serve others as a pastor and foreign missionary, the museum houses an eclectic collection of personal objects, records, photographs, and narrative stories curated by Sandy and displayed in a red brick building in tiny Wickliffe, KY, which is located on the Mississippi River in far west Kentucky. While most of the donated materials are from servicemembers and their families in the Purchase Region of the Commonwealth, the visitors—the men and women you are likely to encounter when you stop by—are from all 50 States and beyond. Sandy loves to sit and talk to them and hear their stories, memories that are often stirred up as they wander through the displays in the museum.

The vision for the West Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum was born when Sandy and others in the community helped organize a convoy of over a dozen buses and 800 people to visit the World War II Memorial here in our Nation's Capital. This outpouring of interest compelled Sandy to create a place that honored our veterans year-round—and not just those who served in the Second World War.

I have visited with Sandy at the museum and watched her at work. She is tireless in her devotion to our veterans and in capturing and memorializing their stories so that we can learn from, laugh with, and be thankful for our men and women in uniform throughout our history.●

RECOGNIZING TOTAL EQUINE SERVICES

● 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, Total Equine Services of Falmouth, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The breeding, training, and of course racing of horses is an integral component in the history and culture of our beautiful State. Many refer to Lexington, KY, as the Horse Capital of the World, with their 1,200-acre Kentucky Horse Park in addition to the hundreds of horse farms operating in the area. Moreover, as of 2019, the Kentucky equine industry had an economic impact of $3.4 billion and supplied 80,000 direct and indirect jobs. Needless to say it is a leading industry in our state. For that reason I am delighted to honor a business so involved in that iconic industry, Total Equine Services, founded by Steve Thomas and his wife Patti Thomas.

When it comes to raising Quarter Horses, Steve Thomas is a seasoned veteran. He and his wife founded Total Equine Services 15 years ago, but he has over 20 years' experience caring for this breed under his belt. Together, they opened the business which initially offered only an arena where one could come and ride horses. They quickly expanded to provide a variety of services ranging from boarding, breeding, and training horses. In addition to that same arena, the Thomas' constructed a Foaling Barn and 16 enclosed stalls where owners can board their horses. The Thomas' also offer nutrition and feed balancing services as well as a full tack shop where one can satisfy all their riding equipment needs. When it comes to the care and maintenance of horses, Total Equine Services offers a full package.

With parents like Steve and Patti, it is no wonder that their son Jason Thomas grew up with a love for horses. He and his wife Nikki Thomas have joined the team at Total Equine Services. Nikki was a natural addition to the team since, just like her in-laws, she has an extensive background in raising Quarter Horses. Moreover, Nikki is seasoned in training horses in the art of barrel racing and pole bending. Pole bending is a timed event where a rider must direct their horse in a speedy serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line. Meanwhile, barrel racing is an event where the horse and rider must attempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time possible. Needless to say, training of this sort requires meticulous repetition and a keen eye for detail, which Nikki gladly brings to the arena. And with all the exercise and activity that their stock see, the Thomas' make sure to keep their horses properly shod, with Jason being a certified farrier, a blacksmith that creates horseshoes, who keeps their fleet equipped with the proper horseshoes they need.

The Thomas' have developed a reputation for covering every need a horse owner or rider might have, but they are also highly regarded for their breeding services. Their current stud horse, Redneck Jettin Down, has not only won several local shows, he has placed at national competitions held through the American Quarter Horse Association. In 2014, Redneck Jettin Down placed fourth at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, placed 6th at the AQHA World show in Jr Pole Bending, and placed fifth at the North American Live Stock Show. It goes without saying that Redneck Jettin Down is an asset to Total Equine Services.

Whether they grew up in the heart of our big cities or in our smallest of towns, every Kentucky citizen has heard about the glamour of Keeneland and Churchill Downs. The equine industry plays an active part of the Kentucky identity, and it is businesses like Total Equine Services that retain the respect and renown of that industry by taking special care of their breeds. Moreover, the Thomas' and families like them play a vital role in our State's economy, as they support commerce within our more rural communities.

Congratulations to Steve, Patti, Jason, and Nikki Thomas and the rest of the team at Total Equine Services. 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.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a treaty, and withdrawals, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3807. An act to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5497. An act to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7276. An act to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and other atrocities committed during the fullscale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5681. An act to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the ''Shadow Wolves'') in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 4:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the bill (H.R. 4521) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, and that the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. PALLONE, Mses. ESHOO, SCHAKOWSKY, MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Messrs. BUCSHON, CARTER of Georgia, DUNCAN, and CRENSHAW.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MEEKS, DEUTCH, Ms. BASS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mses. HOULAHAN, JACOBS of California, Messrs. KINZINGER, MCCAUL, CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mrs. KIM of California.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. JOHNSON of Texas, LOFGREN, BONAMICI, Mr. BERA, Ms. STEVENS, Messrs. BOWMAN, FOSTER, LUCAS, WEBER of Texas, BABIN, WALTZ, and GARCIA of California.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NEAL, BLUMENAUER, DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mses. DELBENE, CHU, MESSRS. KILDEE, GOMEZ, BRADY, BUCHANAN, SMITH of Nebraska, LAHOOD, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of sec. 10407, title XV of division H, and division P of the House bill, and secs. 2217, 2507, and 2511 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 20221, 71104, and 80401 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2118, 2217, 2402, 2507, and subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sec. 71210, titles XIII and XIV of division H, and titles I–V and titles VII–IX of division J of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 2509, 3138, subtitle C of title I of division D, and subtitles Band C of title I of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, MORELLE, and Ms. FOXX.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 30299C, division G, secs. 110001, and 110004 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2508, 3138, 3219D, 3219E, 3250, 3405, 5103, 5202–04, and 5212 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. WATERS, GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. BARR.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of division F of the House bill, and subtitle C of title I of division D, secs. 4203, 4204, 4207, and subtitle B of title II of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. GUEST.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 30001, 30303, 30306, 30312, 30318, 61403, 61411, 61414, 71102, 80102, 80103, titles II–VI of division I, and sec. 90104 of the House bill, and secs. 3302, 3303, 3313, 4492, 4494–96, 5202–04, and title II of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. TIFFANY.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 70101, 70102, 70111–18, subtitle B of title I of division H, titles II–XII of division H, and titles XV–XIX of division H of the House bill, and secs. 2507 and 2518 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GRIJALVA, MCEACHIN, and Ms. HERRELL.

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of division E and division Q of the House bill, and title I of division D, subtitle A of title II of division D, title III of division D, subtitles A and B of title IV of division D, secs. 4493, 5202–4, and 73003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. KHANNA, and COMER.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 10691, 50107, 71208, and division R of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. VELÁZQUEZ, DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. FITZGERALD.

From the Committee on transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sec. 70121, subtitle C of title I of division H, division L, and division S of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 4114, and 4116 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. DEFAZIO, MALINOWSKI, and CRAWFORD.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TAKANO, PAPPAS, and BOST.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5497. An act to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 7276. An act to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and any other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4022. A bill to codify in statute the CDC title 42 expulsion order, which suspends the right for certain aliens to enter the United States land borders, until February 1, 2025.

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–3694. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''COVID–19 Relief Under section 47'' (Notice 2020–58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3695. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Relief for Tax payers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, Related to Sport Fishing Equipment and Bows and Arrows Excise Tax Filing and Payment Deadlines'' (Notice 2020–55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3696. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Procedure: Telephonic Hearings guidance'' (Rev. Proc. 2022–20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3697. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2022 Calendar Year Resident Population Figures'' (Notice 2022–12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3698. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Temporary Suspension of IRS Prototype IRA Opinion Letter Program'' (Announcement 2022–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3699. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Emergency Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Enthnological Material of Nigeria'' (RIN1515–AE71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3700. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to the Defense Articles and Services authorized and furnished to foreign countries and international organizations under FMS, Chapter 2, Arms Export Control Act (OSS–2022–0295); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3701. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3702. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3703. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Consolidation and Restructuring of Purposes and Definitions'' (RIN1400–AE27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3704. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule of Fees for Consular Services - Elimination of the 'Return Check Processing Fee'" (RIN1400–AF48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3705. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21–081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3706. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Israel in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21–078); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3707. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value of approximately $1,301,145,843 (Transmittal No. RSAT–21–8399); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3708. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value of approximately $1,301,145,843 (Transmittal No. RSAT–21–8400); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3709. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers'' ((RIN1615–AC67) (RIN1125–AB20)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3710. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of the Emergency Stopgap USCIS Stabilization Act'' (RIN1615–AB81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 112–8: Tax Convention with Chile (Ex. Rept. 117–1)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Reservations and a Declaration

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Washington February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes on February 4, 2010 (the ''Convention'') (Treaty Doc. 112–8), subject to the reservations of section 2 and the declaration of section 3.

Section 2. Reservations

The advice and consent of the Senate under Section 1 is subject to the following reservations, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) Nothing in the Convention shall be construed as preventing the United States from imposing a tax under section 59A, entitled the ''Tax on Base Erosion Payments of Taxpayers with Substantial Gross Receipts,'' of the Internal Revenue Code (as it may be amended from time to time) on a company that is a resident of the United States or the profits of a company that is a resident of Chile that are attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States.

(2) Paragraph 1 of Article 23 (Relief from Double Taxation) of the Convention shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

1. In accordance with the provisions and subject to the limitations of the law of the United States (as it may be amended from time to time without changing the general principle thereof):

a) the United States shall allow to a resident or citizen of the United States as a credit against the United States tax on income applicable to residents and citizens the income tax paid or accrued to Chile by or on

behalf of such citizen or resident. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the taxes referred to in subparagraph b) of paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 of Article 2 (Taxes Covered), excluding taxes on capital, shall be considered income taxes; and

b) in the case of a United States company owning at least 10 percent of the aggregate vote or value of the shares of a company that is a resident of Chile and from which the United States company receives dividends, the United States shall allow a deduction in the amount of such dividends in computing the taxable income of the United States company.''

Section 3. Declaration

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

The Convention is self-executing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 4023. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish Lifelong Learning and Training Account programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4024. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exemption from the retirement plan early withdrawal penalty for public safety officers to State and local government corrections employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4025. A bill to require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 4026. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant eligible researchers access to eligible products at a discounted price for qualified research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4027. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide flexibility for temporary and term appointments in the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4028. A bill to require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4029. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define ''State of residence'' and ''resident'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4030. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4031. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of her immortal cells which have made invaluable contributions to global health, scientific research, our quality of life, and patients' rights; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4032. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Oak Avenue in Seminole, Oklahoma, as the ''Sergeant Bret D. Isenhower Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 4033. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4034. A bill to provide authorization for nonpecuniary damages in an action resulting from a cruise ship voyage occurring on the high seas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4035. A bill to require the placement of Taiwan in Country Group A:5 for purposes of the strategic trade authorization license exception under the Export Administration Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4036. A bill to establish a procedure for terminating a determination by Surgeon General to suspend certain entries and imports from designated places; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4037. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the transparency of pharmaceutical research costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4038. A bill to increase the production and use of renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4039. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing behavioral health services and treatment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4040. A bill to amend subtitle IV of title 46, United States Code, with respect to ship agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4041. A bill to promote environmental literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4042. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4043. A bill to instruct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue regulations regarding over-the-counter hearing aids; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4044. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 4045. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide flight training services to veterans; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4046. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4047. A bill to improve the removal of lead from drinking water in public housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4048. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on conduct related to oil and gas prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4049. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and report on practices in the oil and gas industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4050. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate a provision under the Medicare Advantage program that inadvertently penalizes Medicare Advantage plans for providing high quality care to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 4051. A bill to require an annual report on United States portfolio investments in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4052. A bill to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4053. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant eligible researchers access to eligible products at a discounted price for qualified research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4054. A bill to terminate General License No. 8A of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury and require the application of sanctions under Executive Order 14024 to the Russian financial institutions listed in General License No. 8A; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 4055. A bill to establish a task force for regulatory oversight and review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 4056. A bill to promote youth athletic safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4057. A bill to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for Federal electric vehicle fleet battery management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4058. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to establish a grant program to be known as the Mental Health Licensure Portability Program to award grants to eligible entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4059. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to replace equipment provided to Ukraine by certain member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for inflation rebates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4061. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4062. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the sale of certain Federal land to States and units of local government to address housing shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 4063. A bill to prohibit the President from negotiating or concluding any withdrawal, suspension, waiver, or modification to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights without explicit authorization from Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4064. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4065. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 4066. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to accelerate the availability of commercially produced high-assay, low-enriched uranium in the United States and to make high-assay, low-enriched uranium produced from Department of Energy inventories available for use in advanced nuclear reactors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4067. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through models tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4068. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 4069. A bill to amend the National Firearms Act to provide an exception for stabilizing braces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4070. A bill to designate the National Air Grant Fellowship Program as the ''Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program''; considered and passed.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4071. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the treatment of rare diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4072. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4073. A bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their district civilization and identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 4074. A bill to prevent future pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4075. A bill to prevent money laundering, the financing of terrorism, or other forms of illicit finance through United States real estate and vehicle transactions, including by Russian oligarchs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 584. A resolution congratulating Miss Emma Broyles of Alaska for being crowned Miss America 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 585. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and legacy of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. Res. 586. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, as National Assistant Principals Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 587. A resolution honoring the memory of Jereima ''Jeri'' Bustamante on the fourth anniversary of her passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 588. A resolution designating April 2022 as ''Financial Literacy Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN,

Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 589. A resolution recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 590. A resolution recognizing the designation of the week of April 11 through April 17, 2022, as the fifth annual ''Black Maternal Health Week'' to bring national attention to the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 591. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 10, 2022 as ''Venture Smith Freedom Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 592. A resolution designating April 6, 2022, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 593. A resolution relating to the death of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Arkansas; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 445

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 445, a bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 642

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate practices and strategies to reduce bird fatalities resulting from collisions with certain public buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to provide for a standard record of service on active duty for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1814

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1814, a bill to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

S. 2202

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2202, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, supra.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2736, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program.

S. 3350

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3350, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to condition an institution of higher education's receipt of Federal assistance on waiving the application for enrollment fee for homeless children and youths and students who were in foster care at any time when the students were 13 years of age or older.

S. 3361

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3361, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3483

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3483, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3693

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3693, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes.

S. 3860

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3860, a bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local governments with fewer than 200 law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3881

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3881, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3889

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3889, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3903

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3903, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 3915

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3915, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 3920

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3920, a bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 3975

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3975, a bill to reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 3987

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3987, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide grants and loan guarantees for commercial-scale implementation of transformative industrial technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 3996

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3996, a bill to provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 529, a resolution supporting a democratic, pluralistic, and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 30th Anniversary of its declaration of independence.

S. RES. 581

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 581, a resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 24 through April 30, 2022, as ''National Crime Victims' Rights Week''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4025. A bill to require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the United States places special trust and confidence in the integrity, judgement, and abilities of those men and women chosen to represent the United States abroad as an Ambassador. The Constitution balances the President's need to have officials overseas able to execute U.S. foreign policy as directed by the President, with Congress' interest in ensuring that these officials will serve honorably and ably in the positions for which they are nominated. Apart from the Foreign Service Act of 1980, the Ambassador nomination process has changed very little since our Nation was founded. However, it is fair to say that Presidents of all parties have on occasion appointed individuals Ambassadors whose profiles indicate political closeness with the President more than deep substantive experience in a particular foreign country.

Historically, the majority of Ambassadors are selected from the career ranks of the State Department. Roughly 30 percent of Ambassadors are typically selected outside of those ranks, including from among political supporters of the President. This is not categorically problematic—Ambassadors who are not professional diplomats have long served our country admirably, from Benjamin Franklin in France to former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield in Japan. A foreign country may benefit from having a U.S. Ambassador who has a close relationship with the President and the

ability to elevate issues to the highest levels or the independent gravitas to bring substantial public attention to that country's needs. That said, I do believe it is appropriate to ask Presidents and their Secretaries of State to explain their rationale for choosing Ambassador nominees outside of the Foreign and Civil Services so that the public can understand the rationale for these appointments. This would give both the U.S. public and foreign publics the assurance that the White House is not merely doling out political sinecures but is devoting meaningful thought to these selections.

The legislation I am introducing today with Senator BOOKER would not constrain the President's discretion to choose appointees but would require him or her to justify these selections and explain to Congress why someone from outside the State Department is the optimal choice to represent America's interests abroad. I am proud to introduce this bill to ensure that U.S. foreign policy and our national security interests are advanced by the most qualified Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this legislation is swiftly considered by the Senate.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4039. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing behavioral health services and treatment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4039

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 ''Medicaid Ensuring Necessary Telehealth is Available Long-term Health for Kids and Underserved Act'' or the ''MENTAL Health for Kids and Underserved Act''.

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON FURNISHING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall issue guidance to States on the following:

(1) State options for Federal reimbursement of expenditures under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for furnishing clinically appropriate services and treatment for behavioral health needs, including assessment, counseling, and medication management, using telehealth services. Such options shall include, to the extent appropriate, options for States to receive Federal reimbursement for such expenditures without the need for approval of a State plan amendment or waiver. Such guidance shall also include guidance on furnishing services and treatments that address the needs of high-risk individuals, including racial and ethnic minorities, such as American Indians and Alaska Natives.

(2) State options for Federal reimbursement of expenditures under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for furnishing clinically appropriate behavioral health services and treatment to school-aged youth and teens enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services. Such options shall include, to the extent appropriate, options for States to receive Federal reimbursement for such expenditures without the need for approval of a State plan amendment or waiver.

(3) Best practices for integrating clinically appropriate behavioral health provided via telehealth services covered by a State plan for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act (or a waiver of such a plan) or a State plan for child health assistance under title XXI of such Act (or a waiver of such a plan) into school-based settings, including full-service community schools. Such best practices shall include resources and information specifically for educators and other school-based staff on how to recognize signs of distress in high-risk students and make appropriate referrals for school-based behavioral health services.

(4) Best practices for evaluating how utilizing clinically appropriate telehealth services for behavioral health services and treatment affects outcomes, as well as costs.

(5) Best practices for monitoring fraud, waste, and abuse that may occur during behavioral health services furnished through telehealth services covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of telehealth on access, cost, and quality of behavioral health services offered to beneficiaries under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, including specific information on the impact of telehealth on access to and the quality of behavioral health services in schools.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4040. A bill to amend subtitle IV of title 46, United States Code, with respect to ship agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Ship Agent Licensure Act along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE. This legislation seeks to improve supply chain efficiencies and port safety and security by creating a Federal standard and licensure for independent ship agent companies, just as we already do for transportation intermediaries like Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers, NVOCCs.

Ship agents are one of the most important yet least understood stakeholders in the international marine trade supply chain, but in the United States, there is no Federal licensing for these essential players.

A ship agent can best be understood as the general contractor of the port call, tasked by ship owners and charterers with managing thousands of vendors to ensure a safe, secure, and cost efficient port call. This includes coordinating critical Federal Government clearances and inspections for Agencies that include the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, the EPA, USDA, and others. Government officials rely on ship agents to fulfill their critical role of facilitating commerce, and protecting life, property, and the environment. More than any other stakeholder, the ship agent facilitates efficiencies at the Nation's ports of entry, the frontline of the supply chain.

While the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has established minimum international standards for ship agent competency, quality, and fiduciary responsibility, there is no requirement for independent ship agent companies to abide by these, or any set of standards in the United States. Many domestic independent ship agent companies voluntarily certify through third-party accreditation associations in accordance with these international standards, but not all do. When ship agents are not properly trained and do not carry the appropriate bond and insurance, it creates delays and inefficiencies during vessel calls, jeopardizes port entry and clearance, and increases risk for Federal Agencies.

That is why it is critical to require Federal licensing for independent ship agent companies. Indeed, such a licensing requirement represents a unique opportunity for the United States to adopt its own uniform nationwide standards, consistent with the existing international standards, to ensure that ship agents have the knowledge, experience, and skills needed to manage these high stakes vessel calls and help our government agencies fulfill their responsibilities.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense legislation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4041. A bill to promote environmental literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am introducing bipartisan, bicameral legislation with Senator COLLINS and Senator MERKLEY and Congressman SARBANES that targets the fundamental goal of public education, which is to equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to understand the world around them and their ability to shape it. In the face of a global climate crisis, it is essential that all students graduate with environmental literacy skills to secure and sustain their future. The No Child Left Inside Act will ensure that our students will have the opportunity to develop environmental literacy.

Environmental education provides broad benefits. It has been shown to enhance student achievement in science and other core subjects and to increase student engagement and critical thinking skills. Moreover, it promotes healthy lifestyles by encouraging kids to get outside.

The COVID–19 pandemic has shown us just how vital understanding the environment is to our own health, well-being, and ability to carry out our daily activities. As the pandemic took hold, Rhode Island's environmental educators sprung into action, creating outdoor learning support opportunities and virtual programs for students as they did school from home. We need this to work on a national level for all students.

The No Child Left Inside Act authorizes $150 million annually to supports States in the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans to integrate environmental education and field experiences into the core academic program in public schools, with an emphasis on professional development in environmental education for teachers. With this funding, States will provide grants for partnerships between school districts and parks, natural resource management agencies, educator preparation programs, museums or other organizations with expertise in engaging young people with real world examples of environmental and scientific concepts. The legislation also establishes a pilot program for outdoor school education programs that offer intensive, hands-on learning experiences, such as residential programs and summer camps.

The No Child Left Inside Act will also help coordinate the Federal efforts on environmental education. It requires the Secretary of Education to establish environmental literacy advisory panel to coordinate and report on environmental literacy activities across Federal Agencies. It also will prove easy access to environmental education resources through the Department of Education's website.

The No Child Left Inside Act has the support of nearly 100 organizations, representing educators, parks, museums, environmental organizations, and community-based organizations at the national, State, and local levels. They stand ready and willing to partner with schools across the Nation. The Federal Government should be a partner too. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the No Child Left Inside Act.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for inflation rebates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Food and Fuel Family Savings Act, FFFSA, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator MERKLEY. Price increases, particularly for basic necessities like food and gas, are weakening household buying power and cutting family budgets across the country. Americans are struggling, and it is critically important that we both address the long-term factors driving inflation and support the millions of families facing higher prices right now. That is why we are introducing this legislation, which would provide eligible individuals and families with debit cards to cover higher food and fuel prices in the short term and help tame inflation in the medium and long term.

A number of factors are driving our current bout of inflation. Pandemic-driven supply chain snarls, a surge and shift in demand towards goods, and corporate consolidation have created an imbalance between supply and demand. Energy prices have risen particularly quickly, as OPEC limits output and oil companies refuse to invest in domestic production to meet growing demand. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also decreased global oil, fertilizer, and wheat supplies, moving prices higher for food and energy. These wide-ranging pressures pushed the Consumer Price Index up 7.9 percent in February—its fastest increase in 40 years.

Hard-working Americans are not at fault for these global price pressures. Yet, these households, which often put a large share of their income towards basic necessities, are being forced to bear the burden of higher costs. Indeed, U.S. grocery prices rose 8.6 percent in February, the largest annual increase in over 40 years, and U.S. gas prices were up a whopping 38 percent. While the wealthiest Americans can afford more expensive everyday goods, higher prices erode working families' buying power and can force them to delay or reduce critically needed purchases. We need to help them.

Our bill would take the burden off the shoulders of working Americans by providing targeted relief to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. It would provide eligible households with debit cards loaded with $600 per family member that work exclusively at grocery stores and gas pumps. The average American household would receive $1,500. Using estimates from Bloomberg economists, this payment should cover the additional $183 the average family will spend each month on food and fuel for the rest of 2022. In other words, our legislation would ensure households can put food on the table and gas in the car this year.

Importantly, this fiscally responsible legislation is fully paid for. In fact, offsets would pay for the cost of the debit cards and slash the deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars. More than that, it would tamp down inflation in the medium and long term. Indeed, this bill would help families weather today's inflation while cooling price increases in the years ahead.

Congress must continue working on other measures to foster a stronger, more resilient postpandemic economy. Our legislation would aid these long-term efforts while providing Americans the financial help they need right now.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4068. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act of 2022, which I introduced today.

Hispanic-serving institutions provide incredible opportunities for millions of low-income and first-generation students. I am proud that my State of California is home to 174 HSIs and 51 emerging HSIs, the most in the country. That is why I launched the first-ever Senate HSI Caucus with my colleague, Senator Menendez—to spotlight and advocate for the 559 HSIs across our country. These critical institutions educate our future leaders and help to build a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

Over the last 2 years, the number of HSIs in our country declined for the first time in two decades. A decrease in higher education enrollment among Latino students during the COVID–19 pandemic has led to the decrease in the number of HSIs, illustrating the need to invest in Latino youth. That is why I am introducing the HERE Act.

If enacted, this bill would support Latino students throughout secondary and postsecondary education. Specifically, the HERE Act would provide $150 million for grants to create partnerships between HSIs and K–12 school districts that serve large populations of Latino students.

Schools could use this funding to provide academic support that better prepares students for postsecondary education. They could create new programs to foster a college-going culture by exposing students and their families to postsecondary opportunities. And they could better support students through the college application and transition process. Additionally, schools could use grants to address non-academic needs that serve as barriers to college enrollment and completion—such as childcare, food insecurity, financial hardship, and more.

Latinos are the largest, youngest, and second fastest growing minority population in the United States. While making up 18 percent of our country's population, Latinos comprise 26 percent of prekindergarten through grade 12 enrollment. Latino students are going to college more than ever before,

but they still face lower educational outcomes, including lower grades, lower scores on standardized tests, and higher dropout rates.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country, I am proud to work with my leagues to ensure the American dream is a reality for every student.

I want to thank Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO for introducing this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this effort to empower Latino youth.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—CONGRATULATING MISS EMMA BROYLES OF ALASKA FOR BEING CROWNED MISS AMERICA 2022

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 584

Whereas Emma Broyles was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from Service High School in 2019;

Whereas Miss Broyles, an honors student and a biomedical sciences major at Arizona State University, plans to attend medical school and become a dermatologist;

Whereas Miss Broyles, who has excelled at a wide range of musical activities from an early age, is pursuing a minor in voice performance;

Whereas Miss Broyles applied her exceptional talents in the Miss Alaska 2021 competition;

Whereas Miss Broyles was crowned Miss Alaska on June 17, 2021;

Whereas Miss Broyles, as Miss Alaska, participated in the 100th Anniversary Miss America Competition (referred to in this preamble as the ''Competition'') alongside 50 outstanding young women from across the country;

Whereas Miss Broyles was inspired by her older brother to choose ''Building Community through the Special Olympics'' as the theme of her social impact initiative;

Whereas, during the talent segment of the Competition, Miss Broyles sang ''Let Me Be Your Star'' from the television show ''Smash'';

Whereas, throughout the Competition, Miss Broyles spoke openly and courageously about her struggles with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and dermatillomania;

Whereas Miss Broyles was crowned Miss America 2022 on December 16, 2021;

Whereas Miss Broyles is the first Alaskan to be crowned Miss America in the 100-year history of the Competition;

Whereas Miss Broyles is the first Korean-American to be crowned Miss America; and

Whereas Alaskans take great pride in Miss Broyles' victory: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Miss Emma Broyles of Alaska for being crowned Miss America 2022;

(2) celebrates historic achievement of Miss Broyles as the first Alaskan and first Korean-American to be crowned Miss America; and

(3) commends Miss Broyles for inspiring young people and serving as a positive role model for millions of individuals in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 585

Whereas, on May 15, 1937, the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright was born in Prague to Josef Korbel, a Czechoslovak diplomat, and his wife Anna;

Whereas Albright and her family were forced to flee to Britain in 1939, due to the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Albright and her family returned to Prague after the war, only to be forced to flee again in 1948, due to her father's opposition to communism;

Whereas Albright and her family moved to the United States as refugees seeking political asylum, and Albright became a naturalized United States citizen in 1957;

Whereas Albright attended Wellesley College to study political science on a full scholarship and graduated with honors;

Whereas Albright earned a certificate in Russian, a Master of Arts degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University while raising 3 children;

Whereas, in 1982, Albright was appointed to the position of Research Professor of International Affairs at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and to the position of Director of the Women in Foreign Service Program at the university;

Whereas, in 1993, President Clinton appointed Albright Ambassador to the United Nations, where she represented the interests of the United States on the world stage and pushed for multilateral cooperation to confront atrocities, playing a vital role in the involvement by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as ''NATO'') to prevent further atrocities and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas, in 1997, Albright was nominated for the position of Secretary of State and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, becoming the first woman to serve as Secretary of State;

Whereas, during her time as Secretary of State, Albright championed democracy and human rights around the world, galvanized the international community to prevent war crimes in Kosovo through NATO intervention, and advocated for NATO to accept Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic as members of NATO;

Whereas, upon returning to private life in 2001, Albright became a best-selling author and successful businessperson, led the boards of a number of organizations, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

Whereas, throughout her life, Albright passionately advocated for human rights, including those of women and refugees, while remaining actively involved in civil society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and legacy of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright;

(2) commends to future generations Albright's example as a patriot and public servant in the pursuit of a more peaceful, prosperous, and cooperative world order; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 8, 2022, AS NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Mr. CARPER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 586

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as ''NASSP''), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, as ''National Assistant Principals Week'';

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program has recognized outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Assistant Principals Week;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA ''JERI'' BUSTAMANTE ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 587

Whereas Jereima ''Jeri'' Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as ''Jeri Bustamante'') lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2022, marks 4 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima ''Jeri'' Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as ''Jeri Bustamante'');

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—DESIGNATING APRIL 2022 AS ''FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH''

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 588

Whereas, according to the 2020 report entitled ''Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households'' by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, economic distress from the COVID–19 pandemic was evident when analyzing the self-assessments of individuals with respect to their financial trajectories over the past year;

Whereas, according to the 2019 report entitled ''How America Banks: Household Use of Banking and Financial Services'' by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, approximately 5.4 percent of households in the United States are unbanked and, therefore, have limited or no access to savings, lending, and other basic financial services;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Consumer Financial Literacy and Preparedness Survey of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and Wells Fargo—

(1) 47 percent of the general population in the United States report having credit card debt;

(2) 38 percent of adults in the United States report carrying credit card balances from month-to-month; and

(3) 44 percent of the general population in the United States have a budget and keep close track of expenses, such as food, housing, and entertainment;

Whereas, according to a report entitled ''Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities'' by the National Disability Institute and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, people with disabilities were more likely to struggle with the key components of financial capability, which are making ends meet, planning ahead, managing financial products, and financial knowledge and decision making, and could benefit from targeted financial education;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2021 entitled ''Household Debt and Credit''—

(1) outstanding household debt in the United States has been increasing steadily since 2013 and was $414,000,000,000 higher than at the end of 2019; and

(2) outstanding student loan balances have more than doubled in the last decade to approximately $1,560,000,000,000;

Whereas, according to the 2022 report entitled ''Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation's Schools'', by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 25 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 23 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to make sound money management decisions about credit, debt, insurance, financial transactions, and planning for the future;

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas financial education in schools in the United States is critical to a long-term financial inclusion strategy to reach students who are not able to get sufficient personal finance guidance at home;

Whereas, according to the 2021 report entitled ''Game Changer: The Evaluation of the Jump$tart Financial Foundations for Educators Professional Development Program'' by the Financial Literacy Group, teacher training regarding financial education improves student outcomes significantly, especially among historically underserved students;

Whereas increased financial literacy—

(1) empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions; and

(2) reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2022 as ''Financial Literacy Month'' to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND COMMENDING THE WOMEN OF UKRAINE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 589

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin instigated an unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war violating the territorial integrity of the sovereign country of Ukraine;

Whereas, in response to this invasion, the people of Ukraine marshaled their will to defend their country and shared belief in a sovereign Ukraine in order to resist the imperialist ambitions of Vladimir Putin;

Whereas every Ukrainian man, woman, and child has done their part to defend democracy and freedom in Ukraine;

Whereas women have played a key role in defending Ukraine, keeping their families and innocent children safe and responding to the invasion by the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in the first 6 weeks of fighting in Ukraine, more than 4,300,000 Ukrainians, of which the majority are women and children, fled the country in response to Putin's war;

Whereas women play a critical role in facilitating the transit of children to safety, including by escorting the children of parents and guardians who cannot leave Ukraine so that such children are able to find safety in neighboring countries;

Whereas the women who remain in Ukraine contribute to all aspects of warfighting, including by fighting on the front lines and as part of the territorial defense, delivering supplies and weapons, and preparing cities for assaults by the Russian Federation;

Whereas 17 percent of the armed forces of Ukraine are women;

Whereas the women of Ukraine have a long history of defending Ukraine and standing up for their rights and freedoms;

Whereas, following the 2014 invasion of the sovereign and independent state of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the women of Ukraine joined the fight to preserve their independence;

Whereas, despite significant contributions to the war effort, outdated legislation in Ukraine classifies women as cooks, tailors, and administrative assistants, even while women were fighting and dying on the front lines beside their male counterparts;

Whereas women are an integral part of the armed forces of Ukraine and continue to defend their homes and their country;

Whereas, on March 9, the armed forces of the Russian Federation deliberately attacked civilian targets in Mariupol, Ukraine, which destroyed a hospital that served as both a maternity ward and a children's hospital, killing two women and a baby;

Whereas, following the devastating attack on the well-known and established hospital, the world watched in horror as pregnant women, mothers carrying newborn babies, and young children fled the rubble of what should have been a safe place;

Whereas the women at the hospital should have been celebrating new life and looking toward raising their children in peace and safety, instead, those women are seeking shelter in subways, giving birth in bunkers, and worrying for the safety of their children and the future of Ukraine;

Whereas the attack on the maternity ward and children's hospital in Mariupol was the third such attack on a maternity ward in Ukraine by the Russian Federation since the beginning of the invasion on February 24;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, more than 4,300 women have given birth since the start of the war, and 80,000 Ukrainian women are expected to give birth in between April and June of 2022;

Whereas all women, in every situation, have the right to a safe birth and access to crucial supplies necessary for the management of pregnancy complications, including oxygen and medical supplies, which are running dangerously low in Ukraine because of the ongoing violence and refusal on the part of the Russian Federation to allow for safe passage for humanitarian purposes;

Whereas the unprovoked attack on a civilian building constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, (commonly referred to as the ''Fourth Geneva Convention'') and should be investigated as such a crime;

Whereas the Russian Federation has deliberately attacked civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, including schools, hospitals, businesses, apartment buildings, and utility services;

Whereas the initial days of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation have resulted in a disproportionate number of women and children seeking safety outside of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukrainian women and girls, like women and girls in all humanitarian emergencies, including women and girls forced to leave their homes in conflict settings, face increased and exacerbated vulnerabilities to—

(1) gender-based violence, including rape, child marriage, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation and assault;

(2) all forms of human trafficking;

(3) disruptions in education and livelihood;

(4) lack of access to health care; and

(5) food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas the world has a responsibility to respond with care to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and in neighboring countries to address the specific needs of women and girls;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on October 31, 2000, acknowledging the impact of conflict and security decisions on women and calling on all member states to include ''women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict'';

Whereas, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (commonly referred to as ''UN Women''), peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play a meaningful role in the negotiation process, and according to the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas, in 2016, Ukraine adopted its first National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and, on October 28, 2020, Ukraine approved a new National Action Plan for 2021 through 2025 in order to address the impact on women of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to ensure gender equality in the security and defense sectors of Ukraine;

Whereas representation of women in politics in Ukraine has increased steadily since the first parliament of an independent Ukraine met in 1990;

Whereas more than 20 percent of seats in the ninth and current Verkhovna Rada are held by women, the most in Ukrainian history;

Whereas women across Ukraine have made political gains in recent years, including in local elections on October 25, 2020, where 38 percent of deputies elected were women; and

Whereas women in Ukraine should be involved at all levels and in all aspects of leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping in order to ensure the most enduring peace for Ukraine and the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes, honors, and commends the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine, including women who—

(A) are members of the Armed Forces Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine;

(B) are volunteers, organizing and operating humanitarian organizations;

(C) are doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support personnel, providing life-saving services across Ukraine;

(D) have mobilized to assist the safe transfer of the children and other vulnerable individuals from Ukraine; and

(E) are public leaders, politicians, and diplomats;

(2) stands with the people of Ukraine in support of their fight for freedom against the Russian Federation;

(3) acknowledges the women who have risked their lives to travel through territory controlled by the Russian Federation, break siege tactics surrounding cities, and to ensure the safety of children and the elderly;

(4) commends—

(A) the bordering countries of Ukraine, including Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Moldova, who are accommodating more than 4,300,000 refugees; and

(B) the broader European Union for committing to provide support during the growing humanitarian crisis;

(5) calls on all countries to ensure that aid provided in support of refugees of and internally displaced persons within Ukraine takes into account the needs of women and the gender-specific risks that women face in seeking safety;

(6) acknowledges the important role women must play in resolving the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2016) and required by the laws of the United States and regulations of Ukraine;

(7) further calls on all countries to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in negotiations and decision-making at all levels, including security decisions; and

(8) commits to supporting the women of Ukraine wherever they are as they fight back against tyranny and work for the free and democratic future of Ukraine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2022, AS THE FIFTH ANNUAL ''BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK'' TO BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PERSONS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 590

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 3 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related causes;

Whereas Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, known as ''maternal morbidities'', twice as often as White women;

Whereas maternal mortality rates in the United States are—

(1) among the highest of any member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(2) increasing rapidly, from 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018, to 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020;

Whereas the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate of Black women;

Whereas Black women are 49 percent more likely than all other women to deliver prematurely;

Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across—

(1) income levels;

(2) education levels; and

(3) socioeconomic status;

Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women and birthing persons in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons;

Whereas racism and discrimination play a consequential role in maternal health care experiences and outcomes of Black birthing persons;

Whereas a fair and wide distribution of resources and birth options, especially with regard to reproductive health care services and maternal health programming, is critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas Black midwives, doulas, perinatal health workers, and community-based organizations provide holistic maternal care but face structural and legal barriers to licensure, reimbursement, and provision of care;

Whereas COVID–19, which has disproportionately harmed Black Americans, is associated with an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and maternal and neonatal complications;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has further highlighted issues within the broken health care system in the United States and the harm of that system to Black women and birthing persons;

Whereas new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated that since the COVID–19 pandemic began, the maternal mortality rate for Black women has increased by 26 percent;

Whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy;

Whereas Black pregnant and postpartum workers are disproportionately denied reasonable accommodations in the workplace, leading to adverse pregnancy outcomes;

Whereas Black pregnant people disproportionately experience surveillance and punishment, including shackling incarcerated people in labor, drug testing mothers and infants without informed consent, separating mothers from their newborns, and criminalizing pregnancy outcomes;

Whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and

Whereas an investment must be made in—

(1) maternity care for Black women and birthing persons, including support of care led by the communities most affected by the maternal health crisis in the United States;

(2) continuous health insurance coverage to support Black women and birthing persons for the full postpartum period up to at least 1 year after giving birth; and

(3) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal health care that is free from gender and racial discrimination, regardless of incarceration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

(1) Black women are experiencing high, disproportionate rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

(2) the alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality among Black women are unacceptable;

(3) in order to better mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism, Congress must work toward ensuring that the Black community has—

(A) safe and affordable housing;

(B) transportation equity;

(C) nutritious food;

(D) clean air and water;

(E) environments free from toxins;

(F) fair treatment within the criminal justice system;

(G) safety and freedom from violence;

(H) a living wage;

(I) equal economic opportunity;

(J) a sustained workforce pipeline for diverse perinatal professionals; and

(K) comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable health care with access to the full spectrum of reproductive care;

(4) in order to improve maternal health outcomes, Congress must fully support and encourage policies grounded in the human rights, reproductive justice, and birth justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity;

(5) Black women and birthing persons must be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives;

(6) in order to ensure access to safe and respectful maternal health care for Black birthing persons, Congress must pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (S. 346; H.R. 959); and

(7) ''Black Maternal Health Week'' is an opportunity to—

(A) deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the United States;

(B) amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions;

(C) center the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and stakeholders;

(D) provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth, and reproductive justice; and

(E) enhance community organizing on Black maternal health.

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 10, 2022 AS ''VENTURE SMITH FREEDOM DAY''

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 591

Whereas, in about 1729, Venture Smith was born free in West Africa and, in 1739, was seized from his home and enslaved in New England;

Whereas 257 years ago, in the year 1765, Venture Smith, at the age of 36, purchased his freedom;

Whereas Venture Smith went on to free his family from the bondage of slavery;

Whereas Venture Smith became a successful landowner, businessman, and author in the United States, generations before Black Americans began to obtain constitutional, legal, social, and economic rights;

Whereas, in November 1798, Venture Smith was the first African American to write and publish his own autobiography;

Whereas Venture Smith was the first person to write and publish the phrase, ''My freedom is a privilege which nothing else can equal'';

Whereas Venture Smith died a free man on September 19, 1805 in Connecticut; and

Whereas April 10 would be an appropriate date to designate as ''Venture Smith Freedom Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of ''Venture Smith Freedom Day'' on April 10, which would recognize the 257th anniversary of Venture Smith purchasing his freedom and going on to become a landowner, businessman, and author in Connecticut.

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—DESIGNATING APRIL 6, 2022, AS ''NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 592

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability or an older adult;

Whereas an assistive technology service is any service that directly assists an individual with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 individuals in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, in the 2019–2020 school year, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 7,300,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology enables individuals with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of individuals with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive, and integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of individuals with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

(1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

(2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

(3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

(4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives, that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 6, 2022, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''; and

(2) commends—

(A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work

and dedication in serving individuals with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF KANEASTER HODGES, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was born in Newport, Arkansas, attended the public schools of Arkansas, and then attended Princeton University, Southern Methodist University, Boston University, and the University of Arkansas School of Law;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served as a pastor at the Acushnet Wesley Methodist Church and the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Massachusetts in 1963, and served as a chaplain at Rikers Island Correctional Institution in New York City in 1964;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas in 1964 to attend the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he was named editor-in-chief of the Arkansas Law Review;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., joined his father and brother in Newport, Arkansas at the Hodges, Hodges, and Hodges law firm;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served his beloved State of Arkansas as the Newport City Attorney and the Jackson County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 1967 to 1974, was appointed as legislative secretary to Governor Pryor in 1975, was instrumental in forming the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and served as chairman from 1974 to 1975, and served as a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission from 1976 to 1977;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was appointed to serve as a United States Senator for the State of Arkansas by Governor Pryor in 1977 for the remainder of the term of the late United States Senator John L. McClellan;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served the State of Arkansas while in the Senate through his work on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was known by his colleagues in the Senate for his humility, diligence, and cooperation; and

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas at the end of his Senate appointment and continued his career in public service by serving as a trustee of Arkansas College, now Lyon College, as a trustee and past chairman at the University of Arkansas, as a trustee of Arkansas State University Newport Campus, and as president of the Arkansas State University-Newport Charitable Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former member of the Senate;

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes

SA 5025. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

SA 5026. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes.

SA 5027. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF GENERAL LICENSE NO. 8A OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL; APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO CERTAIN RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) General License No. 8A of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury shall have no force or effect; and

(2) sanctions imposed under Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation) shall apply with respect to each entity specified in General License No. 8A.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1)(A) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this section, may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and this section, which in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, such subpoena shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate district court of the United States.

''(B) The Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony under subparagraph (A) of—

''(i) any current Federal employee; or

''(ii) any witness as part of any criminal proceeding.

''(2) The authority to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1) may not be delegated.

''(3)(A) The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General of the intent to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1).

''(B) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Attorney General may object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena if the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and, if the Attorney General makes such an objection, the Inspector General may not issue the subpoena.

''(C) If the Attorney General does not object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena during the 10-day period described in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

''(4) Before requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony

of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the degree practicable—

''(A) notify the witness of the intent of the Inspector General to issue the subpoena; and

''(B) provide the witness an opportunity to attend and testify voluntarily.

''(5) Whenever requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the greatest extent practicable, travel to residence of the witness, the principal place of business of the witness, or other similar location that is in proximity to the residence of the witness.

''(6)(A) Along with each semiannual report submitted by the Inspector General pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), the Inspector General shall include a report on the exercise of the authority provided by paragraph (1).

''(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the most recently completed six-month period, the following:

''(i) The number of testimonial subpoenas issued and the number of individuals interviewed pursuant to such subpoenas.

''(ii) The number of proposed testimonial subpoenas with respect to which the Attorney General objected under paragraph (3)(B).

''(iii) A discussion of any challenges or concerns that the Inspector General has encountered exercising the authority provided by paragraph (1).

''(iv) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

''(7)(A) The authority provided by paragraph (1)(A) shall terminate on May 31, 2025.

''(B) The termination of authority by subparagraph (A) shall not affect the enforceability of a subpoena issued under paragraph (1)(A) before the date of such termination.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of such section, as so added, shall apply beginning on the date that is seven months after the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 5025. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act''.

SEC. 2. BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR.—Section 101(51D)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting ''under this title'' after ''affiliated debtors''; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking ''an issuer'' and all that follows and inserting ''a corporation described in clause (ii).''.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''1182(1),'' after ''707(b),''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''1182(1),'' after ''707(b),''.

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) Only an individual with regular income that owes, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts of less than $2,750,000 or an individual with regular income and such individual's spouse, except a stockbroker or a commodity broker, that owe, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts that aggregate less than $2,750,000 may be a debtor under chapter 13 of this title.''.

(d) DEFINITION OF DEBTOR.—Section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) DEBTOR.—The term 'debtor'—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning single asset real estate) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than $7,500,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and

''(B) does not include—

''(i) any member of a group of affiliated debtors under this title that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than $7,500,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);

''(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or

''(iii) any debtor that is an affiliate of a corporation described in clause (ii).''.

(e) TRUSTEE.—Section 1183(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''possession, perform'' and inserting ''possession—

''(A) perform'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—

(A) by striking '', including operating the business of the debtor''; and

(B) by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) be authorized to operate the business of the debtor;''.

(f) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1191(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) The debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; or

''(B)(i) there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; and

''(ii) the plan provides appropriate remedies, which may include the liquidation of nonexempt assets, to protect the holders of claims or interests in the event that the payments are not made.''.

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) and (f)''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsections (b) and (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''needed to offset the amount'' after ''amounts''.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (c) and the amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) shall apply with respect to any case that—

(A) is commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after March 27, 2020; and

(B) with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020 and before the date of enactment of this Act, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO BAIA.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2021.

(i) SUNSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as such subsection read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) DEBTOR.—The term 'debtor' means a small business debtor.''.

(2) AMOUNTS.—For purposes of applying subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1)(A), the amounts specified in such subsection shall be the amounts that were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 5026. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Emergency Care Claims Parity Act''.

SEC. 2. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FURNISHED TO VETERANS.

(a) TREATMENT FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections (f) and (g):

''(f) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR DIRECT PAYMENT.—An individual or entity seeking payment under subsection (a)(2) for treatment provided to a veteran in lieu of reimbursement to the veteran shall submit a claim for such payment not later than 180 days after the latest date on which such treatment was provided.

''(g) HOLD HARMLESS.—No veteran described in subsection (b) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

''(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (f); and

''(2) such claim was submitted after the deadline established by such subsection due to—

''(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency, under the wrong reimbursement authority (such as section 1728 of this title), or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

''(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a

paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.''.

(b) TREATMENT FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1728 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) No veteran described in subsection (a) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

''(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (b)(2); and

''(2) such claim was submitted after a deadline established by the Secretary for purposes of this section due to—

''(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

''(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(1) in section 1705A(d), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)'';

(2) in section 1725(b)(3)(B), by striking ''subsection (f)(2)(B) or (f)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''subsection (h)(2)(B) or (h)(2)(C)'';

(3) in section 1728(d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(4), by striking ''section 1725(f)(1)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)(1)'';

(4) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)''; and

(5) in section 1787(b)(3), by striking ''section 1725(f)'' and inserting ''section 1725(h)''.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF CLARIFYING INFORMATION FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on one or more publicly available internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the main internet website regarding emergency care authorization for non-Department providers, the following information:

(1) A summary table or similar resource that provides a list of all authorities of the Department to authorize emergency care from non-Department providers and, for each such authority, the corresponding deadline for submission of claims.

(2) An illustrated summary of steps, such as a process map, with a checklist for the submission of clean claims that non-Department providers can follow to assure compliance with the claims-filing process of the Department.

(3) Contact information for the appropriate office or service line of the Department to address process questions from non-Department providers.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 180 days, the Secretary shall review the information published under subsection (a) to ensure that such information is current.

(c) CLEAN CLAIMS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''clean claims'' means clean electronic claims and clean paper claims (as those terms are defined in section 1703D(i) of title 38, United States Code).

SA 5027. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers; as follows:

In the preamble, in the fourth whereas clause, strike ''have been the preeminent power projection platform for the Navy and''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 9:30 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, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 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, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, THROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, finally, I would ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times and that, following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session. Those dates would be Monday, April 11, at 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, April 14, at 11 a.m.; Monday, April 18, at 4 p.m.; and Thursday, April 21, at 12 noon.

I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 21, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, April 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brainard nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 593, following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

USICA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, watching the wrapup by our friend from Connecticut and the Presiding Officer, I don't know anybody who could argue that the Senate is incapable of getting a lot done in a short period of time, given the will. That was pretty remarkable.

Mr. President, nearly 10 months after the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to fund the CHIPS Act, we are finally inching closer to the finish line. The House and the Senate are moving forward to a formal conference process to supply the CHIPS Program with $52 billion and make other investments in our competitiveness.

Yesterday afternoon, Members of the Senate and the House heard from administration officials about how important this legislation is. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo spoke about the economic risks of a weak semiconductor supply chain.

I might just pause here for a minute in case people are wondering why semiconductors are so important. Well, the fact of the matter is that semiconductors are essential to run everything from your cell phone to the most advanced stealth fighters made by the U.S. Government, the F–35, and everything in between. And during the pandemic and the mitigation efforts that we undertook, with kids studying remotely on their laptops, that would not be possible, nor would the Wi-Fi connections be possible without access to semiconductors. So these microcircuits have become absolutely essential to our way of life.

Over the last couple of years, manufacturers have had to halt production of the various products that they make, shift their offerings, or even lay off workers because of a shortage of these semiconductors, these microcircuit chips. Now, at the micro level, this disruption is having a big impact on consumers: empty car lots, backordered electronics, higher prices on home appliances. But at the 30,000-foot level, the macro level, this is terribly damaging to our national economy.

The semiconductor shortage has shaved an estimated $240 billion off of our gross domestic product last year—

$240 billion lost because of an inadequate access to these semiconductors, these microcircuits. Based on the way that things are trending, the strain is only going to get greater. Global demand for these semiconductor chips is expected to increase by 56 percent over the next decade.

If you think about it, our dependency on technology is going to do nothing but get greater and greater and greater; hence, the demand and the need for these semiconductors and the demand that will go up by 56 percent, it is estimated, in the next decade.

It is absolutely critical that we start investing in domestic, made-in-America semiconductors now to insure that we have the capacity to meet that need in the future. And it is not just our economy. This has a very clear connection with our national security.

Not only will the CHIPS Program, as it is called—introduced originally by the senior Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and myself—this program will help us pave the way for new jobs and big investments in cities all across our country.

If you want an idea, a glimpse, of just what those benefits would look like, my State is an example of one place that will change dramatically as a result of this demand for these microcircuits.

Last fall, I joined leaders from Samsung, a South Korean company that has a large presence in Austin, TX, and they announced a $17 billion investment in a new chip fab—that is what the manufacturing facilities are called, a fab, fabrication unit—in Taylor, TX, which is just outside of Austin. This facility is expected to directly create 2,000 high-tech jobs, as well as thousands of related jobs, once it is operational. And each of these fabrication manufacturing facilities will create a whole ecosystem of suppliers that will grow up around it. So the $17 billion spent by Samsung for just this one fabrication facility will be multiplied by many times in terms of the economic benefits and the jobs created.

This is great news not just for my State, for Texas, but also for the national economy and for our global competitiveness. Our friends and allies are going to need a reliable chip supply, too, and I hope that we can soon send advanced semiconductors, made in America, to countries around the world.

Once this CHIPS Program is funded, I expect more announcements like the one I mentioned from Samsung to follow, both in Texas and other States across the country. We have already seen Taiwan Semiconductor in the process of building a new fab, or manufacturing facility, in Arizona. You have seen new investments announced by Intel in Ohio, along with the one by Samsung in Texas, and I believe there are more to come.

This legislation would open up about $3 billion for each new or expanded semiconductor fabrication facility, providing a huge incentive for companies to make this level of investment right here in America.

The potential economic benefits speak for themselves, but the biggest reason to pass this legislation is to protect our national security. Chips are critical components of far more than just the cell phones and washing machines that I mentioned. Advanced fighters, quantum computers, missile defense systems—you name it—5G, all of those rely on semiconductors. A single rocket interceptor like we have seen used in Iron Dome in Israel, knocking down rockets coming from Gaza, each of those interceptors alone uses 750 of these microcircuits.

An overreliance on other countries to produce these key components of our most vital defenses is a huge, huge risk. Yesterday, in addition to Secretary Raimondo, we heard from Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks, who talked about the immense national security risk that the failure to produce these most advanced semiconductors in America has opened up. Just to be clear, we produce zero of these most advanced semiconductors that we depend upon for the most complex technology, including our national security.

Our military superiority really hinges on state-of-the-art technology. That is the one thing that we do better than any other country in the world. If we can't produce these products because of a lack of chips, well, the risk is obvious. And when you look at who is producing the lion's share of the world's chips, you can see the danger to which we are very clearly exposed.

Now, I blame COVID for exposing these vulnerable supply chains, whether it is PPE or it is chips, but now, it is as plain as the nose on your face, and we need to do something about it.

So here are the facts. The vast majority of semiconductors are made in Asia, with 63 percent of the most advanced semiconductors in the world made in one place, and that is Taiwan.

Even more concerning is the 92 percent of the world's most advanced semiconductors that come, as I said, from Asia. But if that supply chain, both from Asia and Taiwan in particular, were cut off, it would lead to disastrous consequences. Unfortunately, this prospect is not some far-fetched conspiracy theory or doomsday scenario.

Xi Jinping has made no secret of his desire to invade and unify Taiwan with the People's Republic of China, even saying he wants to be ready to do so by the year 2027, just 5 years from now. But we can't depend on his stated timetable because he could do it any time he wanted to start that invasion and jeopardize our access to these chips.

We don't want to be in a position—we can't be in a position—where the belligerence of one nation impacts our most critical supply chains. The war in Ukraine has made that clear. Put simply, we need to bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing, and we have not a moment to waste. Chip making is a very big endeavor.

A number of our colleagues and I traveled to Taiwan a few months back to Taiwan Semiconductor's facility there, where they, as I said, make the world's leading-edge semiconductors. It is a big operation, and it is highly automated and very complex and expensive. In order to build one chip, you need very expensive, highly advanced equipment; you need skilled workers; and you need a lot of time. It can take literally months to build a single chip, and that is assuming you have the facility and the equipment ready to go.

So it is clear, in light of this vulnerability that we have in this essential supply chain, that we have squandered enough time already. After the Senate passed our version of this legislation, it took 8 months to get it back from the House of Representatives. Even then, their bill fell short in nearly every regard. Rather than mirror the bipartisan process here in the Senate, the Democrats in the House negotiated a bill just among their fellow Democrats. In other words, it was a partisan bill. That type of legislating does not lead to good and sustainable results here in Congress.

The House-passed bill sends a whopping $8 billion to a U.N. climate slush fund which has provided more than $100 million to China. The entire purpose of this effort is to counter threats from China, not to bolster China's economy with taxpayer dollars. So it defies all logic to send billions of dollars to an unaccountable fund that could end up helping our chief competitor, the People's Republic of China.

The House COMPETES Act also added provisions relating to immigration, from creating new types of visas to removing green card caps. I am fine with having a discussion and debate and votes on immigration issues, but they do not belong in this legislation, certainly not in a partisan fashion.

In true fashion, our colleagues in the House who are the majority party added a range of handouts to their political base, especially organized labor. From massive slush funds to burdensome new labor requirements, the unions would have won big in this bill.

And, as I said, unfortunately, the House decided to undertake this effort in a purely partisan fashion, which leaves us with very little common ground to work with. I am frustrated, and I know that I am not the only one. There are Democratic Senators who have joined me in expressing their frustration over how slow it is to get this process moving. But it is more important to get it done right away so we can get the job done as thoroughly as necessary.

Well, there is broad bipartisan support for this effort. I have a hard time explaining to my friends and constituents that when the White House is in favor of something, when Democrats are in favor of something, Republicans

are in favor of something, the House is in favor of it, and the Senate is in favor of it, we still can't seem to get it done. But I hope that we will take advantage of this opportunity—now that conferees have been appointed by the House and the White House—to get the conference committee to work, to do our job, and to get this bill on the President's desk as soon as we can. I fully expect the final version to look very much like the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate rather than the partisan bill that came from the House.

I expressed to the Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, that I hope we can work efficiently and reach a final agreement as soon as possible. It is critical that we get a strong bill to the President's desk and finally back this CHIPS Program with funding and protect ourselves from this, really, almost existential economic threat and threat to our national security.

The bill has undergone a number of name changes over the years. It started out as the Endless Frontier Act. Then it became the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. Then the House called it the America COMPETES Act. Then we gave it a new name: the Made in America Act. But now, we have a new name—and hopefully the final name—called the Bipartisan Innovation Act.

I hope we can work together to craft a truly good bill that lives up to that title, the Bipartisan Innovation Act, and delivers economic and national security benefits for all of the American people.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, AT 11:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 593, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., and does so as a further mark of respect to the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former Senator from Arkansas.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:10 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

VINCENT GARFIELD LOGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2026, VICE DALLAS P. TONSAGER, TERM EXPIRED.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

JAIME E. LIZARRAGA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2027, VICE ALLISON HERREN LEE, TERM EXPIRING.

MARK TOSHIRO UYEDA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2023, VICE ELAD L. ROISMAN, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

ROBIN MEREDITH COHN HUTCHESON, OF UTAH, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE RAYMOND MARTINEZ.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U. S.C., SECTION 305:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. PETER W. GAUTIER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 304:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. STEVEN D. POULIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDANT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 302:

To be admiral

ADM. LINDA L. FAGAN

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO BE A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SARA C. SCHUMAN, OF WASHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

ALYCE CAMILLE RICHARDSON, OF MARYLAND
STEPHEN ALLEY, OF TENNESSEE

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DIANE JONES, OF FLORIDA

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

SHARON BETH LEWIS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, VICE ALAN L. COHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

SHARON BETH LEWIS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2028. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL OLD–AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD–AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 7, 2022:

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

OREN E. WHYCHE–SHAW, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JED DAVID KOLKO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

ARUN VENKATARAMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MOHSIN RAZA SYED, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GRANT T. HARRIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

LAURIE E. LOCASCIO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

ADRIANA DEBORA KUGLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEVEN H. FAGIN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIK KRISTOPHER RAVEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

WILLIAM A. LAPLANTE, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 7, 2022 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

CARLA RAVI KOPPELL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MICHELLE A. BEKKERING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.

DAVID WEIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE CHERYL MARIE STANTON, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UKRAINE INVASION WAR CRIMES DETERRENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as we speak, the battle for liberty and democracy rages on in Ukraine. Congress and the Country are in awe of the heroism and determination of the Ukrainian people—as they defend democracy in their homeland and in the world.

Tragically, the Russian response to their courage and resilience has been nothing short of monstrous. Since Russia's unlawful and unprovoked invasion, we have heard deeply disturbing reports out of Ukraine: demolishing a maternity hospital; bombing civilians fleeing the fighting; and killing innocent children.

As the State Department concluded on March 23rd, based on the information available, these barbaric attacks amount to war crimes.

Just this week, the world saw shocking and horrifying images of mass executions in Bucha—with the bodies of hundreds of slain civilians strewn throughout the city. Sadly, as President Zelenskyy reported to the United Nations Security Council yesterday, we have reason to believe this is happening elsewhere, too.

Sadly, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the massacre the world saw wasn't real—but a performance by actors playing dead.

This reality is sickening and heart-wrenching—and we cannot stay silent in the face of these outrageous and unthinkable atrocities.

Today, the House takes another important step to hold Putin and the Russian government accountable for this cruel brutality.

With the Ukraine War Crimes Act, we will ensure that the United States is collecting, analyzing and preserving evidence of Russian war crimes: an essential step so that the perpetrators can be prosecuted.

In doing so, we can help deter future war crimes—making it clear to Russian forces that the free world is closely watching.

This action follows the leadership of President Joe Biden, who has: capably orchestrated the West's strong, unified response; and demonstrated extraordinary moral clarity, among the first to call these heinous attacks what they are: war crimes.

Let us salute Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman GREGORY MEEKS and Ranking Member MICHAEL MCCAUL, for their relentless leadership in introducing this strong legislation.

And I thank them for their commitment to bipartisanship: demonstrating our Nation's unity and resolve as we respond to Russia's aggression.

This legislation builds on ongoing, escalating efforts by the Congress, the Administration and our Allies to punish Putin for his crimes.

With historic speed and coordination with our allies abroad, America has led the world in isolating Russia and devastating its economy.

We have: cut off Russian banks and decimated its markets; choked off its access to technology; cracked down on the oligarchs funding this war—and much more.

The House has passed bold legislation to revoke normal trade relations from Russia and ban the import of Russian energy: two major steps that will further cripple Putin's war effort and the Russian economy.

At the same time, we have secured $13.6 billion in new humanitarian, security and economic assistance for Ukraine—which is already reaching people on the ground—as well as bolstered our support for NATO.

Our actions have left Russia weaker in every way. And now, we are taking further action to make sure Russia is held to account for its crimes.

This week, on Monday evening—54 years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—many of us gathered with the King family at the MLK Memorial.

At the foot of this spectacular monument to peace, the King family placed a sunflower wreath: a symbol of our unity with the people of Ukraine.

In his book Stride Toward Freedom, Dr. King wrote: "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it."

The legislation that the House will pass today will make clear that we stand firmly against the evil being perpetrated against Ukraine—and on the side of democracy, freedom and peace.

In memory of the victims of these horrific Russian war crimes—and in solidarity with those who remain in danger—I urge a strong, bipartisan "aye" vote on this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of renowned architect Frederick Law Olmsted. This marks the 200th year since his birth.

Prior to beginning his career as a landscape architect, Mr. Olmsted worked as an author, farmer, journalist, and public servant. As the superintendent of New York's Central Park, he was awarded the opportunity to design the park. This prestigious task marked only the beginning of his accomplished career in architecture. In 1873, Congress selected Mr. Olmsted to design the expansion of the U.S. Capitol. He also designed the Biltmore Estate in Asheville where he fell in love with the natural beauty of North Carolina. He later accepted the opportunity to serve as the chief architect for the Village of Pinehurst. Today, the Village of Pinehurst is part of the Pinehurst National Historic Landmark District on the National Register of Historic Places. This impressive distinction serves in large part to recognize the cultural and architectural significance of Mr. Olmsted's exemplary work.

After he passed in 1903, Mr. Olmsted's sons and business colleagues worked to carry out his architectural mission which continues to shape the direction of American architecture and design. His extraordinary legacy provides a guiding model for all practicing architecture.

I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to Mr. Olmsted for his committed and impactful leadership and achievements in the fields of architecture and landscaping. His work has greatly benefitted North Carolina and the U.S., and I join our entire community in honoring his extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted.

RECOGNIZING MARVIN RANDLE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin Randle, former mayor of Irving. Randle is a native and lifelong resident of Irving and served two consecutive two-year terms from May 1977 to April 1981.

Marvin has also had a great impact on our community as a small business owner, founding Irving Counter Top in 1962. Over the years, the family-owned-and-operated business has continued to grow along with the DFW Metroplex.

Marvin is a longtime friend and mentor. It is an honor to help celebrate such a full and impactful career and legacy, as Marvin retires this month. I thank Marvin for his great contributions to our local government and the impact he has made on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE VARINA HIGH SCHOOL BLUE DEVILS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the Varina Blue Devils Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class 4 State Championship title.

This title run was a towering achievement, as it resulted in the team's second state championship in basketball and the school's second state championship this school year. It is truly a well-earned victory, not only for the team but also the school and community.

The Blue Devils' win was earned through hard work on and off the court, with their individual talents combining through outstanding teamwork. Coming off a semifinal win with the score of 84–68, the Blue Devils put on an outstanding performance in the Championship, with a final score of 61–35. I am certain that their legacy of championship achievement will inspire future Blue Devils to follow in their footsteps.

On behalf of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Principal Darin Thompson, Coach Kenneth Randolph, and the Varina High School Blue Devils Boys Basketball Team for their inspiring championship season.

BENTON REA'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Benton Rural Electric Association's 85th birthday and to sincerely thank them for all of their contributions to Central Washington.

This electric company has changed the way farmers work. Benton REA was established on April 19, 1937, to serve those in Benton and the surrounding counties. One year later, Benton REA helped Benton and Yakima farmers move into the modern era of electricity by flipping the switch to light more than 89 rural farms.

As the oldest operating consumer-owned business serving Benton and Yakima counties, they understand the needs and concerns of the rural community when it comes to electricity needs. I thank them for their many faithful years of serving the 11,000 members across Benton, Yakima, and Lewis counties, many of whom are in my district, and for providing the electricity they need.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone and I wish them many more years of success.

UKRAINE INVASION WAR CRIMES DETERRENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud Rep. MCCAUL'S Ukraine Invasion War Crimes Deterrence and Accountability Act.

History has taught us that evidence must be safeguarded in order to hold tyrants to account.

Putin and his enablers will gaslight the world until Kingdom Come—but the world and our progeny must know the truth.

As Ukraine's civilians and defenders continue their valiant fight against the beast—we must be ready to prosecute those who murdered innocents and pillaged a sovereign land.

Putin's war is not an act of defense. It is a calculated and brutal slaughter of ordinary people who sought only to build up their precious democracy.

Putin has shed any semblance of humanity. He is a monster with the blood of freedom-loving people on his hands.

When justice comes, let us be prepared with all that we need to sentence these evildoers to the punishments they deserve.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF KAROLE WHITE

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career of Ms. Karole White, who served as president and CEO of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for over 36 incredible years.

Karole has dedicated her career to organizations that have bettered Michigan communities and businesses. Under her leadership, MAB grew from a group with minimal resources, to one of the most respected and robust trade associations in the state.

Karole's leadership helped the MAB integrate into all areas of the broadcasting industry. Her advocacy extended from the smallest high school newsroom to the largest radio stations in the state. Currently, nearly 90 percent of individuals, companies, and organizations affiliated with broadcasting in Michigan have joined the MAB.

Karole's expertise has made her an essential part of the broadcasting industry, and she has built strong relationships across the field, not just in our state but around the country. When she announced her retirement in January, we knew that the industry was losing one of its greatest advocates. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her well in her retirement. After decades of service, she surely deserves it, and I will always count it a privilege to call her my friend.

RECOGNIZING THE HIGHLAND SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL SPRINGERS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the Highland Springs Springers Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class 5 State Championship title.

This title run was a tremendous achievement, as it resulted in the team's fourth state championship and first since 2007. The Springers won in the last seconds of the game with the final score being 63–62.

The Springers' win was earned through months of hard work. After a season of hard-fought wins and a remarkable record of 23–4, these young men closed out the championship game in style, securing the win in the final seconds of the game with stifling defense. I am certain that these young men and their championship achievement will be remembered in the Henrico community for years to come.

On behalf of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Principal Kenneth White, Coach Reggie Tennyson, and the Highland Springs Springers Boys Basketball Team for their remarkable championship season.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPION USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the NCAA Women's National Basketball Champions for 2022. The University of South Carolina Gamecocks have played with tremendous heart and skill throughout this season, earning the team its second national title.

The Gamecocks have been ranked number one the entire season and lost just two games by slim margins. During the NCAA tournament, they beat No. 8 seed Miami, No. 5 seed University of North Carolina, No. 10 seed Creighton and No. 1 seed Louisville, before taking on No. 2 seed and perennial powerhouse University of Connecticut (UConn).

UConn had been in the Final Four for 14 consecutive years. USC made the Sweet 16 every year since 2014. In 2017, USC claimed their first national championship. The next year, UConn eliminated USC when they met the last time in the tournament. The Gamecocks were in a prime position to win the tournament in 2020, but it was cancelled due to the COVID–19 pandemic. Last year, USC was eliminated in the Final Four.

Head Coach Dawn Staley and the USC players were determined that 2022 was going to be their year. They delivered with a 64–49 victory on April 3 in Minneapolis, delivering UConn their first ever loss in the championship game.

I can't say enough about the leadership of Coach Staley. The Philadelphia native, and former college, WNBA, and Olympic basketball stand-out, has led USC's team since 2008. She built the program from scratch, and by the 2013–2014 season, the team won the SEC Conference and was the top ranked team nationally. Under her leadership, the Gamecocks have won six SEC regular season and SEC tournament championships, made it to eight Sweet Sixteens and four Final Fours, and now, won two national championships.

Coach Staley achieved all of this while serving as the U.S. Women's National Olympic Team head coach from 2017 to 2021, leading that team to a perfect 45–0 record and winning a gold medal. This year she received the Naismith Award as the best coach in the Nation for the second time and has earned the distinction of being the first Black coach in men's or women's Division I basketball history to win more than one national championship.

Coach Staley led a remarkable team with the starting line-up of No. 1 Zia Cooke, a junior guard from Toledo, Ohio; No. 3 Destanni Henderson, a senior guard from Fort Myers, Florida; No. 4 Aliyah Boston, a junior forward from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; No. 5 Victaria Saxton, a senior forward from Rome, Georgia; and, No. 12 Brea Beal, a junior

guard from Rock Island, Illinois. This remarkable starting line-up was assisted by a talented bench of No. 0 Olivia Thompson, a junior guard from Lexington, South Carolina; No. 2 Eniya Russell, a sophomore guard from Baltimore, Maryland; No. 10 Kamilla Cardoso, a sophomore center from Montes Claros, Brazil; No. 11 Destiny Littleton, a senior guard from San Diego, California; No. 15 Laeticia Amihere, a junior forward from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; No. 20 Sania Feagin, a freshman forward from Ellenwood, Georgia; No. 23 Bree Hall, a freshman guard from Dayton, Ohio; No. 24 LeLe Grissett, a graduate student guard from Durham, North Carolina; No. 25 Raven Johnson, a freshman guard from Atlanta, Georgia; No. 32 Elysa Wesolek, a senior forward from Charleston, South Carolina; and, No. 44 Saniya Rivers, a freshman guard from Wilmington, Nor Carolina.

A special congratulations to Aliyah Boston, who achieved her 30th double-double with 11 points and 16 rebounds in the championship game, earning her the Final Four Most Outstanding Player. This honor completes her sweep of the top national awards. She is also the recipient of the 2022 John R. Wooden Award and the Player of the Year awards from Naismith, The Associated Press, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association. She was also the SEC Player of the Year and the Lisa Leslie Award winner.

Other accolades include Aliyah Boston, Zia Cooke, and Destanni Henderson all making the Final Four All-Tournament Team. Henderson scored a career-high 26 points, the most of any player in the championship game, and Cooke also provided 11 points and 5 rebounds.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating this remarkable University of South Carolina Women's Basketball team. I have had the pleasure of following their season and seeing them play many times in person. Their extraordinary talent and leadership made it exciting to see their hard work rewarded with the national title. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RETIRED U.S. ARMY MAJOR HAROLD KING

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Retired United States Army Major Harold King for his hard work and dedicated service in his eight years as a Veteran Service Officer with the Missouri Veterans Commission Harold King was recently selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission Employee of the Month and Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month.

Harold King has distinguished himself as an essential leader within the Veteran Service Program, providing his hard work and dedication to the 6,500 veterans and dependents within his assigned region of the state, which includes Camden, Laclede, Phelps, Pulaski, and Texas counties. He is being recognized for his outstanding work assisting a Missouri veteran win an appeal after the Department of Veterans Affairs rejected his medical claim related to her herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War. Harold diligently assisted in filing several appeals. Seven years after the initial claim was filed, the Board of Veterans Appeals awarded the veteran approximately $223,000 in backpay.

Prior to the Missouri Veterans Commission, Harold King served his country for 24 years, working in Armor and Psychological Operations and deploying three times, including in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm with the 1st Infantry Division, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Harold King retired as a Major in the United States Army.

It is a great honor to recognize Veteran Service Officer and Retired Major Harold King for his steadfast leadership and continuous devotion to his community. Please join me in thanking him for his service to our Nation and the Great State of Missouri.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an exchange of correspondence between myself and Chairman JERRY NADLER acknowledging the Committee on Judiciary's agreement to waive consideration of H.R. 5657 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce's acknowledgement that such waiver does not in any way diminish or alter the Committee's jurisdiction on this or similar legislation in the future.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2022.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 5657, the ''Medical Marijuana Research Act,'' that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 5657, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5657, the ''Medical Marijuana Research Act,'' so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will ensure our letters on H.R. 5657 are entered into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF TEXAS BAPTIST MEN

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas 24 Hometown Heroes of the week, the volunteers of Texas Baptist Men in Dallas, TX.

Texas Baptist Men lend a helping hand across Texas and around the world. From providing thousands with clean drinking water to assisting those affected in natural disasters, their work and generosity is seen around the globe.

TBM has also helped start and train disaster relief groups in all 50 states, creating the third-largest disaster relief network in the nation. When a hurricane, tornado or other disaster strikes, TBM moves to help those who have been affected.

I thank TBM for going above and beyond to selflessly assist in natural disasters across the state and around the world. Their generosity and commitment to our community do not go unnoticed.

PASCO CHAMBER'S 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pasco Chamber of Commerce's 110th anniversary and to sincerely thank them for all of their contributions to the Greater Pasco Area.

The Pasco Chamber truly lives out its mission of advocating for local business owners and empowering entrepreneurs, all while keeping Pasco's rich history and cultural diversity at the forefront. Local economic development is crucial for any community to thrive,

and the Pasco Chamber is truly a leader in our region.

In addition, the Pasco Chamber of Commerce has been, and continues to be, a champion for our agriculture community and way of life. The agriculture industry is integral to our community, and their support for our farms and agriculture businesses has not gone unnoticed. I am also grateful for their partnership in working to protect our dams which provide clean, carbon-free energy throughout the region, water for our crops, and transportation to move our goods to export markets.

I extend my congratulations on the Pasco Chamber of Commerce's anniversary and wish them many more decades of servant leadership to our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS HILDEBRAND

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an incredible man and member of our community, Dr. Thomas Hildebrand.

Tom was a dedicated member of his community who joined the U.S. Army Special Forces after graduating Seymour High School in 1977 where he served as a medic, weapons expert, and Army Ranger.

The Bible tells us that the greatest among us is a servant, and I can think of no better way to describe Tom.

During medical school, Tom spent his free time volunteering for the local hospice, committed to comforting the patients and their families during those final precious moments.

After nearly 20 years of military service, Tom's commitment and sense of duty was repurposed, and he threw himself into tirelessly advocating for Hoosier veterans, arranging appointments and transportation, and connecting veterans with support groups.

His dedication to serving White County veterans knew no bounds, and it was not out of the ordinary to see Tom working into the late hours of the night or weekends to help his fellow veterans.

In the military, our credo is ''no man left behind,'' and Tom fulfilled that mission both in his service to this country and in his decade of service to Hoosier veterans.

Our country and our community are better for having had Tom in them, and I appreciate the opportunity to remember this outstanding Hoosier.

HONORING TOM GOODKIND

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Tom Goodkind, a true renaissance man and a beloved member of the Lower Manhattan community.

Mr. Goodkind, who passed away from a chronic degenerative illness in February 2019 at the age of 65, will be honored by the Church Street School for Music and Art for his contributions to the school and community on April 8, 2022.

An accountant by training, he moved to the Financial District in the late '80s and quickly became active in the Battery Park City community, Manhattan Community Board 1 (on which he served for decades) and local political clubs. Mr. Goodkind was a fierce advocate for expanding and retaining affordable housing in Lower Manhattan and produced comprehensive reports on rent stabilization and the neighborhood's affordable housing supply as the chair of Manhattan Community Board 1's Housing Task Force. He also advocated for the 5 World Trade Center site to include a fair number of affordable units, with set-asides for creative artists and September 11th survivors and responders.

In addition to his dedication for community activism, his passion for music was a guiding force throughout his life. Mr. Goodkind had stints as a punk rocker and a music venue promoter before co-founding the acclaimed band The Washington Squares, a neo-folk trio that received a Grammy nomination. After the September 11th terrorist attacks, Mr. Goodkind looked to the healing power of music to help rebuild Lower Manhattan. He founded and conducted the TriBattery Pops, the first NYC downtown all-volunteer community band in a century, that became an ever-present, animated staple at local community events. Mr. Goodkind remained an ardent supporter of local institutions that celebrated musical arts and strived to share the joy of music with New Yorkers and beyond.

Mr. Goodkind's chronic degenerative illness was linked to the exposure to toxic dust that hung over Manhattan in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. The toll of the toxins and the subsequent illnesses they wrought to not only those who worked on the pile but also residents in my district like Mr. Goodkind who returned to their homes, cleaned up and revitalized this neighborhood laid bare the need for the federal government to provide survivors with quality health care and financial support. I was proud that after over a decade of fighting we passed the James Zadruga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 and its reauthorization in 2015, and we created and fully funded the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund for survivors and responders.

Mr. Goodkind is survived by his wife Jill, and daughters Olivia and Nicole who continue to further his legacy through their advocacy work for affordable housing, September llth survivor issues and support for the arts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Tom Goodkind and his significant impacts on music and the lives of residents in Lower Manhattan that will be felt for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF LILLIAN TAMAYO

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous career and meaningful work of Lillian Tamayo, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of South, East, and North Florida.

Planned Parenthood health centers provide millions of people in the U.S. with contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, lifesaving cancer screenings, and safe, legal abortion. Many Planned Parenthood patients are low-income, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, undocumented immigrants, or those who live in rural areas and underserved communities. They empower people to make informed decisions about their healthcare and lead healthier lives.

Lillian Tamayo served more than two decades in her position at Planned Parenthood, working to protect the vital right to bodily autonomy and self-determination. During Ms. Tamayo's tenure, the organization saw a more than fivefold increase in patients getting the care they need. When she took the helm, Planned Parenthood had four health centers in Florida and now there are 11. Under her stewardship as the first Latina CEO in the federation, Planned Parenthood has greatly expanded access to reproductive care for all Floridians and especially among marginalized communities and populations.

Never has the work done by compassionate individuals like Ms. Tamayo been more important. As a woman's reproductive freedom is increasingly threatened in states like Florida, Planned Parenthood continues to be a beacon of advocacy and a stalwart defender of women's healthcare.

Lillian Tamayo is a selfless and devoted public servant whose commitment to ensuring access to women's healthcare is admirable. I wish her a heartfelt congratulations on her exemplary work at Planned Parenthood, and I am immensely grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida's 23rd Congressional District, the state of Florida as a whole, and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on April 6, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 118.

RECOGNIZING JALEN WILSON AND MICHAEL JANKOVICH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week's Texas-24 Hometown Heroes: Jalen Wilson and Michael Jankovich, who will be competing in this year's March Madness championship game.

Jalen, who attended John H. Guyer High School, and Michael, who attended Dallas Jesuit, are members of the Kansas Jay Hawks Basketball team looking to take home the NCAA tournament trophy.

These young men have not only represented North Texas well on the national stage, but showed students back home that through hard work and determination, they too can reach the same heights.

It is an honor to recognize these inspirational young leaders. They should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished this season on the court and in the hearts of everyone back home.

I wish them the best of luck as they take on UNC in the final game. Make us proud tonight.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on April 6, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 118.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNUAL CHAI DINNER AND DANCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the Council of Heritage and Arts of India (CHAI). CHAI is a local nonprofit organization that promotes Indian culture, arts, and heritage here in Western New York. Their annual dinner and dance brings together friends and family to celebrate the organization's cultural and community relations.

Formed in 2018, CHAI serves the Western New York Community by building bridges among Indian and non-Indian communities. Their work recognizes the important role that culture plays in nation-building and represents a set of shared values, goals, and practices.

CHAI helps the Western New York Indian American Community better understand its needs and provides access to critical government resources. Additionally, they have worked with Western New York's international community, in partnership with government officials, to assist with and resolve immigration issues.

CHAI puts an emphasis on their charity work. During the pandemic, they raised more than $7,000 toward PPE for hospitals and frontline workers in the Buffalo area. The practice of ''anna danna'', or ''offering of food'', is common within Indian society and continues to be an important aspect of their culture. In addition to PPE, CHAI also provided groceries for international students at the University of Buffalo who lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

CHAI operates under the guidance of Executive Director Sibu Nair and a dedicated executive committee. The organization has tremendous community and government support, which allows them to complete major community projects in addition to their distinguished charitable work and community relations efforts.

CHAI recently installed a monument for Mahatma Gandhi in the Town of Amherst. The memorial is a gift to the town that symbolizes peace and friendship. It serves as a landmark for the Western New York Indian-American community and further connects the United States and Indian democracies. In 2022, CHAI will initiate the development of an Indian Heritage Center here in Western New York.

This year, CHAI is gathering to celebrate the Indian American community here in Western New York at their annual dinner and dance. Family and friends of CHAI will come together to showcase the organization's success in serving the community and helping to provide resources to those in need.

CHAI's mission to celebrate the diverse heritage of India has helped many people across the Western New York Community, because of their commitment to cultural beliefs and values. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing CHAI's work serving the community, connecting our cultures, and celebrating our democracies.

RECOGNIZING THE JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL JUSTICES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the John Marshall Justices Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class 2 State Championship title.

This title run was an outstanding achievement, resulting in the team's third state basketball championship since 2014. In their semifinal contest the Justices won by a score of 92–53, and in the championship game won 82–43. The players' work ethic and winning mentality truly shined.

The Justices' win was not earned just on the day of the game but was built on months of hard work. After a season of spectacular victories and a 22–4 record going into the title game, these young men closed out the championship game in style. I am certain that these young men and their state title achievement will be remembered in the Richmond community for years to come.

On behalf of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Principal Monica Murray, Coach Ty White, and the John Marshall Justices Boys Basketball Team for their remarkable championship season.

HONORING WBT RADIO

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to WBT Radio on the 100th anniversary of its founding. For over a century, WBT has helped inform and entertain residents of the City of Charlotte—my hometown. Charles Kuralt, Billy Graham, Rush Limbaugh, and Charlotte's John Hancock are just some of the voices that have come through WBT's airwaves in the past, and that tradition continues in the broadcasts of names like Bo Thompson, Vince Coakley, and Pete Kaliner.

WBT traces its origins from early broadcasts by radio amateurs who set up a transmitter in an abandoned chicken coop. These sporadic transmissions later expanded into playing phonograph records over the air, and then into the broadcasts we know and love today. The U.S. Department of Commerce officially granted WBT a broadcast license on April 10, 1922. At the time, it was only the third licensed radio station in the United States and the first in the entire Southeast.

I am proud to honor WBT Radio on their 100th anniversary. Here's to 100 more years of radio excellence from the station heard ''from Maine to Miami.''

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DONALD ROSS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of renowned golf course architect Donald Ross. This marks the 125th year since his birth.

Although the total number is not known, Mr. Ross designed around 400 courses over his lifetime which have been home to more than 100 U.S. national championships. In 1900, he was hired by James Walker Tufts to oversee the construction of four of the nine courses at the Pinehurst resort. Mr. Ross is most well-known for crafting the legendary Pinehurst No. 2. This course is held by many to be one of the most well-designed and challenging courses in the U.S. and the world. Mr. Ross' designs led Pinehurst to become the center of golf's rise to popularity in the early twentieth century and established a tradition of excellence that continues to serve as a source of pride for all in our community.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Ross for his committed and impactful leadership and achievements as a golf course architect. His work has greatly benefitted those in North Carolina and across the U.S., and I join our entire community in honoring his extraordinary life

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Donald Ross.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF VOORHEES COLLEGE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina.

On April 14, 1897, Voorhees College was founded by 23-year-old Elizabeth Evelyn Wright as Denmark Industrial School. A native of Georgia, Ms. Wright went on to study at Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Knowing the importance of education, Ms. Wright moved to South Carolina and started the first of several schools for Blacks in the rural area of southeastern South Carolina.

On May 14, 1902, the Denmark Industrial School was renamed to Voorhees Industrial School after Ralph Voorhees, a New Jersey philanthropist, gave Ms. Wright $5,000 for the purchase of 280 acres of land on the outskirts of Denmark The generous donation allowed the school to expand.

In 1924, the American Church Institute for Negroes, which was a part of the Episcopal Church, agreed to support the school beginning a long relationship that continues to this day. In 1947, Voorhees Industrial School became a junior college and was renamed Voorhees School and Junior College after the industrial department was discontinued. The junior college was accredited in 1946 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and in 1949 it became the first Black college in South Carolina to be recognized by the regional body.

In 1962, the school became Voorhees College and five years later it became a senior degree granting institution. Shortly thereafter, it received full accreditation as a liberal arts college from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

For the last 125 years, Voorhees College has educated thousands of students. Its educational scope has expanded from the days of teaching vocational skills to becoming a liberal arts college to now having a presence in Ghana, Liberia and other countries in West Africa.

Today, 125 years after Denmark Industrial School was founded, it will be renamed once again to Voorhees University with the start of a Masters programs.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 125th anniversary of Voorhees University, its history, and its founder, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT GRADY H. CANUP

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Grady H. Canup, who was killed in action during World War II and whose remains have finally been identified.

Sergeant Canup of Greenwood, South Carolina, was assigned to Company C, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at the age of thirty. His unit served as part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive where, on November 14, 1944, he was killed by enemy artillery fire. Sgt. Canup's remains were declared non-recoverable in December of 1951, despite great efforts by the American Graves Registration Command to account for missing American soldiers.

In 2019, Sgt. Canup's identification tag was found in the area where a set of unidentified remains had been found decades earlier. Those unidentified remains were disinterred from a cemetery in Europe for further investigation in 2019. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System were able to confirm that the remains belonged to Sgt. Canup earlier this year. Sgt. Canup will be laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Anderson County on April 10, 2022. On the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, a rosette will be placed by Sgt. Canup's name since he has now been accounted for.

It brings me comfort knowing that after seventy-eight years, Sgt. Canup's remains will be reunited with his family. I am grateful for the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in making this possible. This identification of remains allows for another opportunity to reflect on the many heroes who lost their lives defending freedom across the world during World War II. I am reminded of the verse John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." We are blessed to live in a country where so many heroes, like Sgt. Canup, are willing to wear the uniform to defend our freedoms.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to honor the lives of those lost in conflict, like Sergeant Canup. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT HAGEN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Dr. Robert Hagen.

Dr. Hagen moved to Lafayette, IN in 1987 to pursue an opportunity with the Lafayette Orthopedic Clinic, where he worked as an orthopedic surgeon for 34 years until his retirement in 2019.

Dr. Hagen was committed to his neighbors and community. In 1985, Dr. Hagen started Unity Health Care in Northern Indiana. Additionally, he worked with the Purdue campus of the IU School of Medicine, and was a team physician for two local high schools for over 25 years. He was state president of the Indiana Orthopedic Society in 2000, a member of the Board of Councilors of the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons from 2011 to 2017, and United Way campaign chairman in 2017.

Dr. Hagen dedicated a big part of his life fighting for health care reforms to improve health care value and make it more affordable for all Hoosiers and all Americans. His efforts will not be forgotten.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 7108, Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act, as amended.

Senate passed H.R. 6968, Suspending Energy Imports from Russia Act, as amended.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2057–S2105

Measures Introduced: Fifty-three bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4023–4075, and S. Res. 584–593. **Pages S2091–93**

Measures Passed:

Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act: By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 131), Senate passed H.R. 7108, to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S2060**

Schumer Amendment No. 5020, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2060**

Suspending Energy Imports from Russia Act: By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 132), Senate passed H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S2060**

Schumer (for Crapo/Wyden) Amendment No. 5021, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2060**

Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act: Senate passed S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2078–79**

Murphy (for Tester) Amendment No. 5024, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2079**

Veterans' Emergency Care Claims Parity Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2079–80**

Murphy (for Rounds/Tester) Amendment No. 5026, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2079**

Government of the People's Republic of China: Senate agreed to S. Res. 503, expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately guarantee the safety and freedom of tennis star Peng Shuai, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2080–81**

Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2081–82**

Murphy (for Grassley) Amendment No. 5025, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2081**

Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the FAA Veterans Restriction: Senate passed S. 3785, to amend title 49, United States Code, to eliminate the restriction on veterans concurrently serving in the Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. **Page S2082**

Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program: Senate passed S. 4070, to designate the National Air Grant Fellowship Program as the "Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program". **Page S2082**

National Assistive Technology Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 592, Designating April 6, 2022, as "National Assistive Technology Awareness Day". **Page S2083**

Death of former Senator Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 593, relating to the death of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Arkansas. **Page S2083**

Navy Aircraft Carriers Centennial: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S2083**

Murphy (for Kaine) Amendment No. 5027, to amend the preamble. **Page S2083**

House Messages:

National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act: Senate concurred in the Amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 658, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training. **Page S2083**

Appointments:

Afghanistan War Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Afghanistan War Commission: Seth Jones of Virginia. **Page S2078**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S2078**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, April, 14, 2022, at 11 a.m.; Monday, April 18, 2022, at 4 p.m.; Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 12 noon, and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 21, 2022, it next convene on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 3 p.m. **Page S2103**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Albania (Treaty Doc. No. 117–2).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S2078**

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Tax Convention with Chile (Treaty Doc. 112–8) (Ex. Rept. 117–1). **Page S2090**

Brainard Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S2073**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, April 7, 2022, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 25, 2022. **Page S2073**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2073**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2073**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, April 25, 2022, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, April 7, 2022, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 25, 2022. **Page S2103**

Cook Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S2073**

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 Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S2073**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2073**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2073**

Bedoya Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner. **Pages S2073–76**

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 Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Pages S2073–76**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2073**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2073**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 134), Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. **Pages S2060–73**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 133), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2060–73**

Oren E. Whyche-Shaw, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years.

Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Steven H. Fagin, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

William A. LaPlante, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. **Page S2105**

Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

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.

Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. **Page S2105**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Vincent Garfield Logan, of New York, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2026.

Jaime E. Lizarraga, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2027.

Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2023.

Robin Meredith Cohn Hutcheson, of Utah, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Sharon Beth Lewis, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2022.

Sharon Beth Lewis, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2028.

Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service. **Page S2105**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Carla Ravi Koppell, of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, which was sent to the Senate on September 21, 2021.

David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, which was sent to the Senate on January 4, 2022. **Page S2105**

Messages from the House: **Page S2089**

Measures Referred: **Pages S2089–90**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2090**

Executive Communications: **Page S2090**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S2086**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2093–94

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2094–S2101

Additional Statements: Pages S2087–88

Amendments Submitted: Pages S2101–03

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2103

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—134) Pages S2060–61, S2069

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former Senator of Arkansas, in accordance with S. Res. 593, at 5:10 p.m., until 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2105.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOD BUDGET POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2023 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary, Michael McCord, Under Secretary (Comptroller), and General Mark A. Milley, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

CRITICAL MINERALS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the scope and scale of critical mineral demand and recycling of critical minerals, after receiving testimony from Dave Howell, Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director, Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, Director, Vehicle Technologies Office, Department of Energy; Joseph Britton, Zero Emission Transportation Association, and Duncan Wood, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, both of Washington, D.C.; Scott Forney, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems, San Diego, California; and JB Straubel, Redwood Materials, Carson City, Nevada.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2372, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3742, to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility;

S. 3743, 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

11 GSA resolutions.

IRS BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Internal Revenue Service, the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2023, and the 2022 filing season, after receiving testimony from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Caroline Kennedy, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia, who was introduced by Senator Markey, Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, MaryKay Loss Carlson, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, and Marc B. Nathanson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, who was introduced by Senator Padilla, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 7434–7488; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 85; and H. Res. 1043–1050, were introduced. Pages H4431–33

Additional Cosponsors: Page H4435

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative DeSaulnier to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4399**

Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act: The House passed H.R. 3807, to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 123. **Pages H4401–14**

Rejected the Van Duyne motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Small Business, by a yea-and-nay vote of 205 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 122. **Pages H4412–14**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–39, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 117–290, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H4401**

H. Res. 1023, the rule relating to the consideration of House Report 117–284 and an accompanying resolution was agreed to yesterday, April 6th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7108, to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 124; and **Pages H4415–17, H4419–20**

Suspending Energy Imports from Russia Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 125. **Pages H4418–19, H4420–21**

America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act Appointment of Conferees: The Chair appointed the following conferees on H.R. 4521: From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Pallone, Eshoo, Schakowsky, Matsui, Tonka, Blunt Rochester, Soto, Rodgers (WA), Bucshon, Carter (GA), Duncan, and Crenshaw. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Meeks, Deutch, Bass, Castro (TX), Houlahan, Jacobs (CA), Kinzinger, Mccaul, Chabot, Wagner, Green (TN), and Kim (CA). **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Johnson (TX), Lofgren, Bonamici, Bera, Stevens, Bowman, Foster, Lucas, Weber (TX), Babin, Waltz, and Garcia (CA). **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Neal, Blumenauer, Danny K. Davis (IL), DelBene, Chu, Kildee, Gomez, Brady, Buchanan, Smith (NE), LaHood, and Miller (WV). **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of sec. 10407, title XV of division H, and division P of the House bill, and secs. 2217, 2507, and 2511 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives David Scott (GA), Pingree, and Thompson (PA). **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 20221, 71104, and 80401 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2118, 2217, 2402, 2507, and subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Norcross, Escobar, and Moore (UT). **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sec. 71210, titles XIII and XIV of division H, and titles I–V and titles VII–IX of division J of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 2509, 3138, subtitle C of title I of division D, and subtitles B and C of title I of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Scott (VA), Morelle, and Foxx. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 30299C, division G, secs. 110001, and 110004 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2508, 3138, 3219D, 3219E, 3250, 3405, 5103, 5202–04, and 5212 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Waters, Garcia (TX), and Barr. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of division F of the House bill, and subtitle C of title I of division D, secs. 4203, 4204, 4207, and subtitle B of title 11 of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Titus, Demings, and Guest. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 30001, 30303, 30306, 30312, 30318, 61403, 61411, 61414, 71102, 80102, 80103, titles II–VI of division I, and sec. 90104 of the House bill, and secs. 3302, 3303, 3313, 4492, 4494–96, 5202–04, and title 11 of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Nadler, Scanlon, and Tiffany. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 70101, 70102, 70111–18, subtitle B of title I of division H, titles II- XII of division H, and titles XV–XIX of division H of the House bill, and secs. 2507 and 2518 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Grijalva, McEachin, and Herrell. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of division E and division Q of the House bill, and title I of division D, subtitle A of title 11 of division D, title Ill of division D, subtitles A and B of title IV of division D, secs. 4493, 5202–04, and 73003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney (NY),Khanna, and Comer. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 10691, 50107, 71208, and division R of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Velazquez, Davids (KS), and Fitzgerald. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sec. 70121, subtitle C of title I of division H, division L, and division S of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 4114, and 4116 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives DeFazio, Malinowski, and Crawford. **Page H4423**

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Takano, Pappas, and Bost. **Page H4423**

Peter K. Navarro and Daniel Scavino, Jr. Documents: The Chair informed the House that, pursuant to House Resolution 1037, the Speaker has certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of Peter K. Navarro and Daniel Scavino, Jr., to produce documents to or appear for a deposition before the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol as directed by subpoena. **Page H4423**

Senate Referrals: S. 270 was held at the desk. S. 2991 was held at the desk. S. 3522 was held at the desk. **Page H4415**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H4414–15.

Quorum Calls Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4413, H4414, H4419–20, and H4420–21.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FY2023 MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''FY2023 Member Day Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Garcia of Texas, Griffith, Radewagen, and Schrier.

UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled ''United States Special Operations Command''. Testimony was heard from General Richard D. Clarke, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; and Christopher Maier, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense. This hearing was closed.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 1035, adjusting the amount provided for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress. H. Res. 1035 was ordered reported, without amendment.

EXAMINING STOCK TRADING REFORMS FOR CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining Stock Trading Reforms for Congress''. Testimony was heard from Jacob Straus, Specialist on Congress, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: On April 6, 2022, Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 350, the ''Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021''; H.R. 5460, the ''Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2021''; H.R. 301, to amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as ''Lift Every Voice and Sing'' as the national hymn of the

United States; H.R. 7072, the ''NDO Fairness Act''; H.R. 4330, the ''PRESS Act''; H.R. 3648, the ''EAGLE Act of 2021''; and H.R. 1924, the ''Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act''. H.R. 305, H.R. 301, H.R. 4330, H.R. 7072, H.R. 1924, H.R. 5460, and H.R. 3648 were ordered reported, as amended.

RUSSIAN SEAFOOD BAN IMPLEMENTATION AND SEAFOOD TRACEABILITY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled ''Russian Seafood Ban Implementation and Seafood Traceability''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FREE SPEECH UNDER ATTACK: BOOK BANS AND ACADEMIC CENSORSHIP

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Free Speech Under Attack: Book Bans and Academic Censorship''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COST–SAVING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: INVESTING IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO PROMOTE ENERGY SECURITY AND CUT ENERGY BILLS

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Cost-Saving Climate Solutions: Investing in Energy Efficiency to Promote Energy Security and Cut Energy Bills''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine protecting Ukrainian refugees from human trafficking, after receiving testimony from Kari Johnstone, Senior Official, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Department of State: Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights; Mykola Kuleba, Save Ukraine; and Nic McKinley, DeliverFund.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D338)*

H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service. Signed on April 6, 2022. (Public Law 117–108)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:30 a.m., Monday, April 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Monday, April 11

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

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