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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 13, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK RYAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect upon a decade of service in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, when I was first elected, I jotted down a list of goals that I hoped I would accomplish while serving the 17th Congressional District of Illinois.

As I was cleaning my office recently, I ran across that list again. A window into what I was thinking before I was even first sworn into office.

On that list: to build an exceptional constituent service program; to secure generous Federal funding and support local projects; and to develop innovative and practical solutions to the real problems that people face every day.

Reading it, I realized I never lost sight of what I came to Washington to do.

Goal number one: to serve the people in central, northern, and northwestern Illinois. That is why I was so proud when my team was honored as the top Democratic office for constituent services in Congress.

Goal number two: to deliver funding to help our communities.

Well, in 2021, I was the top House Democrat in bringing home Federal community project funding.

And goal number three: to listen to the people I serve and focus on solutions, such as when I helped pass two farm bills and prepare for a third; helped pass two surface transportation packages; wrote, passed, and saw enacted groundbreaking legislation to restore the rights of sexual assault and harassment survivors; and worked across the aisle to secure the largest investment in the Mississippi River since the Great Depression.

Each of these accomplishments speaks to who I have always looked out for: our family farmers, and the nearly 10,000 family farms that I represent. They are why I served on the House Agriculture Committee every year since I have been in Congress;

Our 90,000 labor households: That is why I fought to make sure that we pass bipartisan, once-in-a-generational investment in rebuilding our infrastructure;

And our working men and women: the people I met at every supermarket Saturday who took a moment to chat in the grocery store aisles;

And during 120 Cheri on shifts, which is what we call our own version of job shadowing. During my Cheri on shifts, I was a baker, a cattle auctioneer, a tow boat operator, and I even drove a Zamboni.

Every Cheri on shift gave me a firsthand view of how hard people worked to support their families and what they need from us here in Washington.

Like when Sarah Miller in Galesburg, Illinois, reached out to me. The mother of two young children, Sarah's drinking water had lead in it, but in order for her to afford to fix it, she would have had to drop out of nursing school. So I helped the city secure $4 million in grants, and Sarah became one of several hundred families to have their solid lead water pipes replaced.

This is a picture of me working on replacing water pipes.

Listening to the stories of the people I serve has helped guide the work that I have done in Congress, but no one succeeds alone. Everything I have accomplished has been with the help and support of others, so I would like to say thanks.

Thanks to those who taught me what it means to lead. To Majority Leader STENY HOYER who has always been a true friend; to Speaker NANCY PELOSI, who proved that even while navigating treacherous waters, we never have to lose our way; and to my mentor, Senator DICK DURBIN, without whom I would not be standing here today.

When I was first elected, I was told it wasn't possible to make friends in Washington, but I was lucky enough to find a group of truly best friends here. Thank you to the pink ladies: Congresswomen LOIS FRANKEL, GRACE MENG, ANN KUSTER, JULIA BROWNLEY, and our whip-elect, KATHERINE CLARK, who are truly outstanding leaders for our Nation.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of Team Bustos over the years; and to the most important part of my team, my family: My sister, Lynn; our three sons, Tony, Nick, and Joey; our daughters-in-law; and grandchildren.

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Our families don't sign up for the long hours and missed birthdays, but I have had their support every step of the way.

And thank you most to my husband, Gerry. Gerry and I first met when he was a rookie police officer and I was a rookie police reporter.

Two weeks ago, he retired after almost 40 years in law enforcement as the sheriff of Rock Island County. He has stood by me all of these years.

Finally, I say thank you to the people of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois. I am humbled that for a decade you put your faith in me. Thank you.

I have been honored to be your voice here in Washington.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is turning the Federal Student Loan Program into a titanic heading straight for an iceberg.

The Biden administration's changes to these programs will make a bad system worse.

For starters, President Biden's sixth extension of the student loan repayment pause brings the total cost of this unjustifiable policy to $195 billion. This is foolish by every measure.

Most college-educated workers were not the ones to lose their jobs during the pandemic and were able to adjust to flexible work arrangements, so why are they getting special treatment from the Biden administration?

Would it be fair to force student loan borrowers to pay off the car and mortgage loans of the millions of blue-collar Americans who lost their jobs because of forced economic shutdowns? The answer is a resounding no.

To add insult to injury, President Biden is falsely promising a $400 billion bailout knowing full well this illegal, disgraceful action will likely get struck down in court.

Using the livelihoods of 40 million borrowers to score political points at the expense of hardworking taxpayers and the next generation of students is politics at its worst.

President Biden's use of the executive pen to stab taxpayers in the back doesn't end there.

Since taking office, President Biden has been canceling massive amounts of loans under the guise of ''fixing'' broken programs. The very programs Democrats themselves created, including nearly $50 billion through the administration's illegal waivers.

This is a blatant disregard for the rule of law. Our student loan system already operates in the red, and these changes will ensure it costs taxpayers even more.

Yet, it is only the tip of the iceberg.

Indeed, the Biden administration's new income-driven repayment plan, IDR, will turn Federal student loans into untargeted grants costing taxpayers a fortune in the process.

Because President Biden couldn't get his radical agenda through Congress, he is dismantling the Federal student loan program and pushing Democrats' free college plan by executive fiat.

Between slashing payments for high-income graduate students to expanding the number of individuals who will receive forgiveness, economists and policy experts agree that the average student loan borrower will pay roughly half of what he or she owes if this plan is enacted.

This is not what taxpayers signed up for when the program was created, and it is certainly not the plan Congress wrote and passed.

These changes will have long-term consequences because they create perverse incentives for over-borrowing. Why would students make smart financial decisions when they know Uncle Joe or another administration will pay off their loans?

Instead of solving the problem for all borrowers, President Biden is sticking future borrowers in a ship with cracks in the hull.

These foolhardy changes will accelerate tuition, inflation. With taxpayer-subsidized tuition, colleges and universities will have no incentives to keep costs down. It will also turn more post-secondary institutions into degree mills.

The only thing loan forgiveness does is encourage colleges and universities to offer even more degree programs they know do not pay off once students enter the workforce.

Our country needs reforms that can right the ship, not sink it even deeper into a fiscal abyss. Republicans are proposing commonsense solutions that will make the Federal student loan program seaworthy.

The REAL Reforms Act provides targeted relief for those that need it most instead of stealing from taxpayers to provide ineffective and expensive bailouts.

This legislation also provides practical solutions for the underlying problems plaguing higher education.

These are the kinds of policies we need, policies that will make our Federal student loan program capable of serving borrowers without throwing taxpayers overboard.

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

HOT FERC SUMMER

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work that we did to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, the single largest investment in climate action in American history.

Thanks to the IRA, not only will we see expanded access to lower energy costs, but we will also lower emissions and give our children a better shot at an inhabitable planet. But if we are going to build all that clean generation and connect it to all those new loads from electric vehicles to heat pumps, we are going to have to enhance our electric grid, and that is not going to happen without an independent, fully staffed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, as they say in the streets.

Now you all remember that last year, as we worked on what became the Inflation Reduction Act, the White House had not acted to fill a vacancy at FERC, and FERC was frozen into inaction. We needed a hot FERC summer, and this Chamber—along with Megan Thee Stallion, Fergie and Dolly Parton—delivered.

Yet now, we are on the verge of freezing again. This time, because the Senate has failed to act to reconfirm Chairman Glick.

Just at the moment when we need to expedite transmission permitting reform to ensure cheap, reliable energy and fix power markets, FERC is again on the brink of being deadlocked.

So with a little help from Rihanna this time, it is my duty to once again remind the legislative branch of our desperate need to FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

Climate change is urgent. Capital markets are mobilizing in response to the Inflation Reduction Act. There is no time to have us lurking.

To be blunt, Mr. Chair:

> I do nuh like it, and you know I have dealt with it the nicest . . . but this delay is nuh righteous . . . and now we are in a crisis.

A deadlocked FERC would eliminate up to 80 percent of the emissions reductions created by the IRA. We need them working now to ensure that we can rapidly bolster interregional grid connections, shorten interconnection queues, and reform the siting and cost allocation processes that doom so many projects today.

Sing with me, Mr. Chairman.

We got to FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

You can do it. Come on.

To my colleagues in the Senate, the eyes of the Nation, and of this Chamber are on you.

> We will never, no, never neglect you. We do not hold your past against you. But you need to get this done, done, done, done, done, done.

Our utilities, our electricians, our consumers, and our planet believed you when you said that failure to ensure comprehensive permitting reform was, ''not an option.'' But now they are asking whether you really believed that.

Did you really mean it when you said you would give them ''something that they'd never seen''? Or are they right now when they cry that this is just a dream of ''something that you've never been''?

It is time for the Senate to give our energy markets reasons to believe in ''all their dreams, their adoration''.

They don't have ''much more patience''.

We need them to con-firm, firm, firm, firm, firm, firm.

A person who will work, work, work, work, work, work.

To ensure that we can FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC, FERC.

Mr. Speaker, ''What else I say? I am tryin', babe.''

FENTANYL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, we have seen the devastating toll of fentanyl and its analogs all across America. A drug that is cheap to manufacture and, unfortunately, incredibly potent, to the point that it is now the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49; over three decades of life.

Since July, the seizure of fentanyl at our southern border has averaged 2,200 pounds a month, meaning that our Border Patrol agents are now confiscating more fentanyl in a single month than they did in the entirety of 2018.

These are not just statistics in a government report.

Last week, I spoke to the parents who had lost a son to an accidental overdose. A vibrant, intelligent college student who had a mixture of cocaine and fentanyl sold to him, and he lost his life.

□ 1015

As I speak today, the first responders, police officers, and coroners in Pennsylvania tell me stories about how potent these drugs have become and how a single dose of Narcan is often no longer enough medication to revive a person who is suffering from an overdose.

These drugs are increasing in potency and, unfortunately, in affordability as drug cartels in Mexico have begun to manufacture and sell these drugs for the cost of a cup of coffee.

The human cost of this epidemic has been staggering, and it is in our rural areas that constituents are suffering the most.

We must recommit ourselves to the unfinished work of addressing this crisis. We need to invest in our communities and give our police officers and medical professionals the tools that they need to save lives and protect our neighborhoods and communities.

Unless we in Congress act, the fentanyl analogues that have become so deadly will become legal on American streets in just 3 days. The clock is ticking.

Our constituents are counting on us to address this issue. They are counting on us to permanently ban fentanyl analogues that have claimed thousands of American lives.

We need to work together to address this issue and ban permanently the fentanyl analogues that have taken such a grave toll on all American communities.

RECOGNIZING RAFAEL ''RALPH'' DUARTE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a champion for our local veterans, Rafael ''Ralph'' Duarte, and to thank him for his years of service to our communities.

Tomorrow, Ralph will transition after 10 years with the Riverside County Department of Veteran Services, where he has built a legacy as a fierce advocate, pillar of strength, and beacon of hope for Riverside County veterans.

Ralph was born in Delano, California, and graduated from Coachella Valley High School. He is a decorated Army veteran, having served for 4 years in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

After he returned home from the battlefield, he settled in Indio, California, and immediately got to work.

He has helped thousands of veterans recover their earned benefits that were denied to them by local, State, and Federal agencies over the years. In fact, it is estimated that he has helped local veterans and their families obtain $55 million in monetary benefits. That is $55 million to get them the care they need, the salary they have earned, and the recognition they deserve.

He truly goes above and beyond to serve others, even making home visits just to help elderly veterans fill out the necessary paperwork to get their VA benefits and care.

Ralph has participated in hundreds of community events. From community forums with the VFW, to our county's annual Veterans Expo, to my Veterans University, Ralph has always been there to greet veterans with a friendly smile, make them feel at home, and connect them with the resources they need.

His compassion, professionalism, and hard work has changed the lives of countless veterans for the better. His dedication, leadership, and advocacy have made Riverside County an even more welcoming place to those who served.

Ralph has always said that he is doing God's work in caring for those who have served and sacrificed to protect our Nation, and I couldn't agree more. Our local veterans have been truly blessed to have him fighting on their behalf.

So I thank Ralph for all that he has done. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I wish Ralph, along with his wife, Rachel, and children, Ralph, Abram, and James, the best of luck in their next adventure.

HONORING TRIBAL CHAIRMAN RICHARD MILANOVICH

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a visionary leader and trailblazer, Tribal Chairman Richard Milanovich, who served the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for nearly 30 years.

Chairman Milanovich was a powerhouse who came from humble beginnings. He grew up poor in Palm Springs, and his family survived on nutrition assistance.

He went on to serve our Nation as an infantryman in the U.S. Army for 3 years before returning to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians reservation.

In 1984, he was elected as Tribal chairman, ushering in a new age of prosperity for the Tribe. His impact spread far and wide, and he is still revered as a change-maker for Tribes throughout California and the entire Nation.

We celebrate Chairman Milanovich's memory and legacy by renaming the Palm Springs post office in his honor.

HONORING MARINE CORPS CORPORAL HUNTER LOPEZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, my constituent who was killed in action while serving our Nation at the Kabul airport on August 25, 2021.

Yesterday, this body honored his legacy by unanimously passing legislation to designate the La Quinta post office in his memory.

Corporal Lopez was the embodiment of service. He lived his life with a larger purpose in mind, a purpose of serving our country and contributing to something greater than himself.

With the Marine Corps, he aided the largest airlift in human history, evacuating over 120,000 of our fellow Americans and allies.

Corporal Lopez worked up until his last moment to save others. Now, his story is forever entwined with our Nation's, and it is my hope that with this legislation, future generations will come to know his legacy of remarkable service, compassion, and heroism.

OBSERVATIONS AND GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, it has been the honor of my life to serve in this distinguished body on behalf of the people of southwest Washington.

As I look around this Chamber, I am flooded with memories, thinking about everything that has happened in this room, both good and bad, in the 12 years since I first took my oath.

I can remember driving my 1990s vintage Ford Explorer across the country, with my husband of 3 months, in late December 2010 to get here in time for swearing in. I was ready to do my very best for my home region and Congress.

Some things haven't changed. I still have that Ford Explorer; my husband is every bit the rock now that he was then; and I have never compromised

what I came here to do, which is to serve my region and defend the Constitution.

Some things have changed. We have added a minivan to our fleet to transport our three beautiful children, and I have gotten a chance to work with some amazing people.

I will share a few observations but, first, some thanks.

I thank my colleagues. In this body, I have gotten to work with some of the most accomplished, smartest people in the world, and I treasure your friendship.

My husband, Dan, deserves the lion's share of my gratitude. The sacrifices that he has made, his wisdom and his love for me and our three children—Abigail, who is 9; Ethan, who is 6; and Isana, who is 3—have been an immeasurable blessing to our family.

I had all three of my kids during my congressional tenure, if that gives you a little glimpse into the amazing man that my husband is. My parents and Dan's parents have done more than I can possibly recount to support us.

To southwest Washington, thank you for entrusting me six times with this awesome responsibility. To my team, many of whom have been with me all 12 years—Afton, Casey, Pam, Jordan, and the rest—with your help, we did things that nobody else could have done.

When I was first elected, healthcare reform was our Nation's challenge. But if you know me, you know that ''no'' or ''never'' are like a starter's gun to me. We took the challenge on, and in 12 years: We helped launch the first of its kind Maternity Care Caucus; we successfully championed the ACE Kids Act, which broke the barrier for low-income and high-needs kids; we helped drive maternal mortality review committees; we helped grandfather association health plans for Washington residents; and we also worked our tails off for every single corner of our region.

We found out that veterans had to drive for hours to get a blood draw or a flu shot, so we pushed, pulled, and prodded the VA until we got a regular mobile clinic out to serve those military heroes.

For those who make their living fishing in our rivers, few achievements have given me more joy than passing landmark salmon preservation legislation. I still get stopped in the grocery store over that one.

I took to this floor to successfully block some ideas and projects that were just plain bad for our region. Sometimes the region demands that you stand up and say stop, even if the momentum is going against you.

On that note, as I depart, I would like to offer just a little bit of unsolicited advice to my friends here in this Chamber.

One way or another, every single one of us, or you, are going to leave office, as I am preparing to do now. When that happens, so many people are going to ask you what you are most proud of.

You are going to think back with pride about all the times that you helped someone that you represent out of a really tough situation, or you will be proud that you stood strong for what you thought was right, or you will be proud of the laws that you passed to help make lives better for Americans.

But let me tell you what you won't think of: That time you tweeted something that got 10,000 likes; or that time that you thought of a really mean, clever thing to say about the other party or the other team; or those times you told part of the truth or maybe not all the truth and hoped that no one was going to ask you what you really meant.

The people who elect us put their faith in us to represent them, and we owe them the truth. At times, especially in the heat of the moment, the truth is somewhat the last thing that people want to hear, especially if it doesn't fit their narrative, but that doesn't make it any less true.

We don't do Americans any favors if we deceive them or if we stand by quietly as they deceive themselves.

Hard-core partisans on both sides will tell you that their party is blameless and that the other party is the only one that engages in deception. But the truth is, there are people in both parties who have made an industry of it.

I have faith in the American people to eventually put a stop to this, but we here in this body also have a responsibility to truth. After all, it is the only thing that truly sets us free.

RECOGNIZING JASON GRAHAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication with which Jason Graham serves the First District of Georgia as director of pharmacy for St. Joseph's/Candler Health System.

He was recently selected to be the director of pharmacy, overseeing the day-to-day pharmaceutical needs of two anchor hospitals, dozens of other care locations, and thousands of patients.

He has built a career over two decades with the St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, starting in 2001 as a pharmacy technician.

When he was getting his undergraduate degree in biology, Jason worked with us at my pharmacy. His bright mind and desire to help others were quickly apparent to me. Since working for us, he has earned a master's degree in health services administration and a doctor of pharmacy degree.

After beginning his career as a pharmacy technician, he served as a clinical pharmacist and as a pharmacy manager.

He is an active member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and is the southeast regional director for the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

On top of all this, he oversees the training of medical and pharmacy school students, ensuring the next generation of medicine is in good hands.

He lives in Savannah with his wife, Shannon, who also worked with us, twin sons Conner and Jackson, and his daughter Hayden.

I am proud of the work that Jason has done on behalf of the entire First District. I thank him for his dedication to promoting the health of southeast Georgia.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia School of Law for being named the best value in legal education by The National Jurist magazine.

We need well-educated, ethical, and competent employees in all sectors, but especially law. As lawyers combat the challenges facing our legal system, the University of Georgia School of Law is helping answer that need by providing an exceptional legal education at an affordable price.

I am particularly impressed by UGA School of Law's proactive efforts to keep it that way. Dean Bo Rutledge and his team have worked tirelessly to reduce the annual indebtedness for students by over $5 million. In 2019, almost 40 percent of the juris doctor student body did not borrow funds for their education.

UGA School of Law continues to top national rankings in postgraduation employment, bar passage rates, and income level postgrad. This success is a testament to the outstanding education students receive at the University of Georgia for whatever degree they are pursuing.

Congratulations again to UGA School of Law and Dean Bo Rutledge. I have no doubt that your graduates will continue to make a positive impact on our legal system and for the Georgia community.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the persistence and the dedication of the Chatham County Police Department along with Chief Jeff Hadley in investigating one of the toughest, most tragic cases I have ever heard of.

The case surrounded the disappearance of Quinton Simon, a 20-month-old boy who was reported missing from his home on the morning of October 5. The case surrounded the parents of Quinton, and immediately the Chatham County Police Department launched a no-expense-spared search for the Savannah child with detectives regularly working 18 to 20 hours a day to find Quinton and bring him home.

For weeks, the Chatham County Police Department, in tandem with the

FBI, searched for evidence that could lead them to Quinton. Investigators successfully uncovered Quinton's remains along with other evidence that led them to arrest his mother for the disappearance and murder of her son.

It is cases like these that exemplify the thankless nature of life in law enforcement. Day in and day out, police and first responders grapple with tragedies of a magnitude most of us can't even imagine, let alone handle ourselves.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chief Hadley and the Chatham County Police Department for the work that they do because I don't know how they do it. This is one of the hardest jobs in the world, and our officers deserve more recognition for handling situations like these gracefully and professionally as they so often do.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 192 student teams that participated in my district's Congressional App Challenge making it the largest competition in the history of the app challenge. I want to thank and congratulate our winner, Walnut High School senior, Hudson Kaleb Dy, on his impressive app to create an affordable earthquake detection system using old smartphones.

STEM educational opportunities help our students learn the skills needed to get good-paying jobs, boost our Nation's competitiveness, and tackle some of the most pressing health and security challenges facing our Nation and our world.

I have been a very proud supporter to promote STEM opportunities as co-chair of the Congressional App Challenge, and I am thrilled that this year over 9,000 students participated across 335 congressional districts from coast to coast creating over 2,700 apps.

Mr. Speaker, I will always be a loud voice for educational opportunities for our students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JANG HO KIM

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of U.S. Private First Class Jang Ho Kim from Placentia, a city in my 39th Congressional District. Jang Ho was a Valencia High School graduate who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq.

His found possessions included his watch, dog tag, and a coin he always carried with him with a Bible verse Ephesians Chapter 6, Verse 12:

> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

His legacy of courage and service lives on through his loved ones, others he inspired, and all those who share his story.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the California delegation for backing my bill to designate a Placentia Post Office in his honor, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill when it comes up for a vote today so we can preserve his story for years to come.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the closing installment of my farm bill impact series for the 117th Congress. In 2022, I delivered 15 speeches on this House floor about various farm bill programs and titles that I believe Congress must understand and support ahead of the 2023 reauthorization.

In Congress, we deal with the laws of the land—and that is important—but farmers are the caretakers of the land itself. Farmers built our history, sustain our present, and secure our future. They deserve the unwavering support of Congress in the form of legislation that supports their tireless efforts to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. That means keeping crop insurance strong, supporting robust trade programs, and ensuring that producers are not being hamstrung by burdensome overregulation.

Early in my speech series, I highlighted crop insurance first. Keeping this program strong is my highest priority for the 2023 farm bill. Crop insurance helps producers manage the risks that they face every day from weather, pests, disease, and market volatility. It is also a great example of a successful public-private partnership. Agricultural producers have a fickle partner in Mother Nature, who doesn't always cooperate, and crop insurance helps producers stay afloat when disaster strikes.

Shortly after my crop insurance speech, I spoke about trade programs which serve to spearhead innovative market access, new market development, and promote agricultural sales overseas. Each year $140 billion worth of agricultural products are exported. My State of Kansas is known as the Wheat State, and 50 percent of all wheat sold in the U.S. is exported. So Congress must think critically and carefully about the international components of the trade title. Trade programs, which have longstanding records of success in America, also represent the partnership between the public and private sectors of our country, just like crop insurance.

The biggest threat to American agriculture, however, isn't a scarcity of natural resources or bad weather, but Federal Government overreach. The Biden administration has tried to dismantle the stepped-up basis and impose a farm killer capital gains tax on American producers that would destroy thousands of family farms overnight; the definition of waters of the U.S. keeps changing, and now the Federal Government would like to tell farmers what to do with their puddles; animals, like the lesser prairie-chicken, are being added to the endangered species list; and fertilizer and other inputs—even if you can get them—are often so expensive that they can't be afforded by agricultural producers. Government overreach has created a tornado of chaos, and my producers are in its path of destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I am standing here today, and will continue to stand here, advocating for American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers because they are the lifeblood of this country. They keep us fed, fueled, and clothed. And they have earned the unwavering support of Congress.

I will be delivering more installments of my farm bill impact series in the 118th Congress, and I look forward to the 2023 reauthorization of the farm bill because it is an opportunity for Congress to say unequivocally that we stand with our farmers.

RECOGNIZING LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT CALE BEAM

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Cale Beam for his service to me, my office, and the great people of the First District of Kansas.

Cale was on my team since my first day in Congress, and he has consistently brought an eloquent and thoughtful approach to his research, writing, and recommendations. He has a genuine and kind spirit, a clever sense of humor, and a wisdom that is beyond his years.

I am so excited to see what lies ahead for Cale, and I know that with his skill set, he will go far.

Cale, like me, is a man of faith. I want to send him off on his new adventure with these two brief thoughts from the Scriptures.

First, God works all things to good for those who love Him.

Second, delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Cale. My first session in Congress would not have been the same without him. I will miss him, and I wish him all the best with his new pursuit.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the deadly consequences of President Biden's open borders.

In the last month, three Border Patrol agents have committed suicide, bringing the total number of agents who have sadly taken their own lives to 14 this year. That tragically adds to the 35 who have been killed in the line of duty in 2021.

With President Biden tying the hands of our agents and enabling lawlessness at our border, morale among the force has been crushed to an unthinkable low—so low, in fact, that the CBP has hired a suicidologist to help prevent further loss among its force.

Our CBP agents are overwhelmed, overworked, underfunded, and they are demoralized. They put their lives on the line every day to defend our Nation's borders while receiving no support from the top levels of our government.

In fact, the President says that there are more important things going on.

It should not come as a shock that so many are at wit's end.

While some have taken their own lives, many others have been seriously injured or have made the ultimate sacrifice while on the front lines.

In April, 22-year-old Texas National Guard Specialist Bishop Evans was swept away in the Rio Grande while attempting to save two migrants from drowning. We later found out that the two he sacrificed his life for were actually attempting to traffic illegal narcotics.

Just last week, a 38-year-old father of two, CBP Agent Raul Humberto Gonzalez was killed in an ATV crash while chasing a group of migrants illegally crossing the border.

Perhaps if the cartels were not allowed free rein on our border to smuggle drugs and to traffic humans, Specialist Bishop Evans and Agent Gonzalez would be with us today.

No one has benefited more from this country's lax open border policies than the cartels. The Drug Enforcement Agency has told us that up to 70 to 80 percent of fentanyl in the United States comes into our country over the southern border. We know the vast majority of fentanyl is being manufactured in China and brought into our country over the southern border straight into American cities poisoning our youth.

The Drug Enforcement Agency is telling us that is where it is coming from, yet we continue to have an open border policy, and this body refuses to act to secure our border.

Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death of 18-to 45-year-olds in the United States, killing 100,000 Americans last year alone; three-quarters of those deaths are from fentanyl. One American dies every 7 minutes from this deadly drug streaming over our open border, and by the time I finish this speech, there will be one more American lost.

Our babies are dying. Last month, San Francisco firefighters had to use Narcan to save the life of a 10-month-old baby boy who came into contact with fentanyl while playing in a park. In May, a 3-year-old in California died from a fentanyl overdose, and in November of last year, so did a 1-year-old child in Connecticut. In the last 3 months, there have been two fatal fentanyl exposures in western Washington State involving children no older than 2 years old.

The fact that our babies are overdosing on this poison should alarm every single person in this Chamber. The silence from many of those on the other side of the aisle and the Biden administration is, quite frankly, sickening. And if you hear anything at all, they tell you that the border is secure—a complete lie.

Biden's open borders have created full-blown national security, public safety, and humanitarian crises in the United States, not only for our law enforcement and constituents but for the migrants as well.

In fact, fiscal year 2022 was the deadliest year ever recorded for migrants attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border unlawfully with 853 migrant deaths. Many drowned in the Rio Grande. They perished due to dehydration from battling extreme heat and difficult terrain or taken deadly falls while climbing border barriers.

In June, 53 migrants were found dead in San Antonio after being abandoned in a tractor trailer without air-conditioning or water. In September, a migrant mother of two committed suicide in a New York City homeless shelter. Her 15-year-old son discovered her body. Think about the consequences he will have for the rest of his life.

Some have accused the Republicans who want to secure our borders of being uncompassionate. The greatest humanitarian crisis in our country is unfolding right before our eyes, and I urge our colleagues and our President to work with us to take action to secure it.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of New York). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to represent the people of greater Cincinnati in public office for more than 35 years now. I thought I would take a few minutes to sum up those years.

I first ran for office, Cincinnati City Council, when I was 26 years old. When this, my last term in Congress, expires next month in January, I will be turning 70. 26 to 70, that is long enough. It is somebody else's turn.

I had seriously considered retiring and not running this past election cycle, but it was a redistricting year. The congressional lines were being redrawn, and I was concerned that if I didn't run, our district was going to be written off and drawn in a way that only a Democrat could win it as had been done 10 years ago in Columbus and prior to that in Cleveland.

I didn't want to see that happen to the people of greater Cincinnati who depended on me and trusted me to represent them as a commonsense conservative for so many years.

Redistricting turned out to be a pretty rocky process. I ended up with a 9-point Biden district, making it the toughest Republican-held seat in the country outside the State of California.

□ 1045

Despite starting out in a 9-point hole, I hoped that with a lot of hard work and a little luck we could hold it anyway. I was wrong. That is water over the dam.

There is a Chinese proverb, ''May you live in interesting times.'' My 26 years in Congress have certainly been that. I was first elected in the 1994 Republican Revolution, Newt Gingrich, the contract with America. Republicans took over the House for the first time in 40 years, which was my proximate age at the time, and 73 freshmen Republicans were elected. I am the last one in the House out of 73, and I will be gone in a few weeks.

I have been asked a number of times: What are my proudest accomplishments during my time here in Congress? At the top of the list was leading the effort to pass the ban on partial birth abortion. I fought that battle for 8 years, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. They upheld the law, and it has been described as the most significant pro-life legislation since Roe v. Wade. It is estimated that it saves about 20,000 innocent unborn babies every year from a particularly brutal death. Some have said my strong pro-life positions were a factor in my defeat this election. If so, it was worth it.

Another accomplishment was having served as both chairman and ranking member of the House Small Business Committee. I was in the position to introduce, pass, and implement the PPP, the Paycheck Protection Program, during the recent pandemic. As a result, the First Congressional District received more money, almost $3 billion; got more small business loans, over 27,000 of them; and most importantly, saved more jobs, over 247,000, than any other congressional district in Ohio. A lot of people's lives, both in our community and across the country, were positively impacted.

Rather than list a whole bunch of other bills I have got passed over the years—I am limited to just 5 minutes here this morning—let me just tell you this: the University of Virginia, UVA, and Vanderbilt, have together done three studies of Congress over the last 10 years in order to determine who are the most effective Members of Congress.

I am proud to say that I was rated in the top 10 most effective Members each time. When you consider that there are 435 of us, I would say that is pretty good. Of course, I could have accomplished none of this without the hard work of my tremendous staff both here in Washington and back in Cincinnati, and without the support of my family.

My wife, Donna, and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this coming June. We were blessed with a daughter, Erica, and a son, Randy, both adults now, and the two cutest

grandchildren anywhere ever, Reed and Keira. And I thank my son-in-law, Kevin, for creating and then overseeing my blog over the years.

Finally, let me conclude with this: Despite all the rancor and controversy and partisanship that routinely goes on in this place, it was truly an honor to serve here in the people's House. This extraordinary country, the United States of America, is still the greatest country that ever existed on the face of the Earth.

Goodbye.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CINDY AXNE

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of one of my congressional classmates, now one of my closest friends here, Congresswoman CINDY AXNE.

In 2018, less than 100 years after women gained the right to vote, we were elected as part of the largest class ever of women elected to the House—a record we broke again 2 years later. Breaking the glass ceiling was just the start.

CINDY AXNE is a true trailblazer. No issue is too big or small. As a fellow mom in Congress and a lifelong education advocate, I have seen CINDY's passion for the next generation. Even before her time in Congress, as a mom at local school board meetings, CINDY fought to make real change and to promote education equity with the implementation of full-day kindergarten across her children's school district. That passion and can-do character has followed her to Congress, too.

Congresswoman CINDY AXNE is a rare breed here on Capitol Hill. Bipartisanship is a word many of us use here in Congress, but few of us can back it up quite like CINDY. Her energy and enthusiasm are endless, and I have seen firsthand how she brings it to her work here in Washington.

As the lone Federal Democrat from the Hawkeye State, she has taken that Iowa-nice attitude to a whole new level—working with anyone, Democrat or Republican, to get the job done.

Las Vegas, Nevada, and Des Moines, Iowa, may be looking a little bit different, but CINDY and I have worked together to find common ground that transcends partisanship and works for every single American.

As the tallest woman in Congress—although Representative LORI TRAHAN might have a point of order on that—she also bears one of the tallest lists of accomplishments in her time in this House.

She personally helped her constituents recover from catastrophic flooding. She led the charge to keep our communities safe with the Invest to Protect Act. CINDY led the charge to tackle inflation with the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, as well.

Her legacy for Iowa lives on in the millions of dollars that she has brought home for her constituents, in the legislation she has fought to get across the finish line, and in all of us fighting to end the divisiveness and to bring the collective spirit of compromise to Congress.

I thank CINDY for everything—for her leadership, for her unwavering spirit, and, most importantly, for her friendship.

RECOGNIZING COLD WAR RADAR STATION VETERANS

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tens of thousands of veterans who served on radar stations across the world during the Cold War.

From 1947 to 1991, American servicemembers faced extremely challenging climates and conditions in the most isolated locations to successfully mitigate threats from the Soviet Union to ensure the maintenance of peace.

These veterans were highly trained and from every United States military branch, including the National Guard and Reserve units. They were also supported by allied forces and civilians, as well.

These brave watch guards were on a mission of the utmost importance to detect, track, intercept, and destroy hostile airborne intruders when they entered the free world airspace.

Although the protection of allied airspace was successful following the end of the Cold War, the United States never officially recognized the countless hours of surveillance that these servicemembers provided to our country and the world.

Several years ago, a dedicated group of Air Force Cold War-era radar station veterans formed a nonprofit organization to raise funds for the construction of a monument commemorating their fellow servicemembers' sacrifices.

The monument was unveiled on November 7, 2019, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, with some 100 veterans and their family members in attendance.

Today, I thank these veterans for their service during such a tense and a turbulent time in our history. Their dedication to our security and the prosperity of peace never wavered an iota.

As a veteran stationed in Germany during the Cold War, I can relate to many of the sacrifices that these courageous individuals made, and I am forever grateful for them.

I include in the RECORD a letter by one of the United States Air Force Radar Station Veterans Monument Association founders, 1st Lieutenant James E. Muecke, which contains more information about the hard work that went into making the dream of a monument into a reality.

RADAR STATION VETERANS MONUMENT

Several years ago, three Air Force veterans who served on various radar stations during the Cold War began discussing how to honor their service and others who held the same job. A monument was suggested, but they lacked funding and a location. Washington, D.C., was thought to be the most obvious location choice, but given how long it took to construct the World War II Memorial, they decided to look elsewhere. After many discussions with their fellow veterans, they formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the United States Air Force (USAF) Radar Station Veterans Monument Association. Five veterans volunteered to serve as officers for the association, and 26 agreed to become board members.

Once the association was formed, donations were sought from many Cold War-era manufacturers and suppliers of radar equipment. Unfortunately, most were out of business or had merged with other companies. As a result, the association contacted as many radar station veterans as possible to ask for their donations for the monument. Eventually, the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, was selected as the location for the monument's placement. The museum indicated that the project would cost approximately $30,000. After much aid from their fellow veterans, they raised $43,000.

When designing the monument, their goal was to educate the public in an appealing way. They decided on a monument made from black granite stone, with images of 23 radar sites etched into it. A mission statement and description of the radar station operating conditions were inscribed on the front, and a globe sat on top, symbolizing worldwide involvement. The monument was completed and placed in section two of Memorial Park at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The dedication ceremony was held on November 7, 2019, with some 100 veterans and family members in attendance. It was an outstanding program; the Air Force honor guard members gave a flag presentation. After the program, the USAF Radar Station Veterans Monument Association members formally turned the monument over to the museum.

Following the ceremony, an evening banquet was held, and the association's officers were recognized for their work in commissioning the monument. They received a standing ovation. All officers were presented with a framed picture of the monument, the USAF Radar Station Veterans Monument Association's logo, and a statement of appreciation.

This is just one example of what it means to be a United States veteran: We are loyal, are proud to have served this great country, and can still stand tall for a monument dedicated to this purpose. We give a proud hand salute to all who attended, to those who could not attend because of distance or health, and especially to those who served but are no longer with us.

1ST. LT. JAMES E. MUECKE.

Mr. BABIN. May God bless these heroes and may history remember them.

CONTINUED DELAY OF FLOOR ACTION ON THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I must take the

floor in frustration regarding the continued delay of floor action on the Major Richard Star Act.

H.R. 1282 would expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

In the past, military servicemembers found to have endured a service-connected disability could not collect their pension and disability pay in unison. This was unfair.

To receive VA disability compensation, veterans had to forfeit their retirement benefits and pay back dollar-for-dollar the amount that would have been owed to them if they had received both benefits.

In the fiscal year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress created the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay program. In doing so, veterans who are 100 percent disabled were authorized to receive both earned benefits—which is right—known as concurrent receipt, for the first time ever.

Since then, the law has expanded the eligibility to receive military retirement pay and their VA disability pay concurrently to military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a 50 percent or higher disability rating.

Under current law, concurrent receipt for military retirees who have a disability rating of 50 percent or higher was phased in through 2014.

While that certainly marked tremendous progress, medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service who were wounded in combat must still offset their DOD retirement pay by their VA disability compensation. So unfair. So unjust.

Many of these veterans had the full intention of serving 20 or more years and gain full retirement benefits, but through no fault of their own, were unable to due to their service and sacrifice in the line of duty. They were injured.

This group of retired veterans, also known as Chapter 61 retirees, are arguably the most at-risk because of their complex combat injuries and are just as deserving as those who served greater than 20 years of service.

By creating the CRDP, I firmly believe that Congress admitted that the offset required of disabled veterans was wrong. Approximately 550,000 military retirees are eligible to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation but are prohibited under the current guidelines of this program. We must change that.

In my view, I see these veterans as essentially being taxed for their service and sacrifice because they were deemed service-connected disabled. What an injustice that we must correct.

This is a very popular and desired policy fix, Mr. Speaker. The Richard Star Act has 335 cosponsors in the House and 66, and growing, in the United States Senate. Most veteran service organizations, including the American Legion, the VFW, DAV, VVA, which is the Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, Military Officers Association of America, Fleet Reserve Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, and the Association of the Navy, strongly support this bill.

Given this support, why hasn't there been any action on this bill? The Richard Star Act got the required cosponsors necessary to get added to the Consensus Calendar back in September, but why has there been no action on this bill?

These are not just questions I have—it is not just me—but the cosponsors of the bill as well, and questions that many in the public have, including our heroes and their families that were affected.

Let's ask the Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate to consider the overwhelming public and congressional support for the Richard Star Act. Do not let this injustice continue. Please do not let this injustice continue.

We have a real opportunity, Mr. Speaker. Do right by these national heroes and include the Major Richard Star Act in the end-of-year omnibus. I can't think of a more worthy cause than honoring our commitment to our Nation's heroes.

□ 1100

CONGRATULATING ORLAND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to congratulate northern California's Orland High School. Their boys' football team just won the California State championship with a grueling 20–7 win, on a very muddy field at Orland Stadium, over Shafter High School.

Indeed, the muddy field affects both teams equally, and Orland was able to dig it out with a great running effort—159 yards by the quarterback in order to pull the victory off. He scored all three touchdowns.

It was, indeed, the first in many years of a State championship for Orland as they pulled this off in an amazing fashion after a lot of rain in northern California.

Congratulations to Orland High School boys for a great effort, going 15 and 0, and winning the CIF championship for all of California.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this is a topic I have spent a lot of time on here on this floor talking about. It is where our food supply comes from in this Nation. With the shortsighted efforts we have had by our regulators at the Federal and State levels, food is shorter in this country than it ever has been in quite a few years, and for no good reason.

As I point out on this chart here, my home State of California, many of our food products are grown in California that the U.S. relies upon. These products you see here, over 90 percent, some of them 100 percent, come from California.

If they weren't grown in California, they would have to come from somewhere else. We would have to import them. We would have to do without. We would have to switch to some other type of food product that we didn't like as well, or just have less choice.

Why is this happening? In part because the water supply for these farms has been around for decades and, indeed, the water systems in California, the Central Valley Project, which is Federal, the State water project, which is State level, were developed with harnessing the water that we have so plentiful in the north and using it throughout the State.

Indeed, in drought periods, these systems were designed to hold us through drought for up to 5 years when the dam was full beforehand in order to do what people need to farm their crops and take care of the needs of the cities, manufacturing, et cetera.

In California, of the 100 percent water pie, 50 percent goes for environmental needs. Fifty percent goes to keep fish colder and wetter, to let water run out to the Pacific, to keep the saltwater intrusion in the delta at bay, so to speak. Forty percent, traditionally, has gone to agriculture, and 10 percent is what has gone to urban and domestic use.

That 40 percent that agriculture has received has had a big bite taken out of it. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been idled in California, just in my area, in the north. At least 250,000 acres of rice crops alone, as well as other water supply that goes toward almonds, walnuts, prunes, and many other crops, has been taken away.

We want to blame the drought. Yes, we have had some level of drought. But in 2021, I would also remind you, we had a huge amount of rainfall in October and a vast snowpack in December 2021.

This year, we are enjoying a good amount of rainfall already in November and December, which will help replenish our lakes.

But what are the water managers, so to speak, in the Federal and State governments doing? Are they indeed keeping the water in the lakes so that we would have the ability to draw upon that water and continue farming crops in California?

Again, this isn't just for California farmers, for the California economy. This is something all Americans rely upon for these food products that are more numerous than I can even list on this chart here.

What is happening in my northern part of the State, the Klamath Basin that I also share on the Oregon side with my good colleague, Mr. BENTZ?

The last few years they have taken the water supply from the farmers up

there in that basin, in the Klamath Basin project—this is a project that was built over 100 years ago to make more water available solely for agriculture from the Klamath Lake. That is the original lake with an additional supply.

Yet, the Bureau of Reclamation and environmental organizations and agencies believe that is their water to take and try to mitigate fish issues in the Klamath River. This kind of attitude has shifted all the way through the Klamath, on down to the Sacramento River.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to get its act together and be reminded, again and again, that the Klamath project was developed for agriculture, not to help mitigate fish issues that, truly, probably can't really be solved.

On top of that, another thing the people of Klamath and the Siskiyou and northern California area are suffering is that they want to remove the dams that make hydroelectric power on the Klamath River by making a regulatory scheme that is almost impossible for them to renew the licenses.

That is how government does it. They make it too costly, too impossible to continue to stay in business via the permit process.

So, hydroelectric power is going to be less in California, which is already a tough thing on our power grid.

What is the big thing against the people of Klamath Basin? I don't understand. We need food. We need electricity.

RECOGNIZING FINCASTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department for 75 years of service.

Since its beginning in 1947, the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department has been a 100 percent volunteer organization and remains strong with 30 volunteers currently.

These brave men and women play a crucial role in working alongside Botetourt County Fire and EMS services, offering critical localized emergency fire prevention and mitigation support for the people of Fincastle.

The volunteers who serve as firefighters and EMTs within the department go through extensive training, giving up their time, energy, and safety to help others.

Working alongside the firefighters and EMTs are support personnel who perform the vital administrative work and fundraising that keeps the station functioning.

They are led by current officers Chief Dustin Ware, Deputy Chief Ben Campbell, Captain Matthew Webster, Lieutenant Kyle Setliff, Lieutenant Frank Schermer, and Lieutenant Jordan Campbell.

The Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department's longevity stands as a testament to the civic spirit of the town and an example we should all follow.

I thank the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless service and wish them another 75 years of success.

RECOGNIZING STUARTS DRAFT CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stuarts Draft Cougars cheer team for winning this year's Class 1 and 2 Virginia State cheerleading championship. This victory marks the program's fifth State title in 6 years.

The Cougars faced numerous hurdles to reach this victory, placing second behind Fort Defiance during the first round. However, before the second round began, Coach Tammy Carter told the team to be ''the athletes they trained to be,'' and they did just that.

By focusing on what they needed to improve, the Cougars left it all on the mat and increased their score by 30½ points, earning the State title.

These talented athletes include Lexi Almarode, Addison Colvin, Jenna Comer, Sofia Coppola, Taylor Huffman, Zoe Mader, Zane Marshall, Abby Mikolay, Caydence Morris, Tarynn Morris, Baleigh Painter, Eiko Puckett, Olivia Puckett, Alyssa Sanner, Holly Stevens, A'mya Swats, and Natalie Thompson.

For six seniors on the team, Sofia, Zoe, Zane, Abby, Caydence, and Baleigh, this was their memory of cheering together, an outpouring of emotion hoisting the State championship trophy one final time.

Senior Zane Marshall said of his class' historic reign: ''To have three [State championships], I don't even know how to feel. It is crazy,'' he said.

The seniors will leave their high school cheerleading careers with their heads held high, knowing their leadership and performance have left a lasting legacy on the team.

Congratulations to all the talented athletes and dedicated coaches on this incredible victory. They have earned it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Dennis Ross, vice president of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the whole world from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. And so we pause in this place to acknowledge Your hand in the governing of our Nation.

We give thanks to You that from generation to generation and Congress to Congress, You have called men and women to serve in this House, upholding the values of freedom and liberty on which our country was founded. We honor their continued defense of the rights and welfare of the people and communities who make up these United States.

Call us, then, this day and every day, in office or out, to acknowledge the higher calling to which You call each of us, wherever You call each of us to be. May we ever live as agents of Your love, instruments of Your peace, and advocates of the hope You set before us. We pray this in Your most holy name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Dennis Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

Mr. ROSS. I now ask the clerk to call the roll of all former and retiring Members.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Members were ''present'':

Mr. Altmire of Pennsylvania
Mr. Bartlett of Maryland
Ms. BOURDEAUX of Georgia
Mr. Capuano of Massachusetts
Mr. CHABOT of Ohio
Mr. Clay of Missouri
Mr. Cook of California
Mr. Davis of Tennessee
Mr. Davis of Virginia
Ms. Edwards of Maryland
Mr. Faso of New York
Mr. Graves of Georgia
Ms. Harman of California
Mr. Holt of New Jersey
Mr. Hutchinson of Arkansas
Mr. McEwen of Ohio
Ms. Morella of Maryland
Mr. Rick Nolan of Virginia
Mr. Paulsen of Minnesota
Mr. L.F. Payne of Virginia
Mr. Petri of Wisconsin
Mr. Quinn of New York
Mr. Ritter of Pennsylvania
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida
Mr. Ross of Florida
Mr. SCHRADER of Oregon
Mr. Smith of Florida
Mr. Stearns of Florida
Mr. Stupak of Michigan
Mr. SUOZZI of New York
Mr. Tanner of Tennessee
Mr. UPTON of Michigan
Mr. Walker of Pennsylvania

Mr. Weller of Illinois
Mr. PERLMUTTER of Colorado
Mrs. DEMINGS of Florida
Mr. Glickman of Kansas
Mr. McMillen of Maryland
Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER of Washington
Mr. Meehan of Pennsylvania
Mr. YARMUTH of Kentucky
Ms. SPEIER of California
Mr. Moran of Virginia

Mr. ROSS. The Chair announces that 32 former and retiring Members of Congress have responded to their names.

The Chair now recognizes the Honorable L.F. Payne, president of the Association of the Former Members of Congress to address the Members.

Mr. PAYNE. Good morning, everybody.

Dennis, thank you very much. It is an honor to be here on the House floor, and especially with many of my former colleagues and Members who are retiring from the Congress. Thank you all.

On behalf of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, which we will call FMC as I move through this, I very much appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this very important place and to present the Congress FMC's annual report, which this year we are presenting specifically under the theme ''Life After Congress'' for our new former Members who are not returning for the 118th Congress. We will share with them how they can continue their public service through work with FMC. I will be joined by some of my colleagues to report on a few of FMC's premier programs.

As I prepared for today's report, it brought back a lot of memories, many happy memories, of my decade serving in the U.S. Congress.

For all of us, the Congress is one of the highlights of our professional lives. And I know that for each and every one of us, there are memories that will ever remind us of the great privilege that we have had as Representatives of our constituents.

For me, these memories include great friendships with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, working with terrific and very talented young people who were on my staff and others, and pushing forward pieces of legislation that I know have made a positive difference in the lives of Americans.

By serving in Congress, we were given the opportunity to serve our country and its citizens, and I am very proud that through FMC we can continue in an important way the public service that has brought us to Congress in the first place. There is, indeed, life after Congress, and today, we will share with you how FMC members continue to give back.

FMC is the premier NGO focused on our legislative branch, involving both current and former Members from the House and Senate in our work.

We are dedicated to strengthening representative democracy at home and abroad, we strive to encourage public service in the next generation, and we support and promote Congress as an institution and current Members in their important work.

The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress was created over 50 years ago. It was a social organization akin to a university's alumni association. And while we retain that mandate, we have also over the years added many substantive programs that make great use of the unique skill set and experience inherent in our membership.

Some of these programs we will explain in some detail over the next hour. As you learn more about FMC, please keep one fact in mind: We are 100 percent a bipartisan organization.

Our strength lies in the fact that Republicans and Democrats work together for the good of our organization and our country and are united as they continue their public service.

It is within that spirit that I now introduce your colleagues, DEREK KILMER of Washington State and WILLIAM TIMMONS of South Carolina, who lead the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. They will tell you how, as former Members, you can support the momentum that the bipartisan committee has created through their 200 recommendations to help improve the Congress.

Mr. KILMER. We have gotten used to singing duets together. It is good to be with you. Thanks to each of you for your service.

I am DEREK KILMER. I represent the west coast of Washington State, a little north of Jaime.

About every 20 or 30 years or so, Congress realizes things aren't working the way they ought to, and they create a committee to look at potential reforms. The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress is the most recent iteration of that.

The title of the committee makes it sound like we are the IT help desk, but we have been nicknamed the ''fix Congress committee,'' which usually either causes people to giggle or offer to pray for us.

Pretty much under the radar for the last 4 years, our committee has been focused on a single mission, which is to make Congress work better for the American people.

I served as chair. Tom Graves was the vice chair in the last Congress and WILLIAM TIMMONS in this Congress. It has been a truly bipartisan effort.

I say that in part because the rule that established our committee set it up with six Democrats and six Republicans and a requirement that a two-thirds vote was required to pass any recommendations. As of last month, our committee very quietly passed more than 200 recommendations, all focused on making Congress work better.

Some of them are on pretty wonky things, issues like how we make sure that Congress is a more modern institution that uses technology better. Congress has been described as an 18th century institution using 20th century technology to solve 21st century problems. That is pretty apt, so some of our recommendations have been focused in that regard.

A lot of our recommendations, despite the fact that it wasn't one of our assignments, have been geared toward trying to make this a place where there is more civility and collaboration. Our committee brought in management consultants and organizational psychologists, and we thought about consulting an exorcist to figure out how to make this a place that functions better.

We made about a dozen recommendations in that regard, everything from having committees do bipartisan planning retreats to having the institution do a bipartisan retreat and to changing how orientation is done so it is not so segregated by party.

I think every one of you former Members will acknowledge that part of the success of the institution depends on staff, on having talented people who work in this institution. Unfortunately, because this place hasn't sufficiently invested in our staff, we see a massive turnover, so a number of our recommendations were geared toward having this be a place that can recruit and retain and have a more diverse staff.

I thank the FMC for being partners in this undertaking. We have had some of you testify at hearings. We have had your sort of subcommittees geared toward the same topics that we were interested in.

If I can go from the rearview mirror into the windshield, we are not done. About two-thirds of our recommendations have either been implemented or are on the path to implementation, but we are going to have to kind of keep pushing the institution to make change. Each one of you, as stewards of the institution, I think, has a role to play in that regard.

On top of that, in terms of the future of this work, our committee will go away. Having said that, it appears that there will be a select subcommittee on House admin to focus on implementation of the recommendations.

We also made a recommendation that it shouldn't take another 20 or 30 years before Congress takes up the subject of reform again. So, one of our recommendations was, every three or four Congresses or so, Congress ought to do a committee like this just to make sure that there is constant focus on improving the institution.

We have had extraordinary partnerships, including with some of your Members and some of your soon-to-be Members, ED PERLMUTTER, as well, who have been just terrific partners in this undertaking.

I will say one other thing, and then I will kick it over to WILLIAM. Throughout the course of this work, I kept thinking about a comment made by former Secretary John Gardner. He talked about the importance of stewardship of an institution, and he said it was important for those who care about an institution to be loving critics of it, that it would be a mistake to

be an uncritical lover because it denies an institution of the life-giving drive toward improvement. And it is important not to be an unloving critic that just treats the institution like the pinata at the party and bashes it with an eye toward destruction, not improvement.

I thank the FMC and each of you because I think the manner through which you have engaged our committee has very much been through that lens of being loving critics of this institution which you served, and I thank you for that.

Mr. TIMMONS. Good morning. I am William Timmons. I represent Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina. I got elected to the 116th Congress.

My campaign slogan when I ran for Congress was, ''Washington is broken.'' To be the freshman member on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress was really a dream come true.

I got to work with Tom Graves, my mentor, and DEREK KILMER, and I saw them do something that doesn't really happen up here much: They worked together. They were respectful of each other, and they really made that a priority for the committee. All the Members got to know each other.

We had a meeting at the very beginning. We talked about why we ran for Congress, what we wanted to change about this place, and we got to know each other on a personal level. We acted in the manner that we thought that this place should work.

That leadership from Tom Graves and DEREK KILMER was inspirational for the committee, but it was rewarding for me professionally because we have worked hard to get things done, and we passed 202 recommendations.

I have done my best the last 2 years to fill Tom Graves' void on the committee. I always joke that I am the vice chair with no hair. He has the best hair of any Member I have seen, so I always make that joke.

I also thank the former Members. It is my understanding that we wouldn't have been able to do this without your efforts.

Obviously, inevitably, some of the recommendations we made would devolve some of the power from leadership into the Members. We always talk about regular order, and I could imagine that many Speakers would not be inclined to do that. But the efforts made by current Members and former Members to have this select committee was critical. Not only did we get a year, we then got another year, and then we got 2 more years.

We are not done, as the chairman said. We are going to continue working to implement the 202 recommendations we have made, and I am optimistic that we will have an even greater impact than we have already had.

I thank you all for your help to have the committee created to push our recommendations forward. I thank Tom Graves, my friend and mentor, for showing me how this place can work.

Most importantly, Chair KILMER, it has been incredible to work with you. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Last but not last, we have Derek Harley here. He is one of the staff directors. Yuri Beckelman is now a chief to a new freshman, so he is not here, but we couldn't do it without him.

We were a team, and we got a lot done, and as the chairman said, we are not done yet. We are going to continue to push the ball forward.

Thank you for all of your help and for having us here today.

Mr. PAYNE. Chairman KILMER, thank you very much, and Vice Chairman TIMMONS. You have done a tremendous job with your leadership on this very important initiative for the Congress and the country.

In New York in June, we had an opportunity to recognize both of them with the Distinguished Service Award. Thank you again.

What you just heard is really a prime example of how we at FMC can support Congress as an institution. We are really very proud to be invited to do so.

At this juncture, let me give you a little more background on FMC. As I said, we were incorporated over 50 years ago as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization. We are chartered by Congress, but we receive absolutely no funds from Congress or the government. No taxpayer dollars are earmarked for any FMC program, and that is a fact and one that we are very proud of.

Everything we do is self-funded through membership dues, through fundraising events, and through program-specific grants. Our most recent audit proclaimed us fiscally sound and financially healthy.

One of the most immediate and most impactful ways you, as returning Members, can support FMC financially is by considering to be a sustaining member of FMC.

We now have more than five dozen, almost six dozen former Members who have made this notable commitment to FMC. They are ensuring that not only we can present our important and numerous programs to the public, but they are also contributing to the longevity and continuity of this organization, as half of the sustaining membership contribution is earmarked for our long-term, rainy-day fund.

I am pleased to add a list of our sustaining members to the RECORD, and I thank them for their tremendous support of FMC.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF FMC

The Hon. Les AuCoin (Oregon), Brian Baird (Washington), Joe Barton (Texas), Mike Bishop (Michigan), Rick Boucher (Virginia), Susan Brooks (Indiana), Cheri Bustos (Illinois) (As of January 4th), Dave Camp (Michigan), Ben Chandler (Kentucky), Mike Conaway (Texas), Paul Cook (California), Ryan Costello (Pennsylvania), Peter DeFazio (Oregon) (As of January 4th), Jeff Denham (California), Charles W. Dent (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Sean Duffy (Wisconsin), Elizabeth Esty (Connecticut), Sam Farr (California), John Faso (New York), Bill Flores (Texas), Martin Frost (Texas), Tom Garrett (Virginia), Phil Gingrey (Georgia), Bob Goodlatte (Virginia), Bart Gordon (Tennessee), Tom Graves (Georgia), Gene Green (Texas), John Hall (New York), George Holding (North Carolina), Asa Hutchinson (Arkansas).

The Hon. Lynn Jenkins (Kansas), Doug Jones (Alabama), Kaiali'i Kahele (Hawaii) (As of January 4th), Ron Kind (Wisconsin) (As of January 4th), Adam Kinzinger (Illinois) (As of January 4th), John Kline (Minnesota), Scott Klug (Wisconsin), Andy Levin (Michigan) (As of January 4th), Jim Matheson (Utah), Ben Michael McAdams (Utah), Jim McDermott (Washington), Mike McIntyre (North Carolina), Pat Meehan (Pennsylvania), Jeff Miller (Florida).

The Hon. Jim Moran (Virginia), Stephanie Murphy (Florida) (As of January 4th), Randy Neugebauer (Texas), Steve Palazzo (Mississippi), Erik Paulsen (Minnesota), Tim Petri (Wisconsin), Ted Poe (Texas), Kathleen M. Rice (New York) (As of January 4th), Martha Roby (Alabama), Peter Roskam (Illinois), Dennis Ross (Florida), Loretta Sanchez (California), James Sensenbrenner (Wisconsin).

The Hon. Donna Shalala (Florida), John Shimkus (Illinois), Bill Shuster (Pennsylvania), Lamar Smith (Texas), Cliff Stearns (Florida), Steve Stivers (Ohio), John Tanner (Tennessee), Mac Thornberry (Texas), Pat Tiberi (Ohio), David A. Trott (Michigan), Henry Waxman (California), Rob Woodall (Georgia), Ted Yoho (Florida).

Mr. PAYNE. Thanks to Mr. KILMER and Mr. TIMMONS, you have already gotten a flavor of how we support the Congress as an institution.

I now yield the floor to FMC board member Tom Graves of Georgia, who will tell you about FMC's many different programs to keep us connected as former colleagues and to create media opportunities for our members to share their insights. He will be followed by FMC board member Donna Edwards of Maryland to tell you about our most important domestic undertaking, the Congress to Campus program.

Mr. GRAVES. Good morning, everybody. First, let me just say, for any Member who is exiting that is considering Former Members of Congress, 8 a.m. is not a normal start time for any meeting. That is safe for me to say, or I would not be affiliated. This is not comfortable for me, either.

I know, most former Members know, and the Members who are exiting know that the Former Members of Congress is really a great organization.

My first interface with it was walking through one morning early and seeing the group meeting here, and I believe Tom Price was speaking and a few of the others that are in the crowd here today. I was curious as to what the group was and hung around for the reception, not knowing that one day I would be speaking before you.

There are only so many hours that are going to be in your day in the days ahead, and it is a challenge when you lose your scheduler. You lose that critical staff. Yet, there is so much you want to do.

How do you manage that time? How do you manage the resources? I have found that the former Members group here is really helpful in that.

It is helpful in how to, I would say, extend your public service because you just never want to step away, but sometimes you do voluntarily and involuntarily, but you want to stay involved.

The former Members organization has allowed me to continue my service in a different capacity, which has been a joy.

For me, I have enjoyed the travel side of it, and I know many have been on codels and have enjoyed the travel through codels. There is that opportunity, as well, through the Former Members of Congress.

For me, this past year, I was able to enjoy a trip to New York City, which, being from the South, is a new, big place for me. We had a great time as a group, in a board meeting planning and discussing, but also exploring some of the city and some of the sights there.

Even more exciting was a trip that I enjoyed to Iceland. I never had the chance to visit Iceland, and this was a trip with former Members, spouses, and guests. It was not a trip paid for by the former Members organization. Your dues, sustaining dues, didn't go to that. It was, in fact, a self-paid trip that was organized by the former Members.

To have the opportunity to represent the United States at that stage was fascinating. We were able to meet with the President, former President, a former Speaker, and the newly, I guess, installed Ambassador from the U.S. to Iceland—newly as in that week she arrived. We had the opportunity to visit with her at the Embassy, so it was a great time.

As with all codels, in essence, you meet folks whom you wouldn't have normally met, and you spend time with folks you wouldn't normally spend time with. So as former Members you rekindle old relationships, potentially, but then you also create new ones that you wouldn't have done otherwise.

For me there was a special one. I refer to her as Miss Marjorie. Pat, you may have known Marjorie Margolies from the Philadelphia suburbs, and I believe mother-in-law to Chelsea Clinton. For some reason, we hit it off. We couldn't be further apart politically or geographically and in a lot of different ways, and, yet, we had a little fun exchange in a webinar. I was participating in a webinar about the former Members doing Congress to Campus.

We were doing this webinar, and I kept referring to her as Miss Marjorie, Miss Marjorie, Miss Marjorie. I was being so kind and bipartisan, and she was being strong and very partisan, I felt like. Somewhere through that she referred to me as ''that silver tongue from the South'' to the whole group. I thought, I have finally hit home with her. She has figured me out.

These trips are a great time to definitely meet folks and enjoy that opportunity. Also, there is that freedom and flexibility that I found comforting. Codels are fantastic opportunities to explore and meet folks, but you get a little more freedom and flexibility in your planning and timing and such. So for former Members, codels are great to be a part of.

I would say on the trips the other thing I learned is you develop relationships with people who come from a different political background and from a different philosophy but also from a historical background.

This was incredibly eye-opening to me to interact with Members who had served here just like we have, but had a historical lens that was very, very different and to reconcile that with today or with the issues that I was dealing with and to see that conveyed to others.

So as I close, I will close with this: Aside from trips, I had the chance to join in a panel discussion with one of our former colleagues, Ms. Edwards, whom you will hear from in a minute—and then also former Senator Hutchinson whom I hadn't met before. We had a fun exchange and discussion about the elections and what to expect in the elections.

You will have those opportunities. What is great about those opportunities is that you do learn about others. You do learn other perspectives. But more so, it keeps you sharp.

One of my concerns leaving Congress is: How do you stay sharp?

So being ready, being able to state your opinion, being able to back it up, but also to respect others keeps you sharp. We should stay sharp because if you want to extend your public service, you need to be sharp. You need to be a sharp opinion leader, and you need to be a sharp communicator because folks are going to be expecting to hear from you in the days ahead.

So with that, Mr. Chair, I thank you for the opportunity to address, and thanks, L.F., for the opportunity to be on the board.

I happily yield to the young lady from Maryland (Ms. Edwards).

Ms. EDWARDS. Good morning. Don't get distracted by the cane, it might fall. If I fall, catch me.

Good morning, everyone. I thank you so much for being here this morning with the former Members of Congress.

I am really grateful to be able to speak with you this morning about one of my favorite programs and FMC's biggest program, Congress to Campus.

I love Congress to Campus. As some of you know, the Congress to Campus program brings bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress to college campuses for 1½ to 3 days to meet with classes, student groups, clubs, local media, faculty, and other members of a college campus community to engage in frank and honest dialogues about our legislative branch in action, public service, and our democracy and the role that citizens play. We talk about current legislative issues and other topics dictated by the headlines.

The way it works is a bipartisan team of former Members share real-life experiences in both political and public realms. They discuss their unique experiences balancing public and private lives, giving an unparalleled insight into the many roles of our elected Representatives. In addition, the Members focus on the real-world application of policymaking and illustrate how government policy influences the everyday lives of citizens. Students love it. Congress to Campus is an exceptional perspective about life in Washington and on Capitol Hill, especially when you have a little bit of distance.

Currently, when there is a great deal of negativity surrounding Congress, the Congress to Campus program highlights the power of bipartisanship, the dignity of public service, and the importance of actively engaging its citizenry. Students get so much out of it, and the questions that they have really reflect the purpose of the Congress to Campus program.

The three goals of Congress to Campus are to showcase civil, respectful, and productive debate on issues where former Members still wear their partisan hats—and we do, for example, on environmental policy or on the Second Amendment. But they engage students in a back and forth very different from the shouting matches that students sometimes see on cable news and social media. I have to say I have engaged in that.

Secondly, it encourages public service in the next generation to show interested students a path toward Capitol Hill and to mentor future public servants. It reminds the students that in their role as citizens, they need to be active participants in our representative democracy, otherwise our form of government just doesn't work. Students get to hear firsthand the importance of that even when you share or have political differences.

At a minimum, these events showcase to students that they have a responsibility to be informed voters.

Congress to Campus also shares the many other ways those being represented can hold accountable those doing the representing.

The former Members of Congress donate all their time and insight pro bono to the program. This is a real value because otherwise, especially for small college campuses, it would be impossible for those campuses to be able to pay the honorarium and travel and all of those things. So none of the Members of Congress participating in Congress to Campus receive a fee or honorarium for their time. FMC funding only goes toward covering travel and lodging costs. Congress to Campus is made possible thanks to the support of the Stennis Center and the Park Foundation.

This past spring Congress to Campus went to 11 different college campuses reaching nearly 1,000 students. This past fall Congress to Campus held over 15 programs with schools and organizations alike, including one trip to the United Kingdom and one trip to Germany with our former Members reaching over 1,000 students. Most schools

feel comfortable transitioning back to in-person programming, but there are still many opportunities to hold these events virtually, as well, and I think we learned a lot during the pandemic about ways that we could reach schools that we ordinarily otherwise would not be able to travel to.

To quote one student from Western Oregon University after attending a Congress to Campus visit, the student said: ''I always thought that Congress officials did get letters asking for change, but I always thought they ignored the changes people wanted. I learned they actually do care and will try to make the changes when someone petitions to them. I also learned I should not only look at one person's side I most agree with, and that rather, I should look at issues from both perspectives.''

That was from a student from Western Oregon University.

Looking ahead to the new year, the focus of Congress to Campus will shift to reaching out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal colleges, and Hispanic-serving institutions, military academies and colleges and also to inner-city colleges where students may never have the opportunity to speak with Members of our Congress, like you. Currently, there are 12 schools already signed up for the spring of 2023. So you will have your opportunity as well to sign up in bipartisan pairs. Don't miss your opportunity.

So our ask of you is to be part of our flagship program, Congress to Campus. Help us help these students see that bipartisanship and civility are alive and thriving, especially at a divisive time like this. One big testament to the program is our before and after program surveys; 100 percent of students on their post-event survey say that their mind has changed about Congress, for the better.

I love Congress to Campus. In addition to the amazing students, one of my favorite aspects of the program is the opportunity to work with my colleagues from across the aisle—some of whom I did not know well or serve with—to change ideas and policy programs in a respectful way and to show students that critical thinking and healthy disagreement are part of the beauty of the Republic.

I will say on a personal note, I really got to know Charles Boustany from Louisiana. We become fast and furious friends. My friend, the Chair, Dennis Roth, and I have done a number of these programs together, and now we are RV companions.

So if you would like to get involved, please contact the Congress to Campus program manager Patricia Ochs.

Thank you so much for your time today.

Mr. PAYNE: So, Tom and Donna, thank you very much for sharing your insight and thank you for being such great members of FMC.

FMC is a volunteer organization, and I think our programs have a lot of impact because our members on a bipartisan basis contribute to us and to the public their knowledge and time. We are successful because former Representatives and Senators come together across party lines for the good of our organization. They do this on a pro bono basis. They believe in our mission, and they continue to have a public servant's heart.

Former Members of Congress in 2021 and 2022 donated more than 7,000 hours of energy, wisdom, mentoring, and expertise without receiving any compensation. The only compensation is the knowledge that they are giving back, that serving in Congress was a unique privilege, and that it comes with the mandate to encourage and empower the next generation.

On behalf of FMC, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have contributed their time and expertise to make FMC such a success. So while I have all of you here, I thank you all and thank you to the many members of FMC who are not with us today, as well.

Let me also share with the new former Members that through FMC you can contribute to civic education across the country. You can share with audiences worldwide. You have unparalleled insight through panels and webinars on issues from economic policy to security issues and travel overseas as part of former Member delegations at the invitation of our global partners.

We also run a number of highly successful programs involving senior congressional staff including chiefs of staff and district directors across the Nation.

Again, all of our work is accomplished because Democrats and Republicans band together as they continue their public service through FMC.

One way our international work manifests itself is through FMC's Congressional Study Groups. These are programs that support the current Congress and current Members of Congress by bringing them together with their peers in legislative branches overseas. These parliamentary exchanges focus currently on the German Bundestag, Japan's National Diet, the European Parliament in Brussels, and the Korean National Assembly.

I now invite two of our board members to share with you their insight into FMC's international programming. Former Senator and House Member Tim Hutchinson, who will speak about our Congressional Study Groups, and former Member Connie Morella, who has been a leader for FMC on many projects for a very long time, including our very important Diplomatic Advisory Council.

Tim?

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Thank you, L.F. It is great to be back in the House today. I am glad you have made passing reference to the Senate. It is good to be on the House floor where the motto in this institution as I can always remember is, the other party is the opposition, and the Senate is the enemy.

So I am glad you include Senators in the former Members organization.

It is my great pleasure to report on the work of the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Japan, Europe, and Korea, the flagship international program of the FMC.

The study groups are independent, bipartisan legislative exchanges that engage current Members of Congress and their senior staff and strive to create a better understanding and cooperation between the United States and our most important strategic and economic partners.

Unique in their year-round, bipartisan, and non-advocacy outreach to Capitol Hill, the Congressional Study Groups remain a premier forum for productive, candid, and topical dialogue on the issues most relevant to our friends and allies abroad.

Featuring voices from Congress, the diplomatic community, administration officials, the private sector, and civil society, study group programming attracts a large and diverse group of policymakers who are committed to productive dialogue.

Each study group has a bipartisan membership roster of between 75 and 125 Members of Congress and is led by a bipartisan, bicameral pair of co-chairs. Our co-chairs are true leaders, who not only serve in their role at the official study group events but are also called on by various embassies and outside organizations to speak on panels, attend roundtables, and meet with countless visiting delegations to the United States.

I would take just a moment to acknowledge the service of our co-chairs for their dedication to these critical programs:

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is led by Senator TIM SCOTT, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, Representative BRENDAN BOYLE, and Representative AUGUST PFLUGER.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is led by Senator DAN SULLIVAN, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, Representative DIANA DEGETTE, and Representative LARRY BUCSHON.

The Congressional Study Group on Korea is led by Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, Senator DAN SULLIVAN, Representative AMI BERA, and Representative YOUNG KIM.

The Congressional Study Group on Europe is led by Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of the great State of Arkansas, Senator CHRIS MURPHY, Representative BILL HUIZENGA, and Representative DEBORAH ROSS.

A few highlights from our program calendar in the last 12 months include:

Annual Congressional Member Study Tour to Japan, visiting both Tokyo and Kyoto.

Annual Congressional Member Study Tour to Korea, visiting Seoul.

The 37th Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar hosted by Representative BRENDAN BOYLE in Pennsylvania.

A Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Dusseldorf and Cologne, Germany.

Two Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours to Korea.

Two Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours to Japan.

Over 55 high-level exchanges and roundtables here in our Nation's capital.

So it has been a very full and very busy year for the Congressional Study Groups.

As former Members of Congress, we are proud to bring the important services provided by the Congressional Study Groups to our colleagues still in office and are proud to play an active role in our continued international outreach.

Now we will hear from Ambassador Connie Morella.

Ms. MORELLA. I don't have a hat on, so you can see me, can't you. I thank you, Tim. What I will be mentioning to you is going to be a long list of businesses and countries that have been affiliated with us. It will show you how extensive, how intensive, how expansive, how productive our groups are.

The work of the Congressional Study Groups is complemented by our Diplomatic Advisory Council. Initially focused on European nations, the Diplomatic Advisory Council is now comprised of dozens of ambassadors from five continents who advise and participate in our programming.

Their interest and commitment to multilateral dialogue is a valued addition to the Congressional Study Groups, and it provides a valuable outreach beyond our four core study groups.

Members of the Diplomatic Advisory Council in 2022 include: the Embassy of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Isn't that impressive. Incredible.

I also would like to thank those individuals, organizations, and Business Advisory corporate members whose patronage makes the work of the Congressional Study Groups possible. In particular, I would like to recognize Dr. Satohiro Akimoto of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Thomas Byrne of the Korea Society, Sung Won Bae of the Korea Foundation USA, Bailey Childers of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Paige Cottingham-Streater of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, and Julia Friedlander of Atlantik-Brucke for their support as institutional funders of the Congressional Study Groups in 2022. You can see the support that we have received.

Companies who belong to the 2022 Business Advisory Council—and this is a long list, folks—are: Aflac, Allianz, All Nippon Airways, BASF, Bayer, B. Braun Medical, Beam Suntory, Central Japan Railway Company, CJ America, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Fresenius SE, Hitachi, Honda, Hyundai, Itochu, JTI, KITA, Lockheed Martin, Lufthansa German Airlines, Marubeni America Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Mitsui, Mizuho, NEC, Nissan, Nomura, Panasonic, POSCO, Representative of German Industry and Trade, Samsung, Sojitz, Subaru, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Tellurian, Toyota Motor North America, United Parcel Service, and Volkswagen Group of America.

Wow. Isn't that a long list. But just know, all of them have been very much involved with our Business Advisory Council, which says how expansive we are and how we have connected.

Because of your financial support, our activities not only help to build vital bilateral relationships between legislatures, but also build bipartisan relationships within our own Congress. Mutual understanding and shared experiences among legislators are crucial to solving pressing problems, whether they are at home or abroad. I thank you.

If I mispronounced one of those names, just know they are there for us and we are very appreciative of the support that they have given us. Thank you.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair recognizes the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you all. Good morning, my friends. It is wonderful to be here with you. Thank you for the recognition. L.F. Payne, thank you for keeping this going and for your leadership. It was an honor to serve with you in the House—each and every one—I think I served with all of you, certainly Jane, Donna, and Mr. Secretary of so many titles. To all of you, welcome back to the Chamber.

It is an interesting time, a busy time. Something that binds us all together is the oath that we take to the Constitution of the United States, regardless of party, regardless of the aisle, we are united in that oath to the Constitution.

I thank you for so much that you are doing in terms of Congress to Campus and the beautiful ceremony you have each year honoring those who have gone on to heaven—I assume—having served in the Congress.

We just lost—a week and a half ago—Mr. McEachin. I mention him because of his recent departure, but also, he said something very beautiful on his first speech on the floor of the House. He quoted Christ's first sermon. Imagine that. Christ's first sermon.

I will read this to you, so you know I did not make this up. Mr. McEachin cited during his first speech the words of Jesus' first sermon, ''The spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor.'' Imagine. Imagine.

Again, with all of us here, we offer hope in the face of hardship—on both sides—we offer a voice to the voiceless, and to bring good news to those in need.

Now, I have some remarks here, but I thought I would just tell you a couple stories. We lost Norman Mineta this year, as you know, and some of us were together at his service. Mr. Ambassador, Governor, former colleague Jim Blanchard, I call him Jamie because one of his friends was my friend and always referred to him as Jamie.

He spoke before I did, and he talked about how a number of Members come together on a regular basis and discuss this, that, and the other thing, and they have all this guidance that they want to give us. When I got up, I said, I am very familiar with that group—George Miller, Tom Downey, Marty Russo, you know, that whole crew—you know who I am talking about.

When they would call me with this guidance that they brought together, they would say: Madam Speaker, if you were smart, you would do thus and so. And I didn't take offense because I used to hear them say that to Tom Foley and others. Why they thought that was a good introduction to their remarks, I don't know. In any event, I think it was said in—I don't know why somebody would say that to you? If you were smart, you would do it this way. That is the wisdom of the former Members; but when they were Members, they said that, as well.

I thank you all for what you do to continue taking the experience of Congress into the community, the values of patriotism to our great country—what has unified us so much over time. Imagine the wisdom of our Founders to found a country based on something unknown, undone before.

Now, I see some Members here who are going to be part of this organization. All of a sudden, I am like, what? One of these days I will be joining you, too. I look forward to that, but in the meantime know that the foundation that each of you has put down when you were here is something that we continue to draw upon. It is very important to us—especially at a time when we worked in a much more bipartisan way, and that always has to be what we strive for—bipartisanship, accountability, and shedding light on what we do so that the people understand that their voices are heard.

I hope that you always take pride in your service in Congress no matter how raucous it may be here. We have seen some raucous times in our day going way back. Again, please understand the source of strength and inspiration that you all continue to be to us here, and the fact that you come together, whether it is on this day or technologically in other ways, and don't hesitate to call us, even if it is not the Speaker, but other Members to say: If you were smart, you would do thus and so.

So it is my pleasure—for the last time—to welcome you to this Chamber as Speaker of the House. Again, when I

see you again, I may be sitting on that side of this podium, so I look forward to that.

Thank you all for your patriotism, for your love of this great country, the greatest country that ever existed in the history of the world.

Let me tell you what is happening today. Today, the President will be signing the Respect for Marriage Act. That is a big deal for some of us. In my first speech on this floor, I talked about HIV and AIDS 35 years ago. One of the last bills I signed as Speaker for the first time was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. One of the last bills I signed to send over to the President that he will sign today is the Respect for Marriage Act, in between the other things that relate to the hate crimes and all that.

The reason I mention it is because it was always an expansion of freedom in our country, and that is what we hope we always continue to do—ever increasing the freedom in our country.

At the end of the day, I will welcome 50 heads of state from Africa. The President is having an African summit now, and he will be welcoming 50 heads of state at the White House. Then, tonight, they will come here.

I am so proud that we can show them this temple of democracy, welcome them here, hear what they have to say, build a strong bond with them.

So many of you have been so much a part of everything that has happened here. I thank you for that, forever expanding freedom in our country. Thank you so much. Lovely to be with you.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for visiting with us, and thank you, especially, for your great leadership of the Congress.

The Speaker mentioned Don McEachin, our fellow Virginian, and she also mentioned Norm Mineta, both of whom passed away recently.

I would also like to say a few words about our good friend Jim Kolbe. As many of you may know, Jim passed away about a week ago. It was quite sudden and quite unexpected.

With his passing, we and FMC lost a good friend, a longtime board member, and a voice of reason and compassion during these tumultuous political times that we are currently experiencing. All of us at FMC, from the staff to the board, loved working with Jim. We will certainly miss him greatly.

As you may know, and many of you participate in this service, we, each year, organize a memorial service in Statuary Hall. The Speaker just talked about it. This is to honor the Members whom we have lost in the previous year. It is a fitting tribute to their public service.

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of all the Members whom we honored in Statuary Hall this past September.

LIST OF FORMER MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY FALL OCTOBER 2021–DECEMBER 2022

The Hon. Todd Akin (Missouri), Brad Ashford (Nebraska), Dan Benishek (Michigan), Bill Brewster (Oklahoma), Clarence ''Bud'' Brown Jr. (Ohio), Albert Bustamante (Texas), Max Cleland (Georgia), Barbara-Rose Collins (Michigan), John Cooksey (Louisiana), Bob Dole (Kansas), Harris Fawell (Illinois), Vic Fazio (California), James Florio (New Jersey), Ed Foreman (Texas and New Mexio), George Gekas (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Jim Hagedorn (Minnesota), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Kaneaster Hodges Jr. (Arkansas), Larry Hopkins (Kentucky), Carroll Hubbard (Kentucky), Johnny Isakson (Georgia), Timothy Johnson (Illinois), Dale Kildee (Michigan), James ''Jim'' Kolbe (Arizona), Bob Krueger (Texas), Claude ''Buddy'' Leach (Louisiana), Gary A. Lee (New York), Romano ''Ron'' Mazzoli (Kentucky), Jack H. McDonald (Michigan).

The Hon. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia), Carrie Meek (Florida), Norm Mineta (California), Dennis Moore (Kansas), John Porter (Illinois), Harry Reid (Nevada), J. Roy Rowland (Georgia), Norman D. Shumway (California), Neal Smith (Iowa), Mark Souder (Indiana), James Stanton (Ohio), Standish ''Fletcher'' Thomson (Georgia), Esteban Torres (California), Jolene Unsoeld (Washington), Jackie Walorski (Indiana), Don Young (Alaska), Bill Zeliff(New Hampshire).

Mr. PAYNE. For them, and for Jim Kolbe, I am asking that you in the Chamber and any visitors in the gallery please stand, if you are able, so that we can show our respect to these Members with a moment of silence.

As you can see, FMC is an active and impactful organization that empowers Members to continue their service after leaving Congress. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for, really, three reasons.

One is the outstanding work that our board and our staff have done to solidify our mission, to put in place achievable goals and strategize how to best move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are the corporations that donate to us, especially by way of the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. They have meant so much to FMC and to allowing us to achieve our purpose.

You have heard of these entities. Connie mentioned them previously. They have done so much, and we so appreciate all that they have done. They believe in our capabilities, and they believe in giving us the opportunity to grow and create long-lasting programming and to allow us to do all the things that we are able to do. So, we thank them again.

The third and the most important reason for FMC's success is all of you, the former Members of Congress who are my colleagues who donate your time, expertise, wisdom, and leadership. You do this by becoming dues-paying, active members of FMC.

I hope that you retiring Members have found the insight that we have shared today helpful. We hope that you would also consider becoming part of us and help us continue this mission. We would love to connect with you in person, and I hope you will join us immediately after this downstairs in H–120. We will have a reception, and we would like to have you be part of that.

I would also like to thank our staff: Pete, who is here, and our staff members there, if you would all stand, please. Let's give them a round of applause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

Mr. ROSS. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair again wishes to thank the former and retiring Members of Congress of the House for their presence here today.

Before ending these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former and retiring Members who did not respond when the roll call was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

On behalf of FMC, my sincere thanks to all congressional staff who were such a terrific resource and support to make today's presentation possible. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the reception.

We are adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Satisfy us this morning, O Lord, with Your unfailing love, that our only response would be to sing to You our joy and be glad in all our days.

Today, may we be faithful not only in our words but in our deeds.

May we follow bravely Your footsteps wherever they may lead.

May we be uncompromising and honest with ourselves.

May there be no self-pity or self-indulgence in our lives today.

May our thinking be clear, our speech truthful and open, and our action courageous and decisive.

Our prayers today are not just for ourselves, but also for the communities and people we serve. And so we pray:

For all who today will face any great decision.

For all those today working to settle important affairs in the lives of individuals and nations.

For all who are shaping public opinion in our time.

For all who write what other people read.

For all who are lifting up the light of truth in a world of ignorance and sin.

For all whose hands are worn with too much work, and for the unemployed whose hands have found no work today.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, those we pray personally as well as for others. Forbid that we should live for ourselves this day, but may we be faithful in our service to Your people, even as we serve You.

In Your most Holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BUSTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate progress in America's pledge to provide liberty and justice for all Americans.

Today, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law. The legislation ensures equal rights and protection for married couples regardless of the color of their skin, where they live, or whom they love.

This act is long overdue and necessary as threats remain to undo the hard-fought ruling giving same-sex couples the fundamental right to marriage equality.

I am honored to have cosponsored this bill, and I am proud this day has finally come.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that will affect millions of Americans unless Congress acts.

Unless we prevent the Medicare reimbursement cut that is scheduled to go into effect, the doctors, hospitals, and healthcare providers who work each day to treat Medicare patients may be forced to eliminate services, furlough staff, and delay health initiatives.

These cuts will have the deepest impact on those patients who rely on Medicare to see their doctors.

At a time when our healthcare industry is already facing record burnout, we cannot afford to risk losing more doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in fighting these potential cuts in order to protect American patients who rely on Medicare each and every day.

THANKING THE TEAM BUSTOS STAFF

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Team Bustos. Every Member of Congress knows that the real work is done by staff.

Those with me from day one are: Lucie VanHecke, Miranda French, Ellie LaBotte, and Katie Papa.

Our dedicated and determined district team include: Laura Rude, Dennis Littlejohn, Austin Stadelman, and Coburn Gillies.

The legislative team that makes our accomplishments possible are: Elaine Ansah, Noah Emanuel, Jon Heppen, Yusuf Nekzad, and Leighton Huch.

The communications team that makes sure everyone back home knows we are working for them are: Katie Anderson, Philip Shelly, and Heather Sager.

The person who keeps the train on its tracks is Mitchell Dunn.

My chief of staff who has helped me complete 10 years of service is Trevor Reuschel.

Because of each of them and those who have served on Team Bustos over the years, peoples' lives are better, and Illinois is stronger. It has been my honor to serve with them.

IRREVERSIBLE PROCEDURES ON VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, our Nation's founding was based upon the idea of defending our borders and defending our people within it.

Yet, in a complete 180 from the original purpose, our top government officials want our tax dollars to fund irreversible gender reassignment surgery for children.

Chemical castrations, mastectomies, and hysterectomies for sex reassignment on minors are life-altering decisions that are permanent and should not be taken lightly. Moreover, the government has no business paying for them with our tax dollars. It is not only irresponsible but also flat-out dangerous and encourages irreversible and sterilizing procedures on young people.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of young people who experience gender dysphoria move on from that when they become adults.

Some doctors and teachers—sometimes even parents—pressure vulnerable children into these invasive surgeries to keep in line with their woke agenda. Adults have no business forcing these decisions upon young people or making them themselves. Indeed, we have run legislation here saying that this should not be a discussion for minors, they must be at least 18 years old if they want to go through these procedures.

It is unacceptable the way adults, media, and government are putting children entrusted in their care in these situations directly in harm's way with irreversible, life-changing, and even suicide-inducing decisions.

FIGHTING CHORDOMA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Joshua Smith, who was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer known as chordoma.

Classified as a rare cancer of the spine and skull, chordoma is diagnosed in thousands of people worldwide every year, about 300 of whom live in the United States.

In honor of Josh and others diagnosed every year, I introduced a resolution last week to help shine a light on the need for more research and awareness of this kind of cancer which is very rare.

Thankfully, Josh is recovering and back at work, but his illness serves as an important reminder of the need to bolster research and funding to combat cancers of all kinds. Fighting cancers, particularly rare forms like chordoma, can and should bring us together,

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues for their support for this resolution.

GREATER COMPETITION WITHIN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on December 8 the House passed the JAMES M. INHOFE National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023 on a bipartisan basis.

I am particularly proud to see that my amendment, the Defense Maintenance Data Transparency Act, was included in this crucial package.

The challenges facing the Department of Defense's inability to access

necessary data to award truly competitive contracts to small businesses in America is unacceptable.

My amendment would direct the Secretary of Defense to clarify existing, ambiguous terms in the U.S. Code as well as in DOD's acquisition regulations that, once corrected, will help the DOD access the data it needs to promote greater opportunity for small businesses to compete for maintenance service contracts and has the potential to save millions of taxpayer dollars.

Greater competition within the defense industry means more value for every hardworking taxpayer in America.

HONORING SOUTH ST. PAUL POLICE OFFICER LEO PAVLAK

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was proud to watch the House pass my bill naming the South St. Paul, Minnesota Post Office after fallen South St. Paul police officer Leo Pavlak.

In 1933, after only 4 months on the force and at just 38 years old, Officer Pavlak was shot and killed by the notorious Barker-Karpis gang while assisting in a payroll delivery. To this day, he is the only South St. Paul officer to have been killed in the line of duty.

In the 89 years since his death, Leo's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have continued building the impressive Pavlak legacy in law enforcement in our community.

Leo's son, Robert Leo Pavlak, Sr. was a St. Paul police officer. One of his grandsons, Robert, was a Ramsey County deputy, while another grandson, David, worked in St. Paul as a police officer.

And now Leo's great-grandson, Ryan, is following in those very footsteps.

So today, I applaud my colleagues in passing this bill to honor not only Leo's dedication and service but that of the entire Pavlak family.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Senate colleagues to pass this bill in a timely manner.

BIDENFLATION ENERGY CRISIS ONGOING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week the average for a gallon of gas was shamefully $1 more than when Biden took office. A gallon of diesel, fuel for trucks and ships, is nearly 50 percent higher.

Due to irresponsible energy policies of Biden and Democrats, inflation reached 40-year highs, and families are hurting. In the last year, one-third of households have reduced or skipped necessities like food and medicine to pay energy bills, according to a LendingTree survey.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association has said that household energy costs will be the highest in 15 years.

On Saturday, I was grateful to be on a codel warmly welcomed in Kiev by Ukrainians thankful for defensive weapons which last week stopped 85 percent of Putin's missiles and Iranian drones. Putin must be stopped from freezing Ukrainians to death as Stalin starved Ukrainians to death.

President Biden joined Turkish President Recep Erdogan and French President Macron pledging additional defensive weapons to courageous President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from an Afghan safe haven to America.

HONORING CLAY PHILLIPS, CHIEF OF STAFF

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime chief of staff, Clay Phillips, who is retiring at the end of this Congress. I thank him for his tremendous career of public service, including 16 years of service in the chief of staff role.

There are few people in the Tampa area who have not worked with Clay, and I am grateful for all the work that he has done to ensure that veterans receive the benefits that they have earned to ensure that our neighbors were able to stay in their house during the foreclosure crisis, all of his work on affordable healthcare, and for social justice.

He was also instrumental in Florida's new statue, the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue that all Americans will enjoy seeing. She is the first African American in history to represent a State in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

He has always stood up for the voiceless, and as President Kennedy encouraged, let public service be a proud and lively career.

Clay's career was proud and lively. I am grateful he has provided selfless service, and I am grateful for his friendship and his devotion to our neighbors.

HONORING COACH MIKE LEACH

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mississippi State University head football coach, Mike Leach, a man who left a substantial mark on the game of football and served as an inspiration for players and fans alike.

Coach Leach was, in a word, unconventional. The air raid offense, which he brought to college football, changed the game of football forever; but the sports world will not soon forget Coach Leach's unique personality that entertained everyone who had the opportunity to listen to his good-humored interview style and memorable one-liners.

I am thankful that Coach Leach chose Mississippi State University as his new home in 2020. The last three seasons with him at the helm have produced some of the most memorable football seasons in my lifetime.

Without a doubt, Coach Leach will be missed, and his impact on the game of football and Mississippi State University will prove to be timeless. We will continue to look back fondly on the memories that Coach Leach, the pirate, graciously left us with.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HOUSE DEMOCRATS

(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, as we come to the final days of this session, I rise to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments House Democrats delivered for the American people during the 117th Congress.

While there are too many wins to mention, I would like to make sure everyone knows that we have always put people over politics.

Democrats will save 13 million Americans an average of $800 a year on their health insurance premiums. Democrats helped create a total of 10.3 million jobs. Democrats lowered the national unemployment rate to 3.7 percent, which is nearly a 50-year low. Democrats delivered the largest 1-year reduction to the Federal deficit in American history, a reduction of $1.5 trillion this year alone. Democrats passed many pro-woman bills—like the Women's Health Protection Act, which protects the woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

House Democrats did all this because we always put people over politics—we always have, and we always will.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHARLES ''RED'' FARMER

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Charles ''Red'' Farmer. Mr. Farmer was born on October 15, 1932, in Nashville, Tennessee. He began racing cars in the 1940s and is still competing today at the age of 90, having recently raced on the dirt track at Talladega Short Track in Alabama.

Following military service in Korea, and having obtained his NASCAR license, Red competed in his first Daytona Beach race in 1953 and went on to

compete in the Daytona 500 a total of eight times. In 1962, he moved to Hueytown, Alabama, and became a core member of the famous ''Alabama Gang''.

Red won a total of four NASCAR championships, winning the modified division championship in 1956 and proceeding to collect three consecutive championships in NASCAR's Late Model Sportsman division from 1969 to 1971, including the 1971 Permatex 300 at Daytona. He has won so many times on various tracks and across different divisions that the exact number of wins is unknown, but it is in excess of 750.

In addition to driving, Red served as crew chief for NASCAR Hall of Famer Davey Allison. Red is recognized as one of NASCAR's 50 greatest drivers. He is in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Red married his late wife, Joan, in 1950 and has three children: Bonnie, Cindy, and Mike.

Red's passion for racing and his determination to never retire, but to continue doing what he loves—even at the age of 90—is an inspiration to all of us.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRANDON CASERTA

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Brandon Caserta from Peoria, Arizona.

Brandon was born on May 25, 1997, and everyone who knew him spoke of his kindness. Brandon grew up in a family dedicated to serving our Nation. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Patrick, a retired United States Navy Senior Chief, by enlisting in the Navy. Brandon dreamed of one day joining our Nation's elite in the United States Navy SEALs, and he eventually served as Petty Officer Third Class with the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Sadly, on June 25, 2018, Brandon tragically took his own life. In memory of their son, Brandon's parents, Teri and Patrick, began advocating for change to help prevent suicides among Active-Duty military and veterans. Their dedication resulted in the inclusion of H.R. 3942, the Brandon Act, named after Brandon, in the fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. This bill allows servicemembers to quickly seek lifesaving mental health care.

I am grateful for Teri and Patrick's dedication and their tireless effort to ensure that Brandon's legacy brings about meaningful change within our military.

RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTH GRADE CLASS AT GREEN ACRES MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Victor Stekoll's seventh grade class at the Green Acres School. In the class is my nephew Eric. Like Eric, his classmates work to earn respect, which is one of the most important characteristics and principles of the Green Acres School.

These students are challenged to live and learn with intellect and curiosity, determination, and joy because they want to make a positive impact on their school. These Green Acre students are off to a great start.

In fact, Mr. Stekoll's class is touring the Capitol today in order to learn more about our government and get an inside look at what it is like to be a Member of Congress.

I applaud these middle school students for showing interest in the important work of government. I expect, Mr. Speaker, that one day one of these students will be standing right here addressing the Chamber.

I say: Go Grizzlies.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

EQUAL ACCESS TO GREEN CARDS FOR LEGAL EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1508, I call up (H.R. 3648) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, 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 1508, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117–590, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 3648

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 ''Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act of 2022'' or the ''EAGLE Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) PER COUNTRY LEVELS FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under section 203(a) in any fiscal year may not exceed 15 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas made available under such section in that fiscal year.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203'' and inserting ''section 203(a)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If the total number of immigrant visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, immigrant visas shall be allotted to such natives under section 203(a) (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visas made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total visas made available under section 203(a).''.

(c) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(as defined in subsection (e))'';

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(d) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply beginning on the date that is the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—Notwithstanding title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following transition rules shall apply to employment-based immigrants, beginning on the date referred to in subsection (d):

(1) RESERVED VISAS FOR LOWER ADMISSION STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the first nine fiscal years after the date referred to in subsection (d), immigrant visas under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be reserved and allocated to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two foreign states or dependent areas with the highest demand for immigrant visas as follows:

(i) For the first fiscal year after such date, 30 percent of such visas.

(ii) For the second fiscal year after such date, 25 percent of such visas.

(iii) For the third fiscal year after such date, 20 percent of such visas.

(iv) For the fourth fiscal year after such date, 15 percent of such visas.

(v) For the fifth and sixth fiscal years after such date, 10 percent of such visas.

(vi) For the seventh, eighth, and ninth fiscal years after such date, 5 percent of such visas.

(B) ADDITIONAL RESERVED VISAS FOR NEW ARRIVALS.—For each of the first nine fiscal years after the date referred to in subsection (d), an additional 5.75 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2)

and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allocated to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two foreign states or dependent areas with the highest demand for immigrant visas. Such additional visas shall be allocated in the following order of priority:

(i) FAMILY MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING OR FOLLOWING TO JOIN.—Visas reserved under this subparagraph shall be allocated to family members described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) who are accompanying or following to join a principal beneficiary who is in the United States and has been granted an immigrant visa or adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

(ii) NEW PRINCIPAL ARRIVALS.—If at the end of the second quarter of any fiscal year, the total number of visas reserved under this subparagraph exceeds the number of qualified immigrants described in clause (i), such visas may also be allocated, for the remainder of the fiscal year, to individuals (and their family members described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d))) who are seeking an immigrant visa under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) to enter the United States as new immigrants, and who have not resided or worked in the United States at any point in the four-year period immediately preceding the filing of the immigrant visa petition.

(iii) OTHER NEW ARRIVALS.—If at the end of the third quarter of any fiscal year, the total number of visas reserved under this subparagraph exceeds the number of qualified immigrants described in clauses (i) and (ii), such visas may be also be allocated, for the remainder of the fiscal year, to other individuals (and their family members described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d))) who are seeking an immigrant visa under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

(2) RESERVED VISAS FOR SHORTAGE OCCUPATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of the first seven fiscal years after the date referred to in subsection (d), not fewer than 4,400 of the immigrant visas made available under section 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)), and not reserved under paragraph (1), shall be allocated to immigrants who are seeking admission to the United States to work in an occupation described in section 656.5(a) of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(B) FAMILY MEMBERS.—Family members who are accompanying or following to join a principal beneficiary described in subparagraph (A) shall be entitled to a visa in the same status and in the same order of consideration as such principal beneficiary, but such visa shall not be counted against the 4,400 immigrant visas reserved under such subparagraph.

(3) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—For each of the first nine fiscal years after the date referred to in subsection (d)—

(A) not more than 25 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of visas reserved under paragraph (1) shall be allocated to immigrants who are natives of any single foreign state or dependent area; and

(B) not more than 85 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved under paragraph (1), may be allocated to immigrants who are native to any single foreign state or dependent area.

(4) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED VISAS.—If, at the end of the third quarter of any fiscal year, the Secretary of State determines that the application of paragraphs (1) through (3) would result in visas made available under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) going unused in that fiscal year, such visas may be allocated during the remainder of such fiscal year without regard to paragraphs (1) through (3).

(5) RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY AND DEPENDENTS.—Section 202(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply in determining the foreign state to which an alien is chargeable, and section 203(d) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) shall apply in allocating immigrant visas to family members, for purposes of this subsection.

(6) DETERMINATION OF TWO FOREIGN STATES OR DEPENDENT AREAS WITH HIGHEST DEMAND.—The two foreign states or dependent areas with the highest demand for immigrant visas, as referred to in this subsection, are the two foreign states or dependent areas with the largest aggregate number beneficiaries of petitions for an immigrant visa under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) that have been approved, but where an immigrant visa is not yet available, as determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. POSTING AVAILABLE POSITIONS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE.—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) For purposes of complying with paragraph (1)(C):

''(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act of 2022, the Secretary of Labor shall establish a searchable internet website for posting positions in accordance with paragraph (1)(C) that is available to the public without charge, except that the Secretary may delay the launch of such website for a single period identified by the Secretary by notice in the Federal Register that shall not exceed 30 days.

''(B) The Secretary may work with private companies or nonprofit organizations to develop and operate the internet website described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) The Secretary shall promulgate rules, after notice and a period for comment, to carry out this paragraph.''.

(b) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register and in other appropriate media, a notice of the date on which the internet website required under section 212(n)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as established by subsection (a), will be operational.

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date described in subsection (b).

(d) INTERNET POSTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 212(n)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (ii) as subclause (II);

(2) by striking ''(i) has provided'' and inserting the following:

''(ii)(I) has provided''; and

(3) by inserting before clause (ii), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

''(i) except in the case of an employer filing a petition on behalf of an H–1B nonimmigrant who has already been counted against the numerical limitations and is not eligible for a full 6-year period, as described in section 214(g)(7), or on behalf of an H–1B nonimmigrant authorized to accept employment under section 214(n), has posted on the internet website described in paragraph (6), for at least 30 calendar days, a description of each position for which a nonimmigrant is sought, that includes—

''(I) the occupational classification, and if different the employer's job title for the position, in which each nonimmigrant will be employed;

''(II) the education, training, or experience qualifications for the position;

''(III) the salary or wage range and employee benefits offered;

''(IV) each location at which a nonimmigrant will be employed; and

''(V) the process for applying for a position; and''.

SEC. 4. H–1B EMPLOYER PETITION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) WAGE DETERMINATION INFORMATION.—Section 212(n)(1)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting ''the prevailing wage determination methodology used under subparagraph (A)(i)(II),'' after ''shall contain''.

(b) NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraph:

''(H)(i) The employer, or a person or entity acting on the employer's behalf, has not advertised any available position specified in the application in an advertisement that states or indicates that—

''(I) such position is only available to an individual who is or will be an H–1B nonimmigrant; or

''(II) an individual who is or will be an H–1B nonimmigrant shall receive priority or a preference in the hiring process for such position.

''(ii) The employer has not primarily recruited individuals who are or who will be H–1B nonimmigrants to fill such position.

''(I) If the employer, in a previous period specified by the Secretary, employed one or more H–1B nonimmigrants, the employer shall submit to the Secretary the Internal Revenue Service Form W–2 Wage and Tax Statements filed by the employer with respect to the H–1B nonimmigrants for such period.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR NEW H–1B PETITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by inserting after subparagraph (I), the following:

''(J)(i) If the employer employs 50 or more employees in the United States, the sum of the number of such employees who are H–1B nonimmigrants plus the number of such employees who are nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) does not exceed 50 percent of the total number of employees.

''(ii) Any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of clause (i).''.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (J) of section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as added by paragraph (1), may be construed to prohibit renewal applications or change of employer applications for H–1B nonimmigrants employed by an employer on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply with respect to an employer commencing on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) LABOR CONDITION APPLICATION FEE.—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)), as amended by section 3(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7)(A) The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a regulation that requires applicants under this subsection to pay an administrative fee to cover the average paperwork processing costs and other administrative costs.

''(B)(i) Fees collected under this paragraph shall be deposited as offsetting receipts within

the general fund of the Treasury in a separate account, which shall be known as the 'H–1B Administration, Oversight, Investigation, and Enforcement Account' and shall remain available until expended.

''(ii) The Secretary of the Treasury shall refund amounts in such account to the Secretary of Labor for salaries and related expenses associated with the administration, oversight, investigation, and enforcement of the H–1B nonimmigrant visa program.''.

(e) ELIMINATION OF B–1 IN LIEU OF H–1.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12)(A) Unless otherwise authorized by law, an alien normally classifiable under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) who seeks admission to the United States to provide services in a specialty occupation described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (i) may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B) for such purpose.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to authorize the admission of an alien under section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming to the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor if such admission is not otherwise authorized by law.''.

(f) ENDING MEDIA ABUSE OF H–1B.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)), as amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(13) An alien normally classifiable under section 101(a)(15)(I) who seeks admission to the United States solely as a representative of the foreign press, radio, film, or other foreign information media, may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) to engage in such vocation.''.

(g) MEMBERSHIP IN TOTALITARIAN PARTY.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)), as amended by subsections (e) and (f), is further amended by adding at the end of the following:

''(14)(A) Except as provided in this paragraph, an alien who is or has been a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), domestic of foreign, may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i).

''(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien because of membership or affiliation if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer when applying for a visa (or to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security when applying for admission) under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) that the membership or affiliation is or was involuntary, or is or was solely when under 16 years of age, by operation of law, or for purposes of obtaining employment, food rations, or other essentials of living and whether necessary for such purposes.

''(C) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien because of membership or affiliation if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer when applying for a visa (or to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security when applying for admission) under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) that—

''(i) the membership or affiliation terminated at least—

''(I) 2 years before the date of such application; or

''(II) 5 years before the date of such application, in the case of an alien whose membership or affiliation was with the party controlling the government of a foreign state that is a totalitarian dictatorship as of such date; and

''(ii) the alien is not a threat to the security of the United States.

''(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may, in the Secretary's discretion, waive the application of subparagraph (A) in the case of an alien who is the parent, spouse, son, daughter, brother, or sister of a citizen of the United States or a spouse, son, or daughter of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest if the alien is not a threat to the security of the United States.''.

SEC. 5. INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST H–1B EMPLOYERS.

(a) INVESTIGATION, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND PENALTIES.—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

''(iv)(I) An employer that has filed an application under this subsection violates this clause by taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or fail to take a personnel action, or intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, blacklisting, discharging, or discriminating in any other manner against an employee because the employee—

''(aa) disclosed information that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection; or

''(bb) cooperated or sought to cooperate with the requirements under this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

''(II) An employer that violates this clause shall be liable to the employee harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.

''(III) In this clause, the term 'employee' includes—

''(aa) a current employee;

''(bb) a former employee; and

''(cc) an applicant for employment.''.

(b) INFORMATION SHARING.—Section 212(n)(2)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(H)) is amended to read as follows:

''(H)(i) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide the Secretary of Labor with any information contained in the materials submitted by employers of H–1B nonimmigrants as part of the petition adjudication process that indicates that the employer is not complying with visa program requirements for H–1B nonimmigrants.

''(ii) The Secretary may initiate and conduct an investigation and hearing under this paragraph after receiving information of noncompliance under this subparagraph.''.

SEC. 6. LABOR CONDITION APPLICATIONS.

(a) APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (I), as added by section 4(b)—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting '', and through the internet website of the Department of Labor, without charge.'' after ''Washington, D.C.'';

(2) in the fifth sentence, by striking ''only for completeness'' and inserting ''for completeness, clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact,'';

(3) in the sixth sentence, by striking ''or obviously inaccurate'' and inserting '', presents clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, or is obviously inaccurate''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following: ''If the Secretary's review of an application identifies clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, the Secretary may conduct an investigation and hearing in accordance with paragraph (2).''.

(b) ENSURING PREVAILING WAGES ARE FOR AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND ACTUAL WAGES ARE FOR SIMILARLY EMPLOYED.—Section 212(n)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), in the undesignated matter following subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) will ensure that—

''(I) the actual wages or range identified in clause (i) relate solely to employees having substantially the same duties and responsibilities as the H–1B nonimmigrant in the geographical area of intended employment, considering experience, qualifications, education, job responsibility and function, specialized knowledge, and other legitimate business factors, except in a geographical area there are no such employees, and

''(II) the prevailing wages identified in clause (ii) reflect the best available information for the geographical area within normal commuting distance of the actual address of employment at which the H–1B nonimmigrant is or will be employed.''.

(c) PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION.—Section 212(n)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2)(A) Subject'' and inserting ''(2)(A)(i) Subject'';

(2) by striking the fourth sentence; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii)(I) Upon receipt of a complaint under clause (i), the Secretary may initiate an investigation to determine whether such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

''(II) The Secretary may conduct—

''(aa) surveys of the degree to which employers comply with the requirements under this subsection; and

''(bb) subject to subclause (IV), annual compliance audits of any employer that employs H–1B nonimmigrants during the applicable calendar year.

''(III) Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall—

''(aa) conduct annual compliance audits of each employer that employs more than 100 full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States if more than 15 percent of such full-time employees are H–1B nonimmigrants; and

''(bb) make available to the public an executive summary or report describing the general findings of the audits conducted under this subclause.

''(IV) In the case of an employer subject to an annual compliance audit in which there was no finding of a willful failure to meet a condition under subparagraph (C)(ii), no further annual compliance audit shall be conducted with respect to such employer for a period of not less than 4 years, absent evidence of misrepresentation or fraud.''.

(d) PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), or (1)(F)'' and inserting ''a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), (1)(F), (1)(H), or (1)(I)''; and

(B) in subclause (I), by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$3,000'';

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$15,000'';

(3) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''$35,000'' and inserting ''$100,000''; and

(4) in clause (vi)(III), by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$3,000''.

(e) INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''In the case of an investigation'' in the second sentence and all that follows through the period at the end of the clause;

(2) in clause (ii), in the first sentence, by striking ''and whose identity'' and all that follows through ''failure or failures.'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Labor may conduct an investigation into the employer's compliance with the requirements under this subsection.'';

(3) in clause (iii), by striking the second sentence;

(4) by striking clauses (iv) and (v);

(5) by redesignating clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(6) in clause (iv), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''clause (viii)'' and inserting ''clause (vi)''; and

(B) by striking ''meet a condition described in clause (ii)'' and inserting ''comply with the requirements under this subsection'';

(7) by amending clause (v), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(v)(I) The Secretary of Labor shall provide notice to an employer of the intent to conduct an investigation under clause (i) or (ii).

''(II) The notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced.

''(III) The Secretary is not required to comply with this clause if the Secretary determines that such compliance would interfere with an effort by the Secretary to investigate or secure compliance by the employer with the requirements of this subsection.

''(IV) A determination by the Secretary under this clause shall not be subject to judicial review.'';

(8) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking ''An investigation'' in the first sentence and all that follows through ''the determination.'' in the second sentence and inserting ''If the Secretary of Labor, after an investigation under clause (i) or (ii), determines that a reasonable basis exists to make a finding that the employer has failed to comply with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide interested parties with notice of such determination and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 60 days after the date of such determination.''; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) If the Secretary of Labor, after a hearing, finds that the employer has violated a requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may impose a penalty pursuant to subparagraph (C).''.

SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.

(a) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(3), an alien (including the alien's spouse or child, if eligible to receive a visa under section 203(d)), may file an application for adjustment of status if—

''(A) the alien—

''(i) is present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission as a nonimmigrant, other than a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (S) of section 101(a)(15), section 212(l), or section 217; and

''(ii) subject to subsection (k), is not ineligible for adjustment of status under subsection (c); and

''(B) not less than 2 years have elapsed since the immigrant visa petition filed by or on behalf of the alien under subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 204(a)(1) was approved.

''(2) PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN.—The child of a principal alien who files an application for adjustment of status under this subsection shall continue to qualify as a child for purposes of the application, regardless of the child's age or whether the principal alien is deceased at the time an immigrant visa becomes available.

''(3) TRAVEL AND EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) ADVANCE PAROLE.—Applicants for adjustment of status under this subsection shall be eligible for advance parole under the same terms and conditions as applicants for adjustment of status under subsection (a).

''(B) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(i) PRINCIPAL ALIEN.—Subject to paragraph (4), a principal applicant for adjustment of status under this subsection shall be eligible for work authorization under the same terms and conditions as applicants for adjustment of status under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—A dependent alien who was neither authorized to work nor eligible to request work authorization at the time an application for adjustment of status is filed under this subsection shall not be eligible to receive work authorization due to the filing of such application.

''(4) CONDITIONS ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS AND EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—During the time an application for adjustment of status under this subsection is pending and until such time an immigrant visa becomes available—

''(i) the terms and conditions of the alien's employment, including duties, hours, and compensation, must be commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to the employer's similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment, or if the employer does not employ and has not recently employed more than two such workers, the terms and conditions of such employment must be commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to other similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment; and

''(ii) consistent with section 204(j), if the alien changes positions or employers, the new position is in the same or a similar occupational classification as the job for which the petition was filed.

''(B) SPECIAL FILING PROCEDURES.—An application for adjustment of status filed by a principal alien under this subsection shall be accompanied by—

''(i) a signed letter from the principal alien's current or prospective employer attesting that the terms and conditions of the alien's employment are commensurate with the terms and conditions of employment for similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment; and

''(ii) other information deemed necessary by the Secretary of Homeland Security to verify compliance with subparagraph (A).

''(C) APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An application for employment authorization filed by a principal applicant for adjustment of status under this subsection shall be accompanied by a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)) attesting that—

''(I) the job offered in the immigrant visa petition remains a bona fide job offer that the alien intends to accept upon approval of the adjustment of status application; or

''(II) the alien has accepted a new full-time job in the same or a similar occupational classification as the job described in the approved immigrant visa petition.

''(ii) VALIDITY.—An employment authorization document issued to a principal alien who has filed an application for adjustment of status under this subsection shall be valid for three years.

''(iii) RENEWAL.—Any request by a principal alien to renew an employment authorization document associated with such alien's application for adjustment of status filed under this subsection shall be accompanied by the evidence described in subparagraphs (B) and (C)(i).

''(5) DECISION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An adjustment of status application filed under paragraph (1) may not be approved—

''(i) until the date on which an immigrant visa becomes available; and

''(ii) if the principal alien has not, within the preceding 12 months, filed a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)).

''(B) REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE.—If at the time an immigrant visa becomes available, a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)) has not been filed by the principal alien within the preceding 12 months, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the alien and provide instructions for submitting such form.

''(C) NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY.—If the most recent Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)) or any prior form indicates a lack of compliance with paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a notice of intent to deny the application for adjustment of status and provide the alien the opportunity to submit evidence of compliance.

''(D) DENIAL.—An application for adjustment of status under this subsection may be denied if the alien fails to—

''(i) timely file a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)) in response to a request for evidence issued under subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, compliance with paragraph (4)(A).

''(6) FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge and collect a fee in the amount of $2,000 to process each Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability (or any form associated with section 204(j)) filed under this subsection.

''(B) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under subparagraph (A) shall be deposited and used as follows:

''(i) Fifty percent of such fees shall be deposited in the Immigration Examinations Fee Account established under section 286(m).

''(ii) Fifty percent of such fees shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

''(7) APPLICATION.—

''(A) The provisions of this subsection—

''(i) shall apply beginning on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act of 2022; and

''(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (B), shall cease to apply as of the date that is nine years after the date of the enactment of such Act.

''(B) This subsection shall continue to apply with respect to any alien who has filed an application for adjustment of status under this subsection any time prior to the date on which this subsection otherwise ceases to apply.

''(8) CLARIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) The term 'similarly situated United States workers' includes United States workers performing similar duties, subject to similar supervision, and with similar educational backgrounds, industry expertise, employment experience, levels of responsibility, and skill sets as the alien in the same geographic area of employment as the alien.

''(B) The duties, hours, and compensation of the alien are 'commensurate' with those offered to United States workers in the same area of employment if the employer can demonstrate that the duties, hours, and compensation are consistent with the range of such terms and conditions the employer has offered or would offer to similarly situated United States employees.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 245(k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(k)) is amended by adding ''or (n)'' after ''pursuant to subsection (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 the Judiciary or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part B of House Report 117–590, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. 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. 3648.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today the House is considering H.R. 3648, the EAGLE Act, a bipartisan bill that raises the per-country caps on family-sponsored immigrant visas and phases out the per-country caps on employment-based immigrant visas. The bill also includes significant improvements to the H–1B visa program that add protections for U.S. workers.

Our immigration system has not been significantly updated since 1990, and it really just follows the basic outlines for the bill that was enacted in 1965. The failure to evolve the immigration system has significantly damaged America's ability to compete in an increasingly global economy. The system is supposed to encourage immigration based on an individual's family ties to the United States or their ability to contribute to our economy. It often falls short.

For example, there are backlogs for families seeking reunification. That could be legal residents of the United States trying to get their spouse a legal residence visa. There are backlogs in some countries but none for Western Europe. In addition, in the employment-based context, before a foreign national can apply for a green card—here is the process—their employer has to advertise and demonstrate that there are no U.S. workers who are here who can do the job that they are being offered. This is to make sure that green card applicants are providing services and skills that are not readily available in America.

But after this initial test, which is merit-based, the per-country caps kick in. For example, under current conditions, an individual from Western Europe, a Western European country, applying for a green card in the employment-based second preference category based on a bachelor's degree would be able to gain their permanent residency in about a year. In contrast, an Indian national with a Ph.D. and potentially superior skills might have to wait approximately 200 years. That doesn't help America.

I would note also that the individuals who would ultimately benefit from the elimination of what amounts to a racist system of allocating visas, 95 percent of those individuals are already in the United States legally working on a temporary visa, but in limbo. As that limbo continues, their children who have been raised in the United States age out, and when they hit 21, they have to go back to the country their parents are from, but their parents remain legally in the United States.

We are losing individuals who we need in America, including physicians—25 percent of the MDs in the United States are foreign-born; many of them are from India. I have personally met physicians whose children have aged-out who decided they have to move to Canada where they can get a green card equivalent in under 6 months.

Now, the disparity, as I mentioned, in the family-sponsored context, there are some family-sponsored immigrants from Mexico whose wait time is over 200 years before they are eligible to receive a green card.

□ 1230

That doesn't make any sense at all, and in fact, it is a fraud on those applicants.

We have been trying to change this system for over a decade. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, an earlier version of this legislation, first passed the House in 2011 and again last Congress. Iterations of this bill have been led by both Democrats and Republicans, received over 350 ''yes'' votes in the House, and passed by unanimous consent in the Senate.

The EAGLE Act is based on a bill that passed the Senate last Congress, with additional restrictions to protect American workers and a longer transition period to ensure that no country's nationals are excluded from receiving visas while the per-country caps are phased out.

Why is this important? People base their expectations on the situation as it exists. The Congressional Research Service has analyzed this bill and stated that no one currently in line is negatively impacted by this legislation.

I thank Representative JOHN CURTIS from Utah for working with me to introduce the EAGLE Act. I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have previously supported this legislation, and I urge that we, once again, vote in favor of this bill.

A system that is based on where you are born instead of what you can do is not what serves America well. A system that is designed to advantage someone born in Western Europe over the entire rest of the world doesn't really recognize merit, which is what this bill is all about. We should have a system based on competitiveness, not the country where you were born.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, ironically, this bill doesn't even serve the interests of immigrants from around the world except for two countries, China and India.

By removing the per-country caps on employment-based visas, the practical effect of this bill is that, for the foreseeable future, the citizens of only two countries, China and India, will be admitted to work here. Workers from every other country will have to wait many years until that backlog clears.

Supporters contend that no one currently awaiting a green card will be adversely affected. That may be true as far as it goes. But what they leave out is that this bill will produce long delays for future applicants from every country except for China and India.

Even the liberal American Immigration Lawyers Association points out that ''many applicants will now face longer wait times.''

Now, supporters are fond of comparing the populations of various countries as an argument that uniform percentage caps are unfair. But what they forget is that when a country's allotment isn't reached, its vacant slots then spill over to higher-demand countries. India, for example, accounted for 35 percent of the green cards issued last year, five times their percentage cap. But that, apparently, isn't enough for the left.

The bill also threatens our national security. China has been stealing U.S. technology for years through programs like the H–1B visa.

According to The Washington Post, one such initiative resulted in ''the arrests of six Chinese researchers accused of lying on their visa applications about their ties to the People's Liberation Army'' and ''more than 1,000 researchers who had hidden their affiliation with the Chinese military'' fleeing the U.S. within months.

The supporters assure us that anyone with direct ties to the Chinese Communist Party is not eligible, but that completely ignores the fact that the CCP exerts coercive control over all Chinese nationals, whether or not they are CCP members, so this assurance is meaningless.

As currently drafted, this bill would also result in the immediate exclusion from green cards special immigrant religious workers from around the world for the next few years. Those cards will, instead, go to special immigrant juvenile green cards for unaccompanied alien children from the Northern Triangle countries.

It is precisely this provision that has been exploited by the crime cartels in trafficking unaccompanied minors into this country, and this bill makes it worse.

But the most pernicious provision allows certain temporary visa holders to file an application for adjustment for status despite the fact that no green card is available to them. That is the reason you have the long delays that the gentlewoman mentioned.

The result is that many temporary visas will essentially become permanent because the alien visa holders will be able to live and work in the U.S. as if they had a green card.

That raises an important question: What is it that the Democrats have against American workers?

This bill is a direct attack on their job opportunities and livelihoods. So much for the advice to unemployed fossil fuel workers: Well, just learn to code.

All this becomes a theater of the absurd in light of the mass illegal migration that the Democrats have aided, abetted, and encouraged since they reversed the Trump border measures that had finally secured our borders.

It was no coincidence that as the flood of illegal migration slowed to a trickle, working-class families saw their biggest wage gains in decades, and the income gap between rich and poor began to narrow.

Now that the borders have been collapsed by the Democrats, those wage gains have been wiped out as millions of illegal aliens are deliberately allowed into the country to compete with those struggling American families. The Democrats remain silent on this continuing crisis.

The American people had trusted the Democrats to look out for their interests, and they are now discovering how tragically misplaced that trust has been. That is the crux of this bill, a big fat middle finger to America's working families, and I am afraid that won't change until the people responsible for these policies are turned out of office.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, before I recognize my colleague from the Judiciary Committee, I would just like to note that the issue about the EB–4, which is the children, is not correct.

Under current law, if you are a minor and have been abandoned by your parent, you can go to State court, and the State court will make a finding that you have been abandoned by your parent. Then, you can become eligible for legal permanent residence in the EB–4 category.

By the way, you are not, under law, able to then petition for a parent once the parent abandons you. They are out of the picture. That is backlogged right now from Central America. This bill will have the effect of easing those backlogs for orphans from Central America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a distinguished member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LOFGREN for her tremendous leadership, not only on this bill, but also on the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee as our chairwoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the EAGLE Act.

I believe I may be the only one, or one of very few, Members of Congress who has actually been on an H–1B visa back when processing times to transition to a green card weren't nearly as bad as they are today. It still took me 17 years and a multitude of visas to become a U.S. citizen.

Today, an estimated 1.6 million people in the family backlog and 200,000 in the employment backlog will die, in some cases, before they receive green cards because of an arcane system that puts a 7 percent per-country limit on employment and family-sponsored green cards.

Many of the people who are stuck in this backlog are Asian immigrants, people who were denied the right to become U.S. citizens for most of U.S. history, from 1790 to 1952, through the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Supreme Court's 1923 decision barring Indians from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. Anti-Asian policies have informed these future anti-immigrant efforts.

As the first South Asian American woman elected to the House, I am very aware that Congress did not repeal that Supreme Court decision until 1946.

The employment and family immigration process established in 1965 provided the first meaningful ways for Asian immigrants to come to the United States, and it remains the main method of entry for Asian immigrants because many Asian immigrants cannot access other pathways, such as asylum or refugee status or diversity visas.

However, because of the per-country caps, there are lengthy backlogs to secure permanent status. Those backlogs can last for decades or even lifetimes.

Someone from India or Mexico currently experiences a 200-year wait to secure a green card, while nationals of other countries wait as little as 2 years or less.

The EAGLE Act would simply ensure fairness by moving to a first come, first served system that would no longer discriminate by country of birth. Moreover, thanks to the bill's 9-year transition period beginning in October 2024, it would not harm anyone that is currently in the backlog.

The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that our immigration system is deeply broken, and it needs reform on every level. This is something that I dedicated two decades of my life to before coming to Congress. Whether you are from Africa, Latin America, Asia, or the Caribbean, we do not have a functioning immigration system that allows people to come to America and do the work that we need, or escape from war-torn or economically devastated countries, or join family members.

Congress has punted on comprehensive, humane immigration reform for too long, so we are forced to pursue piecemeal efforts for principled compromise to address the many broken parts of the immigration system while ensuring that no community suffers harm as another benefits. That is the nature of principled compromise.

This is one of those bills that certainly does not accomplish fixing the broken immigration system. It does not do that, but it does do something very important, which is to fix one piece of an immigration system that has been put together by these individual pieces that affect different parts of the population.

It does so, Mr. Speaker, without harming any other community.

To those of you who have waited too long for a green card as you have put down roots here and raised families and helped communities thrive across the country, I am here to say: We see you.

A previous iteration of this bill passed the Chamber with 365 bipartisan votes. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the EAGLE Act.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I oppose the EAGLE Act and encourage all Members to do the same.

The Biden administration has created the absolute worst border crisis in our history, and congressional Democrats have done nothing to address it. They won't even acknowledge that there is a crisis, with the exception of the gentleman in the Chair.

The crisis is real. It is having a negative impact on communities across the country, but President Biden has more important things to do than visit the border.

I visit the border on a regular basis, and every time I do, I hear a similar message.

First, the brave men and women of the Border Patrol are being overrun. They are tired of the administration not supporting their efforts to secure the border.

Second, illegal aliens enter every day because they believe that the Biden administration is going to let everyone stay.

Thirdly, our communities are running out of resources to deal with the real-world impacts of the Biden border crisis. Cities like New York City and Washington, D.C., complained when a few hundred illegal aliens were sent to their communities, but cities in Arizona are dealing with large groups of illegal aliens every day. We are now told, with title 42 expiring, that they will do direct releases into Arizona's communities because there is just simply no place to even hold them to process them.

Since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has encountered more than 4 million illegal aliens at the southwest land border. During the same time, the Biden administration has simply released

more than 1.4 million of those illegal aliens into the country.

Under this administration, those aliens will never be removed from the country, and the 4 million number does not include the hundreds of thousands, probably more than a million, got-aways who enter the country illegally without being apprehended by the Border Patrol.

For example, in November alone, there were more than 73,000 known got-aways, with estimates of at least one unknown got-away for every known got-away. That is a total of 150,000 people. We don't know where they came from. We don't know where they are going. We don't know what their intentions are.

The numbers continue to get worse. Over the weekend, Border Patrol reported more than 16,000 encounters in 2 days, and that does not include known and unknown got-aways.

But according to DHS Secretary Mayorkas, the border is secure. In fact, he testified under oath that DHS has operational control of the border. A week later, he backtracked on that statement because DHS does not have operational control of the border, despite the fact that he is required to achieve and maintain operational control of the border.

Congress even defined what operational control means so that there would be no ambiguity. It is this: ''The term 'operational control' means the prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States, including entries by terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband.''

□ 1245

I look forward to Secretary Mayorkas testifying before the Committee on the Judiciary next year and explaining whether he stands by his previous testimony that he is maintaining operational control of our border.

We know what he will say, because last month he told the Committee on Homeland Security that he believes the border is secure.

The Democrat-led Committee on the Judiciary hasn't held a single hearing on the crisis, and many Democrats on the committee deny that there is a crisis. At a hearing earlier this year, one Democrat committee member referred to this crisis as the ''supposed crisis at the southern border.''

I wonder if she still thinks it is just a supposed border crisis. Some of us in this room today know the reality of that border crisis.

The committee hasn't held a single hearing on the flow of fentanyl into this country.

The committee hasn't held a single hearing on the increase in the number of Border Patrol encounters with illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list.

You would think that the committee would be concerned with the fact that in fiscal year 2022, Border Patrol reported encountering 98 illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list.

To put that in perspective, for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined, Border Patrol only reported encountering 11 illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list.

Secretary Mayorkas couldn't even tell the committee if any of the illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list who were encountered by CBP were still in the country.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, he has no idea where those individuals are.

Republicans on the Committee on the Judiciary have repeatedly asked for hearings. Those requests have been ignored.

Instead of conducting oversight, Democrats have advanced bills to provide amnesty and further weaken our security, which are incentives to those who wish to illegally enter the United States of America.

The EB–4 issue, as explained by my colleague from California, Ms. LOFGREN, it does not change the impact, as it provides an incentive for the cartels in their human trafficking expeditions.

The EAGLE Act will do nothing to secure our border or address the crisis that this administration has created, but it will dramatically alter our illegal immigration system in ways that most Members do not understand or fully appreciate.

Even the American Immigration Lawyers Association has opposed the bill. They acknowledge that the bill will benefit immigrants from a few countries, namely China and India, while adversely impacting those wishing to legally immigrate to the United States from almost all other countries.

Instead of rushing to pass this bill today, the House should be debating and passing legislation to require Secretary Mayorkas to enforce the law, to finish construction of the border wall, and to provide CBP and ICE with the resources they need to enforce the law.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3648, the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment, or the EAGLE Act of 2022.

While I, like many others here today, would prefer to see a more robust approach to fixing our broken immigration system, the bill before us today is an important step in the right direction. This bill will have a large impact on many immigrants and notably an overwhelming impact on Asian immigrant workers who have been historically barred from applying for U.S. citizenship.

Right now, there are approximately 1.4 million individuals trapped in our backlogs waiting for available employment-based visas. The vast majority, as high as 80 percent, are Asian immigrants who are currently facing waiting times as high as 90 years from India or 44 years from China.

Critically, the bill also more than doubles the per-country limit on family-sponsored visas from 7 to 15 percent, bringing relief to the nearly 4 million people who are forced to languish in limbo due to a backlogged and broken family-sponsored system. This backlog keeps families separated; causes birthdays, weddings, and funerals to be missed; and hampers the ability of immigrants to build their lives here in the United States while their families are waiting overseas.

Additionally, while not all communities are facing the same impact as ours, I want to reassure everyone that this bill does not adversely affect immigrants from other countries and those who do not benefit directly from these provisions.

Finally, I am proud that this bill does not include the racist anti-Chinese language that was added at the request of former President Trump to the previous iteration of this bill. Instead, the manager's amendment before us today simply replicates what is in current law for all green card applicants.

While I will continue to push forward for more comprehensive action that addresses many other parts of our immigration system for all immigrant communities, we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We must pass this bill today in order to help hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are stuck in our employment visa backlogs.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in the hearing on this bill in the markup in April before the Committee on the Judiciary, I raised an amendment or proposed an amendment that we protect the United States, if this bill were to pass, by providing that the Chinese Communist Party not be allowed to abuse it.

I submitted for the record evidence that Chinese technicians under H–1B visas had been part of the censorship routine at Facebook, that H–1B visa holders were involved in the Confucius Institutes in colleges and universities across the country.

We ought to, at a minimum, provide that the Chinese Communist Party does not use our immigration tools as a means to impair American national security and favor inculcation of the Chinese Communist Party's influence in the United States.

In response to the amendment, the bill's sponsor argued that the Immigration and Naturalization Act already provided for defense against this threat. In fact, she gave a particular section of the code, section 212(a)(3)(D), which already fully took care of this problem. Except in further debate on the amendment, it became apparent after a while that, no, section

212(a)(3)(D) only addressed risks involving aliens, not immigrants. That was finally conceded, but the problem was not addressed in the markup.

Now, as the bill comes to the floor today, it comes with a manager's amendment, not vetted in the Committee on the Judiciary as it should have been that day, and it doesn't do the job. It is loaded with exceptions that raise subjective questions that may be circumvented by agents of the Chinese Communist Party to come into the United States exploiting this greater latitude for these visas.

I believe the bill sponsor spoke to it in her opening comments, that there is an exception. Yeah, okay, the Chinese Communist Party can't take advantage of this. But if somebody is an involuntary member in the Chinese Communist Party or they accept membership in the Chinese Communist Party for the purpose of obtaining employment, well, they are not going to be excluded.

Well, who won't say that is what happened? And who is to decide now who was an involuntary member or one who was eager to participate? There are exceptions for close family members and exceptions for past membership.

We will offer a motion to recommit that will eliminate those exceptions. The motion to recommit would prevent the Department of Homeland Security from issuing an H–1B visa to anyone who is or was a member of a communist party or totalitarian party. It is just that simple.

Why, if this is harmless and helpful, is the Democratic Party so reluctant to provide for the most elemental of protections for the American people, that it not be exploited by the Chinese Communist Party, the most notorious adversary of the United States in the world, and to be done simply and completely so that, above all, we protect America in the course of doing this?

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on the Judiciary to consider my amendment to H.R. 3648 to provide real safeguards against Chinese Communist Party influence and espionage.

Mr. 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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do want to address the issue of membership in the Communist Party. It has long been part of the Immigration and Nationality Act that if you were a member, you are not admissible. I will read the section. ''Any immigrant who is or has been a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), domestic or foreign, is inadmissible.''

Now, there are some exceptions, for example, if your membership was not willing. We do know that in some cases, and not just in China, Russia signed up, essentially, Boy Scouts as members of the Communist Party against their will, and they were 12 years old. So the consular officer can find exceptions based on that, and that is sensible.

Now, the one point that the gentleman did make in committee had to do with applying this Communist Party inadmissibility provision explicitly to H–1B applicants, and we did take him up on that suggestion. In fact, that is a reasonable thing to do. The gentleman made that point because H–1B visa applicants have dual intent. So the application is eminently reasonable when it comes to those dual-intent immigrants.

Although we did not draft the amendment at the markup, we did contact the gentleman's legislative director and went back and forth with the lawyers on the staff, so there was full knowledge of this provision, and I thank the gentleman for raising the issue.

There have been complaints that we haven't had hearings. We have had a lot of hearings on this issue. In fact, I can recall so well, physicians—a quarter of the physicians in the United States are foreign born. Most of those medical doctors were born in India, and they are providing medical services to underserved communities throughout the United States. I have met many of them. We have had testimony from them at our hearing in the Committee on the Judiciary.

To tell the people who are getting their medical care from these physicians that it doesn't matter, these physicians have to go to Canada and leave them without a doctor in their small town, that is not reasonable. Failure to act will result in that type of situation. In fact, it is already resulting in that type of situation.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

□ 1300

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, every one of us here have significant groups of constituents and people across this country from the communities in question, from the Chinese-American communities, from the Indian-American communities, who have interest in wanting to make sure their communities can be represented and might well support some of this. But of course they do. Of course they do.

What are we going to do here but pick winners and losers? That is what this Congress does every single day, pick winners and losers.

Who are the losers on this? It is not Big Tech, it is not all the big corporations that are all happy to collude with the people's House in order to get their labor supply, what they need.

But who are going to be the losers? A lot of the hospitals. Why did the hospital association oppose this?

Could it be that there are Filipino nurses and others who are going to be left behind or are going to have to go to the back of the line? The Filipino nurses that were crowding the room in which I was being treated for cancer at M.D. Anderson, which is chock-full of Filipino nurses?

We are picking winners and losers here based on nationalities and specific countries.

The gentlewoman from California just tried to mount a defense that we are not going to open the door to Chinese Communists coming to the United States but conveniently leaves out of the code all of the exceptions: exception for involuntary membership, exception for past membership, exception for close family members. I mean, any idiot could drive a truck through those holes.

This is not a hard thing to understand what is happening. At the eleventh hour, at the end of the 117th Congress, while Democrats are colluding with a bunch of weak-kneed Republicans in the Senate to pass a bunch of money that we don't have, to borrow more money that we don't have, to jam through a massive omnibus spending bill at the expense of the American people, this body is about to jam through a garbage immigration bill that will undermine people around the world seeking to come here who are going to be put to the back of the line while colluding with Big Tech and big corporate interests to do it. That is what is happening right now on the floor of the House.

We never actually have full-throated debates about this stuff, contrary to what the gentlewoman said. She just dismissed it: Oh, we had a couple hearings.

One witness mentioned something in a hearing and that constitutes a hearing?

We are not having an actual debate here on the floor. We are having 30 minutes of each side getting up and saying their talking points. Then we will have a vote, and then we will move on.

We are not going to be able to offer amendments on the floor because nobody in this body, none of the leadership on that side of the aisle or, frankly, often this side of the aisle, gives a damn about my right to be able to offer an amendment on this floor of this House as my constituents gave me the power to do.

We are here trying to defend the interests of having an immigration policy that is not based on the interests of one industry at the expense of countless other industries and at the expense of an immigration system that actually works while our border is wide open, being exploited by cartels and China to kill 72,000 Americans last year, and my Democratic colleagues don't give a rip about a wide-open border exploiting the American people and migrants getting abused in the process.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a note on the issue of nursing, which is very important. As you know, we have had a very tough time with nurses in America. They have been through COVID; the trauma has been enormous, and we have a need for more nurses while nurses are leaving the profession for understandable reasons.

Part of the answer is nurses who want to come to the United States and practice nursing. That is not the whole answer, but it is part of the answer, and so at the request and suggestion of Senators who we have been talking about, there is a carve-out of 4,400 visas for nurses and physical therapists during the transition period. We think once the transition is over, we will be adequately accommodated, but during the transition, that is included.

I would note that the Society of Hospital Medicine does support this bill.

We had three hearings in the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee on this topic, and I think we had an understanding on the subcommittee kind of on what all the issues were.

This is our best effort at dealing with those issues. It has received broad support in the past, bipartisan support in the past, and I hope it would do so again.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. I think it is important to note why we have those per-country caps. Ours is a Nation of immigrants. Except for those descended from Native Americans, every one of us is an immigrant or the descendant of an immigrant.

The American people are drawn from every country on this Earth; and from these disparate and diverse populations, we have created one great Nation, the American Nation. Here there is only one race, the American race.

This remarkable achievement is made possible by a single word—assimilation. Our immigration laws were written specifically to accommodate that process. They were written to assure that as immigrants come to our country they bring with them a sincere desire to become Americans, to raise their children as Americans, to acquire a common language, a common culture, and a common appreciation of American principles. That is the only possible way to blend so many discordant, disparate, and diverse populations into a common people devoted to the same principles that have produced the happiest, most just, most prosperous, most free, most advanced, and most envied civilization in the history of mankind.

But assimilation is hard. As Winston Churchill said from that very rostrum: ''We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies because we are made of sugar candy.''

Becoming an American requires learning a new language, accepting and adopting new customs, adapting to a new culture, and accepting new beliefs. Assimilation breaks down if the concentration of immigrants from any single country reaches a level where assimilation is no longer necessary for that population. Instead of e pluribus unum, from many nations one great nation, from many people one great people, we instead see e unum pluribus: from one nation, many isolated, insular, and segregated communities that become foreign enclaves rather than an integral part of our national identity.

We have all heard the heartbreaking tales of American workers not only being displaced by foreign workers but being forced to train their replacements as a condition of severance pay. This bill assures a never-ending supply of foreign labor for American corporations.

Under this bill, any alien on an employment-based green card waiting list for more than 2 years could apply for adjustment of that status. Once an alien has filed an adjustment of status application, he or she is eligible for a work permit. However, unlike an employment-based green card, which generally requires a showing that the wages and conditions of Americans are not adversely affected, this work permit is considered an open-market employment authorization document, meaning the alien can take any job at any wage, and there are no protections for American workers.

So this bill essentially converts temporary visa holders to permanent status at the expense of American tech workers. This rewards the very same companies who for years have fired their American workers only to replace them with cheaper foreign labor.

American workers, particularly Black and Hispanic Americans, are going to be particularly hard hit. Pew Research estimates that each group only accounts for about 9 percent of the STEM workforce, and this measure assures that competition for those positions will become much greater and the wages much lower.

The per-country caps exist to assure that the population of no single nation can come to dominate the overall immigrant population coming to these shores. Thus, under current law immigrants from one nation cannot claim more than 7 percent of the visas, but under this bill, the employment-based limit is eliminated.

If this is allowed to happen, assimilation breaks down and the entire foundation of a nation of immigrants is shattered. As I said earlier, the practical effect of this bill is that the population of only two countries, China and India, will almost exclusively dominate the receipt of employment-based green cards for the foreseeable future at the expense of the people of virtually every other country in the world. Instead of an equitable distribution of green cards across all countries, they will in effect be limited to two.

In one employment-based green card category, EB–5, all the green cards will go to Chinese nationals for several years. In another category, EB–4, religious workers will be precluded from getting green cards. Instead, these will go to the alien juveniles from Northern Triangle countries who crossed our border illegally. This imbalance would undermine the fundamental mechanism of assimilation, and I fear that is the point.

Assimilation has become a dirty word to the left. They seek not unity, not one united people but, rather, a people divided into warring, racial, and ethnic factions, divided by language, culture, ethnicity, and ultimately grievances. No nation can survive very long tearing itself apart this way.

The collapse of our southern border and refusal of the Democrats to defend the sovereignty of our Nation from the unprecedented illegal mass migration that they have unleashed will spell the end of this Nation if it is allowed to continue much longer. This bill is a small part of that policy, and it is destructive in its effect if not its intent.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just a couple of notes. First, this bill does not add any additional visas to the visa system. There were efforts to do that, plans to recapture visas. That was never agreed to by the Senate, and so this is an allocation of existing visas. It doesn't add a single visa.

As I said before, 95 percent of the individuals who would be impacted are already here legally in the United States. They are legally working in the United States. So it is no new people coming in, either. It is people who are already here, no additional visas.

We asked the Congressional Research Service to do an analysis because people wanted to know—and they were right to want to know—is there any adverse impact on Africa or the Caribbean, and CRS told us there was no impact on Africa or the Caribbean.

Referring to the EB–5 category, I think those who are concerned don't realize that we actually changed the EB–5 Act through the Integrity Act earlier this year, and due to those changes, 32 percent of the green cards available every year for investments go to a new category. It is completely current. There is no backlog.

I just want to talk a little bit about what we are doing here. My colleague from California said we are talking about picking winners and losers.

In 1965, the Congress did pick winners and losers when they designed this structure. The winners were Western Europe, and the losers were everyone else. Now, that system, although not, I am sure, intended to be called racist, did advantage people from Western Europe to the disadvantage of the rest of the world, and we are still working on that system today.

I think it is time to change that system. It is time to move to merit, not to

race, not to the country you were born in. I am not accusing any critics of this bill, I am not talking about their motivation, but the fact is, if we don't change this system, we are supporting something that we did in 1965 that really has an effect of having race play a role in who gets a visa instead of merit on the employment side. I don't think that serves our country well.

Put aside for a minute our ideals just to discuss the economic impact. We do well economically when the very most able people who want to come here and be Americans, to start companies, to invent things are able to do so. The current system throws a wrench into that, and it is not good for the United States of America.

I hope, once again, that we can vote to approve this bill. It doesn't do everything I would like to do in reforming immigration law. As the gentleman knows, I have worked for many decades to do a variety of improvements, but this fixes something.

Let's not say we can't do anything unless we do everything. That is a path toward mediocrity.

Let's do what we can do to make this system work better, to move it away from its racist origins and have a system based on merit.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

The Chair understands that the amendment printed in part B of House Report 117–590 will not be offered.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. 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:

Mr. Bishop moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3648 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina is as follows:

In paragraph (14) of section 212(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)), as proposed to be amended by section 4(g) of the bill, strike subparagraphs (B) through (D), and redesignate provisions accordingly.

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.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1315

QUANTUM COMPUTING CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS 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. 7535) to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) 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. 519]

YEAS—420

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
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
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
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Conway
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
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
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
McGovern
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
Peltola
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sempolinski
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
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
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Brooks
Gohmert
Massie

NOT VOTING—7

Cheney
Hinson
Kinzinger
McHenry
McKinley
Stefanik
Waters

□ 1355

Mr. WITTMAN changed his 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.

Stated for:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I was chairing the crypto hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 519.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)
Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
Burgess (Weber (TX))
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Cherfilus-McCormick (Brown (OH))
Cicilline (Sewell)
Clyburn (Butterfield)
DeFazio (Pallone)
Dingell (Pappas)
Doyle, Michael F. (Evans)
Dunn (Salazar)
Escobar (Garcia (TX))
Espaillat (Correa)
Gonzales, Tony (Fleischmann)
Gosar (Weber (TX))
Grijalva (Correa)
Horsford (Kelly (IL))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi (Pappas)
Larson (CT) (Pappas)
Maloney, Sean P. (Beyer)
Meng (Khanna)
Moolenaar (Bergman)
Newman (Correa)
Norcross (Pallone)
O'Halleran (Pappas)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Porter (Beyer)
Posey (Cammack)
Pressley (Neguse)
Rice (SC) (Weber (TX))
Rush (Beyer)
Sánchez (Correa)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Stevens (Craig)
Strickland (Correa)
Tiffany (Fitzgerald)
Welch (Pallone)

ELLA TERRY AND MISS PAT RETIREMENT TRIBUTE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and great pride that I rise to celebrate two longtime members of our congressional community—indeed our family—as they prepare for retirement: Ella Terry and Patricia Smith, better known as Miss Pat.

□ 1400

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is my privilege to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation for their decades of service. With extraordinary devotion and a deep-seated love for this institution, each has served the Congress longer than most Members. That is reason to applaud.

Ahead of their well-earned retirements, let us wish them both well. It is sad to see them go, but we are grateful for their many, many years of service they have given us.

On our side of the aisle, we all know that Ella Terry has worked in the House Democratic cloakroom since the dawn of the millennium in January of 2000, after working for more than a decade in the Capitol Coffee Shop. She knows our preferences.

Altogether, she has dutifully served on Capitol Hill for 34 years. She has a warm, caring, steadfast presence, a sunny smile, no matter how arduous things may be going on the floor or the cloakroom.

With Ella, no one is a stranger, everyone is a friend. She is a bedrock member of our family here in the House.

When Congresswoman Gabby Giffords first returned to the floor after the heinous attack on her life, Ella embraced Gabby and told her through tears: I am so proud of you. Gabby was so proud of you, too.

The late Congressman Elijah Cummings once told his colleagues: Ms. Ella is my personal adviser. And since he was personal adviser to the rest of us, we are all in your debt for your advice to him.

Thank you to Ella's daughter, Tawanna, who is here, and granddaughter, Christina, thank you for being with us; and to your entire family for sharing her with us for so many years.

Across the aisle, Miss Pat has brought that same unwavering dedication to her service in the House Republican cloakroom.

For nearly five decades, Miss Pat has been a cherished colleague in the Capitol; first in the House dining room and in the Longworth House Office Building, and then for 36 years just off the floor of the House.

A remarkable friend to all those privileged enough to work alongside her, she has been a daily blessing to this Chamber.

The House is also grateful to Miss Pat's loving family, especially her two daughters, Nikoshia and Bianca, and her beloved granddaughter, Lauren.

The House of Representatives is a brighter, more joyful place in which we serve, thanks to Ella and Miss Pat. These patriots reflect the highest ideals of public service; a joyful commitment to others, a profound love for our country, and a lifelong reverence for the Congress.

Their service, their kindness, and their friendship will be long-remembered by the countless Members and staff they have served over the years.

Let us join in thanking Ella and thanking Miss Pat, and best wishes for new adventures that lie ahead for you. Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for yielding. I do want to congratulate and thank Ella, who Speaker PELOSI just mentioned, for 34 years of service to Congress, including 22 in the Democratic cloakroom.

It didn't matter what we were saying or what we were fighting about here, but when people walked back in the cloakroom, people were more united for all your help. So thank you for all that work.

I hope you have a very happy and healthy retirement spent with your family and granddaughter, Christina. It is definitely well-earned, and the Nation is better for your service. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Smith—or as everyone around here knows, "Miss Pat," who is retiring from the House this Friday after 46 years of service. I spent a little time with her daughters today, and her one daughter told me she was only 3 years old when you first came here to work. I could see the love in your daughters' eyes and how much they honor you and respect you.

Miss Pat is one of the kindest, most humble, most decent public servants I have ever met. We are excited about celebrating her today. For all of you, you have got to know, this isn't the only award that she won today. I will talk a little bit about that in a minute.

For 36 years, Miss Pat has run Cafe Helen, the sandwich and snack bar in the Republican cloakroom. If anyone questions her ability on her food, you can look at all of our waistlines to know how good she is.

The cloakrooms are a space for Members to relax, to speak, and thanks to Miss Pat, enjoy a quick snack, a hot dog, or a sandwich.

Miss Pat began working in the House dining room in the Longworth Building. She soon joined the legendary Ms. Helen in the Republican cloakroom. When Ms. Helen retired, Cafe Helen became Miss Pat's domain.

Whenever the House is in session, Miss Pat is here in the cloakroom. Whether we are voting at 2 a.m., 2 p.m., or early in the morning—the one thing you have got to know about Miss Pat, she does not like to stay up late. She would tell us that a time or two. We should take her advice, too.

She would stay up until 2 a.m., go to the grocery store the next morning and be right back here for breakfast. As all of you know, it is tough to handle a lot of us, especially when we are hangry at times, too.

You have been the motherly advice, the humble servant, the individual who provided us the food, but also provided us the wisdom when we needed it at times as well. We thank you for that.

To every Member she encounters, Miss Pat is more than part of this institution. She is part of the family, just as we are part of her family, as well. Many times, Members will bring their spouses or special visitors or constituents, and they come into the cloakroom. Many of us that are Members think, oh, they are bringing them because they want to meet us and take a picture with us. They would walk right up to me and right by me because what they really wanted to do was introduce Miss Pat to their family because that is what you have meant to us and that is what you will always mean to us.

You have always been that humble one in a town of spotlight seekers. Miss Pat is a lighthouse shining a path for us with her motherly advice and words of wisdom. You always had humility, but you always had faith, and you shared it with us.

I guess when we sit through this—when I talked about this isn't her only award, earlier this morning we presented her with one of the highest

awards that Congress can give to a staff, the McCormick Award for Excellence, named after the former Speaker.

When you walk the halls over here you will see a big plaque with the names of each individual who has won it through the years. It was named after the Speaker, on who we can honor as a staffer who cared about the institution—not about a party, but an institution. For 46 years you have lived up to that.

Now, it is my honor to present you with this flag that has been flown over the Capitol in your name. And for all the Members, we will put it back in the cloakroom, and why don't you come by and sign it.

On behalf of the Republican Conference, this Chamber and the Nation, I want to thank Miss Pat for her unwavering commitment to this institution.

Thank you for your service. But remember, as a family we are always here for you, and we hope you will continue to always be there for us. Thank you and God bless.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time as we end our tribute to two great Americans, members of our families, Miss Pat and Ella Terry. Thank you all so much.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 117TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1494, this time has been designated for the taking of the official photo of the House of Representatives in session.

The House will be in a brief recess while the Chamber is being prepared for the photo. As soon as the photographer indicates that these preparations are complete, the Chair will call the House to order to resume its actual session for the taking of the photograph. At that point the Members will take their cues from the photographer. Shortly after the photographer is finished, the House will proceed with business.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess while the Chamber is being prepared.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1416

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

(Thereupon, the Members sat for the official photograph of the House of Representatives for the 117th Congress.)

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1432

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES) at 2 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

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 a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

EXPRESSING THE COMMITMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BUILDING ON THE TWENTY YEARS OF SUCCESS OF THE GEORGE McGOVERN-ROBERT DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1156) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the twenty years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1156

Whereas the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (referred to in this preamble as the ''McGovern-Dole Program'') has improved the food security, nutrition, literacy, and primary education of school-age children, particularly young girls, and their families in over 48 countries in just two decades;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program was established by section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) to procure agricultural commodities and provide financial and technical assistance to carry out preschool and school food for education programs in foreign countries and maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs for pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children who are 5 years of age or younger;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program has provided over 5.5 billion school meals benefitting over 31 million school-age children and their communities;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program has been successfully administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program is a key program of the Department of Agriculture aligned with the governmentwide Global Food Security Strategy;

Whereas in fiscal year 2021 alone, McGovern-Dole Program projects have directly benefitted more than 4.5 million children and community members through the distribution of United States-produced commodities that provide daily nutritious and high-quality meals and mitigate food insecurity;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program partners with American farmers, who provide 46,770 metric tons (''MT'') of food commodities in support of fiscal year 2021 McGovern-Dole Program grants in Central America, Africa, and Asia;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program complements United States agricultural commodities with food grown and purchased locally to support farmers and markets within their own communities and to build the capacity of local governments and communities to continue and sustain the benefits of the McGovern-Dole Program into the future;

Whereas during the COVID–19 pandemic when school closures were commonplace, the McGovern-Dole Program effectively shifted from providing meals in schools to providing take-home rations and distributed approximately 23,000 MT of commodities donated by the United States and 550 MT of locally procured commodities to more than 1,700,000 McGovern-Dole Program participants and their families across 26 active projects, ensuring that children continued to receive daily meals and learn while at home;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program recognizes the value of educating young girls and contributes to overcoming the barriers they encounter in accessing a high-quality education by promoting equality and the reduction of gender-based violence;

Whereas school meals provide an incentive for families to send girls to school and help girls to stay in school, effectively preventing early marriage and delaying first pregnancy, which can trap young women in poverty and limit their future potential;

Whereas the McGovern-Dole Program strengthens local community health and education through the formation of parent-teacher associations, teacher training, and improving the infrastructure of schools, classrooms, commodity storerooms, latrines, and water sources; and

Whereas the United States, as a member of the Global School Meals Coalition, is committed to and recognizes that investments in McGovern-Dole Program, are central to bolstering food security, building resilience to future shocks, and supporting the nutritional, health, and educational needs of children and adolescents worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States is committed to—

(1) building upon the twenty years of successful work of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (in this resolution referred to as the ''McGovern-Dole Program'') and its positive role in breaking cycles of hunger and poverty, providing opportunity through education and literacy, and improving overall nutrition and health;

(2) complementing humanitarian assistance efforts and development programs through the continued implementation of the McGovern-Dole Program that addresses global food insecurity and creates conditions for peace and stability; and

(3) supporting United States farmers, millers, shippers, and commodity groups that provide agricultural commodities for use in the McGovern-Dole Program to help combat global malnutrition and food insecurity and advance global education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1156. Today, we are considering this legislation, calling on Congress to build on the 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

McGovern-Dole is one of America's signature child nutrition and food security programs. It is named after Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, both of whom worked tirelessly and in a bipartisan way to end hunger among children in the United States and around the world.

They continued their work together after leaving the Senate, living examples of what can be accomplished when Members of Congress put partisanship aside and make the welfare of children and families their number one priority.

In that bipartisan tradition, I am proud to stand here today with my Republican colleague and co-lead on this resolution, Congressman TRACEY MANN. I am grateful to each of the 86 bipartisan cosponsors of this resolution.

I also want to honor and recognize our former colleague, the incredible Jo Ann Emerson, who was my co-lead in 2001 when the McGovern-Dole legislation was first introduced and later established by Congress in the 2002 farm bill.

Over the past 20 years, McGovern-Dole has provided lifesaving meals in a school setting to over 31 million of the world's most vulnerable children, providing U.S. and international organizations with American commodities, grants, and technical assistance to strengthen child nutrition and education.

Working through partners like the World Food Programme, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Save the Children, Counterpart International, and many more, McGovern-Dole has reduced hunger and increased school enrollments, attendance, literacy, and the support of families and communities for education, especially for girls.

America's farmers are vital to the success of the McGovern-Dole Program. Over the past 20 years, more than 1.3 million metric tons of U.S. commodities have been used to create nutritious, culturally appropriate school meals in over 48 countries.

But just as important as the statistics, perhaps even more important, are the stories. I remember in Colombia, I visited a program in Soacha, on the outskirts of Bogota. On barren hillsides, surrounded by shanties housing thousands of internally displaced families, children were receiving school breakfast and lunch.

Mothers and grandmothers were training as cooks, preparing the meals. Clearly visible in the cafeteria were USDA and USAID bags of grains, beans, and lentils.

One mother came up to me and said: ''Please thank the American people when you go back home. I couldn't feed my children. I couldn't send them to school. I was afraid my son was going to join the paramilitaries or the guerillas just to get food. Now, my son is getting fed, and he is staying in school. Please tell the American people thank you.''

In Nairobi, Kenya, in the largest slum in the world, I went to a McGovern-Dole breakfast and lunch program. The school principal showed me how they store and prepare the U.S. commodities that feed her students and how all the students know that this is a program from the American people. I ate porridge made from American yellow peas. The kids dug into the food like it was manna from heaven.

One little boy would take a bite and then scoop a small amount out of his bowl and put it in his pockets. He was taking food home to his younger siblings who don't get anything to eat.

Madam Speaker, McGovern-Dole represents the very best of this country. It is something the American people should be proud of, a powerful message to the world about who we are and what we stand for, not only freedom of speech, freedom of religion, or freedom of the press, but also freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom from hunger.

There are many ways to advance our national security and economic interests abroad. This program ought to be at the top of the list. As we confront the global challenges of war, pandemic, and climate change, food security and nutrition programs must remain at the forefront of international development and humanitarian work.

I urge my colleagues to visit McGovern-Dole programs when they travel abroad. I urge them to support funding that expands and builds upon these 20 years of success.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1156, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1156.

Twenty years ago, Kansas legend and hero of mine Senator Bob Dole and Senator George McGovern reached across the aisle to gather bipartisan support for their noble idea to have the U.S. Department of Agriculture purchase surplus American commodities from producers and donate those products to countries across the globe struggling with food security.

Since then, the McGovern-Dole Program has provided 5.5 billion school meals to 31 million school-age children in 48 countries, improving the food security, nutrition, literacy, and primary education of these children and their families.

Codified as part of 2002 farm bill, the program is an ongoing, successful example of public-private partnerships. The U.S. Department of Agriculture works alongside nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, and organizations like the World Food Programme, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, and many more to provide school meals, teacher training, and related support to bolster school enrollment and academic performance, all to keep kids fed and learning.

Just in the past 2 months, I have heard nothing but excitement about this program from both wheat farmers at home and sorghum producers who visited with me in my office here in Washington, D.C. There is a reason all commodity groups and humanitarian aid organizations support moving this legislation forward.

Whether it is wheat and sorghum from Kansas, red beans from Louisiana, or peanut butter formula made from Georgia peanuts, American agricultural producers are vital to the success of the McGovern-Dole Program. Since the program's inception, they have proudly donated more than 1.3 metric tons of commodities to create nutritious school meals.

Representative MCGOVERN and I, along with 86 cosponsors, have brought this resolution forward to the House to express this body's commitment to build on the success of the McGovern-Dole Program and to support the American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers who provide the commodities required for it to function.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this resolution and to support this program's success for 20 more years and beyond, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak on this bill.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1156. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, whose bipartisan efforts more than 20 years ago led to the creation of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Since then, this program has enjoyed bipartisan support. The United States continues to produce the highest quality, safest, most abundant, and most economical food and fiber anywhere in the world.

Drawing on this abundance, we are able to provide school meals, teacher training, and nutrition programs for pregnant and nursing women. Whether at home or abroad, we know that by reducing hunger and improving nutrition, we help support better educational outcomes.

This program is a win-win for America, supporting America's farmers and producers by providing donated U.S. agricultural commodities and using them to help reduce child hunger, improve education, and support greater security in the world. I believe this program has been and will continue to be an essential tool for diplomacy.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, it has been my honor to fund this program each year. It is true to the spirit of service and compassion that Ambassador and former Senator George McGovern and former Senator Bob Dole embodied. This program helps bring the bounty of America's farmers, ranchers, millers, producers, shippers, and commodity groups to assist vulnerable children and mothers around the world.

So, in celebrating the first 20 years of its success, I look forward to the program's enduring impact in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I urge its passage.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today and join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 1156, expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

During the past two decades, McGovern-Dole has provided more than 5.5 billion school meals, benefiting more than 31 million school-age children and their communities.

I have seen this program in action, up close and firsthand, and it is a special sight to see.

Having traveled with then-chairman of the Committee on Agriculture Mike Conaway several years ago to some Third World countries where food is scarce and extreme poverty, like most have never seen, is the norm, it is easy to understand how imperative this program is for so many children who would likely never have a nutritious meal.

Just as important and because of how the program was crafted, the McGovern-Dole Program provides an opportunity to learn, laying the foundation for an improved life through knowledge and then achievement. For many of these children who come from very poor means, this meal provided at school is, quite frankly, the only good meal of the day.

It is also important to recognize the support of the American agricultural producers who make this program possible. America's farm families have produced more than 1.3 million metric tons of agricultural commodities for donation, doing their part in reducing hunger and improving primary education in countries around the globe.

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Congress must continue to lead by example in tackling hunger and poverty around the world for years to come. These efforts not only help feed those who cannot help themselves, but it builds good will and provides so many hope and a future. Many laws have been passed by this Chamber, but none have been more impactful to the lives of so many children who desperately need the help around the world.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution expressing Congress' commitment to carrying on the success of this program along with the great legacies of Ambassador McGovern and my great friend, Senator Bob Dole. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution. It expresses the commitment of this Chamber to build on the 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Its mission is simple: Reduce hunger and improve literacy and poverty. By providing countless school meals, the program helps improve child nutrition, maternal health, and access to quality education, particularly for girls. I was proud that the Appropriations Committee was able to include $265 million for this critical program this summer, the most in the program's history.

During its 20-year history, it has made a positive difference in the lives of more than 31 million children and families in 48 countries around the world.

During the pandemic, when school closures were commonplace, the McGovern-Dole Program quickly shifted from providing meals in schools to providing take-home options that distributed about 23,000 metric tons of commodities donated by the United States and 550 metric tons of locally procured commodities to more than 1.7 million children and families across 26 projects. These efforts ensured that children would continue receiving daily meals and, at its crux, they would not go hungry while they were learning at home.

Let us remain committed to not only carrying on the legacy of these giants—Ambassador McGovern and Senator Dole—but continue to follow the example that they set, working to tackle hunger and poverty around the world.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), my distinguished colleague.

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1156, building on 20 years of success of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

For two decades, the McGovern-Dole nutrition program has led the way in alleviating hunger and improving food security around the world. I deeply believe in the core values of this nutrition program because, as a teacher, I saw with my own eyes that hungry kids don't learn.

It is one of the greatest investments Congress can make. By providing at least one nutritious meal per day to vulnerable children in schools across the world, we are also investing in their development and their education. Beyond these children and their families, we also continue to support U.S. producers.

During my time as the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, I traveled abroad to many countries as an ambassador for education. While abroad, I learned the degree to which other countries look to us to lead the way for food security and childhood nutrition. I was greeted by numerous children on the African continent who thanked me as the American teacher for all of the American programs.

Our international food aid programs are not just an exercise of good will. They are absolutely critical to communities protecting themselves from the devastation of food insecurity. It is our moral obligation to ensure that we contribute to the food security of the global community—particularly children, pregnant women, and new mothers—whenever possible.

I have been a proud supporter of McGovern-Dole funding during my time in Congress, and I will continue to do so. I urge my colleagues to vote for this in support of the House Resolution.

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

It has been a privilege to advocate for this resolution today. The McGovern-Dole program absolutely deserves the recognition of Congress for its wide support and bipartisan nature.

It is not often that you can go to a grain elevator in Kansas to speak with commodity groups and visit with nuns from Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C. and hear them both advocating for the exact same program. More than 200 commodity groups, trade associations, humanitarian groups, and businesses support this program for its merits and support today's resolution.

This resolution honors the positive impact that we can have when we reach across the aisle and work together. Senators Bob Dole and George

McGovern had a brilliant vision, and they executed on it. It has been a joy to work with Representative MCGOVERN and more than 86 cosponsors on today's resolution.

Today, we honor the 20th anniversary of the McGovern-Dole program because it is a shining example of strategic and effective foreign diplomacy that we can all support. Today, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this simple bipartisan resolution.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I have one additional speaker, but I don't see her. I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

First of all, let me thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for his support of this resolution and for his advocacy on behalf of the McGovern-Dole program. As we listened to the back-and-forth here today, it is really quite inspiring to see the breadth of the bipartisanship here, that we are all dedicated to trying to deal with this horrific problem of childhood hunger around the world.

Hunger is a political condition. We have the resources, the funds, and the infrastructure. We have everything we need to eradicate hunger in this country and across the planet. What we have lacked is the political will.

The McGovern-Dole program was inspired by George McGovern and Bob Dole, a liberal Democrat from South Dakota and a conservative Republican from Kansas. Their efforts together have made a dent in childhood hunger. It has made a huge difference. It has allowed more young kids, especially girls, to go to school, to become literate, to be able to get an education, to be able to succeed in their countries.

It is so incredible when you travel and you see a McGovern-Dole project anywhere in the world, how grateful people are to the people of the United States for supporting this.

Parents are the same everywhere. We all want to make sure that our kids are safe, that they are fed, that they have a good future. What this program does is, it helps parents ensure that their kids' future is bright.

I believe that when we talk about national security, it has to be more than just about the number of bombs we have. It has to be about how we alleviate these global challenges like hunger, and in this case, childhood hunger. That is the way we build a more secure and a more stable world.

I am proud of all the organizations that have participated in the McGovern-Dole program. I am proud of all those who have helped administer the McGovern-Dole program, and I am proud to serve with colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, who support this important initiative.

I will close simply by saying, this is not only a good program, it is a great program. At a time when people wonder where the bipartisanship is in Washington, here is an example where we can bring people together.

I know I mentioned her briefly in the beginning, but I do want to acknowledge our former colleague, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson from Missouri. She was a strong partner in this effort early on, in getting the legislation that established McGovern-Dole up and running, and I can't ever thank her enough.

To all my colleagues, please support H. Res. 1156, and please let us all commit to doing more to eradicate hunger and food insecurity here in the United States and around the world in the year to come.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1156, expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the twenty years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support education, child development and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe.

In 2017, there were 821 million people worldwide experiencing hunger. That is one in every nine people.

66 million children are experiencing hunger worldwide every day. One in six children are food insecure.

According to UNICEF, approximately 3.1 million children globally die from undernutrition every year. It is estimated that every 10 seconds a child around the globe dies from hunger.

Even in the United States, hunger and food insecurity are major problems. In my home of Houston, almost 725,000 people experience food insecurity, which amounts to about 23% of Houston's households.

More than 500,000 Houstonians live in food deserts. These food deserts are found mostly in areas with limited transportation, lack of aid, and high unemployment rates.

Hunger is also tragic because it reflects economic and social inequity. In Houston, for example, food deserts are more likely to occur in primarily Black communities.

Lack of food doesn't just impact a child's hunger levels. Food insecurity stunts a child's growth and development and often children fall behind in school because they are unable to focus while experiencing hunger.

Children who experience food insecurity grow into adults with health complications that emerged from the lack of food.

As former Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus I worked to improve the lives of children not only in the United States, but globally because the children are the future, and we must do everything possible to protect them.

Global food insecurity is of great importance to me because, not only am I a longtime Member of the House Hunger Caucus, I represent the same Congressional District that had been represented by iconic leaders who fought to end hunger in the U.S. and globally.

I am proud to continue the historic legacy of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was a champion for human dignity and fought for the rights of all people regardless of race, gender, heritage, or economic status, and Congressman Mickey Leland, who worked tirelessly to raise awareness of, and fight for, policies to end food insecurity around the globe and who, tragically, died in a plane crash while working to end world hunger on a relief mission in Ethiopia.

Starvation is a terrible thing. It's something that nobody should have to go through. And yet, there are people in this world who are starving right now as a consequence of natural disasters, war, and even as a tool of warfare.

In Pakistan, food deprivation is compounded by the human toll from recent floods and other natural disasters. Using drought to strategically exacerbate starvation is unacceptable.

The people of Ethiopia's Tigre Province are being subjected to a truly vile and malicious use of food deprivation in this way. The region was already suffering from drought, and when compounded by forced starvation from denial of access to food as a weapon of war, the effect is heinous and the consequences are unforgiveable.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a global food insecurity tragedy on multiple levels. As Putin wages his war against the people of Ukraine, he uses food as a weapon by destroying the food production and transportation capacity of the country he invaded. At the same time, since Ukraine grows grains and crops that feed much of the world, Putin's devastation of Ukraine's food production infrastructure and takeovers of Ukrainian food exports cause food insecure populations of countless countries to suffer, especially in Africa.

The McGovern-Dole program also aims to defeat malnutrition. Children across the globe are affected by malnutrition and the McGovern Dole program is working to combat this debilitating condition.

The McGovern Dole Program has been successful at saving lives all over the world for 20 years.

This program boosts school enrollment, increases attendance, and improves reading outcomes and literacy results through providing school meals, teacher training, and government capacity-building.

The McGovern Dole Program has been able to improve health, nutrition, and dietary practices through supporting Maternal and Child Nutrition (MCN). The program encourages the inclusion of health and nutrition sensitive activities, such as micronutrient-fortified products, take-home rations, treatments for illnesses, and nutrition education.

H. Res. 1156 must be passed. With bipartisan Congressional support, the United States has been able to work with other countries on hunger, specifically childhood hunger, which is a devastating condition.

It is imperative that we continue to work together to reduce hunger worldwide.

We must end this unnecessary suffering before it claims even more lives.

This bill must be important to us all. Investing in children today will only benefit the world in the future.

We must continue this program to address global food insecurity and create conditions for peace and stability.

This effort will support U.S. farmers, millers, shippers, and commodity groups that provide agricultural commodities for the program to help combat malnutrition and food insecurity worldwide.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical bill that will build upon

the 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1156.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PAUL D. WELLSTONE BUILDING ACT OF 2022

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 5060) to redesignate the Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5060

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 ''Paul D. Wellstone Building Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Paul David Wellstone was born on July 21, 1944, in Washington, DC, and raised in Arlington, Virginia, as the second child of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants Leon and Minnie Wellstone;

(2) Wellstone graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—

(A) in 1965, with a bachelor's degree in political science; and

(B) in 1969, with a Ph.D. in political science;

(3) after earning his Ph.D., Wellstone moved to Minnesota to teach political science at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, during which he became an advocate for marginalized communities and fought for improved healthcare, education, housing, and labor and human rights;

(4) as an activist, Wellstone helped to bring attention to issues important to the people by protesting in favor of peace, civil rights, and social justice, including by standing by farmers and working families in their struggles;

(5) in 1990, Wellstone extended his community activism during his first run for the Senate;

(6) as an underdog, Wellstone was the only candidate to unseat an incumbent Senator in the 1990 election;

(7) the grassroots campaign that was run by Wellstone became well-known for the green bus that he used to travel across Minnesota;

(8) Senator Wellstone continued his commitment to activism throughout his time in the Senate, including by pushing for legislation that—

(A) expanded support for mental health care coverage;

(B) increased the Federal minimum wage; and

(C) offered greater funding and protections for workers, seniors, schools, and ''atomic'' veterans;

(9) in 1997, Senator Wellstone traveled across the country on ''The Children's Tour'' to hear from disadvantaged communities across the United States;

(10) on October 25, 2002, at the age of 57, Senator Wellstone was killed in a plane crash in Minnesota along with his wife, daughter, and several campaign staff; and

(11) the loss of Senator Wellstone was mourned across the United States, but his legacy of advocacy and candor will always be remembered.

SEC. 3. PAUL D. WELLSTONE FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 5060.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of S. 5060, a bill to designate the Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building''.

S. 5060 was introduced on October 25, 2022, 20 years to the day that Senator Wellstone; his wife, Sheila; his daughter, Marcia; his staff members, Todd Lapic, Mary McEvoy, and Will McLaughlin; and pilots, Richard Conry and Michael Guess, were killed in a plane crash near Eveleth, Minnesota.

Paul Wellstone was born in Washington, D.C., on July 21, 1944; attended Arlington, Virginia, public schools; received his BA from the University of North Carolina in 1965; earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1969; taught political science at Carleton College in Minnesota for 21 years; served as a director of the Minnesota Community Energy Program; was elected to represent Minnesota in the United States Senate in 1990, was reelected in 1996, and served from January 3, 1991, until his death in a plane crash on October 25, 2002.

Paul Wellstone was a champion college wrestler and a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, a college professor for 21 years, a prolific legislator who sponsored 608 bills during his time in the U.S. Senate, and a mentor to generations of future public servants and advocates.

Upon introduction of S. 5060, Senator KLOBUCHAR said, ''During his time as an educator, an activist, and a United States Senator, Paul Wellstone touched the lives of people throughout Minnesota and across the country. That is because he stood up for people, persistently fighting against injustices, small and large. From his passionate advocacy for better care and services for those suffering from mental illness to his leadership on civil rights and campaign finance reform, Paul showed how getting involved in public service can make a real difference in improving people's lives.''

Madam Speaker, I support S. 5060, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 5060, which designates the Federal building located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building.

Paul Wellstone served two full terms in the Senate before his life, as well as the lives of his wife, daughter, several campaign staff, and pilots were taken in a tragic plane crash in Minnesota.

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

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 5060, to rename the Federal building in my district as the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building''.

I am proud to honor and celebrate the legacy of the late Senator PAUL Wellstone as an activist, academic, author, and proud Senator from Minnesota.

Son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Senator Wellstone was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Northern Virginia. He received his bachelor, masters, and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and in 1969 went on to be hired as a professor in Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught until his election to the Senate in 1990.

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While in the U.S. Senate, Wellstone was a proud, progressive in support of environmental protection, public housing, free school meals, labor groups, and healthcare reform.

He served in the Senate from 1991 until 2002, when he was tragically killed in a plane crash with his wife and daughter on board.

Paul Wellstone is a personal hero of mine. He was an organizer to his core. He showed what it meant to fight unapologetically for working people. And he showed that it is possible to stay true to your progressive values and lead a life of public service.

He always said, ''We all do better when we all do better.'' I am honored to have the Federal building in my district, the same building where in May

1970, he was arrested for civil disobedience while protesting the Vietnam war named after the late Senator from Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and legacy by passing this bipartisan bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, this bill recognizes Senator Wellstone's service to our country and dedication to the people of Minnesota.

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

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, in closing, this bill honors the life of a dedicated public servant, a United States Senator, Paul Wellstone.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 5060.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES D. TODD UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4017) to designate the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the ''James D. Todd United States Courthouse'', and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4017

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

SECTION 1. JAMES D. TODD UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the ''James D. Todd United States Courthouse''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''James D. Todd United States Courthouse''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 4017.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I support the passage of S. 4017, a bill to name the United States Courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, the James D. Todd United States Courthouse.

Judge James Todd was born in Scotts Hill, Tennessee, in 1943. He received a bachelor of science from Lambuth College in 1965 and his juris doctorate from Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1972.

He was in private practice in Jackson, Tennessee, from 1972 to 1983, and served as a judge on Tennessee's Circuit Court from 1983 to 1985.

In 1985, Judge Todd was nominated and confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee where he served as chief judge from 2001 to 2007. Judge Todd assumed senior status in 2008.

Madam Speaker, I support S. 4017 to name a courthouse after the Honorable Judge Todd, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, S. 4017, which designates the United States Courthouse located in Jackson, Tennessee, as the James D. Todd United States Courthouse.

I thank my colleague Representative KUSTOFF for introducing the House version of this legislation, which has the support of the entire Tennessee delegation.

Judge Todd was first nominated to the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee in 1985 by President Reagan.

Judge Todd served in the District Court as chief judge from 2001 to 2007. After 36 years of public service for the judiciary, Judge Todd assumed inactive senior status in September 2021.

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

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), the sponsor of the House companion to this legislation.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Arkansas for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to name the courthouse in honor of a good friend and a good man, the James D. Todd United States Courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee.

As a native Tennessean, Judge Todd has dedicated his entire life to his community, to his State, and to this Nation.

A graduate of Lexington High School and Lambuth College, Judge Todd received his master's in combined sciences from the University of Mississippi in 1968.

He then went on to receive his law degree from the University of Memphis, the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1972.

From there, Judge Todd practiced law with the firm of Waldrop, Farmer, Todd and Breen for 9 years before being elected as a State circuit court judge where he served for 2 years.

Judge Todd was then nominated by President Ronald Reagan in June of 1985 to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and Judge Todd was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 10, 1985, with no objection.

For almost four decades, Judge Todd worked tirelessly for the people of Jackson and for West Tennessee and, really, for our entire State.

I will note as a point of personal privilege that Judge Todd administered my oath as the United States attorney for the Western District of Tennessee in 2006, a moment that I will never forget.

In addition to Judge Todd's time on the bench, he has been involved in the Tennessee Boys Club, was the Jackson Senior League baseball coach, served as the Lambuth College Alumni Association president, and was also chairman for the Goals of Jackson Committee.

Judge Todd has been a respected member of the judiciary in our community in West Tennessee. Judge Todd retired and took inactive status last year. I was proud to join our entire West Tennessee community congratulating him on his years of great work and dedicated service.

If I can for a moment, former Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris, who retired earlier this year from Jackson, Tennessee, who is a friend of Judge Todd, commented when Judge Todd stepped down. This is what Mayor Harris said: ''Respect and talent. There is law enforcement, judges, lawyers, the district attorney—you name it. They all have a healthy respect for Jim Todd. But he is the epitome of what a Federal judge ought to be. He makes decisions based on the law and the Constitution. That is all you can ask for.''

In my opinion, Mayor Harris, his comments are spot on; and for all these reasons, I am proud to have introduced this legislation that honors Judge Todd. I think Chief Judge Tom Anderson of the Western District of Tennessee said it best when he said, ''This is a historic and momentous event for West Tennessee to recognize one of our own and name this outstanding facility after Judge Todd.''

Lastly, if I could, I thank every member of the Tennessee delegation, Senators MARSHA BLACKBURN and BILL HAGERTY, and all of my Tennessee colleagues for supporting this legislation.

As such, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the legislation to honor the life and the legacy of Judge James D. Todd.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, in closing, this bill honors Judge James Todd for his many years of service to the United States Judiciary and the State of Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4017.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAMI'S LAW

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1082) to require ride-hailing companies to implement an enhanced digital system to verify passengers with their authorized ride-hailing vehicles and drivers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1082

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 ''Sami's Law''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PASSENGER.—The term ''passenger'' means an individual who is matched with a TNC driver through a TNC platform.

(2) TNC DRIVER.—The term ''TNC driver'' means an individual who contracts with a transportation network company and provides transportation services facilitated through a TNC platform in exchange for compensation or payment of a fee from a passenger.

(3) TNC PLATFORM.—The term ''TNC platform'' means an online-enabled application or digital network made available by a transportation network company to connect passengers to TNC drivers for the purpose of a TNC driver providing prearranged transportation services.

(4) TNC VEHICLE.—The term ''TNC vehicle'' means a vehicle (also known as a ''ride-hailing vehicle'') that is—

(A) owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by a TNC driver; and

(B) used by the TNC driver to provide to passengers prearranged transportation services facilitated through a TNC platform.

(5) TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY; TNC.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms ''transportation network company'' and ''TNC'' mean a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other entity that makes available a TNC platform to connect passengers to TNC drivers in exchange for compensation or payment of a fee in order for the TNC driver to transport the passenger using a TNC vehicle.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''transportation network company'' and ''TNC'' does not include—

(i) a shared-expense carpool or vanpool arrangement that is not intended to generate profit for the driver; or

(ii) microtransit or other dedicated services provided exclusively on behalf of a government entity, a nonprofit organization, or a third-party commercial enterprise.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF RIDE-HAILING SIGNAGE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any signage that—

(1) is designed to help a passenger to identify a TNC vehicle; and

(2) either—

(A) contains a proprietary trademark or logo of a transportation network company; or

(B) purports to be signage of a transportation network company.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any person authorized by a transportation network company to sell or offer for sale signage of the transportation network company described in that subsection.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A violation of this section shall be considered to be a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) ACTION BY FTC.—The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) are incorporated in this Act.

(3) TREATMENT.—Any person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any other provision of law.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY ON INCIDENCE OF FATAL AND NON-FATAL PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PASSENGERS, TNC DRIVERS, AND DRIVERS OF OTHER FOR-HIRE VEHICLES.

(a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes the results of a study regarding—

(1) the incidence of fatal and non-fatal physical assault and sexual assault perpetrated in the preceding 2 calendar years (starting with calendar years 2019 and 2020 for the first study)—

(A) against TNC drivers and drivers of other for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs) by passengers and riders of for-hire vehicles; and

(B) against passengers and riders by other passengers and TNC drivers or drivers of other for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs), including the incidences that are committed by individuals who are not TNC drivers or drivers of other for-hire vehicles but who pose as TNC drivers or drivers of other for-hire vehicles;

(2) the nature and specifics of any background checks conducted on prospective TNC drivers and drivers of other for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs), including any State and local laws requiring those background checks; and

(3) the safety steps taken by transportation network companies and other for-hire vehicle services (including taxicab companies) related to rider and driver safety.

(b) SEXUAL ASSAULT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''sexual assault'' means the occurrence of an act that constitutes any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, Tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1082, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1082, as amended. I applaud the gentleman from New Jersey, Representative SMITH, for his tenacity for getting the bill to the House floor for its consideration today.

The gentleman and his staff have worked tirelessly through many iterations of this bill. We are here today to take the first steps toward ensuring the safety of passengers and drivers who utilize ride-hailing platforms. Specifically, we are here to pass Sami's Law, a bill to honor and remember Samantha Josephson.

Sami, a 21-year-old college student, was brutally murdered after she entered a car that she mistakenly thought was the Uber that she ordered.

Her parents, Seymour and Marcie Josephson, have shared their heartwrenching story firsthand with so many of us on Capitol Hill.

Throughout their grief, they have been committed to working so that no other family will have to go through this kind of pain, and that millions of people who use ride-hailing services can do so with safety protections in place.

Mobility and transportation patterns in many cities have been upended in recent years by companies that through transformative technology platforms have revolutionized how we travel.

In a very short time, many people have come to rely upon transportation network companies, or TNCs, such as Uber and Lyft, as a regular transportation option.

These services, however, have operated with little transportation safety or regulatory oversight.

There are many aspects of TNCs that the Committee on Transportation has examined, including their impacts on congestion, on wages, and on public transportation used, as well as gaps in regulatory oversight of TNCs and drivers.

We held a hearing in 2020 where we examined a number of troubling aspects of the TNC model.

While the bill under consideration today is a scaled-back version of legislation as introduced, it marks an important step in oversight of TNCs.

H.R. 1082, as amended, prohibits the sale of any signage that is designed to help a passenger identify a TNC vehicle or that contains TNCs proprietary trademark or logo, unless authorized by the TNC.

The bill also directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study of the incidence of assaults, including sexual assaults, on TNC passengers and TNC drivers.

In addition, it directs GAO to study the type of background checks conducted on prospective drivers of TNC vehicles, including any State and local laws which may require such background checks.

Strong and thorough vetting of potential drivers is the first line of defense to ensure passenger safety. The study initiated by this bill will yield important data and will inform decisions on what more needs to be done to protect the ride-hailing community.

Lawmakers at the Federal, State, and local level will need to think beyond whether ride-hailing gets people from point A to point B, and work to ensure that TNC drivers deliver a public service safely and equitably.

Madam Speaker, I support this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2022.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO: I write concerning H.R. 1082, ''Sami's Law.'' This legislation was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and amended in such a manner that would likely result in the Committee having primary jurisdiction over this measure.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1082, the Committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the measure.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2022.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1082, Sami's Law. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that by foregoing formal consideration on H.R. 1082, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any future jurisdictional claims to provisions in this or similar legislation, and that your Committee will be consulted and involved on any matters in your Committee's jurisdiction should this legislation move forward. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving provisions within this legislation on which the Committee on Energy and Commerce has a valid jurisdictional claim.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1082.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

□ 1515

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation known as Sami's Law and to applaud the dedication and efforts of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who worked tirelessly on this legislation.

As amended, Sami's Law prohibits the unauthorized sale of transportation network company ride-hailing signage, authorizes enforcement policies, and requires the Government Accountability Office to study incidents of physical and sexual assault of passengers and drivers of TNC vehicles, taxicabs, and other for-hire vehicles.

Sami's Law will protect passengers and drivers of TNCs and for-hire vehicles and will ensure data is collected on TNC-related assault and abuse.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding and for his leadership, and I thank my friend on the other side of the aisle for his support.

Madam Speaker, in late March 2019, University of South Carolina senior Samantha Josephson—''Sami'' to friends and family—left a late-night outing with her friends alone because she had to work in the morning. The extraordinarily talented student, who had just earned a full scholarship to Drexel University law school, ordered an Uber.

In a congested part of Columbia known as Five Points, a predator, pretending to be her Uber driver, took her in his car and brutally murdered her. Less than 24 hours later, Sami was found dead in a field.

The murderer, Nathaniel Rowland, was caught. In a heart-wrenching trial in July 2021, Rowland was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Presiding Circuit Court Judge Clifton Newman noted the ''horrific and most brutal nature'' of Sami's murder and said: ''It is the most severe murder that has occurred that I have been a witness to, as far as presiding in court or participating in as a lawyer.''

Almost immediately, however, after her death, and notwithstanding their excruciating agony over the loss of their precious daughter, Sami's parents, Seymour and Marci, began pushing for comprehensive new protection policies at Uber and Lyft and legislation to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that no one else is ever killed, raped, or assaulted by a rideshare driver.

They created the #WHATSMYNAME Foundation in honor of their daughter to educate the world on rideshare safety. ''Samantha may be gone,'' they wrote, ''but our goal for the rest of our time on Earth is to share her story and make a lasting change.''

Seymour and Marci have, and are, making a lasting change. Their advocacy has saved lives and made so many more of us situationally aware of the dangers of using Uber and Lyft.

For more than 3 years, almost 4 now, especially given the pain due to the unimaginable loss of their daughter, Seymour and Marci have been heroic, tenacious, and selfless. They have inspired modest reforms by Uber and Lyft but are the first to say that so much more needs to be done.

Marci and Seymour have made frequent trips to the Capitol to meet lawmakers and staff from both sides of the aisle, including Speaker PELOSI and Leader MCCARTHY, as well as Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES, and subcommittee Chair NORTON and Ranking Member DAVIS.

Ranking Member CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, when she met with them, was so greatly moved, moved to tears, when they told their horrible story about what happened to their daughter.

I am grateful that Chairman PALLONE has waived the bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee today to ensure its consideration.

I am grateful to the Speaker for her strong commitment to this cause, and there was that empathy. You felt it when you were in the room. They said, ''What can we do? We have to do as much as humanly possible,'' so I thank them.

I offer my special thanks to TOM SUOZZI for his tremendous support and for being the lead Democratic cosponsor all these years on this legislation.

Robert Edmonson, with the Speaker, and Ryan Long, with KEVIN MCCARTHY, and other staff members have done stellar work trying to push this and additional reforms forward because, hopefully, we are not done.

The need for Sami's Law is absolutely compelling, I tell my colleagues. I ask all of us: Do any of us really believe that ridesharing, particularly late at night, particularly around college campuses, especially for women, is safe when you are in an Uber or Lyft? It is a big, open question.

Two reports released by Uber found that, over a 4-year period from 2017 to 2020, there were 9,805 allegations of serious sexual assault by Uber drivers in the United States, and 39 people were killed in physical assaults during or soon after an Uber ride.

Lyft's own safety record revealed 4,158 allegations of sexual assault in a 3-year period from 2017 to 2019.

In September, NPR reported that ''Lyft is facing 17 new lawsuits brought by users of its service from around the country, who claim the company failed to protect passengers and drivers from physical and sexual assault.''

''The new lawsuits come 3 years after 14 women filed a lawsuit against Lyft, claiming that, after being sexually assaulted or raped by drivers, Lyft failed to take action even when it was aware of drivers who were accused of assault and purposefully ignored victims' reports.'' Not a stellar record.

Just last week, Eziya Bowden, a 17-year-old woman from North Carolina, jumped out of a moving Lyft vehicle and ended up in the emergency room out of fear that her driver, who made several disturbing comments, was trying to drug her. She was only a few miles away from her home.

Sami's Law under consideration by the House today is an important first—I say ''first''—step to enhance safety for both passengers and drivers and to mitigate future violence.

Sami's Law makes unlawful the unauthorized selling or offering for sale of ridesharing signage, making it more difficult for imposters like Sami's murderer to pose as rideshare drivers.

Let me just point out that when TOM SUOZZI testified before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman DEFAZIO, when we talked about this factor, that you can go to Amazon or Walmart and get a sign that says you are an Uber driver, he went online as we were talking and said: There it is. I can buy an Uber sign.

You would think the companies would want to control the signage. This legislation will make it illegal to sell it in those outlets and anywhere else unless approved by the companies.

Sami's Law also requires the GAO to investigate and provide an independent, comprehensive report to Congress on the incidence of assault and abuse of both passengers and drivers, and to do it annually, and requires that the GAO examine the nature and specifics of background checks conducted by companies and the varying standards set by States regarding background checks.

We want to know: What do they do when they find out who their drivers are? We have asked the hard questions. The answers have not been all that good.

It also assesses safety steps thus far taken by rideshare vehicles, taxis, and other vehicles for hire.

I am disappointed to say that opposition from Uber and Lyft has resulted in dropping other lifesaving provisions that were in the original bill that was passed by the House in the last Congress with TOM SUOZZI and I leading on that, as well.

One required Uber and Lyft and other transportation network companies to implement a simple digital method of verifying that the passenger and driver have been specifically matched by the TNC prior to the ride beginning, so that match is made right before you take off. Yes, that is who the driver should be, and the person in back has ordered that Uber. It also gives a record going forward if any kind of assault does, indeed, occur.

The opposition to this digital security feature is mind-boggling to me. Uber has the technology and even a program in place, but they offer it only as an opt-in program, a program so well hidden that few riders even know about it.

Our legislation passed in July 2020 said that transportation companies may offer a passenger an option out, an opt-out. If you want to be out of it, get out of it, but the default would be you are in it, and it is all for your protection.

It is like safety belts. There was a time when that was controversial. Now, we all put them on. The buzzer goes off, or the bell or the ring, if you don't have that on.

A second provision that we lost was Sami's council, which would simply empower a working group to continually make upgrades as to how better to utilize all of this.

Let me just say, finally, Marci and Seymour at the sentencing or before that at the trial—they inspire us—they also spoke. I will read only a few of the words that they said. I remember watching it on television, and it just broke my heart.

Here is what Marci said. ''I close my eyes, and I feel what she endured at his hands 120 times''—he stabbed her, remember—''over and over and over, fighting for her life, locked in his car. I used to have dreams for her. Now, all I have are nightmares—120 times. The final moments, her bare feet kicking and fighting for her life. I visualize the blood flowing from her body, her joyful body, 120 times. For what? The $35 a college student has in her bank account?

''The excruciating pain he put her through is unimaginable. . . . In one second, our lives changed . . . Her death sliced through my heart.''

In his statement, Seymour questioned how this could have happened at all, challenging us to prevent it in the future. Again, they have spent so much time, dedicating their lives so nobody else ever has to go through this.

He said, at the trial: ''I have repeated nightmares and visions of him, the monster, stabbing her. I have visions of her foot on the back window. I have visions of her screaming and fighting. I have visions of her taking her last breath.

''I stand here . . . in bewilderment, asking how in the world did we get here? That night of her kidnapping and murder, she called me about using my credit card because supposedly hers didn't work with Uber or Lyft.

''I look at my wife, and she is not even close to being the same. I have lost a huge piece of her, along with Samantha. Every day, I look at her and only wish I could do something to take that pain away.''

So, I ask my colleagues that, in Sami's name, today, we act to protect rideshare passengers and their drivers, and we take an important first step to safeguard others from the unspeakable pain that Seymour and Marci Josephson now endure.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1082 will improve the safety of prospective rideshare passengers by prohibiting the unauthorized sale of ride-hailing signage.

This legislation will also help protect all of our constituents as GAO analyzes the occurrence of assaults against both passengers and drivers of for-hire vehicles.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman SMITH of New Jersey for his tireless efforts and urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, this bill honors the memory of Samantha Josephson and takes steps to ensure that a similar tragedy does not occur.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1082, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1530

VETERANS AFFAIRS WEEK OF ACTION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today during the Department of Veterans Affairs Week of Action to highlight the PACT Act.

I encourage American veterans who are injured by toxic exposure to avail themselves of the new benefits afforded by this historic legislation.

Just call the VA at 1–800–MY–VA–411 to submit an application.

Thousands of veterans who served in Vietnam, the Gulf, and post-9/11 conflicts and are suffering from wounds they incurred from toxic substances are now eligible to receive expanded VA benefits.

A veteran from my hometown in Ohio, pictured here, lives with internal injuries as well as grievous hand wounds—I have never seen this condition in another human being—that have seared my conscience that remind us of the true nature of his battle.

America has an obligation to care for those who bravely bore the costs of our Nation's battles. I encourage all veterans, their families, and caregivers to visit www.VA.gov/PACT or call, again, 1–800–698–2411 to be connected with a VA specialist in order to begin the process.

Go directly to this phone number or website. You don't have to hire an outside attorney to apply for benefits. Use the VA.

America's heroic veterans: You have served liberty, and a grateful Nation stands ready to serve you.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–6126. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures received December 2, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–6127. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights (RIN: 1210-AC03) received December 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–6128. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard for Infant Bouncer Seats [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0028] received December 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–6129. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard for Frame Child Carriers [Docket No.: CPSC-2014-0011] received December 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–6130. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Energy Market Regulation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Filing and Reporting Requirements for Interstate Natural Gas Company Rate Schedules and Tariffs [Docket No.: RM21-18-000; Order No.: 884] received December 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–6131. A letter from the MARAD Secretary, Senior Attorney, Division of Legislation and Regulation, Office of Strategic Sealift, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Tanker Security Program [Docket Number: MARAD-2022-0247] (RIN: 2133-AB95) received December 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–6132. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vietnam Era Definition, Medal of Honor Special Pension for Surviving Spouses, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Remarriage Age (RIN: 2900-AR70) received December 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6133. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Readjustment Counseling Service Scholarship Program (RIN: 2900-AR31) received December 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6134. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Acquisition Regulation: Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation System and Research and Development (RIN: 2900-AQ23) received December 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6135. A letter from the Branch Chief, Legal Processing Division, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2022 Base Period T-Bill Rate [Rev. Rul. 2022-21] received December 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SCHIFF: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. House Resolution 1466. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID–19 virus (Rept. 117–620). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SCHIFF: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. House Resolution 1467. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence (Rept. 117–621). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2187. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to set aside certain funds to provide parking for commercial motor vehicles on the Federal-aid highway system, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117–622). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 1477. Resolution calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information in the possession of the Attorney General regarding NICS Indices Self-Submission Forms; with amendments (Rept. 117–623). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 1478. Resolution calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information regarding the decision of the President of the United States to institute the ''Ghost Gun'' Rule; with amendments (Rept. 117–624). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 9500. A bill to support prioritization and expanded use of innovation at the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 9501. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to

assist projects that use nonlethal coexistence measures to reduce property damage caused by beavers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 9502. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the eligibility age for retired pay for non-regular service in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 9503. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a pilot program to assist local educational agencies with the acquisition of school supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 9504. A bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to increase the availability of menstrual products for individuals with limited access to such products; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 9505. A bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 9506. A bill to prohibit the consideration in the House of Representatives and Senate of legislation which includes a provision authorizing the appropriation of an amount of funds for a program which does not include a provision reducing by at least the same amount the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for the same program or for any other program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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 Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 9507. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to prevent State child protective services systems from removing a child from the custody of the child's parent or legal guardian due to the parent's or legal guardian's reluctance or refusal to consent to the child receiving a gender-transition intervention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 9508. A bill to protect Americans from the threat posed by certain foreign adversaries using current or potential future social media companies that those foreign adversaries control to surveil Americans, learn sensitive data about Americans, or spread influence campaigns, propaganda, and censorship; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 9509. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to remove the requirements relating to registered apprenticeships; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.R. 9510. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to make hospital organizations and cooperative hospital service organizations subject to the law relating to unfair methods of competition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 9511. A bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 9512. A bill to establish a National Development Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 9513. A bill to enhance transparency and accountability for online political advertisements by requiring those who purchase and publish such ads to disclose information about the advertisements to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 9514. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for the inclusion of additional expenses in dependent care FSAs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 9515. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 9516. A bill to support national training, technical assistance, and resource centers, to ensure that all individuals with significant expressive communication disabilities have access to the augmentative and alternative communication the individuals need to interact with others, in order to learn, work, socialize, and take advantage of all aspects of life in the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 9517. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 9518. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the eligibility requirements for certain small water storage and groundwater storage projects and to authorize the use of funds for certain additional Carey Act projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 9519. A bill to designate the month of September as African Diaspora Heritage Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 9520. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to request the President to issue an annual proclamation designating Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day, to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 9521. A bill to prohibit any head of a Federal agency from providing assistance to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and other laboratories in certain other foreign nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 9522. A bill to authorize affordable housing construction as an eligible activity under the Community Development Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 9523. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to revise the definition of the term ''tipped employee'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MAST, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MANN, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. CONWAY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HERN, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BRADY, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. CARL, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CLINE, Mr. DUNN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.J. Res. 102. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to ''Reproductive Health Services''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1437; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. DELAURO:

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2617; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 1517. A resolution finding that the Russian Federation's presence in the United Nations Security Council violates the purposes and principles of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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. CASTRO of Texas:
H.R. 9500.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. DELBENE:
H.R. 9501.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PALAZZO:
H.R. 9502.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill persuant to Article I, Section 8, clause 14.

By Ms. BUSH:
H.R. 9503.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 9504.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 9505.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DONALDS:
H.R. 9506.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. I, Sec. 8

By Ms. FOXX:
H.R. 9507.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GALLAGHER:
H.R. 9508.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Foreign Commerce Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:
H.R. 9509.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 9510.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. KEATING:
H.R. 9511.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 9512.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
National Development Strategy and Coordination Act of 2022
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.

By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 9513.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 9514.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 9515.
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 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:
H.R. 9516.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which gives Congress the power to lay and collect taxes and provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 9517.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 9518.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SPANBERGER:
H.R. 9519.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Ms. STEVENS:
H.R. 9520.
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. STEWART:
H.R. 9521.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 9522.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. WOMACK:
H.R. 9523.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:
The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CLOUD:
H.J. Res. 102.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 151: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1372: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1735: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1785: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 1976: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 2143: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 2252: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2811: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2820: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3079: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 3446: Ms. BUSH and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3646: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 4769: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5227: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 5528: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 5529: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 6207: Ms. MENG, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 6471: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6934: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 7370: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7382: Mr. UPTON, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 7389: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7585: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8213: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8246: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 8336: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 8341: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 8531: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 8558: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 8613: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 8659: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 8770: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 8800: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 8841: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 8850: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 8906: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 8934: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 8968: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 9010: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 9021: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 9104: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 9127: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 9233: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 9245: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 9289: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 9332: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 9354: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 9374: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 9389: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 9398: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 9406: Mrs. FLORES.
H.R. 9449: Mr. COSTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 9455: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 9474: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 9475: Ms. BUSH, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 9477: Mr. PANETTA.
H.J. Res. 53: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. SABLAN.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 No. 193

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our rock and fortress, You put the mountains in place and bring silence to roaring waves. You are a strong tower where we find safety. We ask You for peace on Earth and good will to humanity. Lord, strengthen our faith, and forgive us for doubting Your power and providence. Thank You for this great land and for the many freedoms we sometimes take for granted. We appreciate Your faithfulness and Your mercies that are new each day.

Today, lead our lawmakers so that Your Name will be honored. Protect them from hidden dangers, and sustain them through the lengthening shadows.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

RECOGNIZING THE SYRACUSE ORANGE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to extend a massive—massive—congratulations to the Syracuse Orange men's soccer team for winning the NCAA College Cup national championship last night in a heart-stopping 7-to-6 victory, after penalty kicks. A big congrats to Coach McIntyre, all the amazing players, and the staff on a phenomenal accomplishment—the first in Syracuse history. Go Orange.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the omnibus, a more serious subject, negotiations for a yearlong omnibus agreement move forward. There is a lot of work left to do, but we are optimistic that if we preserve the good faith we have seen so far, we will get there. I remain hopeful because despite disagreements about the ultimate package, there is little disagreement that an omnibus is by far the best solution for funding the government. Still, we are going to need a little more time beyond this week to get an omnibus done.

To avoid a shutdown this Friday, the Senate should be ready to pass a 1-week CR by the end of this week to give negotiators more time to finish an agreement by the holidays. The House is set to begin consideration of a weeklong CR today, and after all the progress made towards an omnibus agreement, I hope nobody here in the Senate stands in the way of getting a 1-week CR passed quickly, through consent if needed.

Again, an omnibus is the best option—the most responsible option—for funding the government in the next fiscal year. It will ensure that the Federal Government has all the resources necessary to serve the public at full capacity. It will make sure our troops in uniform are taken care of. And I expect an omnibus will contain priorities both sides want to see passed into law, including more funding for Ukraine and the Electoral Count Act, which my colleagues in the Rules Committee have done great work on. It will be great to get that done.

After all the work we have done this year to pass important new bills, like the PACT Act and the CHIPS and Science Act and so much more, a CR into next year could prevent the investment secured in those bills from going out the door. The vast majority of us don't want to go down that road. So, again, the best option—the most responsible option—is to proceed toward an omnibus, even if it won't contain everything both sides want.

NOMINATION OF ARUN SUBRAMANIAN

Mr. President, now on judges, later this morning it will be my honor to come before the Senate Judiciary Committee to introduce an exceptional public servant, Arun Subramanian, whom President Biden nominated on my urging to serve as a district judge for the Southern District of New York.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Here on the floor, Arun Subramanian is one of the few South Asians who are on the bench—we need more—but he will pave the way. And it is my intention to continue to support South Asians to come to the bench.

NOMINATION OF DANA M. DOUGLAS

Mr. President, here on the floor, we will also proceed with the confirmation of Dana Douglas to serve as circuit court judge for the Fifth District, which covers Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Judge Douglas's confirmation today will be significant for a few reasons. For one, Judge Douglas will be the 28th—the 28th—circuit court judge this majority confirms in the last 2 years. Of the many votes we take in this Chamber, confirming circuit court judges ranks near the top in importance. The lion's share of all Federal cases, after all, are decided at the circuit court level.

Judge Douglas is also significant because, after her confirmation, the Senate will have confirmed 11 Black women to serve as circuit court judges. This is a record for any single session of Congress. Before President Biden, only eight such nominees had been confirmed by this Chamber. So this is truly a historic shift in the court's composition.

This representation matters enormously. The health of our Federal courts hangs on judges who will both apply the law correctly while also earning Americans' trust in the first place. The more our courts look like the country at large—the more languages and backgrounds and specialties we have on the bench—the more likely the trust endures. That is more important than ever, given the recent disturbing decisions handed down by the Supreme Court.

That is why judges like Dana Douglas matter. That is why circuit court judges matter. And we are going to keep working for the rest of this year and beyond to bring diversity and balance back to our courts.

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. President, on the White House signing ceremony, finally, this morning I want to note my tie. I am wearing it today for two reasons. First, it is a constant reminder of one of the happiest moments of my life, the day my daughter got married. And, second, I am wearing it because, later this afternoon, President Biden will sign the Respect for Marriage Act into law.

For many Americans in same-sex marriages—or who one day wish to marry their partner—today is a day of relief and of jubilation. By passing this law, we are sending a message to LGBTQ Americans everywhere: You, too, deserve dignity and equality under the law.

Few bills have hit home for Members on the Hill quite like this one. Marriage equality is not just the right thing to do for America, it is personal for so many of us, our staffs, and our families.

My daughter and her wife are beautifully—praise God—expecting their first child, my third grandchild, next spring, and I want them to raise their child with all the love and security that every child deserves. Thanks to the dogged work of many of my colleagues, my grandchild will live in a world that will respect and honor their mothers' marriage.

And, look, nothing about the Respect for Marriage Act was inevitable. On the contrary, it took a lot of faith and a bit of risk taking to reach this point. When my colleagues came and asked me for a delay, I made that choice, and it was because they believed—and I believed—that the bipartisan process could indeed work.

It wasn't a decision we took lightly, but today that gamble is paying off. So I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for making today's signing possible, and I thank my friend Senator FEINSTEIN, who originally authored this landmark bill. Because of them and because of the millions of Americans out there who pushed for change, history will be made at the White House later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senate Republicans have spent, literally, months focused on the need for a strong bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act, as well as robust funding for our Armed Forces. Defending our homeland, deterring future threats, and supporting our allies and partners should not be last-minute, low priorities. They are fundamental duties if we want to remain the strongest power in the world, and investing in strength today protects our country, our servicemembers, and the American taxpayer tomorrow.

Let's take, for example, Ukraine. For nearly a year now, the free people of a sovereign nation have stood firm and battled against brutal and lawless aggression. The Ukrainians' brave stand was made possible, in part, because the United States and a number of other countries have realized that supporting their self-defense directly serves our own interests.

Europe together constitutes America's largest trading partner. Instability in Europe poses a direct threat to countless American producers who sell to our friends across the Atlantic. Further, huge disruptions to European markets would only add to the inflationary challenges that the Democrats' spending has caused us already here at home.

What is more, a successful Russian invasion would embolden the entire club of anti-American thug regimes to take bolder and more brazen steps toward further conflict, including direct threats to American lives.

Every day Russia spends on the back foot in Ukraine degrades its own ability to wage further wars and dramatically changes the cost-benefit calculus for others who might contemplate similar violence.

Continuing support for Ukraine is the popular mainstream view that stretches across the ideological spectrum.

On my side of the aisle, for example, the former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, said recently that supporting Ukraine ''fully and completely'' is in the best interest of the United States.

The top foreign policy expert at the Heritage Foundation, James Carafano, has spoken out forcefully about the need for continued military assistance, and so has former Secretary of State Pompeo, former Vice President Pence, and virtually every other leading national security official from the previous administration.

Now, while the conflict has exposed serious weaknesses in Russia's ability to wage a conventional war, it has also exposed shortcomings in the West, particularly with our defense industrial bases.

Our European friends who had treated themselves to holidays from history after the Cold War, who presumed a new normal of stability and security and shifted spending disproportionately into domestic programs, have received a harsh—harsh—wake-up call. They are rushing to reinvest more in their own defenses. Some politicians here in America fell victim to the same lullaby.

Now, fortunately, supplying the specific kinds of American armaments that Ukraine needs does not cut our readiness in other important regions, such as the Pacific. China and its neighbors are watching the conflict in Ukraine closely, and the CCP would be delighted if Ukraine fell to Russia.

But the long lead times to replenish what we are sending still provide us with a sober reminder. We know, for a fact, that the world's foremost military and economic superpower can and should both produce all the capabilities that we need for ourselves and serve as freedom's arsenal for our friends at the same time. We just need to organize our resources and make critical, overdue investments in our defense industrial capacity.

That is why the National Defense Authorization Act we will take up soon provides multiyear procurement authority for longer term certainty, planning, and efficiency. It authorizes significant investments in modernizing our forces and capabilities.

But following through on these promises also requires that we pass robust appropriations. I made that clear at

last week's briefing with the Biden officials.

I will say it again: Providing for the common defense is a fundamental governing responsibility. It is not extra credit.

Our Democratic colleagues will not receive a goody bag of domestic spending in exchange for fulfilling this solemn duty.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BURR

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, I would like to begin my tribute to another of our distinguished departing colleagues by quoting his own words from a letter written back in 2009. Here is what he said:

> Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carver, Thank you for entrusting me with [your son's] memorial bracelet at the Asheville Veterans Day Ceremony. I wish there had been more time to talk that day. I returned to Washington, DC with the bracelet on my wrist . . . [your son's] unrelenting courage and zeal for life are what I will think of when I look at his name on my wrist. Rest assured that I will wear [this] bracelet forever.

A quiet gesture, unheralded and understated, but leaving hugely impactful ripples in its wake. A perfect case study of Senator RICHARD BURR.

At first glance, it might appear to the uninitiated that our distinguished friend is a man of contrasts or contradictions. For example, this impeccably dressed Southern gentleman has been known to drive around town in a rickety old Volkswagen. I think that our dear departed colleague John McCain once called it ''an assault on the senses''; or take the fact that when most of us were happy enough to finish high school as either a successful jock or a successful student, Richard was both a standout scholarship football player and winner of the science fair; or consider that our unflappable, calm colleague with an easy manner—almost casual, really—has been one of this Chamber's most dogged legislators and most relentless champions across a whole array of critically important causes.

That special bracelet bearing Army Chief Warrant Officer Mitch Carver's name isn't just a comfort to one Gold Star family; it is an outward sign of RICHARD BURR's entire approach to his job: supporting service, honoring sacrifice, and making life better for folks in North Carolina and across the Nation.

For 5 years, RICHARD's colleagues tasked him with helming the Intelligence Committee. Some of this institution's most sensitive and critical responsibilities wound up right in his lap.

But Senators on both sides knew that RICHARD's thoughtfulness, fairmindedness, and discretion tailor-made made him for the role—no showy victory laps, no braggy press tours. He led with the serious, collegial, and patriotic tone that the issues actually demanded.

This quiet competence has been part of the RICHARD BURR brand from the very beginning. As a backbench House freshman, RICHARD spearheaded massive reforms of the Food and Drug Administration. Long before COVID–19, he had a personal passion for helping to equip BARDA and other pandemic preparedness initiatives.

RICHARD has authored transformational legislation that disability advocates called the most important advance for their cause in a quarter century. He reached across the aisle to help deliver justice for victims of decades-old hate crimes. He drove bipartisan consensus on a measure that has helped save students and families near $100 billion in loan payments.

In a situation folks in my own State know well, he stepped up to help tobacco farmers transition to succeed in a freer market, and as the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, RICHARD delivered much needed relief to men and women who served our Nation with the Veterans Choice Act of 2014.

It is truly amazing what you can accomplish when you are willing to be patient, keep an even keel, share some credit—oh, and occasionally, even jump out a window. Let me explain. This is creative problem-solving in action.

Back during sequestration, when staffing shortages had closed some of the normal entrances and exits around the Capitol campus, our friend found himself in the Russell Building while the only open exit was all the way over in Dirksen. Rather than lengthen his commute, this ever-pragmatic man of mystery found the lowest window around, grabbed his dry cleaning, shimmied out, and hopped right down to the sidewalk.

Now the day is fast approaching when our colleague will escape from this institution for good, but RICHARD's remarkable legacy here will endure—whether that has meant using his charm and judgment of character to disarm committee witnesses and get to the bottom of complex issues under investigation or using his fluency in House-speak to translate key happenings for us, his colleagues over here in the upper Chamber.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention how RICHARD excels at turning up the pressure to break a stalemate. You see, if an issue is dragging out and no solution appears forthcoming, unless RICHARD was the point person himself, he would frequently just threaten to leave town altogether until things got worked out.

We are talking about a colleague who is famous for keeping closer tabs on the Senate's weekly wrapup proceedings than just about anyone.

In fact, as I understand it, RICHARD's team became so famous for tracking the timing of final votes so closely that some other offices would try calling Team Burr for the scoop before they would even try the cloakroom.

Now, with RICHARD's seemingly laidback demeanor, you might assume our friend was just eager to get out to the beach or hit the links, but that would be another one of those deceptive appearances. The truth is, RICHARD didn't become an expert at speedy getaways because he wanted to shortchange his duties. In fact, it was just the opposite. Even as devoted a public servant as Senator BURR is, he knew that, in the final analysis, another set of duties was even more essential.

When our colleague was first elected to the House in 1994, he and his beloved wife Brooke had two young sons, and Brooke was carving out her own tremendously successful career in business.

So our friend was bound and determined that serving the people of North Carolina would not mean skimping on his proudest job of all—as father to Tyler and William, and now as a grandfather as well.

Through decades of committed service, he has found a way to do it all. But even so, I know RICHARD is excited to make up for lost time.

So we thank our colleague for his outstanding work for our country. And I have it on good authority that our friend has a favorite catch phrase that he has used to bid farewell to his office after they have spent a long day doing good work. So, RICHARD, as you like to say, ''Dilly dilly.''

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last Tuesday, President Biden was asked why he wasn't taking the opportunity to visit the border while traveling to Arizona. His reply? ''Because there [is a] more important [thing] going on.''

''[A] more important [thing] going on.''

Mr. President, no offense to new investment, but if President Biden thinks that visiting a plant to celebrate new investment is more important than the security and the humanitarian crises raging at our southern border, then his priorities are seriously out of order, but, of course, we already knew that.

This is hardly the first time the President has made it clear what he thinks of the crisis at our southern border—as just an annoying distraction from what he would rather be doing as President. In fact, he has shown a remarkable ability throughout his Presidency to ignore or minimize crises that he isn't interested in dealing with.

''There [is a] more important [thing] going on.''

I venture to suggest that for overwhelmed border communities struggling with an apparently never-ending influx of illegal immigration, there isn't anything—anything—more important going on, and the President's

trivializing of our border crisis is a serious betrayal of the responsibility he owes to these Americans and to all Americans.

The situation at our southern border is out of control and has been that way for most of the President's administration. Over this past weekend alone, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than 16,000 individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally. That is an average of 8,000 per day—higher than the daily average in May, which posted the highest number of attempted illegal crossings ever recorded. October saw a staggering 230,678 attempted illegal crossings along our southern border.

All told, U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered nearly 2.4 million individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally during fiscal year 2022. That is the highest number ever recorded, exceeding the previous record set the year before by roughly 640,000. Of course, these numbers just refer to individuals the Border Patrol actually apprehended. There have also been almost 1 million known ''got-aways'' over the past 2 fiscal years and an untold number of unknown ''got-aways.''

President Biden's comment doesn't just trivialize the scope of this crisis; it also trivializes the human misery that has resulted. At least 853 migrants died crossing the southern border in fiscal year 2022—the highest number ever recorded. It is hard to imagine that that number wouldn't have been smaller if President Biden had gotten serious about addressing this border crisis instead of inviting illegal immigration with his lax border policies.

I mentioned overwhelmed border communities. I should also mention the incredible strain the past 2 years have placed on the Border Patrol, which has been forced to divert agents from border enforcement to the overwhelmed humanitarian mission. Then, of course, there is the very real danger represented by unchecked illegal immigration, including the risk of dangerous individuals entering our country undetected and the potential for increased drug trafficking.

Illegal drugs are flowing across our southern border and contributing to violent crime not just in border communities but in communities around the Nation. And that is not even to mention our Nation's fentanyl crisis, which is being fed by drugs that are trafficked across—where else?—our southern border. Our current border crisis is an open invitation to increased illegal drug activity, but the President has more important places to be than the southern border even though, I should point out, he has never actually visited the southern border—not once. The closest he got was literally driving by the border on the way to a campaign rally in 2008.

For border communities and strained Border Patrol agents, I venture to say that there is nothing more important than getting our Nation's border crisis under control, but I guess we will just have to keep waiting. After all, the President has more important things to do.

INFLATION

Mr. President, in other tone-deaf comments from the Biden administration last week, White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain said:

> Fiscal responsibility is very important to us in the Biden administration. We're very well aware that we have to stay within our means economically. I think . . . you see that in everything we've tried to do these past two years.

That was from the President's Chief of Staff.

Well, when I read that, I wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry or just be angry on behalf of the millions of Americans who are currently suffering as a result of the Democrats' lack of fiscal responsibility over the past 2 years. We are currently in the midst of the worst inflation crisis in 40 years. My daughters, who are married and have their own children now, weren't even alive the last time inflation was this bad.

November's inflation numbers came out this morning, and they just confirmed what we already know: that we are still very much in the midst of this crisis. Currently, inflation is up 13.8 percent since January of 2021, when President Biden took office. Even if our inflation crisis ended tomorrow, the inflation we have already experienced will cost the average household more than $9,000 over the next 12 months—$9,000. Now, for a lot of families, that is the difference between prosperity and just getting by. For many others, it is the difference between just getting by and not being able to get by at all.

How did we get here? Well, in substantial part, it is thanks to the President's and Democrats' fiscal irresponsibility.

When Democrats took office in January 2021, Congress had just passed a fifth bipartisan COVID bill that met essentially all of the current pressing COVID needs, but the Democrats just wanted to keep spending. So, despite being warned that the size of the package they were contemplating risked overheating our economy, under the guise of COVID relief, the Democrats passed a massive and partisan $1.9 trillion spending bill filled with unnecessary spending and payoffs to the Democrats' interest groups. The economy, not surprisingly, overheated as a result. Inflation began climbing and climbing and climbing again.

But what is almost worse and what makes the White House's claim that they care about fiscal responsibility so incredibly ludicrous is what the Democrats and the President did next. Even as it became clear that their massive spending spree had helped set off a serious inflation problem, the Democrats and the President kept pushing for more spending. In fact, their goal, which they were, fortunately, prevented from achieving, was passing another massive spending spree in the neighborhood of $5 trillion.

Even after that plan was foiled, the Democrats and the President kept right on pursuing more fiscally irresponsible legislation. In August, the Democrats passed legislation, their so-called Inflation Reduction Act—again filled with hundreds of billions of dollars in Green New Deal spending, partially financed by tax hikes that will raise energy prices and slow job creation.

Democrats tried to clothe the bill in an aura of fiscal responsibility by claiming—dubiously, I might add—that it would reduce the deficit by $300 billion.

Do you want to know how long that purported deficit reduction lasted once the bill was signed into law? Eight days. Eight days. That is how long it took for President Biden to completely wipe out any deficit reduction of the bill by implementing his massive student loan giveaway—a giveaway that not only wipes out any possible deficit reduction but will also, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, ''meaningfully boost inflation.'' Yet we are supposed to believe that the Biden administration values fiscal responsibility.

When it comes to fiscal responsibility, the Biden administration has demonstrated that it could not care less. The Biden administration is interested in implementing the big-government priorities of the far left, no matter how much they cost. And, unfortunately, the American people are the ones paying the price.

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.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MCKINLEY

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, today, I rise to really honor a seventh-generation West Virginian, a lifelong Wheeling native, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and public servant, my very good friend, Congressman DAVID MCKINLEY.

DAVID and I have known each other for a very long time. He and Mary, his wife, have extended steadfast love and friendship to my entire family but, in particular, to my parents during some good times and bad. Those friendships extended for many, many years and never wavered.

From when DAVID was a delegate in the West Virginia State House to when he chaired the West Virginia Republican Party to later when he became my colleague and our colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives, we worked together a lot.

DAVID got a slot on the Energy and Commerce Committee during his very

first year in Washington. Now, I had already been there 10 years and still hadn't made it to the Energy and Commerce Committee, so I was a little bit jealous of DAVID then. But, wow, did he really do tremendous work on that committee.

Although time has gone by, DAVID's passion and his love for West Virginia have never wavered, and his pragmatic service has never changed.

As the only licensed engineer in the House of Representatives—and if you didn't know that, DAVID is quick to tell you—his unique and thoughtful analysis to challenges has helped his constituents immensely, and it certainly made West Virginia a better place. And, by the way, he has helped me understand some very complex issues.

In fact, I don't think there are as many Members of Congress who have held townhall meetings on the Megabus to DC as DAVID has to meet with our constituents. But DAVID never misses an opportunity to have a conversation.

DAVID has played an essential role in advancing legislation critical to infrastructure, life-altering hearing aid devices, and securing the pensions and retirement benefits that our West Virginia coal miners rely on.

DAVID is, and always will be, a problem-solver, and he brought thoughtful solutions to the needs of our fellow West Virginians every single day with unrelenting passion.

I have mentioned passion many times already in this short speech, but ''passion'' is a very fitting word because DAVID does not do anything halfway. He is passionate about our State of West Virginia. He is passionate about West Virginia University's football team and all sports teams. And he is always there ready to cheer on the Mountaineers.

He is passionate about his hometown of Wheeling, and he is a passionate defender of those Northern Panhandlers, which is what I am as well. He is passionate about the men and women who have worked to power our Nation and the solutions to our future.

But there is another component to DAVID's public service and his life that we must stop and recognize, and that is of his beloved wife, Mary.

Mary has truly been a partner to DAVID and his work to make West Virginia stronger and healthier. Mary received her masters of science degree in nursing from none other than West Virginia University, has had an exceptional career as a nurse at Ohio Valley Medical Center, and is the director of education and professional development at the Ohio Valley Health Services and Education Corporation in Wheeling.

But do you know what? Mary has a national presence as well. Mary served as the national president of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She epitomizes West Virginia's warmth and friendliness, and we thank her for her service to our State as well.

As I reflect on Congressman MCKINLEY's Federal work and accomplishments, perhaps no other area has seen his trademark tireless devotion than protecting and promoting the hard work and values embodied by our West Virginia coal miners.

DAVID has fought tooth and nail for our coal miners' livelihoods, for their healthcare, and for their ability to power this Nation but sometimes get taken for granted when we look at the sacrifices that they have made.

As DAVID turns the page on this chapter of his life, I am sure this is not the last that we will hear from him. I certainly hope not. In retirement, DAVID and Mary will be able to enjoy time spent with their four children and six grandchildren.

With DAVID's time in Congress coming to a close, his thoughtful approach to problems and his fearless advocacy on behalf of West Virginians will be missed in this town, will be missed in our country, but certainly can never be erased from our State and our country's history. But his contributions and the example he set will continue to stay with us always.

I admire DAVID's tenacity and divisiveness. You really never have to wonder what DAVID MCKINLEY thinks on a certain topic. I like that. I like that. For that, we should all be grateful. I know that I and West Virginians are certainly grateful.

So, DAVID, thank you for your service. I know he is not coming back into town until tomorrow, but I wanted to get this on the record. The difference that you have made in our State that we both love, and the friendship and counsel that you have provided me over the years is much appreciated.

So when I see DAVID and we have a conversation and he sends me on my way, he has a trademark saying that he always says to me, so I am going to say it back to him today. DAVID, I will say this to you: Go get 'em, kid.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 5941

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk a few minutes about Medicare.

If I am on Medicare and I go to my physician for an earache and my physician treats me, hopefully successfully, my physician then does not turn around and send a bill to Medicare that says: For services rendered for an earache. What my physician does is fill out a form that has a bunch of codes on it, and my physician fills out the form with the code for an earache.

Now, what does that mean? That means that when that form with a code for an earache goes to Washington, the administrators at Medicare look up the code for an earache, and they know then how much they are going to pay my physician for treating an earache.

As you can imagine, there are thousands of codes—literally thousands of codes—because there are thousands of diagnoses for which our citizens on Medicare seek treatment every year.

So, every year, Medicare puts out a fee schedule, and in its essential form this is just a schedule listing all of the codes for all the different illnesses that doctors who treat Medicare patients bill for. And these codes, this fee schedule, are used to reimburse doctors and hospitals. Well, of course, it is not as simple as that, and the way that the codes are put together and the fee schedule is put together are not exactly a model of clarity. And we need to do better, and, hopefully, someday we will do better. But, at the moment, we have to deal with reality as it is.

Now, in setting a code—or how much Medicare is going to pay my doctor for treating my earache under Medicare—and in putting together the fee schedule, which is put together by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which I will just refer to it as ''Medicare''—Medicare takes all kinds of factors into consideration in deciding how much to pay my doctor for an earache. Medicare looks at things like the diagnosis, of course. Medicare will pay less for an earache than for heart surgery. Medicare looks at the procedure that the doctor had to use.

Medicare looks at the location. If I go to my doctor in Baton Rouge, where my primary care physician is located, the cost of living in Baton Rouge is lower than the cost of living in New York. So the fee for an earache paid by Medicare to my Baton Rouge physician is going to be lower than that paid to a physician in New York.

The fee schedule looks at time and expenses of the doctor. The fee schedule that Medicare puts together looks at things like the cost of maintaining a practice: rent, supplies, support personnel. The fee schedule tries to take into consideration the cost of medical malpractice.

So the point is that a doctor treating me in Baton Rouge for an earache will not receive the same fee that a doctor, for example, in New York will receive for treating a patient there under Medicare for an earache.

But every year Medicare gets together and they send out a new fee schedule, and it is a very complicated process. And that process is complicated by the fact of what we call budget neutrality. Under current law, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—or Medicare, as I have been calling it—is required to make budget neutrality adjustments to the payment schedule. And the technical definition is—I will read it to you, and then I will explain it: Medicare is required to make Medicare physician payment schedule adjustments whenever changes in relative value units generate a payment increase or decrease of $200 million.

I told you it was complicated.

Now, what does that mean? That means that Medicare is statutorily required—required by Congress—to maintain budget neutrality, and this means that, as certain codes increase in value, in order to maintain budget neutrality, Medicare has to reduce payment for other codes. Budget neutrality is also

much more complicated than I just explained it, but those are the basic rules.

Now, here is the problem. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—CMS, or Medicare, as I have been referring to it—has just released their 2023 physician fee schedule. The new fee schedule has come out, and because of the formula and because of the budget neutrality requirement, CMS is proposing—or Medicare—a 4.5-percent across-the-board reduction in Medicare payments. So every payment is going to be cut 4.5 percent across the board.

Well, it gets even more difficult. Due to the $1.9 trillion deficit increase caused by the American Rescue Plan and under our budget rules, pay-go sequestration is going to be triggered by the American Rescue Plan, and that is going to require an additional 4-percent reduction across the board in payments to physicians and hospitals.

So unless we do something, every physician who treats a patient who is on Medicare—it doesn't matter what for—is going to be paid 8.5 percent less—in the middle of raging inflation, in the middle of not only doctor shortages but staff shortages as well.

Now, this is not the first time we have had this problem. We had it last year, and we had it the year before. We solved it then, but we need to solve it today. And you do not have to be a senior at Cal Tech to figure out that if you cut physicians' fees for every different diagnosis for which Americans seek treatment from a Medicare physician by 8.5 percent, physicians are going to have to either make it up somewhere or stop seeing Medicare patients. So all of a sudden your doctor under Medicare is not taking any more Medicare patients. We don't want that.

Not only that, but the Medicare fee schedule is looked to by private insurance companies when they determine how much to pay physicians under their insurance plans. That is the problem.

Here is what my bill would do to solve it. My bill would freeze the current fee schedule in this sense—not per se but indirectly. My bill would keep physician reimbursement at existing levels. So the amount that doctors are paid today for that earache would be the same next year.

My bill would pause the pay-go cuts until 2024. So, in effect, my bill would prevent, next year, an 8.5-percent reduction across the board to physician fees.

Now, I know what you are thinking, Mr. President. You are thinking: Well, I have heard speeches by KENNEDY before about controlling the cost of spending in government and the rate of growth. So here he is suggesting that we spend more.

And it is true that this bill would replace the fee schedule cuts by adding money to the Medicare budget. The pay-go cuts would just be postponed. But I have a pay-for. I am not asking this Congress just to add spending and go borrow the money and put us further in debt. I have a way to pay for it.

As you know, we sent—''we,'' meaning the U.S. Congress, sent—a lot of money to our healthcare delivery system during COVID to help patients, or, rather, to help physicians and hospitals deal with our healthcare crisis. We sent a lot of that money through what is called the Provider Relief Fund. These are dollars that were sent out to the hospitals and the doctors to help them get through the COVID pandemic.

Our doctors and hospitals didn't use all that money. They have returned some of it, believe it or not. As of February of this year, a few months ago, they had returned $9.8 billion. And I suspect, by now, they have returned, as best as we can tell from CBO, about $15 billion. So we have $15 billion in our healthcare budget that is not accounted for in terms of how it would be spent.

My bill would cost $2.25 billion. I would propose, Mr. President, that we pay for that $2.25 billion and take it out of what I believe is the $15 billion pot of money that was returned to the Provider Relief Fund. So I have a problem, I have a solution, and I have a way to pay for it without us having to spend money we don't have and thereby borrow it.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 5194.

Let me stop just for a moment, Mr. President. We have to solve this problem. We are going to solve this problem. We solved it last year, and we solved it the year before. Nobody in this body wants to throw people off Medicare.

Now, we are having trouble putting together a budget. I don't know how that movie is going to end. It may end with an omnibus. It may end with a continuing resolution, where we will wait for a new Congress. But we need to solve this problem now and not make it contingent on an omnibus and not make it contingent upon a continuing resolution. We need to solve it now for the American people who depend on Medicare, and that is what my bill does.

We can continue to fight over the budget. We can continue to fight over the CR. But we are going to solve this problem today with a pay-for, with my bill.

So I repeat, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 5194 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, and I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, let me say to our colleague from Louisiana that I very much agree with much of the statement he has given. I have been interested in these sensible policies with respect to providers since the days when I was codirector of the Oregon Gray Panthers. So our colleague from Louisiana is talking about important issues.

As chair of the Finance Committee, I can say that nobody on either side wants to see financial hardship for healthcare providers or disruption to the healthcare system. This is particularly important when you have got COVID, what looks like a god-awful flu, and an RSV crisis filling up the doctors' and hospitals' waiting rooms nationwide.

What I can tell my colleague from Louisiana is that, on both sides of the aisle on the Finance Committee, Democrats and Republicans have put in some long hours—long hours—discussing solutions to these physician payment issues with our colleagues in the House on both sides and the administration.

Our discussions include other critical healthcare issues. For example, I think my colleague knows that Senator CRAPO and I have been very focused on mental healthcare, making it easier for Americans to get mental healthcare when they need it.

And we are especially proud that this bipartisanship is paying off. As our colleagues may know, Senator CRAPO and I got four major provisions—four—into the commonsense gun safety law—everything from helping kids on Medicaid, behavioral health—our colleague, Senator STABENOW. So we believe strongly in writing black-letter law on a bipartisan basis.

Now, the reason I am taking the time to put this into context, it is very important that our bipartisan discussions on a yearend healthcare package continue. Time is, obviously, short.

I am just coming off two red-eye flights to Oregon in the last 4 days, and I want my colleague to know, again, I appreciate much of what he has said. I didn't come to the floor to say, Senator KENNEDY is horrible. Quite the contrary. I think he has good ideas here. Time is tight, and I am confident there is a bipartisan agreement around the corner.

I do say to my colleague, passing this proposal now, in my view, would make this process that we are part of, Senator CRAPO and I—talking to the administration, talking to the House, and doing all the things that my colleagues have a lot of experience on—passing this proposal now would make it harder to reach a bipartisan agreement on physician payments, mental health, a variety of other key kinds of issues. So I will just say, with the understanding, a, that my colleague has raised important points and, b, that Members on both sides are working towards a

shared goal on this issue, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I appreciate my good friend Senator WYDEN's comments. And I hope he gets some sleep off that red-eye flight.

I am just going to repeat quickly what I said before.

I hope we can put together—we can't solve this problem without passing a bill. I don't know if we are going to be able to pass a bill, any kind of bill. Hopefully, before we go home for Christmas and before this Congress ends, we will be able to do the National Defense Authorization Act, which I think we are going to do this week. There will be some people objecting to the NDAA. I know that. And it will slow it down. But after they object and they get to be dramatic for a little while, we will come back and pass the bill. And then we will decide whether to do an omnibus or whether we are going to do a continuing resolution and wait for the new Congress.

But in order to solve this problem, we have got to do something now. And there are millions of Americans out there that are looking at an 8½ percent cut to Medicare when we have an 8-percent inflation. That is a 16-point swing. And those millions of people are not just physicians or nurses. They are patients who depend on Medicare for life and death.

So I hope that the chairman of Finance, who is whip smart, will consider my proposal. It would postpone the pay-go cuts of 4 percent, and it would freeze the current fee schedule. If we don't, if the new fee schedule goes into effect, we are going to have another 4½ percent cut—that is where I get the 8½ percent—and it would pay for it.

It wouldn't increase debt at all. We pay for it, very simply, as I explained. We pay for it out of the $15 billion in the Provider Relief Fund.

And if our Finance Committee doesn't like that as a pay-for, I have another one. You can pay for it out of the Medicare Improvement Fund. It has 7.3 billion in it. Now, that is $24 billion we have got to solve the $2.5 billion problem so the elderly in our country can sleep tonight. So I hope my esteemed colleague will take this into consideration. And I know that he will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a minute about another subject: flood insurance. It doesn't do any good to offer flood insurance when people can't afford it. And that is what FEMA is doing right now.

We all know—or most people know—that you can't buy flood insurance really in the private market. I mean, you can, but for the most part, you can't. And if your house floods and you have homeowners insurance, don't make the mistake of thinking your homeowners insurance covers it because it doesn't. You have got to go buy special flood insurance.

And we have had this problem for a while, and the Federal Government addressed it by creating the National Flood Insurance Program. We call it, as you know, NFIP. About 5 million people who wouldn't be insured for flood otherwise are members of the National Flood Insurance Program. They don't get it for free. They pay for the flood insurance, and they pay dearly.

My State, Louisiana, has 5,000 people out of 5 million who depend on the National Flood Insurance Program. We in Louisiana have the highest participation rate in the country, bar none. And despite what some people may think, my people who are buying flood insurance, they are not multimillionaires; they are working people. They are people who get up every day and go to work, and they obey the law and pay their taxes. They try to do the right thing by their children. They live paycheck to paycheck. These aren't multimillionaires paying for this flood insurance. And they are not paying for the flood insurance on mansions on the beach. We don't have those in Louisiana. These are working people.

Now, for my people and for most Americans who carry flood insurance, their home is their biggest investment. It is the biggest investment they will ever make. It is the most money they will ever spend at one time. And so they want to protect their investment. And they need flood insurance to do that. And we in the Federal Government solved the problem when we created the National Flood Insurance Program.

Now, last year, FEMA, which is under the executive branch, of course—we all know what FEMA is—FEMA rolled out the most significant change in history in the way the National Flood Insurance Program calculates the cost of flood insurance—the most important change in history—and they didn't ask Congress for our input. They just did it.

They went out and hired a consultant who created a new algorithm. And this algorithm, supposedly, says FEMA, can see the future. It can look out 35 years and tell whether your home is going to flood and when it is going to flood. And they cannot only look at a particular area, they say this algorithm is so good that it can look at your specific property and tell whether it is going to flood and assess the risk. Man, I want a dozen of those.

FEMA calls this Risk Rating 2.0. There is just one problem: FEMA won't tell any of us in the U.S. Congress, much less the American people, how this algorithm works. I asked them to give me the algorithm, and I would pay, at my expense—at my expense—to have somebody evaluate it. FEMA said, if I showed it to you, KENNEDY, I would have to kill you. They won't show it to us.

But yet when I asked them about it—I have asked them in committees—FEMA says, Risk Rating 2.0—that is what they call it—they say it is fairer, and they say it is based on the value of your home and the unique flood risk for that property. Once again, man, FEMA is clairvoyant. This algorithm is awesome. They can look out 35 years; they just won't tell us how they do it.

There is no transparency on this grading 2.0. People have absolutely no idea, Members of the U.S. Congress have no idea, how this algorithm works and how they come up with the specific price for every home in America. But I will tell you what we do know: All the prices have gone up.

Let me give you an example. In Louisiana, we have a lot of levees. A lot of those levees are helped paid for with Americans' taxpayer money. And we are grateful to our neighbors and America for helping us out. But a lot of those levees are paid for by Louisiana citizens. We have asked: How does this algorithm, in raising these prices, take into account the levees? Are we getting credit for our levees? And they say: Sure. And I say: Can you show me? And they say: If I showed you, I would have to kill you; this is a secret algorithm.

No transparency. None.

Now, in the past, FEMA has already recognized levees and their importance. And they say they are doing it now under Risk Rating 2.0. But they won't show us how. And our levees work. Our levees work.

Last year, we had a number of storms. We had one that came through New Orleans. We have a levee system around New Orleans. It held. Thank you, American taxpayers. But we don't know how FEMA takes that into account. They say they do. They say: Trust us.

You know, every now and then, I play poker with friends. And they are all good friends. I trust them. But you know what, every time I play poker, every hand, I cut the cards. It is not a matter of friendship or trust. That is just the way it is supposed to be: transparency.

Now, this isn't just my opinion. There was an interview in the Times-Picayune, Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois. Mr. Bourgeois knows what he is talking about. He is the executive director of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee, and Drainage District in Louisiana. He is an expert on floodwater drainage and levees. This is what he said about the Risk Rating 2.0:

> I [just] can't figure out why some people get this minimum result and these other people get the maximum result. I can't tell you what the secret sauce is to get to that rate.

And the reason he can't is because FEMA will not tell us what the secret sauce is. What is the effect of this secret sauce? FEMA says it is going to make everything fairer. I know this much: It is going to make everything more expensive.

According to FEMA's estimates, 80 percent of the people who have flood

insurance and have to have flood insurance in Louisiana—in part because the mortgage company requires it—are going to see their rates go up.

The likely average full-risk premium for a home in Louisiana under this new secret sauce is $1,700. Under the old system, it was $766. That is a 122-percent increase because of this algorithm, this secret sauce, which FEMA will not let us see.

My people can't afford this. And the reality is, people are already dropping flood insurance. They are saying: We just can't pay for it. Something has to give. We have inflation at 8 percent or my rent has gone up. Food has gone up. Gas has gone up. We just can't afford it.

The number of flood insurance policies in eight of my parishes—we call our counties parishes—in eight of my parishes or counties, the number of policies has dropped from 290,000 in October 2021 to 267,000 in November of 2022, and it has fallen.

So that is 22,000 people—almost 23,000—out of only 8 parishes or counties who have had to give up their flood insurance.

Now, it is not just Louisiana, Mr. President. You may be having the problem in California.

The Associated Press estimates that 1 million fewer Americans will be able to afford to buy flood insurance by the end of the decade because of Risk Rating 2.0, their algorithm, their secret sauce. And E&E News has identified 425,000 policyholders across the country who have already discontinued coverage.

What does that mean for each State? Well, for example, cancellations of flood insurance because they can't afford it. Eleven percent of the people of California who were buying flood insurance can't afford it anymore, they have dropped it; 11 percent of the policyholders in Texas; 9.6 percent in Florida; in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina, 8 percent.

Now, this is a disaster waiting to happen. And I am all for a fair system, but I will tell you what I am not for. I am not for having a Federal Agency, without consulting the U.S. Congress, without talking to you, Mr. President, about your policyholders in California or me in Louisiana, without explaining to us how they are doing it, just unilaterally raising prices with an algorithm or their secret sauce, as I call it.

Now, Senators CASSIDY and GILLIBRAND and I have introduced a bill. It is called the Flood Insurance Pricing Transparency Act. It is a bipartisan bill. All we are asking that FEMA do is talk to us and tell us how they are coming up with these rate increases.

The American people pay the salary of the people at FEMA, and my people and your people, Mr. President, deserve to know how their policies are being priced.

And, Mr. President—Mr. President Biden, if you are listening—I hope you will pick up the phone and you will call your FEMA Director, for whom I have great respect—I don't hate anybody—but I hope the President will call the FEMA Director here and ask him what planet he just parachuted in from and what is he thinking, raising these kinds of prices without telling the American people why.

NOMINATION OF DANA M. DOUGLAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Dana Douglas to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Judge Douglas' passion for the law and public service was inspired by her family's background in law enforcement. In particular, her mother, Ms. Ida Woodfork, served in the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office for 30 years, and her uncle, Mr. Warren Woodfork, Sr., was the first Black superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department.

Judge Douglas earned her B.A. in social work and Black world studies at Miami University and received her J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. From there, she clerked for Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Judge Douglas then spent 18 years litigating, trying four cases to verdict or judgment and handling several administrative matters before State agencies. Although she worked in private practice, she also served the community for 9 years as a commissioner and then vice president of the New Orleans Civil Service Commission, a quasi-judicial body regulating the city's civil service.

Since 2019, Judge Douglas has served as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. In that time, she has authored 111 reports and recommendations, all of which have been adopted in whole or in part by the district court.

Judge Douglas enjoys the strong support of Senators KENNEDY and CASSIDY, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated her as ''qualified'' to serve on the Fifth Circuit.

If confirmed, Judge Douglas will be the first woman of color to serve on the Fifth Circuit.

Judge Douglas' experience, qualifications, and temperament will be assets on the Fifth Circuit, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

VOTE ON DOUGLAS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Douglas nomination?

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 388 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin	Grassley	Romney
Bennet	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rounds
Blunt	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Burr	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Capito	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Tillis
Cassidy	Markey	Toomey
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cornyn	Murphy	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Durbin	Padilla	Wicker
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Portman	Young
Graham	Reed	

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Hawley	Paul
Blackburn	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fischer	McConnell	
Hagerty	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Murkowski
Hickenlooper	Sullivan

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). 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.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MURPHY).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

VOTE ON SHAMBAUGH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Shambaugh nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 389 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Baldwin	Graham	Risch
Bennet	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rounds
Blunt	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Sasse
Boozman	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Burr	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cantwell	Leahy	Smith
Capito	Luján	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Tester
Carper	Markey	Thune
Casey	McConnell	Tillis
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Cramer	Murray	Whitehouse
Crapo	Ossoff	Wicker
Duckworth	Padilla	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	Young
Feinstein	Portman	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NAYS—27

Barrasso	Hoeven	Moran
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Cassidy	Inhofe	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Daines	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Lankford	Shelby
Fischer	Lee	Sullivan
Hagerty	Lummis	Toomey
Hawley	Marshall	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Hickenlooper	Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 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. SCOTT of South Carolina. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the previous order so that the Senate remains in executive session until 5 p.m., with all provisions under the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to vote for students. Tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to vote for parents. Tomorrow, we will have the opportunity to vote for common sense in the U.S. Senate. Tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to vote for my resolution to stop the Biden Department of Education from destroying educational opportunities for millions of students and their parents.

During the pandemic, we saw the devastating impact of prolonged school closures on America's kids, especially kids living in low-income communities.

Big labor unions orchestrated these shutdowns, and blue city politicians fell in lockstep. They sided with union bosses over parents, over kids, and over plain old common sense.

Now we see the tragic consequences. The 2022 NAEP scorecard shows the largest drop in reading scores for 9-year-olds in more than 30 years and the first-ever—the first-ever—drop in math scores, a 7-percent decrease.

We warned them that this would happen. We said stop, stop letting labor bosses make decisions. Parents—parents—are the ones who know what is best for their kids. They need flexibility. They deserve choice.

One of those options should always be high-quality public charter schools. These charter schools continue to outkick their coverage. This year, charter schools only represent 12 percent—12 percent—of all public high schools, but they make up 22 percent of the top 100 public high schools in our amazing country. That is nearly one out of four amazing public schools is a charter school, even though only 12 percent of all schools, all high schools, are charter schools.

Think about this. In Colorado, 85 percent of charter school students met performance standards compared to only 66 percent of students in district-managed schools.

Despite their proven track record of success for students, for parents, and, of course, for common sense, the Biden administration continues to attack charter schools. He campaigned against them. And then as soon as he got in office, he directed the bureaucrats at the DOE—the Department of Education—to put new restrictions on charter schools desperately, desperately looking for funding. These restrictions are a slap in the face to parents who are turning to charter schools as a better alternative for their children.

Since the pandemic, charter schools have gained 7 percent—7 percent; that is, 240,000 more students have chosen charter schools because their parents are able to access common sense for their kids' education path. That means hundreds of thousand of students are better off today than they were before they had this option.

These are kids growing up in some of America's most devastated communities, some of America's poorest communities, some of America's most disadvantaged communities.

This is a game changer, not just for the students while they are enrolled in these schools, but this is a game changer for the rest of their lives. This is a game changer for them economically. This is the fastest path to the American dream, what we all hope to achieve one day. This is the game changer that we so often talk about.

We have seen the success of providing parents with more options right here in Washington, DC, since the creation of the bipartisan—and let me say that word one more time because sometimes here in Washington, we don't think anything happens in a bipartisan fashion. But the DC Opportunity Scholarship is a bipartisan coalition of Senators and Congress members who came together to make sure that DC kids, since 2004, have had opportunity for quality education through charter schools. Yes, 11,000 students, by the way—not 500, not 2,000, 11,000 students—from low-income families here in DC were able to receive scholarships to attend the school of their choice, scholarships that were provided by Republicans and Democrats in Congresses since 2004.

There is good news, by the way. The good news is that these students attending these remarkable public charter schools graduate 91 percent of the time—91 percent of the time. Compare that to students in the DC area who do not attend a public charter school who are in the public school system; they graduate only two out of three times, 66 percent. Wow.

I can't imagine a world where my friends across the aisle who stood with me to protect DC Opportunity Scholarships would not stand with us today to protect more education options for kids all across America.

By voting for the administration's restrictions, my friends across the aisle are telling these hard-working parents that labor union bosses and bureaucrats know what is best for their kids better than the parents themselves. That is plain wrong.

Here is what I know: The greatest difference between the haves and the have-nots, it is not the color of your skin, it is not the neighborhood you live in, it is not the income of your parents, the biggest difference between the haves and the have-nots in our country will not be solved by playing politics and putting labor unions in front of your kids. The way that we close that gap, the biggest difference between the two sides—the haves and have-nots—my friend from Indiana, is education, quality education. It changes lives. It sets poor kids on the right path.

I want to do for the kids today what was done for me when I was a kid. I want to make sure that everybody understands that education is the closest thing to magic in America, and I do mean a good education.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I come to the floor here to give an even simpler argument as it applies in many different areas in addition to education.

Senator SCOTT came to the floor to ask for choice, opportunity, and competition all mixed in together. When you have got that, you have got the description of a perfect marketplace, whether it is for healthcare, whether it is for education. And, ironically, the two places in our country where expenses keep going up and up would be in healthcare. Most families would put that up there right along with education.

K–12, having that ability to choose where you would want your own kids to go to school is something that you should never be afraid of. If you are not interested in it, you are probably trying to hide something. That would be, in many cases, where you are not mustering what it takes to minimally educate your own child properly.

I was on a school board for 10 years—2004 through 2014—in Indiana, a public school system in one of the most Catholic places in the State of Indiana. I will never forget, a high school tried to start that was Catholic. Our public school system was so good it couldn't get to first base, but at least the attempt was made. Not all areas are blessed with a public school system, as we traditionally know it, offering that top-notch education.

Whenever you do fear competition, transparency—which doesn't necessarily apply here, but choice, it does—you are probably trying to cover up something that is not performing.

And, sadly, here is where you need the choice more than any other place, where folks can't afford to have the choice. And if you are trapped in one system, what does that say for your kids' future?

I ran a business for 37 years. So many businesses tried to do the same thing, get involved in markets. It gets concentrated. That is what is happening in our healthcare industry. It is like an unregulated utility, and it disguises itself as free enterprise. That is restricting competition, restricting transparency, restricting choice.

Costs have been going up for decades with no end in sight; postsecondary education, very similar. Here, all we need to do is take a system that still has a pretty good value to it, it just is not producing the results.

Indiana has been one of the leaders in charter schools and choice. We have over 100 charter schools. I reflect back—I think it was when I was a State legislator—on a neighboring county, there were three grade schools. The smallest of the three had to be shut down because of cost cuts—well, best performing of the three. Those kids would have had to travel 10, 15 miles to get to one of the other two public schools, elementary. This place worked as hard as it could over 2 years, scraped together the resources, and kept their Otwell Miller Academy open. It was the choice of the parents. They were part of a system that wasn't working, and they were able to do it. Had it not been for the charter school policy in our State, that community would have been out of luck.

We have some of the best charters in the country in Indiana because we are a place that generally embraces competition, transparency, choice, and no barriers to entry. Whenever the healthcare industry is trying to lobby for not having more competition, for instance, through physician-owned hospitals, when public school systems want themselves to be the only option, sometimes you get lucky, like I did, and went to a great public school system, but many times you don't, and you are trapped in a bad system.

Our schools, too, that are charter sometimes are a little more experimental. They focus on things like STEM, CTE, particular education that community might need, where if you are brought into the same old curriculum, the same old process, the same thing that is not generating even the basic results, you are trapped in something that should never be the case.

Be for choice. Be for competition. Be for a successful education.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, charter schools have seen explosive growth since they first came onto the scene in 1992 as a model for education. In 1993, there were just 23 charter schools in the United States, serving a little over 6,000 students. Today, there are over 7,000 charter schools and counting, serving more than 3 million American students. It is not difficult to understand their increasing popularity. They offer an affordable alternative to parents and students who want more options. More options increase competition, and more options improve the quality of the traditional public education system.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's new rule threatens to stifle their progress by imposing stringent, onerous, burdensome new requirements on charter schools, specifically those that receive grants under the Federal Charter Schools Program, or CSP. This is a terrible idea.

The CSP was established to provide grants to eligible charter schools to help ensure that all children have access to quality education regardless of their ZIP Code. The administration's new rules would stifle this proven, emerging, and burgeoning model, one that serves millions of the most vulnerable students in our traditional public school system. It would require CSP grantees to hold hearings—to hold hearings—specifically to prove that the presence of the school in question does not or would not contribute to increased racial segregation. This would impose a deliberately costly and inherently unfairly accusatory burden on charter schools and would disincentivize new schools from opening. This, I fear, is precisely the point. That is a feature, not a bug, in this program.

Look, everyone can agree that we want our children to have access to quality education. The President's rule is antithetical to that very mission. The rule treats charter schools as if they have done something wrong, as if they are guilty somehow of racial segregation until they prove themselves innocent. The accusation of racial segregation is particularly egregious here because CSP schools are required to admit students through a lottery system if there are more interested students than there are available slots at the school. Clearly, this isn't an observation of reality but an injection of woke politics into an issue as fundamental as the education of America's schoolchildren.

Most charter schools are doing their best to provide quality education to all students, regardless of race or ethnicity. Punishing them for behavior that they don't engage in simply isn't fair. It is not right.

These regulations would also require the Secretary to examine whether a charter school is ''needed.'' Maybe I am old-fashioned, but I tend to think that parents—and certainly not the U.S. Secretary of Education—should be the ones deciding the necessity of such schools.

You know, we have seen this in other areas, other sectors of our economy. There are special interests that tend to stifle competition by pushing for regulations requiring new market entrants to demonstrate that they meet a need, to demonstrate that their facility of one sort or another, a hospital or otherwise, is ''needed.''

I fear this requirement would do the same, and I fear this requirement has as its object the same thing as those other requirements in other industries: stifling competition, erecting barriers to entry, squelching competition. This is not OK. I don't think it is OK in any industry. It is certainly not OK where the victims are innocent schoolchildren who just need to learn, who need to be taught, need to go to school somewhere, and ought to be able to go to school with some options that their parents can have a role in choosing.

Proponents of these rules argue that the regulations are necessary because charter schools are more likely to close than traditional public schools. They rightly argue that such closures can be disruptive to students' education. In reply, I first note that CSP schools are less likely to experience closure than other charter schools, but I would also note here that school closures also show why charter schools are so valuable.

Unlike traditional public schools, where students in failing schools can go for 13 consecutive years without any other option, charter schools are subject to greater accountability. That is the power of choice.

Mr. President, we shouldn't subject new charter schools to onerous requirements. We should not set up rules purely to protect the interests of teachers unions—the very same teachers unions that also pushed to close schools, that resisted reopening those schools and repeatedly placed their interests above those of parents and students.

The President's rule would only lead to fewer educational opportunities for America's schoolchildren.

While accountability for any government-funded enterprise is undoubtedly important, these rules go far beyond mere accountability. In fact, they are not about accountability; they are about something else, something far less credible, far less defensible than accountability. This is about squelching competition and protecting teachers unions from competition, and that is wrong.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided rule, this misguided effort, and to protect parent choice, ensuring that all children have access to quality education regardless of their ZIP Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to tell a bit of a story. There are some great schools and great teachers in Oklahoma. They do an incredible job, and they serve our families every day, doing remarkable work, working alongside so many kids who struggle in their educational environment, who struggle to be able to learn but who excel. I am grateful to those teachers across our State. Those teachers who are in our public schools—both our public traditional schools and our public charter schools—deserve to be applauded and encouraged for the work they do every day, and I am proud to know many of them as friends and as neighbors.

But what is interesting to me right now is there is a push that is happening from the Biden administration to divide teachers, teachers who are in public school education, that there are some who are like the good public school teachers, and apparently there are some that—you are the bad public school teachers. And it is not based on the ratings for their students or the quality of their teaching; it is based on which public school they choose to be able to serve in.

You see, the Biden administration has put out a new policy to try to crush public charter schools. How are they doing it? They are saying that if there are open desks in other public schools, then the public charter school can't prove a need for them to exist at all, and they want to just be able to wipe them out.

Stop. Let me just set this in context for you. In Oklahoma, there is a school called Harding Charter Preparatory High School. Maybe you wouldn't know it, but U.S. News & World Report—they know it. U.S. News & World Report—with 18,000 schools in America, they rank the 18,000 schools in America. U.S. News & World Report ranked Harding Charter Preparatory School in Oklahoma City 115th out of 18,000 schools. In fact, in Oklahoma, Harding Charter Preparatory High School was ranked No. 1. The No. 1 school in the State is this public charter school.

Now, it happens to be in an area where there are open desks in other schools around it, so it won't meet the need requirement that the Biden administration is putting out to say: You can't prove a need for your existence. So the No. 1 school in our State could be wiped out because those public school teachers are teaching at the wrong public school.

What else can I tell you about Harding? At Harding, 100 percent of the students go to AP classes—100 percent of them. What else can I tell you about Harding? Seventy-two percent of the students at Harding Preparatory School are minorities—72 percent—and it is the No. 1 school in our State.

What is different about a public charter school and a traditional public school? Well, the rules for the kids are exactly the same—the same testing requirements, the same State requirements, the same Federal requirements for the kids. The rules are exactly the same for the kids, but they are different for the grownups. The grownups have a different set of rules. They have a different set of accountability in charter schools.

What is the result they are getting? The No. 1 school in our State is a charter school. The 115th school in the country is this charter school. Yet, now the Biden administration is saying: You are going to have to prove a need for it.

Can I tell you, the parents and families in Oklahoma have already proven a need for it. I got an email in from one of those students, who said: I was not getting access to these AP classes in the school—in the public school they were in before. They had no shot of really getting into the college they wanted to be able to get into until they got into Harding Charter Preparatory School, a public charter school, and now they have a shot.

I have to tell you, I don't understand the battle with choice that is happening with parents in this country. I don't understand why suddenly so many government officials want to be able to say to parents: You go to that school, the school we choose; you can't move; you have to stay right there—why that is suddenly the trend in America.

This growing push across our country for public charter schools, for parents to be more involved in their child's education, for parents to have new options in education, for parents to be able to have a choice and some freedom, why is that so bad, that so many kids get a shot?

Can I tell you, I have two daughters. They are not the same. They have different preferences. They have different ideas. They are both beautiful and amazing girls. But, for some reason, the folks in the Biden administration, in the Education Department, are saying: All kids are the same, and we are going to require them to do it the way we want all kids to do it—rather than allowing parents like me and parents like others to be able to say: This child's best education environment is in that location, in that public school, or another child has a better educational environment in a different charter public school.

Don't lose track of this: They are both public schools. They both have requirements for the students which are exactly the same, but the rules for the grownups are different. Some in the teachers union do not like that, and so this plan is to shut down this type of school, like Harding.

I say let's stand with those parents and with those students, with that charter school and a multitude of others in my State where parents are engaged in their child's education and administrators in those schools have to work twice as hard because they don't get the same level of funding as other public schools. Let's support them, not try to diminish them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague from South Carolina for all of his work to promote school choice. I have been proud to partner with him each year to cosponsor the National School Choice Week resolution and promote the maximum amount of educational choice for parents.

Since I have been in Washington, I have noticed how many different school options are available for families in the area: public schools, charter schools, private schools, religious schools, home schools, co-ops. There are all kinds of options for parents and their children here.

DC is an example of a place where school choice has helped everyone, as government-funded schools have generally failed.

Of course, Washington, DC, is also where our Nation's political elite and their children reside. It is where diplomats from around the world come and send their kids to the school of their choice. Bureaucrats, politicians, and wealthy parents have all the choice in the world to send their kids to get a great education. But why should that choice only be available to the elite political class? Why is it that teachers unions and Democratic politicians want to fight school choice and keep students from middle and lower income families in failing schools?

It is a perfect example of how the swamp works: They will give every advantage to their own kids, while pushing the working class down. The elites have always had school choice, and like my colleague from South Carolina, I simply want to extend that choice to every family.

During my 8 years as Governor of Florida, I was a proud champion of school choice and charter schools. I have long believed that parents, not the government, know what is best for their children.

Near the end of my time as Governor, Florida had 653 charter schools operating across our great State. More than one in four K–12 public school kids in Florida chose a school other than the one that they were assigned to.

We were ranked third in the Nation for our number of charter schools and the number of students enrolled in our charter schools. That competition helped everyone, including our public school system. When I was leaving, we ranked fourth in the Nation for K–12 student achievement. In other words, our push for maximum choice helped their students in all of our schools get ahead.

That didn't happen overnight, of course. But we had to work at it. For example, I worked to expand access to Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship Program. This tax credit encourages voluntary contributions from corporate donors to scholarship funding organizations. These organizations then award scholarships to students from low-income families so they can attend private schools or get help transporting them to a public school in another school district.

During my 8 years, the number of kids benefiting from that scholarship program grew from 40,000 to 108,000. Sixty thousand more students were able to attend a school that better met their needs because we gave them that choice.

Similarly, I signed legislation creating open enrollment in Florida. That bill allowed more than 280,000 students to attend any public school in the State regardless of their ZIP Code.

I also signed legislation to expand access to scholarships for students with disabilities so they could attend a public or private school of their choice.

I also signed a bill creating the Schools of Hope Program. It established high-quality educational options for students attending persistently low performing public schools.

Instead of attending the lower performing school, we drew in charter school networks that had a proven track record for operating high-performing charter schools in underserved communities. Because we offered them increased autonomy and flexibility and gave them access to grants and low-interest facility loans, these charter schools were better able to serve Florida's neediest students.

Add to that, I signed legislation to give every student access to virtual learning, with 428,000 students taking advantage of that program in the 2017–2018 school year. That number was up by 312,000 students compared to 10 years earlier.

Parents could use Florida Virtual School to supplement what was happening in person at school, and they could use a hybrid setup with home school or do completely online learning—whatever best suited their child's needs.

In Florida, school choice isn't just for the elites, it is for everyone because every family deserves the chance to send their child to the school that best meets their needs. Whether it was virtual school, a private school, a religious school, home school, a charter school, or a public school in a different district, I fought to give the kids the best opportunity to get a quality education.

And the best part about it, this kind of choice and competition among schools benefited everyone. It helped all of our schools, including our public schools and neighborhood schools, to improve.

In October, a team of researchers from Northwestern University, UC Davis, and Emory studied the outcomes of Florida students who remained in public schools in the 2016–2017 school year—the same time we were continuing to expand school choice.

I will read you what they concluded.

> We find broad and growing benefits for students at local public schools as the school-choice program scales up.
>
> In particular, students who attend neighborhood schools with higher levels of market competition have lower rates of suspensions and absences and higher test scores in reading and math.
>
> And while our analysis reveals gains for virtually all students, we find that those most positively affected are students with the greatest barriers to school success, including those with low family incomes and less-educated mothers.

In other words, school choice helps students of poor and working class families, like the one I grew up in. I was born to a single mom with an 11th grade education and never met my birth father. My adoptive father never had more than a sixth grade education. We were poor and didn't have much to brag about. We lived in public housing and moved around a lot. But my mom pushed me to work hard in school and get a good education. And by God's grace, I was able to live the American dream. That is why I am here—because school choice shouldn't only be for the elites, it should be for everyone.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, my children are grown now, but every time that we moved or considered what neighborhood to live in, as they were growing up and attending public schools, the first question we would ask is, ''What about the schools?'' because we, like most parents, wanted to make sure that our children went to the very best schools possible. And if we had to dig a little deeper and figure out how do we buy a house in a neighborhood that was in that school district, then we would do it. But the sad fact of life is that many parents of lesser means, of lower income, don't have the luxury of buying a house in a neighborhood where a public school is excellent. In fact, many of our children, because they don't have access to charter schools, are literally trapped in failing schools, which will forever affect their course of life, their development, the jobs they can qualify for, the level of education they can achieve. All of that will be impacted negatively by the fact that many of our young people go to schools that are less than excellent and, in many cases, failing.

In 2010, I think it was, I saw the documentary called ''Waiting for Superman.'' This was a story that in one way was exhilarating but in another way it was very depressing because it was all about the lottery system in New York's schools. If you were lucky enough to win the lottery, you knew that your life and your future was going to be forever impacted for the better.

But I still remember looking at the faces and the tears of the children who did not win the lottery, who did not get to go to the best schools, and they knew that their life, too, would be forever impacted but in that case for the worse.

I am a firm believer that competition makes us all better. It makes us work harder, strive for greater achievement. But I think the public school system—in particular, the teachers unions—they don't want any competition because they don't want anybody to show that our children can be educated better—with better teachers, better training, better facilities. And that is what the charter school movement has provided: some competition, some basis for comparison.

If everybody is operating at this level, with no one operating at this level, then everybody is going to continue to operate in a subpar performance. Of course, I am not painting with a broad brush, but I am saying that a lot of low-income children are condemned to bad schools with no way out. And charter schools offer a way out for those children.

Now, I think sometimes the term ''school choice'' gets confused with charter schools because school choice, as I understand it, is more broadly interpreted to mean parochial schools and that sort of thing—private schools. But charter schools are public schools. We are talking about high-quality, tuition-free public schools that are open to all students.

In my State, in Texas, we have 900 charter schools. They don't serve the elite. They don't serve the wealthy. They don't serve even the majority population. In fact, 62 percent of Texas charter school students are Hispanic. We have about a 42-percent Hispanic population. So you can say that charter schools disproportionately benefit Hispanic students.

Twenty-seven percent of the students that attend charter schools have limited proficiency in English; that is, English is not their first language. And

the overwhelming majority of students are economically disadvantaged. In other words, their parents can't buy a house in the best school district in town. Their parents don't have the money to send them to a private school. And so charter schools represent the only real option—public, tuition-free schools that are open to all students.

I am concerned that the Biden administration is too close to the teachers unions that were responsible for much of the extended lockdowns we saw during COVID–19, and many of their members basically refused to go back to the classroom even though across the country private schools and many other educational institutions were able to continue—yes, observing social distancing, masking, all of the protocols we became very familiar with during the pandemic. But they continued to learn in person, in school—my understanding is, for example, virtually all the Catholic schools because they depend on the tuition dollars from parents, and parents weren't going to pay to have their children learn sitting in front of a computer, if they were able to learn at all. And we are only today beginning to skim the surface of the kind of damage that occurred to our students—our children—as a result of remote learning.

You know, I sort of envision a single mom with three children who may not have even graduated from high school, much less college, herself, worried about her own job, worried about being able to provide for her family, with three school-aged children, all attending different grade levels. I can't imagine being able to adequately supervise and make sure that your children are able to learn in those circumstances. Maybe you have three kids from three different grades with three separate curricula sitting in front of a computer trying to pick up whatever educational benefit that you can.

What we learned, as a result of the draconian lockdowns supported and encouraged by Randi Weingarten and the teachers unions, is that many of our children have fallen far behind. And it may take not months, not weeks, but literally years to catch up, if they ever do.

So I don't really understand this idea of some of the Biden administration and the teachers unions who don't like and won't tolerate charter schools. Is it because they are OK with children being trapped in failing schools? I can't really understand why they would view this as a threat.

Public, tuition-free, high-quality charter schools—these are public schools. They aren't private schools. These aren't for the elite. This isn't for the rich. This is for overwhelmingly economically disadvantaged students.

And so I support Senator TIM SCOTT. I applaud his leadership in this area in saying that the Biden administration should not stand in the way of these charter schools.

Every child deserves a quality education, and every parent deserves the freedom to choose the school that will serve their child best.

So I appreciate the fact that Senator SCOTT is such a tireless advocate for charter schools and is a champion of choices and alternatives for parents, many of whom are economically disadvantaged and have no other choice other than to send their child to a failing school.

I hope our colleagues will join us in voting to overturn this damaging new rule tomorrow when we vote on it.

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. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ERIC M. GARCETTI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to express my strong opposition to the nomination of Eric Garcetti to be Ambassador to India. I am compelled to vote against Mayor Garcetti due to the serious allegations that he enabled sexual harassment and racism to run rampant in the Los Angeles mayor's office.

During my career, I have prioritized protecting victims of sexual harassment and sexual abuse. In 2005, I cosponsored the Violence Against Women Act. That bill provides vital aid to the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women and to law enforcement to protect victims of sexual harassment and abuse.

Over several Congresses, I have co-led bills introduced by Senator GILLIBRAND to defend victims of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. I cosponsored resolutions introduced by Senator FEINSTEIN to raise awareness of sexual assault. These include the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021, the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act of 2021, the Speak Out Act, the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, and a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I have also pressed the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security for more transparency and accountability on their handling of sexual misconduct in the workplace. Moving into the next Congress, Senator DURBIN and I have agreed to jointly pursue these inquiries.

With respect to Mayor Garcetti, several credible whistleblowers approached my office about concerning allegations that he was aware of and enabled his deputy chief of staff Rick Jacobs to sexually harass several employees within the mayor's office.

These men and women allege that Rick Jacobs engaged in inappropriate physical conduct without their consent. They alleged that Rick Jacobs made crude sexual remarks and gestures towards staff and others. They alleged that he made blatantly racist remarks toward Asians and other minorities.

These allegations have also been publicly reported in the Los Angeles Times. Text messages made public by the Los Angeles Times indicate that these instances were common knowledge among the Garcetti staff. One picture that has been made public shows Jacobs inappropriately touching an individual next to him. In the picture Mayor Garcetti is standing on the other side of Mr. Jacobs. For Mayor Garcetti to claim that he didn't know what was going on defies reason.

There is also a pending lawsuit by a Los Angeles police officer against the city of Los Angeles as a result of this type of disgraceful behavior. The kinds of behavior mentioned in the lawsuit include Jacobs subjecting the police officer to unwanted hugs, shoulder massages, and crude sexual language.

In total, my office identified over 19 individuals who have either witnessed Jacobs' behavior or were the victims of it. So who are these brave and courageous individuals who made these allegations?

Are they Republican operatives?

No. They are his former communications director, senior staffers, junior staffers, businessmen, civic leaders, and the Los Angeles Police Department officer assigned to protect him.

Despite attempts by Mayor Garcetti and the Biden administration to frame complaints against him as a political hit job, some of the individuals who have come forward and shed light on misconduct are from Mayor Garcetti's own staff.

How hypocritical is it for this administration to encourage victims of sexual harassment to speak out, yet when they do so against a powerful ally of Joe Biden, they are ignored? And they have been ignored in this matter even after providing evidence of harassment, including photographs and text messages.

When convenient, Democrats have supported claims of harassment with far less.

Just last week, President Biden signed into law a bill sponsored by Senator GILLIBRAND that I cosponsored which enabled survivors to speak out about workplace sexual assault and harassment. Continuing to push this nominee after signing that bill into law is the very definition of tone deafness.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration is sending a message to victims of sexual harassment in the workplace that they will only be believed when politically convenient. As a result, the Biden administration and all those who support this nomination have no credibility when it comes to protecting victims of sexual harassment.

I conducted a thorough investigation of the allegation irrespective of partisan politics. That is my reputation.

The evidence is clear that Jacobs engaged in blatant sexual misconduct and racist behavior and did it for years. The evidence is clear that Mayor Garcetti either had direct knowledge of it or chose willful ignorance as a defense.

Nobody is that brazen to engage in this type of outrageous behavior against other people unless they know that they have a powerful enabler protecting them. Based on the facts and the evidence, the enabler is Mayor Eric Garcetti.

To defend himself, Mayor Garcetti has pointed to a report which inconceivably purports to clear Jacobs of any wrongdoing. The report was conducted by a law firm hired and paid for by the city of Los Angeles.

Mayor Garcetti and the City of Los Angeles would be liable if the report concluded sexual harassment occurred. The report was also delivered to the city of Los Angeles under attorney-client privilege, apparently in the hope that no one outside the city would ever see it.

The report failed to interview multiple firsthand witnesses. The interviews were not taken under penalty of perjury.

The report focused exclusively on allegations of sexual harassment made by the Los Angeles Police Department and—get this—failed to give due weight to other witnesses.

For example, the report includes an interview with Jacobs in which he admits he used racist language, kissing, hugging, and squeezing people's shoulders. The report also identifies the individual in the lewd photo I mentioned earlier. The report says that the individual stated that Jacobs' actions weren't funny and embarrassed that person.

That makes it clear. It makes it clear nonconsensual, physical contact occurred. It is evidence that sexual harassment occurred. Oddly, the report makes no attempt—no attempt whatsoever—to reconcile how it can conclude there was no sexual harassment after clearly describing sexual harassment throughout.

These aren't acts of transparency; these are acts to sweep this whole thing under the rug. Although Mayor Garcetti may be indifferent to the allegations and the actions of his deputy chief of staff, my colleagues and I have a duty to take such concerning allegations and take them very seriously. Whether here in the United States or abroad, there is no place for sexual misconduct or racism.

Mayor Garcetti has had countless opportunities over the years to stand up for victims by removing his deputy chief of staff, which he failed to do. These fundamental failures by Mayor Garcetti are incompatible with the office that he seeks. Therefore, I can't, in good conscience, vote for him.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to review all of this evidence found in my investigative report as well as what is reported in the press. The facts and the evidence compel me to vote no, and I hope my colleagues will join me in doing the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the previous order so that the Senate remain in executive session until 6:15 p.m., with all provisions under the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, our Navy and Marine Corps are the best in the world, but we face many challenges across the globe. We need to build new ships and maintain our current fleet. We need to recruit, train, and equip a force necessary to deter conflict, especially in the Indo-Pacific. We need to help keep sea lanes open for commerce and build deeper relationships with our allies and our partners.

To make sure that the Navy is able to carry out all military and civilian objectives, we allocate a lot of money for its budget. A Comptroller is critical to ensuring the accountability of taxpayer dollars and to keeping the Navy's readiness at the highest level.

Russell Rumbaugh, the nominee for this position, will bring firsthand knowledge to the job, having previously served as both special assistant to the Director and as an operations research analyst in the Secretary of Defense's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Office.

In having served as an Army infantry officer, Mr. Rumbaugh has had a unique perspective that will help him to support and strengthen our Navy, but his nomination is stuck because the Senator from Missouri is blocking it over disagreements, not with Russell Rumbaugh and not even necessarily with the Department of the Navy but with the Biden administration and Afghanistan policy.

I know because we have been here before, actually, Senator HAWLEY and I, I think, three times. This is the third time. I know what he is going to do today. I am going to make a unanimous consent request that we get the Navy a Comptroller, and he is going to say: No. I want a special committee on the Afghanistan withdrawal.

I am not the Armed Services chairman, and I am not the majority leader. I can't authorize that kind of thing. In any case, the House Armed Services Committee is absolutely, under a presumed Speaker McCarthy, going to do tons of oversight in this space.

My basic complaint about this tactic is that it is not what this power is for. It is not what this power is for. We are all given the ability to block a nominee. It is supposed to be used sparingly and not in the fashion that it is being used by the Senator from Missouri. The Senator from Missouri, essentially, has got a total blanket hold. Sometimes, he allows the body to vote on somebody, but the demand, which he knows will never be accepted, remains. Otherwise, he will block the logistics guy at the Army; he will block the fiscal guy at the Navy; he has blocked numerous Department of Defense nominees not because of their qualifications and not because of any particular dispute regarding the nominee but because he is mad about the Afghanistan withdrawal. Lots of people are mad about the Afghanistan withdrawal, but only Senator HAWLEY does this.

I would just submit that the right way to influence foreign policy is on the floor as an amendment to the Defense authorization or to the State Department authorization or on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee or on the Senate Armed Services Committee, but not just by stomping your feet and disabling the Department of Defense from doing the work that it needs to do.

I just got out of a meeting. I came right out of this meeting with the Chief of Naval Operations. We talked a little bit about this position, and he talked to me about how important it was. So Senator HAWLEY and I may have a different view about the Afghanistan withdrawal, but I don't understand what Russell Rumbaugh has to do with this. He is an eminently qualified person. I don't even think the Senator from Missouri is alleging that this guy couldn't do the job or shouldn't do the job. It is just that he is mad about something else.

So we have got to break this logjam. The Senator from Missouri has been doing this for, well, more than a year now, and the Department of Defense itself is suffering. We have exchanged some pretty tough words, but I just hope that he sees fit to separate his foreign policy objections around Joe Biden being President and Secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken. Fair enough. It is a free country. He is a Republican; I am a Democrat. These are the kinds of fights that we have. But why block the Comptroller from the Navy? It just makes no sense to me.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 972, R. Russell Rumbaugh, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I ask for permission to hold up this shirt.

Mr. SCHATZ. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHATZ. It is fine. Go ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, this is Jared Schmitz, Lance Corporal Schmitz, from the State of Missouri, Wentzville, MO. His father made this T-shirt and gave it to me just a couple of weeks ago, when I last had the chance to visit with him.

Lance Corporal Schmitz was killed in action at Abbey Gate on August 22 of last year. On the back are the 12 other marines who were lost, along with Lance Corporal Schmitz, on that day.

When I saw his father and he gave me the shirt, he told me about all they are doing to honor Jared's memory. He asked me to continue to fight to uphold that memory and to get answers, and I said: That is exactly what I will do.

The truth is that this family and the families of the other lost marines and every American citizen have been waiting too long for answers about what happened at Abbey Gate, over a year ago, as the Senator from Hawaii rightly notes. We are waiting for answers as to why the commanders on the ground weren't heeded. We are waiting for answers as to why the White House wasn't ready to do a proper evacuation. We are waiting for answers about how the security situation so deteriorated that 13 servicemembers were killed and hundreds of American civilians were left behind to terrorists there in Afghanistan. We are still waiting for answers.

No, I am not willing to pretend that everything is fine at the Pentagon. Everything is not fine at the Pentagon. I am not willing to say that business as usual should go on. No, I am not willing to waive the rules of regular order and expedite nominations without even having a vote on the floor of this Senate, but I understand my colleague's sense of urgency here. I understand that he wants to move these nominations.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 763

Mr. President, in the spirit of trying to reach a compromise, as he proposes, I would just say this: Why don't we agree to take a vote—just a vote—on having a select committee to look into what happened at Abbey Gate and get those answers and make them public—not a commission that will take years and years to report, Vietnam-style, when everybody who made the decisions are safely out of power and collecting their pensions, but a select committee that will report and make it public to the American people and get real accountability—because who has been fired over what happened at Abbey Gate? Nobody. Who has been held accountable? Nobody. Who has given answers? Nobody.

Here is what I propose: I ask that the Senator modify his request so that following confirmation of the Rumbaugh nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session; that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration; that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 763; further, that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object and just very quickly, look, we are at an impasse here. The problem is that the Senator from Missouri is asking for something that he knows I can't agree to, and he is blocking the Comptroller of the U.S. Navy because he is mad about something else. I mean, it is very clear what he is mad about, and he has come in with his set speech about what he is mad about.

The fundamental point here is that this is not the way to be a Member of the U.S. Senate. I remember—I guess it was a couple of years ago—he came down and said: I ask unanimous consent that we pass my bill on section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

I said: If you want to get a hearing, go try to get a hearing. Introduce a bill. Get a Democratic cosponsor. Make the case. Work it through the committee process.

He has failed on that, and he has failed on this issue. He doesn't have other people with him, so he is pitching a fit. And the bummer about this is that it is not me who suffers; it is not one party or the other who suffers; it is the taxpayer. In this instance, it is the Department of the Navy that will lack a Comptroller because JOSH HAWLEY is not getting his way.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. HAWLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of Musetta Tia Johnson, who is nominated to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the senior appellate court for the military, with exclusive jurisdiction over the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Ms. JOHNSON was favorably reported out of the committee on April 5, 2022, and has been pending on the Senate calendar ever since. I am unaware of any objection to her nomination with respect to her qualifications to be a judge on this appellate court.

When confirmed, Miss Johnson will be one of five judges on the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, often referred to as the supreme court of military law. This court, which is composed of civilian appellate judges, has been operating without its full quota of confirmed judges for this entire judicial session, where it considered important jurisdictional and substantive military criminal law issues.

Importantly, the fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act implemented extensive changes to the UCMJ, including a statute that would criminalize sexual harassment under some circumstances. Ms. JOHNSON will play a critical role on the court of appeals in reviewing challenges and issues with the recent sexual assault and sexual harassment statutes, including defendants' rights under the UCMJ. Without Ms. JOHNSON, the court risks deadlock, which will further hamper the military's ability to maintain good order and discipline.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 861, Musetta Tia Johnson to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for a term of 15 years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, it has now been 16 months since President Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan; 16 months since Lance Corporal Schmitz from Missouri and 12 other marines lost their lives at Abbey Gate; 16 months since hundreds of American civilians were left behind to the enemy; 16 months and no one has been fired, no one has offered answers. There has been zero accountability.

So for approximately the 200th time, we are here on the floor as I continue to fulfill my pledge to seek accountability for what happened at Abbey Gate, for the lives that were lost, including a life from my own State, Lance Corporal Schmitz, and to press for answers. It is not too much to ask that not just the families of the fallen but that the people of this country not be lied to about what happened at Abbey Gate and that we be given the answers the American people deserve.

In that time, in those 16 months, Central Command has done an exhaustive investigation and report. Here it is right here. It is thousands of pages long. I can't seem to convince my friend from Rhode Island to hold a hearing on it, so I have been entering it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD page by page. We are about—I don't know—100 pages in. We have many hundreds more to go. But when we are finished, everyone will be able to read this report in full. There have been other reports since then. The Special IG for Afghanistan recently issued his own report, that office's own report, about the collapse of the Afghan Government. And what these reports have in common is a consistent theme that commanders on the ground repeatedly

warned the administration, repeatedly warned the National Security Council, repeatedly warned the State Department as early as the spring of 2021 that the security situation was deteriorating rapidly, that the Taliban was gaining ground rapidly, and that there needed be to be an evacuation.

Yet what did the White House do? Well, according to the findings in this report, nothing. Did they plan? No. Did they take action necessary? No. And so on August 26, there was a terrorist explosion at Abbey Gate. We lose those 13 marines. Hundreds of American civilians are left behind in a botched evacuation. And here we are. Yet we are asked to act as if nothing has happened, as if we should just go on, business as usual. Keep the conveyor belt of nominees to this Pentagon running with no votes, no votes on this floor, no debate on this floor; just wave them through; waive regular order; move it right along; nothing to see here. I am not willing to do that. I haven't been willing to do it for over a year.

I hope my colleagues see now, a year on, that I was serious in August of 2021 when I said I would not consent to waiving the rules to send more nominees to this Pentagon until something is done to get answers and, frankly, to change the culture because the truth is, we have a cultural problem in the whole military-industrial complex.

This is an entity, an organization, that has lied to the American people repeatedly over the years. They lied about Vietnam for a decade. They lied about Iraq. They lied about the true state of the war in Afghanistan. And now we are getting the same lies again, to the point that we can't even hold a hearing in public because the White House won't consent to it.

I don't really blame Chairman REED. He can't get witnesses to come testify in public because this White House doesn't want to say another word about what happened at Abbey Gate. We have a word for that. It is called a coverup, and it is time for it to stop.

Listen, much has been said about my blocking nominees. The truth is, I can't block any nominee. All of these nominees can be brought to the floor. They can't even be filibustered. It is just a matter of what the Senate majority leader wants to do. Sadly my side is not in the majority, and we are not going to be for the next 2 years. So if the Senate majority leader sees fit to vote on these nominees, he can at any time. But as to whether or not I will consent to waiving the rules and allowing these nominees to the Pentagon in leadership positions to be confirmed without even a vote—I will not until something changes at the Pentagon, until something is done about what happened at Abbey Gate.

I know that my colleague the chairman is acting in good faith. It is a privilege to serve with him on the committee. I know he is in a tough spot here because he has a White House that doesn't want to give an inch and doesn't want to say a word. I would just say that I hope, with real oversight coming soon in the House of Representatives, that the Senate will see fit and see its way to doing its part and holding open hearings on this report, on this tragedy, and making sure it does not happen again.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. REED. Retaining my time, Mr. President, I disagree, obviously, with the Senator from Missouri.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has had extensive oversight on Afghanistan. The committee actions include seven public and closed hearings regarding the Afghan war, lessons learned, and ongoing regional counterterrorism requirements since the withdrawal last August. Senator HAWLEY had the opportunity to participate in each of these hearings.

The fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act contained a provision that mandated that the Department of Defense deliver quarterly briefings in both unclassified and classified form on the security situation in Afghanistan and ongoing counterterrorism efforts. The classified briefings have taken place on January 20, April 14, and July 21. The unclassified briefings have taken place on February 14 and April 25. Most recently, on October 19, the committee held unclassified and classified briefings, and Senator HAWLEY has full access to these briefings.

The fiscal year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act also contained a provision, section 1069, which requires the yearly assessment of our ''over the horizon'' counter-terrorism capabilities in Afghanistan. The committee has received the first installment, and this, too, is accessible to all members of the committee.

The fiscal year 2022 NDAA further mandated the establishment of the Afghanistan War Commission, which will spend several years examining all aspects of the 20-year war in depth. Let me emphasize—the 20-year war in depth. All the Commissioners have been appointed. We expect the Commission to commence work in the near term.

I note that Senator HAWLEY indicated that beginning in 2020 there were reports that military leaders were warning of possible complications. That was during the term of President Trump.

I think also one of the issues that has to be looked at is the release of 5,000 Taliban fighters at the direction of President Trump and over the objections of the Afghan Government. Were they at Abbey Gate? Were they the leading forces who were moving in and surrounding Kabul?

This situation requires a long, detailed study. To focus on one event will create headlines but not information or knowledge that we can bring forward. The factors contributing to Abbey Gate were long in the making, and unless we look at those factors over time, unless we look at the whole operation, I don't think we are going to get the kinds of insights we need.

So I respectfully disagree with Senator HAWLEY's objection, and I hope we can find a way to confirm Ms. JOHNSON.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if I could just briefly build on the remarks of Chairman REED, never before has such a small number of Senators stood in the way of this large a number of nominees. The impact of this constant effort to hold up nominees to the State Department and the Department of Defense is to compromise the national security of this Nation; to try to rob from this administration, from this President, the ability to govern and to protect this Nation.

I would just remind my colleagues that what comes around goes around. I know right now some Republicans may delight in the President not having any personnel necessary to run Agencies because of this record number of holds that have been put on nominees by the Republican minority. But there will be a Republican President someday. There will be a Republican majority someday. And a handful of Democratic Senators will use the same tactics that are being used today to essentially rob from this administration its right to do the job it was elected to do by the American people, at great risk to American national security.

So my prerogative on this is that we should just change the rules and make it less easy for one Senator to hold up nominees who are supported by 90 to 95 percent of us and make it easier to proceed to a vote on nominees.

The Senator from Missouri wants to vote no on this nominee or others. That is his right, but we should come up with a process by which the entire administration is not ground to a halt by 1 or 2 of 100. We should just decide to do that because today this is hamstringing a Democratic President. But let me guarantee you, it will hamstring a Republican President someday as well.

YEMEN

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to provide remarks in support of Senator SANDERS' resolution that we will consider later today.

I have come to the floor many times to talk about the war in Yemen. I think I first came to the floor during the Obama administration, when very few people even knew there was a civil war in Yemen that the United States was participating in.

But let me just say again what I hope is common knowledge. The war in Yemen has been a national security disaster for the United States. It has now been ongoing for 8 years, and by no metric has this war accrued to the benefit of U.S. national security. Let me just give you a few windows into why this is true.

First and foremost, this is a humanitarian nightmare. The world's worst humanitarian disaster is in Yemen today.

The U.N. says that 66 percent of the country's population—and, by the way, this is not a small country, right; this is a country of 30-plus million people—right now, survive only because of emergency aid. Twenty-three thousand airstrikes have been launched just from 2015 to 2021, killing or injuring 18,000 civilians. Eighteen thousand civilians—10,000 of them children—have been hit, killed, or maimed by airstrikes.

There is a humanitarian nightmare inside Yemen today. That does not accrue to the benefit of the United States' security. Why? Because al-Qaida and ISIS operate inside Yemen; and when there is this kind of misery, when there is this kind of devastation, that is a breeding ground, that is fertile recruitment ground for the terrorist groups that are organizing against the United States and seeking to recruit those who are looking for answers. Al-Qaida, ISIS are growing stronger, and the misery in Yemen is growing deeper. And, at the same time, Iran is growing more influential.

This was not, at the outset, a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia supports the old regime in Yemen, and Iran, which has been partners with the rebel group, the Houthis, that controls the capital, Sana'a, has become more embedded, as time goes on, with the Houthis. As the war lingers, as it persists year to year, Iran becomes more influential, has more power inside Yemen.

So if our interest in the region is to decrease Iran's power, then every year that this war persists, Iran gets more powerful inside Yemen. So if we care about the growth of Sunni terrorist groups, if we care about the growing influence of Iran, if we care about saving people from misery, destitution, and death, then we have to do everything in our power to wind down this war. What benefit is there to us, to the Yemeni people, to the Middle East region for this war to persist year after year after year?

Now, in 2019, we considered a similar resolution. It passed both the House and the Senate, a resolution to end U.S. participation in the Yemen war. It was vetoed by President Trump. We didn't have enough votes to override the veto.

Let's be honest. This is a very different moment than 2019. Why? Because President Biden has pursued a very different policy than President Trump. President Trump backed the Saudis. He, for a long time, refueled Saudi planes that were dropping bombs in Yemen. He sold them massive amounts of weapon. He embedded American forces with Saudi forces to help pick targets.

President Biden ran on a promise to end U.S. support for the war in Yemen, and, by and large, he made good on that promise. The Biden administration does not sell Saudi Arabia weapons to be used in the Yemen war. They don't refuel the planes midair. They don't help with targeting. They don't help with intelligence.

But Senator SANDERS has correctly identified some lingering lines of cooperation between the United States and the Saudi-led coalition that do continue to help them perpetuate this war, including the work that we do to help maintain the Saudi Air Force.

This is a different moment than 2019, and we should give President Biden credit for pursuing a very different policy. The facts on the ground are different as well. There have been, for long stretches during the Biden administration, ceasefires in Yemen—ceasefires that we did not see during the Trump administration.

The Saudis, to their credit, have been more interested in peace during the Biden administration than they ever were during the Trump administration. That is, I believe, in part because they don't have a blank check from the U.S. regime any longer. In fact, as we stand here today, it is the Houthis that are the primary impediment to peace, not the Saudis. Now, the Saudis' interest in peace and deescalation, it comes and it goes. But today, as we speak, it is, in fact, the Houthis who need to make the commitments necessary to sit at the table and find a path to permanently end the fighting in Yemen and find a way for everyone in Yemen—Houthis included—to be able to live in peace, to have a government that everyone can call their own.

So why support this resolution if President Biden has pulled most all of our support for the war, if the primary barrier to a peaceful solution today is the Houthis? Well, I think it is pretty simple. I think we have seen the impact that we have when we withdraw our blank check. And, I think, so long as there are any lines of effort that the United States is involved in that continue this war, we are weaker as a nation. Practically, we are weaker because, every day this war persists, Iran gets stronger and the potential for Sunni extremist organizing becomes stronger. But we are also just morally weaker because, for us to be a participant in any way, shape, or form in a war with this kind of misery, it really shapes the way that people think about us in the region and around the world.

So I am here to support Senator SANDERS' resolution and urge my colleagues to vote for it, not because I believe that this is the same moment as 2019. It is a different moment. But I think it commands the United States to send a very clear message, and our message is that this war has to end.

The United States should not be involved in this war—not a little, not a lot. This war, every day it persists, makes us less safe and harms our credibility, and the Senate, I would argue, should pass this resolution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 5244

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this Friday at midnight, the government will run out of funding. That leaves us with just a few options.

One, we could pass the massive, yet-to-be-drafted, Pelosi-Schumer omnibus spending package, leaving the outgoing Democratic House majority in charge of drafting the bill to fund the Federal Government for the balance of fiscal year 2023, despite the fact that voters sent a clear message this November disapproving of the fiscal direction of our Federal Government.

Two, we could, yet again, pass another short-term stopgap measure that just kicks the can down the road for one more week to allow more backroom negotiations to take place, in secret. To be clear, this accomplishes nothing. It is simply a way to whip up support for another inflated spending package.

So when I say it accomplishes nothing, that is not really true. It is very effective at doing some things.

It marshals very effectively the angst of hundreds of millions of Americans who don't want a government shutdown. A lot of these people depend on the Federal Government remaining open to process—whether it is the paychecks for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, or others who have contract with the government or receive payments from the government of one sort or another or otherwise impacted by the Federal Government's inability to operate during a shutdown. They all have something to worry about. They all have reasons to fear a shutdown. And those anxieties end up being transferred onto their elected representatives in the House of Representatives and in the Senate who in turn fear a shutdown for the same reasons and feel the collective weight of those concerns bearing down on them.

But there is a dual threat that takes place here. You see, those who may be coming to the Senate floor in the next day or two to propose exactly this, option 2—that is, to just kick the can down the road for another week, for another 1-week spending measure—will be coming down here, predictably, foreseeably, in the name of avoiding a shutdown.

But make no mistake, when saying that they want to delay spending, they want to delay any shutdown by another week, they are not really saying we don't want the threat of a shutdown. They are saying we want to move the threat of a shutdown, the possibility of a shutdown, closer to Christmas.

Why Christmas? Well, that is when the anxiety of the American people and

their elected representatives in Congress are at their maximum. That is where we all feel it the most. We all feel the pressure to get something done the most. And that is also where Members of Congress, being human, understandably, want to be able to get home in time for Christmas, to spend the Christmas holidays with their families.

And it is this dual threat that very often, year after year, is used to persuade Members of Congress to vote for a spending bill that spends too much money and that does so through a mechanism that they have had no part in; that they have been excluded from; that they would never vote for in the absence of this dual threat of a shutdown at Christmastime.

No, this isn't right. When we do that to the American people, what you are really doing is cutting them out of the process. When you cut the people's elected representatives in Congress who have been elected by the American people to take care of these things for them so that they don't have to worry about it and then you tell them we are not going to give those you elect any opportunity to have meaningful input into a spending bill which we are going to present to them at Christmastime in order to force a nonexistent consensus behind something they know they shouldn't vote for, that is wrong. It has gone on over and over again, and it has to stop. It must stop now. So that is option 2—suboptimal, to say the least.

Option 3. We could do the right thing, and we could pass a continuing resolution that keeps the government funded, maintaining current spending levels until after we have sworn in the new Congress, including the Republican House majority, early next year.

It is only this latter option—only the third option—that makes any sense at all. And it is only this third option that is fair to voters. You see, for the last 2 years, we have seen unprecedented inflation driven by reckless government spending, and we have seen that moving forward in a way that has crushed American families. Our national debt has grown during those 2 years by about $4 trillion, reaching an astronomical $31 trillion—a figure that we just reached within the last few days.

In Utah, inflation costs the average household a thousand dollars a month every single month, relative to the day that Joe Biden took office. They are not, for the most part, people who just have an extra thousand dollars to burn, nor is the extra thousand dollars a month going toward luxury items. No, it is just groceries, housing, gasoline, healthcare—the basic things that the American people need in order to live.

Simply put, the American people can't afford the policies of the last few years. They certainly can't afford the kinds of spending bills that get passed when we use this dual threat of the shutdown threatened at Christmastime under an artificially imposed deadline.

Unsurprisingly, American voters cast their votes and in so doing signaled that they want the government to go in a new direction. After listening to an exhaustive list of excuses from the Biden administration, blaming inflation on everything from the pandemic to Putin, the American people saw through the smoke and mirrors. They voted for accountability and made it clear that they expect their elected representatives to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, if this body just goes right ahead and passes another omnibus spending bill, a bill that we know is coming, a bill that we know is going to be thousands of pages long, a bill that we know that we will receive, at the most, maybe a day or two before we are expected to vote on it, with no intervening committee debate or discussion or opportunity for amendment—this body, if it chooses to enact such legislation, will be ignoring those legitimate desires on the part of the voters.

We are witnessing a conspicuous recurring trend, whereby leaders use the threat of a government shutdown to pressure Members into voting for inflated spending provisions without even time to read the bill, much less without giving them any time to consult with those they represent about how they feel about that spending and those policies.

So does this tactic remind you of anything? Well, it should. How about Speaker PELOSI's now infamous statement about ObamaCare when she said: You know, we have to pass the bill in order to find out what is in it. We all know how that turned out—not well.

Like ObamaCare, the resulting omnibus legislation that results from that kind of attitude, that kind of dismissive approach—dismissive not just to individual Members but of those whom they represent—always contains ideologically driven provisions, utterly unrelated to the budget, many of which could never pass if they had to withstand the light of day if they had to be voted on of their own merit.

We cannot, we must not, we should never use the threat of a government shutdown to force through policy changes that could never survive a vote on their own merit.

I believe we should pass—we must pass—a clean continuing resolution, one that will take us into the next Congress. Failure to do so will lock the remainder of this fiscal year into a pattern in which liberal policies and an inflationary spending agenda, crammed through by unaccountable Members of Congress, many of whom have just lost reelection or didn't seek it—all those things will descend upon the American people in a most unfavorable and unwelcomed way. We can't let that happen. I don't want to be any part of that. I don't think most of our colleagues on either side of the aisle do.

Not only would it be poor form and unwise and inconsiderate and really unkind for Congress to pass a massive spending bill, but it would also be without precedent in modern U.S. history.

You know, since 1954, the party in control of the House of Representatives has shifted from one party to another a total of just five times since 1954. In exactly zero of those instances did Congress go back after that election and during a lameduck session enact sweeping, comprehensive spending legislation. Not one instance since 1954 has that happened. Not once has there been an instance where Congress did that before a newly elected House majority could be sworn in.

We can pass a continuing resolution that doesn't include any of the new partisan agenda items that either side has proposed. It would keep the government running until the new Congress can develop a full-year discretionary budget—one that is agreeable to both sides or at least has been adequately vetted on both sides and with our constituents, with input from Members of both political parties and both Chambers of Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this short-term continuing resolution that maintains current spending levels until the new Congress takes office. Doing so will ensure that we listen to the people's voices and that the incoming House majority has the opportunity to make the spending decisions that are in the best interests of the American people. We owe them nothing less.

Mr. President, to that end, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5244, which is at the desk; I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will, but let me explain why. The bill offered by my colleague on the other side of the aisle is shortsighted and premature.

We have been working on this omnibus for months. I would have been happy to, among the 50 or 60 Senators of both parties, if they had sat down and talked to me about what might be in it. I would have been happy to have heard from him, too, but I know he had other pressing duties and didn't have time to.

But I am afraid it would unnecessarily punt our basic responsibilities even further down the road. Vice Chairman SHELBY, Chair DELAURO, and I continue to trade offers and negotiate an omnibus spending bill with the Democrats and Republicans who have worked with us, and we believe we are close to a bipartisan, bicameral agreement. Reaching this agreement now is important for Americans in every State across the country.

I know in my State of Vermont, in my hometown—my farmhouse in Middlesex, VT—it was 20 degrees. Next week, it is going to get colder. With

the cost of natural gas and heating oil up more than 25 percent, families across my State are sitting down at their kitchen tables trying to figure out how they are going to afford to heat their homes and feed their families. Groceries are up more than 10 percent. They are making these decisions right now because they do not have the luxury of simply kicking the can down the road. They need assistance now, not months from now, if at all. They are not the ones who got the benefit from the huge Trump tax cut which increased the deficit but gave money to the highest level of income in our country.

Reaching this agreement now is important because in my home State, opioid deaths are on pace to surpass last year's grim toll. I don't think there is a Senator on this floor who hasn't seen opioid deaths go up in their State. We have seen it throughout the country. And I am not going to stand in the way of blocking money that might help bring those opioid deaths down because Vermont is not alone in this fight against this scourge. You cannot name a State in this country, if they are honest, that is not facing this scourge. Communities across the country host grieving families and people struggling with addiction who need new resources now, not months from now, if at all. That is Republicans, Democrats, Independents, everybody.

These communities are also pleading for resources to support State and local law enforcement. Having spent 8 years in law enforcement, I know what is needed. In fact, most of my friends on the other side of the aisle claim to support law enforcement. Well, if they really mean it, they should pass an omnibus agreement now, which would mean we could get more than 1,500 more police officers on the streets and provide law enforcement new and needed resources now, not months from now, if at all.

Our Nation's veterans need us to act now. Everybody claims they are in support of them—as I am, as our Presiding Officer is, as most Senators are. If we do not do our jobs, the bipartisan PACT Act will go underfunded and VA medical care will fall at least $7.5 billion short. Our Nation's veterans deserve to have the promises we made them fulfilled now, not months from now, if at all.

Victims of natural disasters like Hurricanes Ian and Fiona need us to act now. A continuing resolution would delay aid to these communities by at least 6 weeks.

Now, this week, the Senate will pass the NDAA. It will receive bipartisan praise because of what it says for our armed services. Well, I would remind my colleagues that the NDAA makes many promises, but without an omnibus appropriations bill, it is a broken promise; $76 billion for national defense will be left on the Republican cutting room floor—$76 billion for national defense will be left on the Republican cutting room floor.

I could take up the entire day talking about why this short-term CR is a dereliction of our sworn duty, a failure for the American people, a temporary solution that promises to run headlong into even more difficult problems.

But I will end by saying that Vice Chairman SHELBY, Chair DELAURO, and I are close to an agreement. The American people sent us here to do our jobs, not kick the can down the road, not make statements on the floor, but to do our work.

So for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. It is going to be real easy, real short.

In November, the House of Representatives was returned back to Republicans. It was in a much wider kind of popular margin when you add up the votes that we won across the country through the House of Representatives, slimmer in terms of the number of seats we picked up, but we got it back.

Why would Republicans go along with a huge spending bill like this one? It has happened every year since I have been here—no budgeting, no appropriations that even an appropriator like myself can look at because it is done behind closed doors.

And all we have got to do is get this into the next Congress.

Congress funds the government through CRs all the time for the wrong reason—because they don't do the homework; they don't do the regular order. It kicks the can down the road consistently—standard operating procedure.

It is a slap in the face to those voters to let the outgoing House majority set the agenda for the next 10 months.

We shouldn't fund the government with huge omnibus bills in the first place, and we shouldn't give PELOSI—current Speaker PELOSI—a going-away present when she has been part of the process for all these years. We should actually do a budget like it is supposed to be done, and we should not do this as we are heading into a new Congress.

I yield back to the Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, you will notice that the senior Senator from Vermont didn't talk about overall spending numbers.

I would ask the President—I would ask anybody listening to these floor speeches today: Do you know how much the Federal Government spent last year?

I have been asking that question of my colleagues. I have been asking that question of journalists here in Washington, DC, people who report on the dealings on the floor, and the vast majority cannot answer that question.

So the question you all ought to be asking yourself is, Why can't you answer that question?

It is not your fault. The reason nobody knows how much the Federal Government spent in total last year—virtually no one knows it—is that we never talk about it. We are the largest financial entity in the world, and we never talk about how much we spend in total. We talk about little bits and pieces. We talk about $6 billion here, $76 billion there—no doubt, necessary funding for top priorities. But we don't spend the time talking about how we are mortgaging our children's future.

I have got a couple of charts that I would like to display.

This first chart shows over 20 years of spending history, going back to the year 2002, when the Federal Government spent, in total, a little more than $2 trillion.

If we would have just increased spending from that point by population growth and the rate of inflation, last year we would have spent a little under $3.8 trillion.

If you go to the year 2008, when we spent just under $3 trillion, and once again just grew spending by population and inflation, last year we would have spent $4.4 trillion.

If you go back to 2016, when we were spending $3.8 trillion—under $4 trillion—and grew that by just the rate of growth and the population rate of inflation, last year we would have spent about $4.8 trillion.

Instead, last year, we spent $6.3 trillion.

Now, I realize—and you can see on this chart—that, the last 3 years, spending was heavily impacted by COVID relief, close to $6 trillion worth.

But in 2019, before the COVID pandemic, we spent about $4.4 trillion.

I have another chart I would like to put up here that puts this all in perspective.

This breaks down spending between discretionary and mandatory plus interest, and then you have total outlays.

Again, if you look at 2019, total outlay is $4.4 trillion. So because of COVID, the next year we spent an additional $2.1 trillion—$6.5 trillion. In 2021, $6.8 trillion; last year, $6.3 trillion.

Now, I heard President Biden say the pandemic is over. I think most of us have gotten back to our normal lives. That is a good thing. Why haven't we gone back to a normal spending level?

I don't know exactly what the total spending will be for fiscal year 2023. I do know that we are 2½ months into the fiscal year. We have not brought up one appropriations bill on the floor of the Senate for debate, for amendments—not one. We are operating on a continuing resolution.

I hear all the time that these continuing resolutions are such a terrible way to do business. I agree. It shows the dysfunction—the complete dysfunction—which is leading to these out-of-control spending numbers.

You would think, now that the pandemic is over, that we would return to a more normal level of spending.

Had we just grown the 2019 level by, again, the rate of population growth, the rate of inflation, we would be spending about $4.8 trillion this year, but it appears—again, we don't know; there are a couple of people negotiating this; the rest of us are completely outside of the process—that we are going to have some massive omnibus spending bill dropped on our desks, and we expect to vote on it in a day or two, or maybe just hours. But it is going to be somewhere around $6 trillion.

Have we literally just increased the baseline since the beginning of the pandemic by $1.6 trillion? That is a 36-percent increase.

I will just put this in perspective. Again, had we grown this just by inflation and population growth—that would be a reasonable way to put some kind of constraints on what we are spending—that would be $4.8 trillion.

Last year, the Federal Government raised in revenue $4.9 trillion.

Again, I can't predict what revenue is going to be in 2023, but based on 2022 revenue, if we are only talking about $4.8 trillion, we would actually have a surplus as opposed to a massive deficit almost guaranteed to be more than $1 trillion.

My final point is this. And I know Senator SCOTT also is in the business world, and a number of Senators have been. If we were looking at this as, let's say, a division that had a problem, that had to spend a lot more money—a fire, some kind of real issue with the business where they had to drag increased spending over the last 2 or 3 years—but that spending issue had been resolved, and that division came to us having spent $4.4 million in 2019 and now that the problem has been resolved, now they want to spend $6 million, I can guarantee you we would be looking for a lot more detail. We would be spending a lot more time in terms of why in the world would we be increasing our base budget by 36 percent now that the danger or the problem has passed.

So in the business world, in the private sector, where I and Senator SCOTT came from, we would be spending a lot of time analyzing this. But here, in Washington, DC, the world's capital of dysfunction—of monetary and budgetary dysfunction—we don't even know what we are spending, and we are not even supposed to know because the powers that be are negotiating some massive omnibus bill, and they are going to jam us up against the Christmas holidays and ask for an up-or-down vote. That is outrageous.

This process—this horribly broken, dysfunctional process—must end, which is why I completely agree with Senator LEE's amendment.

Let's pass a continuing resolution. As much as I hate them, as much as that signals dysfunction, it will allow us the time to actually take a look at, debate, and question: Why in the world are we talking about $6 trillion of spending when, at most, looking back to 2019, growing that by inflation and population growth, we ought to be talking somewhere in the neighborhood of 4.8, certainly under $5 trillion, and maybe looking at the prospect for the first time in many, many years of balancing a budget?

That is the attitude we ought to be taking. That is the debate we need to have. We need to have time for that debate, which is why I support Senator LEE's amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, let me begin with a simple question: When are we going to say enough?

The American people are saying it. Heck, even traditionally liberal, mainstream news outlets are getting there.

But here in Congress, it is nothing but business as usual. We just keep letting it pile up month after month, year after year. Now it is burying our country.

The ''it'' should be obvious. I am talking about America's massive Federal debt, now more than $31 trillion. It has grown by nearly $5 trillion since President Biden took office, and it was growing like a weed before that too.

We should all be disgusted with the reckless spending in Washington that has caused this massive debt.

Just look at what it is doing to our country. Historic inflation is raging across America, hurting families and businesses, and pushing the American Dream out of reach, as prices skyrocket and interest rates follow closely behind.

Reckless spending approved by this Chamber and our colleagues in the House has caused this.

I have been in the Senate for almost 4 years. In this time, I have talked a lot about my childhood. Maybe you have heard my story of someone who was born to a single mom, grew up poor, and lived in public housing.

It is a hard place to start your life, and, today, folks in the same situation are struggling more than ever to get by and make ends meet as they deal with sky-high inflation. In most places across the world, people who grow up like me have no hope of being anything but what they were born into—for me, that was poor and watching my mom struggle every day to get by. That is untrue in America.

This is the greatest Nation on Earth because a kid who grows up watching their parents struggle and living in public housing can work hard and be anything.

But that promise isn't guaranteed. We have to protect that by being responsible with taxpayer money and not allowing inflation and debt to ruin us.

Throughout my life, I have run businesses big and small, from a couple of hundred employees to hundreds of thousands of employees. Here is one thing that doesn't change no matter how big you get: If you don't live within your means, you fail. Same goes for any family. No family or business in any of our States gets to burn through money with no consequences. The only place that has become acceptable is here in Washington. Why? Because Congress stopped doing what it got elected to do.

As I said, I have been in Washington for about 4 years now. One thing I have learned is that in Washington, compromise means everyone gets everything so nobody has to make a tough choice. The result is gross fiscal mismanagement and unsustainable debt. Instead of standing up to this broken status quo in Congress—something I think most of us ran on—too many people get elected, come to Washington, and become a rubber stamp for more spending.

So here we are again, just days away from a government funding deadline. Some of our colleagues are again pushing a massive omnibus—what we are calling the Pelosi-Schumer spending bill—which keeps this inflation-bomb deficit spending going.

I asked earlier: When are we going to say ''enough?'' Will it be when the deficit hits $35 trillion, $45 trillion, $50 trillion? Can you imagine $50 trillion worth of debt? No. The answer has to be now. We say enough is enough today. And we should start by saying no to a massive omnibus spending bill and approving a simple continuing resolution being offered by my good friend Senator LEE of Utah.

Doing this allows the new Congress to put together a real budget that is balanced, which is what we should be doing anyway.

I don't like continuing resolutions any more than I think anyone here does. Since my first day in the Senate, I have been vocal about needing to pass a budget—a full budget—that is balanced and gets America's finances in order. But that is not going to happen in the next 3 days or before the next Congress begins, for that matter.

So the thought of passing a Pelosi-Schumer spending bill now, just weeks before a new Republican majority takes power in the House, is insane. It is as bad an idea as I have heard of up here.

It also goes against decades of precedent. As Senator LEE has said, since 1954, control of the House has changed five times, and there has never been an instance of Congress passing an omnibus spending bill before a new House majority takes power.

Given that America is now in more debt than ever before and inflation is the highest it has been in 40 years, why should we choose now to break precedent and green-light more reckless spending?

And let's not forget what Democrats wish to do with the hard-earned tax dollars of American families. The last time Democrats passed a spending bill, they approved $80 billion so that the IRS can hire 87,000 new agents to target working families and small businesses. Worse still, Democrats are now

forcing every American to report any transaction of $600 or more to the IRS, giving the Federal Government unprecedented access into the personal finances of American families. We can expect more of the same from them now.

Maya Angelou was right when she said:

> When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

Now, we just heard what our Democrat colleagues are saying in objecting to this commonsense solution to avoid a government shutdown. They are saying that our proposal will cut services. Passing the CR into next year will not result in any cuts to funding or services; it will simply continue government operations just as they are today.

Here is the deal. For too long, the failed and ridiculous thinking in Washington has been that budgets don't matter and inflation doesn't matter because voters will never tie wasteful spending to inflation. The only way to get some things done is to shove them into a giant spending bill negotiated in secret and pass it before anyone has any time to read it. That is wrong, and the American public is disgusted with this. It is not how any family or business operates.

In the real world, you make plans, you meet deadlines, you make choices and live within your means, because failing to do so means failing to survive and prosper.

Congress shouldn't be treated any differently. Congress has been broken and unaccountable for too long.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in closing this discussion, I just want to respond to a couple of points made by my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Vermont.

Senator LEAHY is someone I have really enjoyed working with throughout my 12 years in the Senate, and I will miss him when he is gone.

I respectfully but very strongly disagree with his decision to object to this commonsense approach toward avoiding a government shutdown, and I want to make clear just a few things.

No. 1, this continuing resolution is not preclusive of anything else he may want to do. It doesn't preclude anyone from still working to pass an omnibus. It, rather, provides a safety net so that Congress doesn't produce a government shutdown and, just as importantly, so that Members don't feel coerced into this dual threat of having to navigate between the Scylla of a threatened shutdown and the Charybdis of people having to cancel their holiday plans with their families. That is what we are trying to avoid. So it is a false choice to say that this doesn't allow for anything else. That is just not true.

Now, I disagree with him about his desire to pass an omnibus because that omnibus doesn't yet exist. There still isn't an agreement on it. The bill has yet to exist and has yet to see the light of day, not only to the public but to all but four Members of the United States Congress. That is what I object to.

But make no mistake: What we are proposing today, what we are reasonably suggesting today, would not preclude a subsequent omnibus; it would just take away the shutdown threat—which is exactly my point, which is exactly my concern. When we do this sort of thing—without speaking to anyone's subjective motives; I can't read other people's minds, but I do know that this pattern has been used before. It is a tried-and-true process by which people convince their colleagues to vote for things they would never otherwise vote for because, typically, we don't like to vote on things that we haven't seen and spend trillions of dollars.

My colleague from Vermont also refers to the fact that he has had lengthy conversations with a number of colleagues coming to him with their concerns. That is great. I appreciate that. That is a very appropriate thing for any Senator to do, particularly the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. As great as that is, that isn't legislating. That doesn't substitute for actual floor debate, and it sure as heck doesn't substitute for transparency and accountability, allowing the American people to see what they are going to be spending their money on.

We are going to get, in a matter of days, probably in about a week—usually, they don't give us more time than that—a bill. It will be 2,000 or 3,000 pages long, and it will spend probably 1.6 or $1.7 trillion.

And the American people understand that 2,000 or 3,000 pages of appropriations legislative text does not read like a fast-paced novel. Nobody is going to have a chance to review this, and that is the problem. So the fact that he is meeting with individual Members, hearing their concerns, and talking about possible tradeoffs—that is great, but it doesn't provide what the American people need.

Next, he appeals to the sense of the good things that will be in the bill, talking about the need to fund efforts to combat opioid abuse and addiction and the need to fund law enforcement—great things, great things—but we haven't seen the legislative text, and the fact that there may be good things in the bill funding good causes that would benefit good, deserving beneficiaries doesn't mean that the bill as a whole makes any sense.

He also says, with some defiance and indignation, that he is not going to settle for another short-term CR, that short-term CRs are a bad way of doing things, and he is not OK with a short-term CR.

It is a good point. I am not either. I don't like them. It is a default.

But we have been on a short-term CR since September 30. That is 2½ months. So I don't comprehend exactly where he would draw the line between a short-term CR that is acceptable and one that isn't. So 2½ months is just fine but a few more weeks isn't?

I suspect it is going to be fine when somebody comes to the floor and asks for a 1-week, short-term CR—a 1-week, short-term spending bill.

That is wrong. Why? Because it moves the threat of a shutdown that much closer to Christmas when Members most want to get out of town and when the American people and those they elect to represent them here are most concerned about a shutdown.

That is coercive. That isn't trying to avoid a shutdown. No. That is playing with fire. That is presenting as a feature, not a bug, the risk of a shutdown. It is wrong, and it has to stop.

Look, the objective today—I hope he will reconsider. This isn't right. We know it isn't right. Those who elected us, whether we are Republicans or Democrats deserve better. They don't deserve this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Nevada.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong and continued support for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and immigrant communities in Nevada and across our Nation.

It has been decades since Congress has passed real immigration reform, and almost a decade since we have made a real attempt at taking action to provide a permanent solution for those communities and allow families—allow families to stay together. As a result, our broken immigration system has been left with a patchwork of policies that are outdated and inefficient. This is why Congress needs to take action now on comprehensive immigration reform, so we can, once and for all, fix this severely broken system.

It shouldn't be a partisan issue. We are talking about families who deserve peace of mind about their future. They shouldn't be subjected to the uncertainty they currently face every single day.

Unfortunately, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to come to the table to work with us on comprehensive immigration reform. They would rather leave Dreamers in limbo and have this issue for their own political gain than work toward solutions.

But a number of reasonable Republicans have said in the past that they do support a legislative fix to protect our Dreamers and their futures. So let's start there and work together to provide an immediate, permanent legislative solution for DACA recipients right now—right now—while at the same time, we keep working for more comprehensive immigration reform.

In the 10 years since the DACA program first went into effect, it has protected nearly 600,000 Dreamers and allowed them to make a home and build a life and a future here in our country. In my State of Nevada alone, thousands of individuals and families rely on DACA to live, work, and raise a

family, free from fear in a country—the only country they have ever known or ever called home.

DACA has provided vital protections and opportunities for Dreamers, ensuring that they can attend college, fully contribute to our economy, serve in our military, and really make a difference in our communities.

Because of DACA, thousands of people have been given access to the American dream. And yet yearslong threats to end this policy have left nearly 600,000 DACA recipients in limbo, facing uncertainty and awaiting court decision after court decision that can jeopardize their future and threaten the lives that they have built here.

So we cannot wait any longer to take action. That is why I am calling on my colleagues to work to pass a permanent legislative solution this year—this year—for Dreamers, one that gives them permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship, while we continue working on comprehensive immigration reform.

So let's put a stand-alone proposal to provide a permanent legislative fix for DACA recipients. Let's put that proposal right here on the Senate floor and take a vote immediately to solve this issue.

We must also continue to keep fighting. We have to keep fighting to ensure we take a comprehensive approach to reforming our immigration system and finally giving these families the peace of mind they so richly deserve.

Families across our country deserve certainty in their futures, and the Senate must feel the same sense of urgency that they feel every single day. We can't keep them waiting any longer.

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. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 56

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask that the previous order with respect to the motion to discharge be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I further ask that I be allowed to speak for up to 30 minutes, Senator RISCH for up to 5 minutes, and Senator MENENDEZ for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

YEMEN

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this is an issue that I and a number of us Democrats and Republicans, progressives and conservatives, have been working on for a number of years.

I was disappointed that the Biden administration has announced its opposition to the resolution I am bringing forth, but we have been in communication with the administration all day, and just a few minutes ago, we have received a commitment from them that they will work with us to end the war in Yemen and bring peace to that very troubled region.

I don't know if the administration and those of us who want to go forward will end up being in agreement. If not, I assure the Members that we will be back with a resolution in the very near future, as soon as we can, because this is an issue that I and many of us feel passionately about.

To the Members, I am not going to ask for a vote tonight, but I do want to express my concerns, deep concerns, about what is going on in that region.

In 2014, with the active support of the U.S. military, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and a coalition of other countries intervened in the civil war in Yemen. The result of that intervention was the creation of the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet, and it really is almost hard to imagine what is going on in that impoverished country.

Since the war began in 2015, over 377,000 people have been killed, including at least 130,000 people who have died from indirect causes like food insecurity and lack of healthcare as a direct result of the Saudi blockade of Yemen and the humanitarian obstruction by warring parties.

Today, nearly 25 million Yemenis are in need of humanitarian assistance, 5 million are at risk of famine, and over a million are affected by cholera. According to UNICEF, by the end of this calendar year, nearly 18 million people, including over 9 million children, will lack access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Yemen, leading to regular outbreaks of preventable diseases like cholera, measles, and diphtheria.

The 8-year war in Yemen has internally displaced over 4 million people, making Yemen home to one of the largest internal displacement crises in the world, with women and children bearing the brunt of that burden.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, nearly 77 percent—or 3 million—of those displaced in Yemen are women and children. Every 2 hours, a Yemeni woman dies during childbirth, an almost entirely preventable crisis. Furthermore, in Yemen today, more than a million pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished, a number we may see double with rising food insecurity.

According to the international relief organization Oxfam, the threat of famine is very serious. Despite ongoing humanitarian assistance, over 17 million people in Yemen remain food insecure, a number set to rise to 19 million by the end of this year. In Yemen today, over a million pregnant or breastfeeding women and over 2 million children under 5 require treatment for acute malnutrition—acute malnutrition.

And if you think the suffering in that country cannot get any worse, unfortunately, you would be dead wrong. The United Nations reports that, if the conflict doesn't stop, the war in Yemen could lead to the deaths of 1.3 million people by the year 2030.

And let us be crystal clear: The initiators of this terrible war in Yemen were Saudi Arabia, one of the very most dangerous countries on the face of this Earth. Saudi Arabia is a dictatorship that is doing everything that it can to crush democracy in its own country. It is a brutal regime that treats women as third-class citizens and tortures civilians. It is one of the worst human rights violators in the world.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, as I think many of us are familiar with, Muhammad bin Salman, ordered the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and American resident, with a bone saw in 2018. And there is little doubt about that.

In a blatant attempt to jack up gas prices in the United States and harm our economy, Saudi Arabia agreed to partner with Vladimir Putin in the murderous war against the people of Ukraine.

At a time when children in Yemen are facing mass starvation, when that impoverished country's healthcare system is collapsing, Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman bought himself a $500 million yacht, a $300 million French chateau, and a $450 million Leonardo da Vinci painting. And he can afford to do this because their family is worth some $1.4 trillion, one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest, families in the entire world.

According to Freedom House, a respected human rights organization:

> Saudi Arabia's absolute monarchy restricts almost all political rights and civil liberties. No officials at the national level are elected. The regime relies on pervasive surveillance, the criminalization of dissent, appeals to sectarianism and ethnicity, and public spending supported by oil revenues to maintain power. Women and religious minorities face extensive discrimination in law and in practice.

According to Human Rights Watch, under the government headed by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, ''Saudi Arabia has experienced the worst period of repression in its modern history.'' Human Rights Watch has reported that ''accounts have emerged of alleged torture of high-profile political detainees in Saudi prisons,'' including Saudi women's rights activists and others. The alleged torture included electric shocks, beatings, whippings, and sexual harassment.

Enough is enough. We must fundamentally reassess our relationship with the murderous regime of Saudi Arabia. We can and we must begin to do that by ending our support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and that is why I have introduced a resolution that requires the United States to withdraw its forces from and involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, which has not been authorized by the U.S. Congress.

This obviously is not a radical idea. In 2019, the Senate passed a similar resolution by a vote of 54 to 46. Every Democrat who was present voted for it, along with seven Republicans. The House of Representatives passed that same resolution by a vote of 247 to 175. Every Democrat in the House who was present voted for it, along with 16 Republicans. Sadly, then-President Trump vetoed it, and it did not become law.

It is long past time that we take a very hard look at our relationship with Saudi Arabia, a country whose government represents the very opposite of what we profess to believe in. Last year, President Biden and his administration did the right thing when it announced it would end U.S. support for offensive military operations led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen and named a special envoy to help bring this conflict to an end.

The good news is that, as a result of these efforts—I think as a result of the resolution passed in the House and the Senate—the Saudis have paused their deadly airstrikes in Yemen, and, in April, the United Nations brokered a truce between the warring factions.

The bad news is that this truce expired over 2 months ago, and there is now evidence that violence in Yemen is beginning to escalate.

Now, I understand that the administration is opposed to this resolution, and let me briefly respond to some of their concerns. First, the administration claims that this resolution is unnecessary because Saudi Arabia has paused its bombing campaign in Yemen. Well, Mr. President, that may be true, but—let's be clear—there is no guarantee that Saudi Arabia will not start bombing Yemen tomorrow, relying on U.S. military support and U.S.-manufactured weapons to carry out those airstrikes, which in the past have done incalculable harm to the people of Yemen. In fact, a previously announced end to U.S. offensive support did not prevent devastating and indiscriminate Saudi airstrikes in Yemen, which occurred as late as March 2022.

Passing this legislation would allow Congress to play a constructive role in the negotiation of an extension of the truce and a long-term and lasting peace. The resolution that we are debating today—we are discussing right now—will help ensure that Saudi airstrikes do not resume.

Further, while it is true that the Saudi blockade is not as severe as it has been in the past, vital commodities like fuel and medicine are still in short supply; and Saudi Arabia, to this day, still has imposed restrictions on nearly all commercial imports into Yemen, including fuel. And Saudi Arabia still has control over Yemeni airspace, which has prevented thousands of patients with medical emergencies from leaving the capital of Sana'a, according to the Quincy Institute.

This legislation that I have brought forward simply codifies what President Biden has already pledged to do by ending U.S. military assistance to the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen. Specifically, this resolution would achieve three important goals:

First, it would end U.S. intelligence sharing for the purpose of enabling offensive, Saudi-led coalition strikes inside Yemen.

Second, it would end U.S. logistical support for offensive, Saudi-led coalition strikes, including the provision of maintenance and spare parts to coalition members flying warplanes.

Finally, it would prohibit U.S. military personnel from being assigned to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of or accompany Saudi-led coalition forces engaged in hostilities without specific statutory authorization from the Congress.

Let us be clear. This is a narrowly targeted resolution that only affects Saudi Arabia's offensive operations in Yemen. This resolution would still allow for U.S. military support to be used to protect the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia. In other words, nothing in this legislation prevents the United States from helping Saudi Arabia defend itself against attacks originating from Yemen. Further, this resolution would not affect America's support for Ukraine's self-defense, as some opponents of this legislation have claimed.

That is why I am proud to be joined on this resolution by some of the staunchest defenders of Ukrainian sovereignty and U.S. national security interests, who, like me, are outraged by Saudi Arabia's collaboration with Russia and open support of illegal wars of aggression. They include Senator DURBIN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator PETERS, Senator WARREN, Senator MARKEY, and a number of others who support this resolution.

Passing this War Powers Resolution will send a very powerful message to Saudi Arabia that the war in Yemen must finally come to an end. There must be a peaceful resolution to this horrific conflict. Passing this resolution will also send a message to Saudi Arabia that its partnership with Russia, with respect to the war in Ukraine, is unacceptable.

In October, after Saudi Arabia agreed to cut oil production, the Biden administration recognized the need to work with Congress to reexamine the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States. President Biden said he wanted action from Congress. This resolution is a narrowly tailored response that will help achieve that objective.

In October, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MENENDEZ, said:

> The United States must immediately freeze all aspects of our cooperation with Saudi Arabia, including any arms sales and security cooperation beyond what is absolutely necessary to defend U.S. personnel and interests.

He continued:

> As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will not green-light any cooperation with Riyadh until the Kingdom reassesses its position with respect to the war in Ukraine. Enough is enough.

I agree with that, and this resolution is our opportunity to send a powerful message to Saudi Arabia that Congress is, in fact, reexamining our relationship with that country; it is an attempt to defend the Constitution of the United States, which gives the power of making war to Congress, not to the President; and it is an effort to end our complicity in this horrendously bloody and horrible conflict.

Congress has a narrow window now to do something important. Enacting the War Powers Resolution will send a powerful message to the Saudis and to the Houthis that the United States will not be a party to this war and that the warring factions must find a sustainable peace solution.

The vote on this resolution is very important. And let me repeat: We, just a few minutes before I got to the floor, received word from the administration that they wanted to work with us in crafting language that would be mutually acceptable, and we are going to give them that opportunity. Whether we succeed or not, I don't know. And let me repeat: If we do not succeed, I will be back with many of my colleagues to bring forth this resolution, something that is very important.

What this resolution, finally, is about is that it says that the people of Yemen need more humanitarian assistance, not more bombs. It is a vote that says that the Senate believes in the Constitution of our country, which makes it clear that the Congress, not the President, determines whether and when the United States goes to war. It is a vote that tells Saudi Arabia that we will not continue to give it a blank check with respect to war and foreign intervention. And it is a vote that says: No, we will not stand with Saudi Arabia while it is actively supporting Vladimir Putin's horrific war of aggression against the people of Ukraine.

So, once again, where we are at is, I am not going to ask for a vote tonight. I look forward to working with the administration, which was opposed to this resolution, to see if we can come up with something that is strong, that is effective. And if we do not, I will be back.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ROB PORTMAN

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I wanted to just say a few words—not a formal speech—about my junior partner, the junior Senator from Ohio. He is only the junior Senator not in intellect or actions but only in seniority,

which is the way it works here. I know I am talking when the Presiding Officer has such a record of bipartisanship and working with others in the Senate—the junior Senator from New Hampshire and the work she has done. And I just wanted to talk for a moment about ROBPORTMAN.

I was at the last speech he gave, his retirement speech, last week. I wanted to just say a few words about his work. He and I, on the big issues, no surprise—Senator PORTMAN, from Cincinnati; I live in northern Ohio—have looked at the world differently on big trade issues, on tax issues. I mean, he was for the Trump tax cut that gave big tax breaks to corporations and, I think, squeezed middle-class and low-income taxpayers. But on the big issues, we, in a sense, canceled each other's vote out, and we talk about that sometimes. But on a lot of Ohio-specific things, we are able to work together on really, really important problem-solving kinds of issues. And a few of them come to mind, like ''level the playing field''—the first issue—and then ''level the playing field'' 2.0,'' which will help the United States enforce its trade laws.

While ROB was for NAFTA and I was against it—or for PNTR with China, and I was against it—we did come together in making sure our trade laws are enforced, which helped Ohio businesses and Ohio manufacturing. That is one example.

Another example is what we were able to do in the infrastructure bill. He was a leader on writing the infrastructure bill, always thinking about how important it was—the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati and the Western Hills Viaduct on the western side of Cincinnati, but also what we did on the 71–70 interchange in Columbus, what we were able to do on small township roads around small counties in rural Ohio, what we were able to do in Appalachia, what we were able to do in major transportation projects.

Another example, ROB PORTMAN cared a lot about the environment. He loves canoeing. We worked on issues that matter on the Ohio River and especially issues that matter on Lake Erie. One of my favorite statistics is that Lake Erie, the smallest of the Great Lakes in area, the most shallow, only 30-feet deep, and around Toledo, 90-feet deep, around my wife's home county of Ashtabula. Lake Erie is 2 percent of all the water in the Great Lakes but has 50 percent of the fish, and Lake Superior, the largest lake, has 50 percent of the water and 2 percent of the fish. We know how important Lake Erie is to fishing. We know how important Lake Erie is to our water supply. And we know how important Lake Erie is just as one of the beautiful parts of the Great Lakes that matter to all of us.

So when I think about ROB, I regret he is leaving. I look forward to working with Senator Vance. I am hopeful that we can be as cooperative and effective as ROB and I have been on issues that are Ohio-specific, and we will continue to search out those issues.

Another one was NASA Glenn in Cleveland. We have one of the 10 NASA facilities in the country. NASA Glenn is particularly important, with the Armstrong Center in Sandusky, to the State's economy, and to our space program. That is in my part of the State. ROB has been helpful there. I have been helpful in his part of the State with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, one of the key facilities for our U.S. Air Force.

So on issue after issue, many of them, ROB and I have each cosponsored dozens of bills that have become law—some 35, I believe, with each other, that have become law, and dozens more with other Senators in both parties, including Senator HASSAN from New Hampshire, who has been one of the real leaders on doing bipartisan work.

So those kinds of issues don't get the attention of the media, and I don't blame them. They would rather cover when ROB and I disagree than when we agree. But my job, as Senator PORTMAN's job, has always been to look for opportunities to do things together. We found dozens of those opportunities in our 12 years together.

I came in 2006, and he came in 2010. He is retiring at the end of 2022. We had 12 years together, and we were able to accomplish a lot of things for the State. I will miss him. I will miss his leadership. I will miss his reasonableness. And we will continue, I hope, once he retires, in working on other things that are State-specific for my State.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak for a couple of minutes about my friend ROB Portman.

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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THAO GRIFFITHS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have spent more than 30 years working to build closer relations with Vietnam, a country where 58,220 Americans and an estimated 3 million Vietnamese died in a war that never should have been fought. In 1975, as the newest member of the Armed Services Committee, I voted to end funding for the war, a vote that caused the largest newspaper in Vermont to predict that I would never be reelected. The citizens of Vermont reelected me seven times, and that vote is among the ones I am proudest of.

The war was a disaster for both countries, and for 20 years after the war ended, the U.S. maintained a trade embargo against Vietnam which only formally ended in 1994, shortly before diplomatic relations were restored in 1995. That historic step toward reconciliation was due in large part to the advocacy of two American veterans, Senators John Kerry and John McCain, and the involvement of key Vietnamese diplomats such as Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and Nguyen Manh Cam.

Since the late 1980s, the Congress has approved funding for a number of humanitarian programs in Vietnam to address the harmful legacies of the war. We have provided many hundreds of millions of dollars to locate and destroy landmines and other unexploded ordnance, to assist people with severe physical and cognitive disabilities resulting from UXO accidents and exposure to Agent Orange, to clean up former U.S. air bases contaminated with dioxin, and to help Vietnam locate and identify some of its hundreds of thousands of missing soldiers and civilians. Each of these initiatives has been carried out in close cooperation with the Government of Vietnam, including its Ministry of Defense. Next year, we will embark on a unique project to create new exhibits at Vietnam's War Remnants Museum, to tell the story of this postwar cooperation.

These efforts have succeeded due to the vision and support of many people, including Bobby Muller who founded Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation—VVAF—and led the first group of American veterans back to Vietnam in 1981, President George H. W. Bush, and Sr. Lt. General Nguyen Chi Vinh. And they have opened the door to U.S.-Vietnam cooperation in many other areas, including higher education, public health, climate change, and regional security.

I mention this for context and to highlight the key role played by one person who has remained out of the limelight. Thao Griffiths, a Vietnamese woman originally from the small rural community of Ha Giang in the isolated, ethnic minority region of Vietnam bordering China, deserves special recognition.

Thao, a gifted student, was sent to school in Hanoi, graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, became a Fulbright Scholar and received her master's degree at American University in Washington, was awarded an

Eisenhower Fellowship, and for 9 years served as the first Vietnamese citizen and the first woman to direct VVAF's programs in Vietnam. I was introduced to Thao by Bobby Muller 17 years ago, and since then, she has become a trusted source of invaluable advice for me and my staff. Even more than that, she is a friend to me and to my wife Marcelle, who once had the exhilarating experience of riding around the city of Hanoi on the back of Thao's motor scooter. Anyone familiar with Hanoi traffic knows what that means.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that none of the war legacy initiatives that have played such a central role in building a comprehensive partnership between the U.S. and Vietnam would have progressed as they have without Thao's constant encouragement and thoughtful advice. Fluent in English and a networker extraordinaire with unlimited positive energy, on a first name basis with many of Vietnam's top civilian and military leaders, academics and artists, and U.S. and foreign diplomats, Thao has helped build bridges between key players in both governments in ways that I doubt anyone else could have. For the past decade and a half, Thao has, more than anyone else, helped to smooth the way for the leaders of both governments to keep striving to deepen and expand our relations by overcoming distrust, bureaucratic obstacles, and cultural differences. Her efforts have had a profound and lasting impact on our relations, our mutual understanding, and on the lives of the Vietnamese and American people.

This work has been among the things I am proudest of having had a role in during my 48 years in the Senate. On behalf of myself and my wife Marcelle, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Thao Griffiths for her invaluable help in making it possible.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SEIBERT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in 1986, when much of Central America was embroiled in armed conflicts in which hundreds of thousands of people, overwhelmingly civilians, were killed, a group of parishioners from the Franconia, NH, Congregational Church established Americans Caring Teaching Sharing—ACTS. They traveled to Honduras to support peace and justice through community development, beginning in the small subsistence farming village of El Rosario in the highlands of northwestern Honduras.

Since then, ACTS has become a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization involving hundreds of volunteers who have contributed thousands of hours to ACTS' mission of improving the lives of people in rural Honduras through community projects focused on basic healthcare, nutrition, sanitation, education, agriculture, and economic diversification. ACTS is governed and sustained by volunteers. Teams travel to Honduras several times a year, for a week or 2, to help move the projects forward.

Over the years, the program has expanded to include about a dozen communities surrounding El Rosario. ACTS has developed a close working relationship with the villagers, who are the visionaries for progress. The villagers set the priorities and perform much of the labor. ACTS volunteers provide the technical skills, guidance, material resources, and hands-on help. The result has been a successful example of sustainable, community development in one of the most neglected, impoverished parts of the country.

In addition to the Honduran communities in which ACTS supports projects, it has developed partnerships and associations with many U.S. and Honduran organizations, institutions of higher education, and foundations.

I mention this to provide context and to highlight the extraordinary dedication and leadership of Dean Seibert, long-time resident of Norwich, VT, and professor emeritus at the Geisel School of Medicine, who has been affiliated with ACTS for over 20 years and led the organization for most of that time. He has visited El Rosario as team leader over 30 times. This year alone Dean traveled there three times. Some might find that remarkable, since Dean celebrated his 90th birthday in August. To those who know Dean, it wasn't remarkable at all. His enthusiasm and dedication are indefatigable.

Dean has long had an interest in community development and the challenges of providing healthcare to people of different cultures and traditions. He has worked with the Tohano O'odum, Navajo, Hopi, and Pueblo tribes in the American southwest, and he provided care to flood victims in the Mosquito Coast area of Honduras after Hurricane Mitch, to war refugees in Albania, Kosovo, and Liberia, to earthquake survivors in Pakistan and Haiti, and to flood victims following the Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. He received the Albany Medical College Alumni Humanitarian Award and the Geisel School of Medicine John H. Lyons award for humanism in medicine.

If that weren't enough, in the past year, Dean has played a central role in creating a new nonprofit, Honduran Tolupan Education Program—Honduran TEP—devoted to building libraries and providing other basic services in half a dozen marginalized Tolupan indigenous communities in the mountainous province of Yoro. Honduran TEP is based on the recognition that literacy and access to educational resources are fundamental to enabling the Tolucan to develop their communities and defend against corrupt entities that threaten their cultural survival.

In the Congress, we talk a lot about leadership, about what it means, about its importance. We talk about how the Senate can and should be the conscience of the Nation. When I think of Dean Seibert and what he has done in his life, how he has used his medical training and experience, combined with his commitment to social justice, for the betterment of others born into extreme poverty or victims of tragic losses, I can't think of a better example of leadership and conscience.

For much of Honduras' modern history, the U.S. has propped up corrupt, abusive governments and provided their security forces with training and equipment to support poorly conceived strategies to combat drug trafficking and stop migration. The consequences for the Honduran people and Honduras' democratic institutions have been devastating. For the most part, it is not a history to be proud of.

But all Vermonters should be proud of Dean Seibert and ACTS' and Honduran TEP's volunteers for showing a different face of America to the people of Honduras—a face of generosity, compassion, opportunity, and hope.

TRIBUTE TO CA VAN TRAN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in 1988, after speaking with Bobby Muller, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded and later founded the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation—VVAF—to help alleviate the suffering of Vietnamese and Cambodians who were badly injured in the war, I met with President George H. W. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker at the White House.

At the time, the United States and Vietnam did not have diplomatic relations. Vietnam's economy had been devastated by the war, but the U.S. had a trade embargo against the country which remained in effect for another 15 years. There were many hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who had been severely disabled due to war injuries, with no access to rehabilitation services. President Bush and Secretary Baker and I agreed that it was in the interest of the United States to begin reconciling with Vietnam by addressing some of the worst legacies of the war and that the way to begin was to use what later became known as the ''Leahy War Victims Fund,'' administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, to provide artificial limbs and wheelchairs to victims of landmines and other unexploded ordnance—UXO.

That initiative, beginning in Vietnam, was expanded over the years to many other countries whose people have been harmed by armed conflict, and it continues to this day. One of the implementers of the Leahy War Victims Fund in Vietnam, starting in the early 1990s, has been Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped—VNAH—whose founder and president, Ca Van Tran, left Vietnam as a refugee in 1975 with hardly a penny to his name. Over many years, through hard work and perseverance, Ca became a successful businessman in the United States. After returning to Vietnam and seeing

the ongoing suffering of people who had no access to prostheses or wheelchairs, he founded VNAH. Since then, VNAH has carried out successful projects in multiple provinces and was instrumental in working with the Vietnamese authorities to write Vietnam's disabilities law, the first of its kind in the country.

Ca became a good friend to me and my wife Marcelle and to my staff. We have visited VNAH's projects in Vietnam, which now assist victims of Agent Orange as well as injured survivors of UXO accidents. The difference that Ca and VNAH's superb Vietnamese staff have made in the lives of the severely disabled and their families cannot be adequately described in words. People who lost one or both legs, who were crawling on the ground for years, finally received an artificial limb or wheelchair and their dignity restored. Parents, children, and siblings with cognitive and physical disabilities so severe they cannot speak, walk, sit up, feed, or clean themselves now have better care.

In recent years, Ca has had to cope with his own health challenges due to separate motor vehicle accidents both of which were due entirely to the negligence of other drivers. At one point, his own mobility was limited to a wheelchair. Yet as soon as he was physically able and Vietnam relaxed its COVID restrictions, Ca went back there to explore ways to expand VNAH's activities.

Ca has been an inspiration to me and to countless others in this country and in Vietnam. He overcame immense challenges as a refugee, and when he was financially able, he devoted his life to helping others far less fortunate. Although originally from the south, through sheer perseverance and dedication to helping others, he overcame the suspicions of the authorities in Hanoi. It is in no small measure thanks to Ca Van Tran and VNAH that the Leahy War Victims Fund became what it is today.

As I prepare to retire after 48 years in the Senate, I want other Members of Congress to know about Ca Van Tran. He is an exceptional example of the life-changing difference that one compassionate, dedicated person has made to overcome some of the painful legacies of the war in Vietnam.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD LEARNING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of World Learning, a nonprofit organization based in Brattleboro, VT, that is dedicated to building stronger human connections through people-to-people exchanges, international education, and global development programs.

World Learning is more than Vermont's window to the world; it is its door. Its history is deeply rooted in the Green Mountains of southern Vermont. The organization is guided by our State's values of tolerance and interest in the world, living a purposeful life through serving others, and building communities by welcoming newcomers with empathy and dignity.

I am proud that World Learning's impact extends well beyond Vermont. World Learning through its School for International Training—SIT—administers more than 90 development programs in over 30 countries, teaching English to refugees, expanding STEM training opportunities, and increasing job opportunities for young adults from all backgrounds. World Learning's youth, academic, and professional exchanges bring over 2,000 emerging leaders annually to the U.S. from nearly 160 countries for degree and nondegree programs and professional development and networking opportunities. These programs build enduring ties between future leaders and their U.S. host communities and place American culture and values front and center.

In 1932, World Learning—at that time known as the Experiment in International Living—established the first program in the country to enable young Americans to study abroad and engage in intercultural communication. Through the Experiment, students first lived in the homes of families from the countries where they studied. The then-radical idea, of the ''home stay,'' as the Experiment's founder Dr. Donald Watt put it, is how people would ''learn to live together by living together.''

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the Experiment sent young Americans across the Atlantic to Western Europe as peacemakers to assist in rebuilding war-ravaged communities across the continent. These young Americans became our Nation's first generation engaged in international community service and international volunteerism.

At the height of the Cold War, President John F. Kennedy asked young Americans to serve their country in the Peace Corps and build human connections and a greater understanding between nations and people. The Experiment was the inspiration behind the vision of international service by Kennedy and Sargent Shriver, the first Peace Corps Director. Shriver was a participant in the Experiment, traveling to Germany and Austria in 1934, and then leading other youth groups for the organization in 1936 and 1939. In 1964, another prominent innovator, Dr. John A. Wallace, founded SIT, an extension of the Experiment, and directed SIT until 1978. Jack was a good friend whose leadership at SIT built on the Experiment platform with programs that sent thousands of young learners around the world. Over time, World Learning has helped design and launch nearly 70 Peace Corps projects and train volunteers for service in more than 30 countries.

The Experiment also rose to the challenge of supporting the U.S. State Department in the largest refugee training and resettlement program in history, assisting more than 250,000 South East Asian refugees at processing centers in Thailand and Indonesia. They led skills assessments, English language instruction, and cultural orientation training. They demonstrated once again the organization's steadfast commitment to building human connections, healthy communities, and peace.

That commitment continues today, at World Learning's headquarters in the town of Brattleboro, where they welcome refugees and support their integration into communities around southern Vermont. As the first stop in Vermont for newcomers from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and elsewhere, World Learning brings together staff, faculty, alumni, and neighbors to offer language, cultural orientation, and friendship in a program that is a national model for effective refugee integration.

I have covered a lot of history in these remarks. That is to be expected when one speaks about World Learning and its many contributions over the past 90 years. This is a time when the world needs what World Learning offers and does best. Many of the challenges we face in my State of Vermont are the same challenges seen in towns and provinces in countries around the world, such as climate change, resettling refugees, combatting infectious diseases, protecting democracy, and the list goes on.

I am just one of many Vermonters who takes immense pride in World Learning's history of bringing people together to develop innovative solutions to shared challenges and to recognize our common humanity. I thank World Learning—its staff and faculty, alumni, and participants—for their achievements and important ongoing efforts.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, on December 12, 2022, I missed rollcall vote No. 387, confirmation of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit due to my attendance at an event back home in Oregon that required me to fly back on a later flight. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea.

An expert in corporate law during her time as a corporate litigator in private practice, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has served as a Delaware State court judge since 2015. She has blazed a trail as the first Black woman to serve on both the Delaware Supreme Court and Delaware Court of Chancery. A jurist who has earned a reputation for fairness, consideration, and consensus-building, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has participated in thousands of decisions and authored more than 300 opinions since joining the bench.

Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves is imminently qualified and will do an exemplary job for the people

of Delaware and the people of the United States on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

TRIBUTE TO CHESNA FOORD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and give thanks to one of the hardest working and most integral members of my team, Ms. Chesna Foord. Chesna has been my director of scheduling for 6 years and has spent nearly a decade in my offices in Washington, DC, and in San Francisco.

Every Member of this Senate knows the importance of their scheduler, and Chesna has been a 10. She is the first person I call in the morning and often the last person I check with at night. She gets me where I need to be and ensures that I am prepared when I get there, but she also has developed a sixth sense for what needs to be done and pitfalls to avoid. And I am forever grateful that she does it all with unflappable patience and good cheer. I am pleased to have her not just on my staff, but as a friend.

As a Senator, I have the pleasure of seeing young people come into public service and, in some cases, flourish in the environment. Chesna is one of those people.

She joined my San Francisco office as an intern shortly after graduating from the University of Puget Sound. After distinguishing herself there, Chesna moved across country to intern in my Washington, DC, office and was promoted to staff assistant and then to deputy scheduler.

But it has been over the past 6 years as director of scheduling that I have gotten to know Chesna and watched her grow in skill, in communication, in leadership, and into the woman I now get to see day in and day out.

She has been here with me through good times and bad and has helped me get through impeachments and Supreme Court confirmations, vote-a-ramas and insurrection. And I will be always be thankful for her help with arrangements and support when my husband passed away earlier this year.

I am sad to see Chesna leave, but I understand that the lure of the West Coast and personal ties are calling Chesna back home to California. Thankfully, Chesna will remain on the team, as a field representative in my Los Angeles office.

And so, on behalf of this grateful Senator, I thank Chesna Foord for her friendship and her forbearance, and thank her for her years of excellent and caring service.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:17 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 314. An act to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2551. An act to designate and adjust certain lands in the State of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5715. An act to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5949. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 North Bush Street, in Santa Ana, California, as the ''Judge James Perez Post Office''.

H.R. 6042. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 213 William Hilton Parkway in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, as the ''Caesar H. Wright Jr. Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6472. An act to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7082. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2200 North George Mason Drive in Arlington, Virginia, as the ''Jesus Antonio Collazos Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7496. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733.

H.R. 7514. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 345 South Main Street in Butler, Pennsylvania, as the ''Andrew Gomer Williams Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7519. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2050 South Boulevard in Bloomfield Township, Michigan, as the ''Dr. Ezra S. Parke Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7638. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6000 South Florida Avenue in Lakeland, Florida, as the ''U.S. Marine Corporal Ronald R. Payne Jr. Post Office''.

H.R. 7873. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 Southern Avenue Southeast in Washington, District of Columbia, as the ''District of Columbia Servicemembers and Veterans Post Office''.

H.R. 7952. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way permit with respect to a natural gas distribution pipeline within Valley Forge National Historic Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7988. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 79125 Corporate Centre Drive in La Quinta, California, as the ''Corporal Hunter Lopez Memorial Post Office Building''.

H.R. 8026. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 825 West 65th Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the ''Charles W. Lindberg Post Office''.

H.R. 8226. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 236 Concord Exchange North in South Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the ''Officer Leo Pavlak Post Office Building''.

H.R. 8622. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 3rd Street in King City, California, as the ''Chief Rudy Banuelos Post Office''.

H.R. 9074. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 North Sunrise Way in Palm Springs, California, as the ''Chairman Richard Milanovich Post Office''.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1466. An act to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a regional program to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes in the Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wildlife dependent on those habitats, and for other purposes.

At 3:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7535) to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes.

At 4:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7776) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 7776.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to ''Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria-Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants); Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants); and Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants)'', and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Tim Scott, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Rick Scott, John Kennedy, Kevin Cramer, Tommy Tuberville, Shelley Moore Capito, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, Mike Braun, Mike Rounds, Mitt Romney, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Ron Johnson, Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Cynthia M. Lummis, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Todd Young, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Rob Portman, Marsha Blackburn, Bill Cassidy, Bill Hagerty.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 60. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to ''Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria-Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants); Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants); and Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants)''.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 5244. A bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2439. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the responsibility of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to maintain capabilities to identify threats to industrial control systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–247).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2540. A bill to make technical corrections to title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–248).

S. 2875. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Cyber Incident Review Office in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–249).

S. 2989. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–250).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 4592. A bill to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–251).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 4894. A bill to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–252).

H.R. 473. An act to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–253).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4488. A bill to establish an interagency committee on global catastrophic risk, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–254).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 521. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–255).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Kimberly Ann McClain, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

*Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

*Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the remainder of the term expiring May 31, 2024.

*Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

*Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 5240. A bill to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the ''Salem Maritime National Historic Park'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 5241. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to revise the definition of the term ''tipped employee'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 5242. A bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5243. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate March 9 as U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 5244. A bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5245. A bill to protect Americans from the threat posed by certain foreign adversaries using current or potential future social media companies that those foreign adversaries control to surveil Americans, learn sensitive data about Americans, or spread influence campaigns, propaganda, and censorship; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5246. A bill to establish a National Development Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5247. A bill to enforce the Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of effective counsel at all stages of the adversarial process, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide declaratory and injunctive relief against systemic violations of such right, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5248. A bill to reauthorize the training demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S.J. Res. 66. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to ''Reproductive Health Services''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 869. A resolution commending and congratulating the Portland Thorns Football Club on winning the 2022 National Women's Soccer League championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 870. A resolution honoring the life and the legacy of Secretary Ash Carter; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 190

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1068

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1068, a bill to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2513

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2513, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3017

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3017, a bill to expand the provision and availability of dental care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 3238, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support people with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 3417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3417, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3797

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3797, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 4389

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4389, a bill to provide for the abolition of certain United Nations groups, and for other purposes.

S. 4441

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 4441, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 4505

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4505, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the program for direct housing loans made to Native American veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4565

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4565, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the copayment requirement for recipients of Department of Veterans Affairs payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes.

S. 4656

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4656, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create stronger accountability mechanisms for Joint Task Forces.

S. 4787

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4787, a bill to provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, adequate vetting for parolees from Afghanistan, adjustment of status for certain nationals of Afghanistan, and special immigrant status for at-risk Afghan allies and relatives of certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to disclose information relating to certain greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 5239

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 5239, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign telecommunications companies engaged in economic or industrial espionage against United States persons, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 869—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE PORTLAND THORNS FOOTBALL CLUB ON WINNING THE 2022 NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 869

Whereas, on October 29, 2022, the Portland Thorns FC (referred to in this preamble as the ''Thorns''), a professional women's soccer team, won the 2022 National Women's Soccer League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NWSL'') championship;

Whereas the Thorns defeated the Kansas City Current by 2 to 0 in the NWSL championship, which was played in Washington, DC;

Whereas the 2022 championship is the third for the Thorns franchise, making the Thorns the first NWSL team with 3 championships;

Whereas the Thorns are the first team in NWSL history to qualify for 4 NWSL championship games;

Whereas the enthusiastic fan support of the Thorns once again placed the benchmark franchise among the NWSL leaders in attendance;

Whereas, in 2022, the Thorns scored the most team goals in the entire NWSL with 49 goals;

Whereas Rhian Wilkinson, head coach of the Thorns who was also a former player for the Thorns in 2015, led the Thorns to the championship in her first year as head coach, becoming the second woman head coach to win the NWSL championship;

Whereas Karina LeBlanc, general manager of the Thorns who was also a former player for the Thorns during the championship season of the Thorns in 2013, became the first person to win a NWSL championship as a player and general manager;

Whereas Thorns player Sophia Smith—

(1) was named NWSL 2022 Most Valuable Player (referred to in this preamble as ''MVP''), making her the youngest league MVP winner in NWSL history;

(2) was named NWSL championship MVP, becoming the first player in NWSL history to win the league MVP and championship MVP in the same season;

(3) became the youngest NWSL championship goalscorer and the highest single-season scorer in Thorns franchise history by scoring her 15th goal of the season in the championship game; and

(4) became the youngest NWSL player to score more than 10 goals in a season;

Whereas Thorns player, and former University of Portland standout, Christine Sinclair—

(1) is the first player to win 3 NWSL championships with the same club;

(2) is the most prolific player in the NWSL, charting the most playoff minutes of any player in league history with 1,022 minutes played; and

(3) is the all-time leader of the Thorns in games played and goals scored;

Whereas Thorns players Bella Bixby, Natalia Kuikka, Kelli Hubly, Sam Coffey, Rocky Rodríguez, Hina Sugita, Olivia Moultrie, Morgan Weaver, Sophia Smith, Yazmeen Ryan, and Janine Beckie made their NWSL championship debut in the game on October 29, 2022;

Whereas Thorns players Sam Coffey and Sophia Smith were named to the NWSL Best XI First Team for the 2022 season;

Whereas Thorns players Kelli Hubly and Becky Sauerbrunn were named to the NWSL Best XI Second Team for the 2022 season;

Whereas, at 17 years old, Olivia Moultrie became the youngest player in NWSL history to play in the championship game;

Whereas the entire Thorns squad should be congratulated for its dedication, the resilience of its players in the face of hardship, its teamwork, and its impressive display of athletic talent;

Whereas the ongoing success, camaraderie, sportsmanship, and joy demonstrated by the Thorns has inspired young women to dedicate themselves to soccer and to pursue sports;

Whereas the Thorns donated $140,000 of ticket profits from the NWSL semifinal game on October 23, 2022, to 4 different charities, including—

(1) Girls on the Run, which helps young girls learn life skills through physical education;

(2) Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest, which mentors girls and supports lifelong education;

(3) SHE FLIES, an initiative of the Sport Oregon Foundation to connect women and girls to sports in Oregon; and

(4) Street Soccer USA, which brings soccer to low income communities nationwide.

Whereas the donation by the Thorns was only one example of the tradition of philanthropy of the Thorns, which was celebrated by the Portland Business Journal as one of the top philanthropic businesses in Portland in 2022;

Whereas the Thorns, in association with the Portland Timbers, have donated more than $550,000 to Oregon charities in 2022;

Whereas the Thorns, in association with the Portland Timbers, raised more than $600,000 for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine in April of 2022; and

Whereas the Thorns, its fans, and the Oregon soccer community came together in the wake of a devastating report by the NWSL and NWSL Players' Association condemning former team management and ownership for its treatment of allegations of abuse, demonstrating the resilience of the Thorns players, commitment to one another, and dedication to player welfare and safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates the Portland Thorns FC on winning the 2022 National Women's Soccer League championship and completing a successful 2022 season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the Portland Thorns FC during the 2022 season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the interim president and general counsel of the Portland Thorns FC, Heather Davis;

(B) the general manager of the Portland Thorns FC, Karina LeBlanc; and

(C) the captain of the Portland Thorns FC, Christine Sinclair.

SENATE RESOLUTION 870—HONORING THE LIFE AND THE LEGACY OF SECRETARY ASH CARTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 870

Whereas Ashton ''Ash'' Baldwin Carter (referred to in this preamble as ''Secretary Carter'') was born on September 24, 1954, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to William Carter, Jr., and Anne Carter (née Baldwin);

Whereas Secretary Carter received dual bachelor's degrees in physics and medieval history at Yale College, summa cum laude, and a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar;

Whereas Secretary Carter first entered public service in 1981, serving in the Program Analysis and Evaluation Office of the Department of Defense;

Whereas, from 1993 to 1996, Secretary Carter served as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Security and Counterproliferation) and Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Policy) under President William J. Clinton, during which Secretary Carter oversaw the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which was responsible for the securing and dismantling of weapons of mass destruction in the former states of the Soviet Union, including the removal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus;

Whereas, from 2009 to 2011, Secretary Carter served as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics under President Barack H. Obama, during which he led critical procurement and acquisition initiatives, such as the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected family of vehicles, saving the lives of countless service members;

Whereas, from 2011 to 2013, Secretary Carter served as Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Barack H. Obama, during which he oversaw the management and personnel of the Department of Defense and steered defense strategy and budget through sequestration;

Whereas, from 2015 to 2017, Secretary Carter served as the 25th Secretary of Defense under President Barack H. Obama, and he was revered for his leadership on gender equity and the reinvigoration of United States technology in the defense sector;

Whereas Secretary Carter charted a strategic path for the Department of Defense to meet the China challenge by continuing to rebalance the defense presence and security cooperation of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas Secretary Carter played a leading role in the United States-led global coalition against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which led to the liberation of strongholds in Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria, and the territorial defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas Secretary Carter's focus on innovation led to the creation of the Defense Innovation Unit, the goal of which is to bring the rapid advancement in commercial technologies to the Department of Defense;

Whereas, under the direction of Secretary Carter, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency funded mRNA research, later contributing to the development of critical COVID–19 vaccines, saving millions of lives in the United States and abroad;

Whereas, under the direction of Secretary Carter, the Department of Defense opened all military roles to women, increased critical paid military maternity leave, and permitted transgender service members to join and serve openly;

Whereas Secretary Carter authored and coauthored 11 books and more than 100 articles on physics, technology, national security, and management;

Whereas, after Secretary Carter's tenure as Secretary of Defense ended, his dedication to public service continued as the Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he mentored the next generation of national security leaders;

Whereas Secretary Carter was a 5-time recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, was a 2-time recipient of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, and received numerous other awards and decorations for public service;

Whereas Secretary Carter was known to all as a devoted public servant who was resilient in the face of adversity;

Whereas, on October 24, 2022, at the age of 68, Secretary Carter died due to a sudden cardiac event and is survived by his wife, Stephanie, his son, Will, his daughter, Ava, and his sisters, Corinne and Cynthia; and

Whereas Secretary Carter will be remembered as a committed teacher, a loving father, a devoted husband, and a loyal friend: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) expresses its deepest sympathy to the family members of the late Secretary Ashton B. Carter;

(B) honors the outstanding life and legacy of Secretary Ashton B. Carter; and

(C) commends Secretary Ashton B. Carter for his life accomplishments within the United States Government; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Secretary Ashton B. Carter.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6512. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6513. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7776, supra.

SA 6514. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEE, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6515. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6513 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill H.R. 7776, supra.

SA 6516. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7776, supra.

SA 6517. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6516 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 7776, supra.

SA 6518. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6517 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 6516 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 7776, supra.

SA 6519. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4926, to amend chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, to require appropriate use of multidisciplinary teams for investigations of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6512. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION L—OTHER ENERGY MATTERS

TITLE CXXI—MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

SEC. 12101. AUTHORIZATION OF MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the timely completion of the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline—

(1) is necessary—

(A) to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of natural gas to consumers at reasonable prices;

(B) to facilitate an orderly transition of the energy industry to cleaner fuels; and

(C) to reduce carbon emissions; and

(2) is in the national interest.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to require the appropriate Federal officers and agencies to take all necessary actions to permit the timely completion of the construction and operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline without further administrative or judicial delay or impediment.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE.—The term ''Mountain Valley Pipeline'' means the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, as generally described and approved in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket Nos. CP16–10 and CP19–477.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means, as applicable—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior; or

(C) the Secretary of the Army.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF NECESSARY APPROVALS.—

(1) BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue a biological opinion and incidental take statement for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, substantially in the form of the biological opinion and incidental take statement for the Mountain Valley Pipeline issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on September 4, 2020.

(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior shall issue all rights-of-way, permits, leases, and other authorizations that are necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, substantially in the form approved in the record of decision of the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Decision to Grant Right-of-Way and Temporary Use Permit'' and dated January 14, 2021;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture shall amend the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Jefferson National Forest as necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline within the Jefferson National Forest, substantially in the form approved in the record of decision of the Forest Service entitled ''Record of Decision for the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project'' and dated January 2021;

(C) the Secretary of the Army shall issue all permits and verifications necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline across waters of the United States; and

(D) the Commission shall—

(i) approve any amendments to the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Commission on October 13, 2017 (161 FERC 61,043); and

(ii) grant any extensions necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

(e) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY PRIOR DECISIONS OR APPROVALS.—In meeting the applicable requirements of subsection (d), a Secretary concerned may modify the applicable prior biological opinion, incidental take statement, right-of-way, amendment, permit, verification, or other authorization described in that subsection if the Secretary concerned determines that the modification is necessary—

(1) to correct a deficiency in the record; or

(2) to protect the public interest or the environment.

(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—

(1) DETERMINATION TO ISSUE OR GRANT.—The requirements of subsection (d) shall supersede the provisions of any law (including regulations) relating to an administrative determination as to whether the biological opinion, incidental take statement, right-of-way, amendment, permit, verification, or other authorization shall be issued for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of a Secretary concerned or the Commission to administer a right-of-way or enforce any permit or other authorization issued under subsection (d) in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

(g) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The actions of the Secretaries concerned and the Commission pursuant to subsection (d) that are necessary for the construction and initial operation at full capacity of the Mountain Valley Pipeline shall not be subject to judicial review.

(2) OTHER ACTIONS.—The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over—

(A) any claim alleging—

(i) the invalidity of this section; or

(ii) that an action is beyond the scope of authority conferred by this section; and

(B) any claim relating to any action taken by a Secretary concerned or the Commission relating to the Mountain Valley Pipeline other than an action described in paragraph (1).

SA 6513. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION L—OTHER ENERGY MATTERS

TITLE CXXI—BUILDING AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2022

SEC. 12101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Building American Energy Security Act of 2022''.

Subtitle A—Accelerating Agency Reviews

SEC. 12111. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' means any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or Tribal government.

(2) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term ''Alaska Native Corporation'' has the meaning given the term ''Native Corporation'' in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(3) AUTHORIZATION.—The term ''authorization'' means any license, permit, approval, finding, determination, interagency consultation, or other administrative decision that is required or authorized under Federal law (including regulations) to design, plan, site, construct, reconstruct, or commence operations of a project, including any authorization described in section 41001(3) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(3)).

(4) COOPERATING AGENCY.—The term ''cooperating agency'' means any Federal agency (and a State, Tribal, or local agency if agreed on by the lead agency), other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to an environmental impact relating to a project.

(5) ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.—The term ''environmental document'' includes any of the following, as prepared under NEPA:

(A) An environmental assessment.

(B) A finding of no significant impact.

(C) An environmental impact statement.

(D) A record of decision.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The term ''environmental impact statement'' means the detailed statement of environmental impacts of a project required to be prepared under NEPA.

(7) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS.—The term ''environmental review process'' means the process for preparing an environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, categorical exclusion, or other document required to be prepared to achieve compliance with NEPA, including pre-application consultation and scoping processes.

(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

(9) LEAD AGENCY.—The term ''lead agency'', with respect to a project, means—

(A) the Federal agency preparing, or assuming primary responsibility for, the authorization or review of the project; and

(B) if applicable, any State, local, or Tribal government entity serving as a joint lead agency for the project.

(10) NEPA.—The term ''NEPA'' means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (including NEPA implementing regulations).

(11) NEPA IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—The term ''NEPA implementing regulations'' means the regulations in subpart A of chapter V of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(12) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term ''participating agency'' means an agency participating in an environmental review or authorization for a project.

(13) PROJECT SPONSOR.—The term ''project sponsor'' means an entity, including any private, public, or public-private entity, seeking an authorization for a project.

SEC. 12112. STREAMLINING PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZATIONS AND REVIEWS OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The term ''categorical exclusion'' means a categorical exclusion within the meaning of NEPA.

(2) MAJOR PROJECT.—The term ''major project'' means a project—

(A) for which multiple authorizations, reviews, or studies are required under a Federal law other than NEPA; and

(B) with respect to which the head of the lead agency has determined that—

(i) an environmental impact statement is required; or

(ii) an environmental assessment is required, and the project sponsor requests that the project be treated as a major project.

(3) PROJECT.—The term ''project'' means a project—

(A) proposed for the construction of infrastructure—

(i) to develop, produce, generate, store, transport, or distribute energy;

(ii) to capture, remove, transport, or store carbon dioxide; or

(iii) to mine, extract, beneficiate, or process minerals; and

(B) that, if implemented as proposed by the project sponsor, would be subject to the requirements that—

(i) an environmental document be prepared; and

(ii) the applicable agency issue an authorization of the activity.

(4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means, as appropriate—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to the Forest Service;

(B) the Secretary of Energy;

(C) the Secretary of the Interior;

(D) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(E) the Secretary of the Army, with respect to the Corps of Engineers; and

(F) the Secretary of Transportation, with respect to the Maritime Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The project development procedures under this section—

(A) shall apply to—

(i) all projects for which an environmental impact statement is prepared;

(ii) all major projects; and

(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, projects described in clause (i) or (ii) for which an authorization is being sought or that are subject to an environmental review process initiated prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) may be applied, as requested by a project sponsor and to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary concerned, to other projects for which an environmental document is prepared; and

(C) shall not apply to—

(i) any project subject to section 139 of title 23, United States Code;

(ii) any project that is a water resources development project of the Corps of Engineers; or

(iii) any authorization of the Corps of Engineers if that authorization is for a project that alters or modifies a water resources development project of the Corps of Engineers.

(2) FLEXIBILITY.—Any authority provided by this section may be exercised, and any requirement established under this section may be satisfied, for a project, class of projects, or program of projects.

(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section—

(A) precludes the use of an authority provided under any other provision of law, including for a covered project under title XLI of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m et seq.);

(B) supersedes or modifies any applicable requirement, authority, or agency responsibility provided under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other provision of law; or

(C) shall be considered an abbreviated authorization or environmental review process for purposes of section 41001(6)(A)(i)(III) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)(i)(III)).

(c) LEAD AGENCIES.—

(1) JOINT LEAD AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section precludes an agency from serving as a joint lead agency for a project, in accordance with NEPA.

(2) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—With respect to the environmental review process for a project, the lead agency shall have the authority and responsibility—

(A) to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental review process for the project;

(B) to prepare any required environmental impact statement or other environmental document, or to ensure that such an environmental impact statement or environmental document is completed, in accordance with this section and applicable Federal law;

(C) not later than 45 days after the date of publication of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, or the initiation of an environmental assessment, as applicable, for a project—

(i) to identify any other agencies that may have financing, environmental review, authorization, or other responsibilities with respect to the project;

(ii) to invite the identified agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process for the project; and

(iii) to establish, as part of the invitation, a deadline for the submission of a response, which may be extended by the lead agency for good cause;

(D) to consider and respond to comments timely received from participating agencies relating to matters within the special expertise or jurisdiction of those agencies;

(E) to consider, and, as appropriate, rely on, adopt, or incorporate by reference, baseline data, analyses, and documentation that have been prepared for the project under the laws and procedures of a State or an Indian Tribe if the lead agency determines that—

(i) those laws and procedures are of equal or greater rigor, as compared to each applicable Federal law and procedure; and

(ii) the baseline data, analysis, or documentation, as applicable, was prepared under circumstances that allowed for—

(I) opportunities for public participation;

(II) consideration of alternatives and environmental consequences; and

(III) other required analyses that are substantially equivalent to the analyses that would have been prepared if the baseline data, analysis, or documentation was prepared by the lead agency pursuant to NEPA; and

(F)(i) to ensure that the project sponsor complies with design and mitigation commitments for the project made jointly by the lead agency and the project sponsor; and

(ii) to ensure that environmental documents are appropriately supplemented if changes become necessary with respect to the project.

(d) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—

(A) INAPPLICABILITY TO COVERED PROJECTS.—The procedures under this subsection shall not apply to a covered project (as defined in section 41001 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m))—

(i) for which a project initiation notice has been submitted pursuant to section 41003(a) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–2(a)); and

(ii) that is carried out in accordance with the procedures described in that notice.

(B) DESIGNATIONS FOR CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS.—The Secretary concerned may exercise the authority under this subsection with respect to—

(i) a project;

(ii) a class of projects; or

(iii) a program of projects.

(2) FEDERAL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—Any Federal agency that is invited by a lead agency to participate in the environmental review process for a project shall be designated as a participating agency by the lead agency, unless the invited agency informs the lead agency, in writing, by the deadline specified in the invitation, that the invited agency has no responsibility for or interest in the project.

(3) FEDERAL COOPERATING AGENCIES.—A Federal agency that has not been invited by a lead agency to participate in the environmental review process for a project, but that is required to make an authorization or carry out an action for a project, shall—

(A) notify the lead agency of the financing, environmental review, authorization, or other responsibilities of the notifying Federal agency with respect to the project; and

(B) work with the lead agency to ensure that the agency making the authorization or carrying out the action is treated as a cooperating agency for the project.

(4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A participating agency participating in the environmental review process for a project shall—

(A) provide comments, responses, studies, or methodologies relating to the areas within the special expertise or jurisdiction of the agency; and

(B) use the environmental review process to address any environmental issues of concern to the agency.

(5) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—A participating agency for a project shall comply with the applicable requirements of this section.

(B) NO IMPLICATION.—Designation as a participating agency under this subsection shall not imply that the participating agency—

(i) has made a determination to support or deny any project; or

(ii) has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise with respect to evaluation of, the applicable project.

(6) COOPERATING AGENCY DESIGNATION.—Any agency designated as a cooperating agency shall also be designated by the applicable lead agency as a participating agency under the NEPA implementing regulations.

(e) COORDINATION OF REQUIRED REVIEWS; ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency and each participating agency for a project shall apply the requirements of section 41005 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–4) to the project, subject to the condition that any reference contained in that section to a ''covered project'' shall be considered to be a reference to the project under this section.

(2) SINGLE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with Federal law, to achieve compliance with NEPA, all Federal authorizations and reviews that are necessary for a project shall rely on a single environmental document for each type of environmental document prepared under NEPA under the leadership of the lead agency.

(B) USE OF DOCUMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the lead agency shall develop

environmental documents sufficient to satisfy the NEPA requirements for any authorization or other Federal action required for the project.

(ii) COOPERATION OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—Each participating agency shall cooperate with the lead agency and provide timely information to assist the lead agency to carry out subparagraph (A).

(C) EXCEPTIONS.—A lead agency may waive the application of subparagraph (A) with respect to a project if—

(i) the project sponsor requests that agencies issue separate environmental documents;

(ii) the obligations of a cooperating agency or participating agency under NEPA have already been satisfied with respect to the project; or

(iii) the lead agency determines, and provides justification in the coordination plan established under subsection (g)(1), that multiple environmental documents are more efficient for the environmental review process or authorization process for the project.

(D) PAGE LIMITS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in clause (ii), to the maximum extent practicable, the text of the items described in paragraphs (4) through (6) of section 1502.10(a) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), of an environmental impact statement for a project shall be not more than 150 pages.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The text described in clause (i)—

(I) shall be not more than 300 pages in the case of a proposal of unusual scope or complexity; and

(II) may exceed 300 pages if the lead agency establishes a new page limit for the environmental impact statement for that project.

(f) ERRATA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In preparing a final environmental impact statement for a project, if the lead agency modifies the draft environmental impact statement in response to comments, the lead agency may write on errata sheets attached to the environmental impact statement in lieu of rewriting the draft environmental impact statement, subject to the conditions described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) The comments to which the applicable modification responds shall be minor.

(B) The modifications shall be confined to—

(i) minor factual corrections; or

(ii) an explanation of the reasons why the comments do not warrant additional response from the lead agency.

(C) The errata sheets shall—

(i) cite the sources, authorities, and reasons that support the position of the lead agency; and

(ii) if appropriate, indicate the circumstances that would trigger reappraisal or further response by the lead agency.

(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection precludes a lead agency from responding to comments in a final environmental impact statement in accordance with procedures described in section 1503.4(c) of the NEPA implementing regulations.

(g) COORDINATION AND SCHEDULING.—

(1) COORDINATION PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 90 days after the date of publication of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, or the initiation of an environmental assessment, as applicable, for a project, the lead agency shall establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in, and comment regarding, the environmental review process and authorization decisions for the project or applicable category of projects (referred to in this paragraph as the ''coordination plan'').

(B) OTHER DATE.—If the project sponsor requests the establishment of a coordination plan for a project by a date earlier than the deadline described in subparagraph (A), the lead agency shall establish the coordination plan not later than 90 days after the request is received by the head of the lead agency.

(C) INCORPORATION INTO MEMORANDUM.—A coordination plan may be incorporated into a memorandum of understanding with the project sponsor, lead agency, and any other appropriate entity to accomplish the coordination activities described in this subsection.

(D) SCHEDULE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As part of a coordination plan for a project, the lead agency shall establish and maintain a schedule for completion of the environmental review process and authorization decisions for the project that—

(I) includes the date of project initiation or earliest Federal agency contact for the project, including any pre-application consultation;

(II) includes any programmatic environmental document or agreement that is a prerequisite or predecessor for the environmental review process for the project;

(III) includes—

(aa) any Federal authorization, action required as part of the environmental review process, consultation, or similar process that is required through project completion;

(bb) to the maximum extent practicable, any Indian Tribe, Alaska Native Corporation, State, or local agency authorization, review, consultation, or similar process; and

(cc) a schedule for each authorization under item (aa) or (bb), including any pre-application consultations, applications, interim milestones, public comment periods, draft decisions, final decisions, and final authorizations necessary to begin construction; and

(IV) is established—

(aa) after consultation with, and the concurrence of, each participating agency for the project; and

(bb) with the participation of the project sponsor.

(ii) MAJOR PROJECT SCHEDULES.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with applicable Federal law, in the case of a major project, the lead agency shall develop, with the concurrence of each participating agency for the major project and in consultation with the project sponsor, a schedule for the major project that is consistent with completing—

(I) the environmental review process—

(aa) in the case of major projects for which the lead agency determines an environmental impact statement is required, not later than 2 years after the date of publication by the lead agency of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to the record of decision; and

(bb) in the case of major projects for which the lead agency determines an environmental assessment is required, not later than 1 year after the date on which the head of the lead agency determines that an environmental assessment is required to a finding of no significant impact; and

(II) any outstanding authorization required for project construction not later than 150 days after the date of an issuance of a record of decision or a finding of no significant impact under subclause (I).

(E) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing a schedule under subparagraph (D), a Federal lead agency shall consider factors such as—

(i) the responsibilities of participating agencies or cooperating agencies under applicable law;

(ii) resources available to the participating agencies or cooperating agencies;

(iii) the overall size and complexity of the project;

(iv) the overall time required by an agency to conduct the environmental review process and make decisions under applicable Federal law relating to a project (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license);

(v) the cost of the project;

(vi) the sensitivity of the natural and historic resources that could be affected by the project; and

(vii) timelines and deadlines established in this section and other applicable law.

(F) MODIFICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the lead agency may lengthen—

(I) a schedule established for a project under subparagraph (D) for good cause, in accordance with clause (ii); or

(II) shorten a schedule established for a project under subparagraph (D) if the lead agency has—

(aa) good cause; and

(bb) the concurrence of the project sponsor and any participating agencies.

(ii) GOOD CAUSE.—Good cause to lengthen a schedule under clause (i)(I) may include—

(I) Federal law prohibiting the lead agency or another agency from issuing an approval or permit within the period required under subparagraph (D);

(II) a request from the project sponsor that the permit or approval follow a different timeline; or

(III) a determination by the lead agency, with the concurrence of the project sponsor, that an extension would facilitate completion of the environmental review process and authorization process of the project.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—

(I) SHORTENING OF TIME PERIOD.—A lead agency may not shorten a schedule under clause (i)(II) if shortening the schedule would impair the ability of a participating agency—

(aa) to conduct any necessary analysis; or

(bb) to otherwise carry out any relevant obligation of the participating agency for the project.

(II) MAJOR PROJECTS.—In the case of a major project, the lead agency may lengthen a schedule for a project under subparagraph (D) for a Federal participating agency by not more than 1 year after the latest deadline established for the major project by the lead agency.

(III) COORDINATION PLANS PRIOR TO NOTICE OF INTENT.—In the case of a schedule established for a project under subparagraph (D) prior to the publication of a notice of intent, the lead agency may adjust the schedule, with the concurrence of participating agencies and the participation of the project sponsor, until the date of publication of the notice of intent.

(G) FAILURE TO MEET SCHEDULE OR DEADLINE.—If a participating Federal agency fails to meet a schedule or deadline established under subparagraph (D), not later than 30 days after the missed schedule or deadline, the participating Federal agency shall—

(i) notify—

(I) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(II) the Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council;

(III) the Secretary concerned;

(IV) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(V) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(VI) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(VII) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) include in the notifications under clause (i)—

(I) a description of the cause for the failure; and

(II) a new schedule or deadline agreed on by the project sponsor, the lead agency, and cooperating agencies.

(H) DISSEMINATION.—A copy of a schedule for a project under subparagraph (D), and any modifications to such a schedule, shall be—

(i) provided to—

(I) all participating agencies; and

(II) the project sponsor; and

(ii) in the case of a schedule for a major project under that subparagraph, made available to the public pursuant to subsection (l).

(I) NO DELAY IN DECISIONMAKING.—No agency shall seek to encourage a sponsor of a project to withdraw or resubmit an application to delay decisionmaking within the timelines under this subsection.

(2) COMMENT DEADLINES.—The lead agency shall establish the following deadlines for comment during the environmental review process for a project:

(A) For comments by agencies and the public on a draft environmental impact statement, a period of not more than 60 days after publication in the Federal Register of a notice of the date of public availability of the draft, unless—

(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause, together with a documented and publicly available explanation of the need for an extended comment period.

(B) For all other comment periods established by the lead agency for agency or public comment for a Federal authorization or in the environmental review process, a period of not more than 45 days beginning on the first date of availability of the materials regarding which comment is requested, unless a different deadline of not more than 60 days is established by agreement of the lead agency and all participating agencies, in consultation with the project sponsor.

(3) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.—Nothing in this section—

(A) reduces any time period provided for—

(i) public comment in the environmental review process; or

(ii) an authorization for a project under applicable Federal law;

(B) creates a requirement for an additional public comment opportunity in addition to any public comment opportunity required for a project under applicable Federal law; or

(C) creates a new requirement for public comment on a project for which an environmental assessment is being prepared.

(4) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Nothing in this subsection affects or creates new requirements for a project or activity that is eligible for a categorical exclusion.

(5) DEADLINE ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE DEADLINE.—In this paragraph, the term ''applicable deadline'' means a deadline—

(i) for the environmental review process for a major project required under paragraph (1)(D)(ii)(I);

(ii) for a decision on an authorization for a major project required under paragraph (1)(D)(ii)(II); or

(iii) described in clause (i) or (ii) that has been modified under paragraph (1)(F).

(B) PETITION TO COURT.—A project sponsor may obtain a review of an alleged failure by a Federal agency, or a State agency acting pursuant to Federal law, to act in accordance with an applicable deadline under this section by filing a written petition with a court of competent jurisdiction seeking an order under subparagraph (C).

(C) COURT ORDER.—If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that a Federal agency, or a State agency acting pursuant to Federal law, has failed to act in accordance with an applicable deadline, the court shall set a schedule and deadline for the agency to act as soon as practicable, which shall not exceed 90 days from the date on which the order of the court is issued, unless the court determines a longer time period is necessary to comply with applicable law.

(D) JURISDICTION.—The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia shall have original jurisdiction over any civil action brought pursuant to subparagraph (B), in addition to any court of competent jurisdiction under any other Federal law.

(E) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—A court of competent jurisdiction shall set for expedited consideration any action brought under this subsection.

(h) ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.—

(1) COOPERATION.—The lead agency and each participating agency shall work cooperatively in accordance with this section to facilitate the timely completion of the environmental review and authorization process by identifying and resolving issues that could—

(A) delay final decisionmaking for any authorization for a project;

(B) delay completion of the environmental review process for a project; or

(C) result in the denial of any authorization required for the project under applicable law.

(2) ACCELERATED ISSUE RESOLUTION AND REFERRAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A participating agency, project sponsor, or the Governor of a State in which a project is located may request an issue resolution meeting to resolve issues relating to a project that could—

(i) delay final decisionmaking for any authorization for a project;

(ii) significantly delay completion of the environmental review process for a project; or

(iii) result in the denial of any authorization required for the project under applicable law.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a request under subparagraph (A), the lead agency shall convene an issue resolution meeting, which shall include—

(i) the relevant participating agencies;

(ii) the project sponsor; and

(iii) the Governor of a State in which the project is located, if the Governor requested the issue resolution meeting under that subparagraph.

(C) ELEVATION.—If issue resolution is not achieved by 30 days after the date of the initial meeting under subparagraph (B), the issue shall be elevated to the head of the lead agency, who shall—

(i) notify—

(I) the heads of the relevant participating agencies;

(II) the project sponsor; and

(III) the Governor of a State in which the project is located, if the Governor requested the issue resolution meeting under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) convene a leadership issue resolution meeting not later than 90 days after the date of the initial meeting under subparagraph (B) with—

(I) the heads of the relevant participating agencies, including any relevant Secretaries;

(II) the project sponsor; and

(III) the Governor of a State in which the project is located, if the Governor requested the issue resolution meeting under subparagraph (A).

(D) CONVENTION BY LEAD AGENCY.—A lead agency may convene an issue resolution meeting at any time to resolve issues relating to an authorization or environmental review process for a project, without the request of a participating agency, project sponsor, or the Governor of a State in which the project is located.

(E) REFERRAL OF ISSUE RESOLUTION FOR MAJOR PROJECTS TO COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If issue resolution for a major project is not achieved by 30 days after the date on which a leadership issue resolution meeting is convened under subparagraph (C), the head of the lead agency shall refer the matter to the Council on Environmental Quality.

(ii) MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a referral from the head of the lead agency under clause (i), the Council on Environmental Quality shall convene an issue resolution meeting with—

(I) the head of the lead agency;

(II) the heads of relevant participating agencies;

(III) the project sponsor; and

(IV) the Governor of a State in which the major project is located, if the Governor requested the issue resolution meeting under subparagraph (A).

(F) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAW.—An agency shall implement the requirements of this paragraph—

(i) unless doing so would prevent the compliance of the agency with existing law; and

(ii) consistent with, to the maximum extent permitted by law, any dispute resolution process established in an applicable law, regulation, or legally binding agreement.

(G) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph limits the application of section 41003 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–2) to a covered project (as defined in section 41001 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m)) that is a project subject to the requirements of this section, including with respect to dispute resolution procedures regarding a permitting timetable.

(i) ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM LEAD AGENCY.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—In this subsection, the term ''covered project'' means a project—

(A) that has a pending environmental review or authorization under NEPA; and

(B) for which the lead agency determines a delay to the schedule established under subsection (g) is likely.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of a project sponsor, participating agency, or the Governor of a State in which a covered project is located, the head of the lead agency may provide technical assistance to resolve any outstanding issues that are resulting in project delay for the covered project, including by—

(A) providing additional staff, training, and expertise;

(B) facilitating interagency coordination;

(C) promoting more efficient collaboration; and

(D) supplying specialized onsite assistance.

(3) SCOPE OF WORK.—In providing technical assistance for a covered project under this subsection, the head of the lead agency shall establish a scope of work that describes the actions that the head of the lead agency will take to resolve the outstanding issues and project delays.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In providing technical assistance for a covered project under this subsection, the head of the lead agency shall consult, if appropriate, with participating agencies on all methods available to resolve any outstanding issues and project delays for

a covered project as expeditiously as practicable.

(j) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as provided in subsection (k), nothing in this section affects the reviewability of any final Federal agency action in a court of—

(1) the United States; or

(2) any State.

(k) EFFICIENCY OF CLAIMS.—

(1) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of an authorization issued or denied by a Federal agency for a project shall be barred unless the claim is filed by 150 days after the later of the date on which the authorization is final in accordance with the law under which the agency action is taken and the date of publication of a notice that the environmental document is final in accordance with NEPA, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed.

(2) EXPEDITED REVIEW.—A court of competent jurisdiction shall set for expedited consideration any claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of an authorization issued or denied by a Federal agency, or a State agency acting pursuant to Federal law, for a project.

(3) REMANDED ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a court of competent jurisdiction remands a final Federal agency action for a project to the Federal agency, the court shall set a reasonable schedule and deadline for the agency to act on remand, which shall not exceed 180 days from the date on which the order of the court was issued, unless a longer time period is necessary to comply with applicable law.

(B) EXPEDITED TREATMENT OF REMANDED ACTIONS.—The head of the Federal agency to which a court remands a final Federal agency action under subparagraph (A) shall take such actions as may be necessary to provide for the expeditious disposition of the action on remand in accordance with the schedule and deadline set by the court under that subparagraph.

(4) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT OF CASES.—To the maximum extent practicable, district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States shall randomly assign cases seeking judicial review of any authorization issued by a Federal agency for a project to judges appointed, designated, or assigned to sit as judges of the court in a manner to avoid the appearance of favoritism or bias.

(5) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) establishes a right to judicial review; or

(B) places any limit on filing a claim that a person has violated the terms of an authorization.

(6) TREATMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL OR REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—With respect to a project—

(A) the preparation of a supplemental or revised environmental document for the project, when required, shall be considered to be a separate final agency action for purposes of the deadline under subparagraph (B); and

(B) the deadline for filing a claim for judicial review of that action shall be the date that is 150 days after the date of publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing the final agency action, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is authorized.

(l) IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY IN PROJECT STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) use the searchable Internet website maintained under section 41003(b) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–2(b)) to make publicly available—

(i) the status, schedule, and progress of each major project, including a project for which an authorization is being sought or that is subject to an environmental review process initiated prior to the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to compliance with the applicable requirements of NEPA, any authorization, and any other Indian Tribe, State, or local agency authorization required for the major project; and

(ii) a list of the participating agencies for each major project; and

(B) establish such reporting standards as are necessary to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A), which shall include requirements—

(i) to track major projects from initiation through the date that final authorizations required to begin construction are issued or the major project is withdrawn; and

(ii) to update the status, schedule, and progress of major projects to reflect any changes to the project status or schedule, including changes resulting from litigation (including any injunctions, vacatur of authorizations, and timelines for any additional authorization or environmental review process that is required as a result of litigation).

(2) FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCY PARTICIPATION.—

(A) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—A Federal agency participating in the environmental review process or authorization process for a major project shall provide to the Secretary concerned information relating to the status and progress of the authorization of the major project for publication on the Internet website referred to in paragraph (1)(A), consistent with the standards established under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES.—The Secretary concerned shall encourage State and local agencies participating in the environmental review process or authorization process for a major project to provide information relating to the status and progress of the authorization of the major project for publication on the Internet website referred to in paragraph (1)(A).

(m) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING FOR MAJOR PROJECTS.—Each Secretary concerned shall—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, establish a performance accountability system for the agency represented by the Secretary concerned; and

(2) on establishment of the performance accountability system under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than annually thereafter, publish a report describing performance accountability for each major project authorization and review conducted during the preceding year by the agency represented by the Secretary concerned, including—

(A) for each major project for which that agency serves as a lead agency or a participating agency, the extent to which the agency is achieving compliance with each schedule established under this section for an authorization, environmental review process, or consultation;

(B) for each major project for which that agency serves as a lead agency, information regarding the average time required to complete each applicable authorization and the environmental review process; and

(C) for each major project for which that agency serves as a participating agency with jurisdiction over an authorization, information regarding the average time required to complete the authorization process.

(n) PROGRAMMATIC COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall allow for the use of programmatic approaches to conduct environmental reviews that—

(A) eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issue;

(B) focus on the issues ripe for analysis at each level of review; and

(C) are consistent with—

(i) NEPA; and

(ii) other applicable laws.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this subsection, each lead agency shall ensure that programmatic approaches to conduct environmental review processes—

(A) promote transparency, including the transparency of—

(i) the analyses and data used in the environmental review process;

(ii) the treatment of any deferred issues raised by agencies or the public; and

(iii) the temporal and spatial scales to be used to analyze issues under clauses (i) and (ii);

(B) use accurate and timely information, including through the establishment of—

(i) criteria for determining the general duration of the usefulness of the environmental review process; and

(ii) a timeline for updating any out-of-date environmental review process;

(C) describe—

(i) the relationship between any programmatic analysis and future tiered analysis; and

(ii) the role of the public in the creation of future tiered analyses;

(D) are available to other relevant Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and the public; and

(E) provide notice and public comment opportunities consistent with applicable requirements.

(o) DEVELOPMENT OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 4 years thereafter, each Secretary concerned, in consultation with the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, shall—

(A) in consultation with the other agencies described in paragraph (2), as applicable, identify each categorical exclusion available to such an agency that would accelerate delivery of a project if the categorical exclusion was available to the Secretary concerned; and

(B) collect existing documentation and substantiating information relating to each categorical exclusion identified under subparagraph (A).

(2) DESCRIPTION OF AGENCIES.—The agencies referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Department of the Army;

(C) the Department of Commerce;

(D) the Department of Defense;

(E) the Department of Energy;

(F) the Department of the Interior;

(G) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

(H) any other Federal agency that has participated in an environmental review process for a project, as determined by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality.

(3) ADOPTION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which categorical exclusions are identified under paragraph (1)(A), each Secretary concerned shall—

(A) determine whether any such categorical exclusion meets the applicable criteria for a categorical exclusion under—

(i) the NEPA implementing regulations; and

(ii) any relevant regulations of the agency represented by the Secretary concerned; and

(B) publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to propose the adoption of any identified categorical exclusion that—

(i) is applicable to the agency represented by the Secretary concerned; and

(ii) meets the applicable criteria described in subparagraph (A).

(p) ADDITIONS TO CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not later than 5 years thereafter, each Secretary concerned shall—

(A) conduct a survey regarding the use by the agency represented by the Secretary concerned of categorical exclusions for projects during the 5-year period preceding the date of the survey;

(B) publish a review of the survey under subparagraph (A) that includes a description of—

(i) the types of actions eligible for each categorical exclusion covered by the survey; and

(ii) any requests previously received by the Secretary concerned for new categorical exclusions; and

(C) solicit requests for new categorical exclusions.

(2) NEW CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of a solicitation of requests under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary concerned shall publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to propose the adoption of any such new categorical exclusions, to the extent that the categorical exclusions meet the applicable criteria for a categorical exclusions under—

(A) the NEPA implementing regulations; and

(B) any relevant regulations of the agency represented by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 12113. PRIORITIZING ENERGY PROJECTS OF STRATEGIC NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term ''critical mineral'' has the meaning given the term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(2) DESIGNATED PROJECT.—The term ''designated project'' means an energy project of strategic national importance designated for priority Federal review under subsection (b).

(b) DESIGNATION OF PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the heads of any other relevant Federal departments or agencies, as determined by the President, shall—

(A) designate 25 energy projects of strategic national importance for priority Federal review, in accordance with this section; and

(B) publish a list of those designated projects in the Federal Register.

(2) UPDATES.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the President publishes the list under paragraph (1)(B), and every 180 days thereafter during the 10-year period beginning on that date, the President shall publish an updated list, which shall—

(A) include not less than 25 designated projects; and

(B) include each previously designated project until—

(i) a final decision has been issued for each authorization for the designated project; or

(ii) the project sponsor withdraws its request for authorization.

(3) PROJECT TYPES; FIRST 7 YEARS.—During the 7-year period beginning on the date on which the President publishes the list under paragraph (1)(B), of the list of designated projects maintained on an ongoing basis pursuant to this subsection, not fewer than—

(A) 5 shall be projects for the mining, extraction, beneficiation, or processing of critical minerals—

(i) of which not fewer than 3 shall include new mining or extraction of critical minerals; and

(ii) for which critical mineral production may occur as a byproduct;

(B) 7 shall be projects—

(i) to generate electricity or store energy without the use of fossil fuels; or

(ii) to manufacture clean energy equipment;

(C) 6 shall be projects to produce, process, transport, or store fossil fuel products, or biofuels, including projects to export or import those products from nations described in subsection (c)(3)(A)(vi);

(D) 3 shall be electric transmission projects or projects using grid-enhancing technology;

(E) 2 shall be projects to capture, transport, or store carbon dioxide, which may include the utilization of captured or displaced carbon dioxide emissions; and

(F) 2 shall be a project to produce, transport, or store clean hydrogen, including projects to export or import those products from nations described in subsection (c)(3)(A)(vi).

(4) PROJECT TYPES; PHASE-DOWN.—During the 3-year period beginning 7 years after the date on which the President publishes the list under paragraph (1)(B), of the list of designated projects maintained on an ongoing basis pursuant to this subsection, not fewer than—

(A) 2 shall be projects for the mining, extraction, beneficiation, or processing of critical minerals;

(B) 3 shall be projects described in paragraph (3)(B);

(C) 3 shall be projects described in paragraph (3)(C);

(D) 1 shall be a project described in paragraph (3)(D);

(E) 1 shall be a project described in paragraph (3)(E); and

(F) 1 shall be a project described in paragraph (3)(F).

(5) LIST OF PROJECTS MEETING EACH CATEGORY THRESHOLD; INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the President publishes the list under paragraph (1)(B), the President shall maintain a list of designated projects that meet the minimum threshold for the applicable category of projects under each subparagraph of paragraph (3) or (4), as applicable.

(B) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—If the number of applications submitted that meet the requirements for a designated project for a category of projects under a subparagraph of paragraph (3) or (4), as applicable, is not sufficient to meet the minimum threshold under that subparagraph, the President shall designate the maximum number of applications submitted that meet the requirements for a designated project for the applicable category until a sufficient number of applications meeting the requirements for a designated project for such category has been submitted.

(c) SELECTION AND PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall carry out subsection (b) based on a review of applications for authorizations or other reviews submitted to the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Maritime Administration, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The President shall designate under subsection (b) only projects that the President determines are likely—

(A) to require an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under NEPA;

(B) to require review by more than 2 Federal or State agencies;

(C) to have a total project cost of more than $250,000,000; and

(D) to have sufficient financial support from the project sponsor to ensure project completion.

(3) PRIORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In considering projects to designate under subsection (b), the President shall give priority to projects the completion of which will significantly advance 1 or more of the following objectives:

(i) Reducing energy prices in the United States.

(ii) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

(iii) Improving electric reliability in North America.

(iv) Advancing emerging energy technologies.

(v) Improving the domestic supply chains for, and manufacturing of, energy products, energy equipment, and critical minerals.

(vi) Increasing energy trade between the United States and—

(I) nations that are signatories to free trade agreements with the United States that cover the trade of energy products;

(II) members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(III) members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(IV) nations with a transmission system operator that is included in the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, including as an observer member; or

(V) any other country designated as an ally or partner nation by the President for purposes of this section.

(vii) Reducing the reliance of the United States on the supply chains of foreign entities of concern (as defined in section 40207(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741(a))).

(viii) To the extent practicable, minimizing development impacts through the use of existing—

(I) rights-of-way;

(II) facilities; or

(III) other infrastructure.

(ix) Creating jobs—

(I) with wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Davis-Bacon Act''); and

(II) with consideration of the magnitude and timing of the direct and indirect employment impacts of carrying out the project.

(B) OTHER PRIORITY.—In considering projects to designate for the category of projects described in subsection (b)(3)(C), in addition to the priorities specified in subparagraph (A), the President shall give priority to projects the completion of which will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(d) REVIEWS OF DESIGNATED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, in consultation with the applicable department and agency heads, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, direct Federal agencies through executive order to prioritize the completion of the environmental review process and decisions on authorizations for designated projects.

(2) TIMELINES.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with applicable Federal law, the President shall complete—

(A) the environmental review process—

(i) in the case of a designated project for which the lead agency determines an environmental impact statement is required, not later than 2 years after the date of publication by the lead agency of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to the record of decision; and

(ii) in the case of a designated project for which the lead agency determines an environmental assessment is required, not later than 1 year after the date on which the head of the lead agency determines that an environmental assessment is required to a finding of no significant impact; and

(B) decisions on any outstanding authorization required for project construction within 180 days of the issuance of a record of decision or finding of no significant impact under subparagraph (A).

(3) STREAMLINING REVIEW PROCESS.—A designated project shall be considered a major project (as defined in section 12112(a)) subject to the requirements of that section.

(e) NEPA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section supersedes or modifies any applicable requirement, authority, or agency responsibility provided under NEPA.

(2) DESIGNATION OF PROJECTS.—The act of designating a project under subsections (b) and (c) shall not be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) each designated project and the basis for designating that project pursuant to subsection (c);

(2) for each designated project, all outstanding authorizations, environmental reviews, consultations, public comment periods, or other Federal, State, or local reviews required for project completion; and

(3) for each authorization, environmental review, consultation, public comment period, or other review under paragraph (2)—

(A) an estimated completion date; and

(B) an explanation of—

(i) any delays meeting the timelines established in this section or in applicable Federal, State, or local law; and

(ii) any changes to the date described in subparagraph (A) from a report previously submitted under this subsection.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of amounts appropriated under section 70007 of Public Law 117–169 to the Environmental Review Improvement Fund established under section 41009(d)(1) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–8(d)(1)), $250,000,000 shall be used to provide funding to agencies to support more efficient, accurate, and timely reviews of designated projects in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council shall prescribe the use of funds provided to agencies under paragraph (1), which may include—

(A) the hiring and training of personnel;

(B) the development of programmatic documents;

(C) the procurement of technical or scientific services for environmental reviews;

(D) the development of data or information systems;

(E) stakeholder and community engagement;

(F) the purchase of new equipment for analysis; and

(G) the development of geographic information systems and other analytical tools, techniques, and guidance to improve agency transparency, accountability, and public engagement.

(3) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, not more than $1,500,000 shall be allocated to support the review of a single designated project.

(4) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds appropriated under this subsection shall be used in addition to existing funding mechanisms, including agency user fees and application fees.

SEC. 12114. EMPOWERING THE FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL AND IMPROVING REVIEWS.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''critical mineral mining, production, beneficiation, or processing,'' before ''electricity transmission''; and

(2) in clause (i), by striking subclause (II) and inserting the following:

''(II) is likely to require a total investment of—

''(aa) more than $200,000,000; or

''(bb) in the case of a project for the construction, production, transportation, storage, or generation of energy, more than $50,000,000; and''.

(b) TRANSPARENCY.—Section 41003(b)(2)(A)(iii) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–2(b)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(III) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall create and maintain a specific entry on the Dashboard for the preparation and revision of the oil and gas leasing program required under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344).

''(IV) ADDITIONAL ENERGY PROJECTS.—The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Energy, as applicable, shall create and maintain a specific entry on the Dashboard for any project that is a designated project (as defined in section 12113(a) of the Building American Energy Security Act of 2022) for which a notice of initiation under subsection (a)(1)(A) has not been submitted, unless the project is already included on the Dashboard as a covered project.''.

SEC. 12115. LITIGATION TRANSPARENCY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action—

(A) seeking to compel agency action affecting a project, as defined under section 12112 of this Act; and

(B) brought under—

(i) chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code; or

(ii) any other statute authorizing such an action.

(2) COVERED CONSENT DECREE.—The term ''covered consent decree'' means a consent decree entered into in a covered civil action.

(3) COVERED CONSENT DECREE OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term ''covered consent decree or settlement agreement'' means a covered consent decree and a covered settlement agreement.

(4) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term ''covered settlement agreement'' means a settlement agreement entered into in a covered civil action.

(b) TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) PLEADINGS AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In any covered civil action, the agency against which the covered civil action is brought shall publish the notice of intent to sue and the complaint in a readily accessible manner, including by making the notice of intent to sue and the complaint available online not later than 15 days after receiving service of the notice of intent to sue or complaint, respectively.

(B) ENTRY OF A COVERED CONSENT DECREE OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—A party may not make a motion for entry of a covered consent decree or to dismiss a civil action pursuant to a covered settlement agreement until after the requirements of subparagraph (A) have been met.

(2) PUBLICATION OF COVERED CONSENT DECREES OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS; PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement is filed with a court, the agency seeking to enter the covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall—

(A) publish online the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement; and

(B) provide a reasonable opportunity by notice in the Federal Register to persons who are not named as parties or interveners to the covered civil action to comment in writing.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—An agency seeking to enter a covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall promptly consider any written comments received under subsection (b)(2)(B) and may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed consent decree or settlement agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with any provision of law.

Subtitle B—Modernizing Permitting Laws

SEC. 12121. TRANSMISSION.

(a) CONSTRUCTION PERMIT.—Section 216 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) CONSTRUCTION PERMIT.—Except as provided in subsections (d)(1) and (i), the Commission may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, issue 1 or more permits for the construction or modification of electric transmission facilities necessary in the national interest if the Commission finds that—

''(1)(A) a State in which the transmission facilities are to be constructed or modified does not have authority to—

''(i) approve the siting of the facilities; or

''(ii) consider the interstate benefits or interregional benefits expected to be achieved by the proposed construction or modification of transmission facilities in the State;

''(B) the applicant for a permit is a transmitting utility under this Act but does not qualify to apply for a permit or siting approval for the proposed project in a State because the applicant does not serve end-use customers in the State; or

''(C) a State commission or other entity that has authority to approve the siting of the facilities—

''(i) has not made a determination on an application seeking approval pursuant to applicable law by the date that is 1 year after the date on which the application was filed with the State commission or other entity;

''(ii) has conditioned its approval in such a manner that the proposed construction or modification will not significantly reduce transmission capacity constraints or congestion in interstate commerce or is not economically feasible; or

''(iii) has denied an application seeking approval pursuant to applicable law;

''(2) the proposed facilities will be used for the transmission of electric energy in interstate (including transmission from the outer Continental Shelf to a State) or foreign commerce;

''(3) the proposed construction or modification is consistent with the public interest;

''(4) the proposed construction or modification will—

''(A) significantly reduce transmission congestion in interstate commerce; and

''(B) protect or benefit consumers;

''(5) the proposed construction or modification—

''(A) is consistent with sound national energy policy; and

''(B) will enhance energy independence; and

''(6) the proposed modification will maximize, to the extent reasonable and economical, the transmission capabilities of existing towers or structures.''.

(b) STATE SITING AND CONSULTATION.—Section 216 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) STATE SITING AND CONSULTATION.—

''(1) PRESERVATION OF STATE SITING AUTHORITY.—The Commission shall have no authority to issue a permit under subsection (b) for the construction or modification of an electric transmission facility within a State except as provided in paragraph (1) of that subsection.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—In any proceeding before the Commission under subsection (b), the Commission shall afford each State in which a transmission facility covered by the permit is or will be located, each affected Federal agency and Indian Tribe, private property owners, and other interested persons a reasonable opportunity to present their views and recommendations with respect to the need for and impact of a facility covered by the permit.''.

(c) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section 216(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or a State''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) Compensation for property taken under this subsection shall be determined and awarded by the district court of the United States in accordance with section 3114(c) of title 40, United States Code.''.

(d) COST ALLOCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 216 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) COST ALLOCATION.—

''(1) TRANSMISSION TARIFFS.—For the purposes of this section, any transmitting utility that owns, controls, or operates electric transmission facilities that the Commission finds to be consistent with the findings under paragraphs (2) through (5) and, if applicable, (6) of subsection (b) shall file a tariff with the Commission in accordance with section 205 and the regulations of the Commission allocating the costs of the new or modified transmission facilities.

''(2) COST ALLOCATION PRINCIPLES.—The Commission shall require that tariffs filed under this subsection fairly reflect and allocate the costs of providing service to each class of customers, including improved reliability, reduced congestion, reduced power losses, greater carrying capacity, reduced operating reserve requirements, and improved access to generation, in accordance with cost allocation principles of the Commission.

''(3) COST CAUSATION PRINCIPLE.—The cost of electric transmission facilities described in paragraph (1) shall be allocated to customers within the transmission planning region or regions that benefit from the facilities in a manner that is at least roughly commensurate with the estimated benefits described in paragraph (2).''.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finds that the considerations under paragraphs (2) through (5) and, if applicable, (6) of subsection (b) of section 216 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p) (as amended by subsection (a)) are met, nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to exclude transmission facilities located on the outer Continental Shelf from being eligible for cost allocation established under subsection (f)(1) of that section (as amended by paragraph (1)).

(e) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—Section 216(h) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', except that—

''(A) the Commission shall act as the lead agency in the case of facilities permitted under subsection (b); and

''(B) the Department of the Interior shall act as the lead agency in the case of facilities located on a lease, easement, or right-of-way granted by the Secretary of the Interior under section 8(p)(1)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1337(p)(1)(C)).'';

(2) in each of paragraphs (3), (4)(B), (4)(C), (5)(B), (6)(A), (7)(A), (7)(B)(i), (8)(A)(i), and (9), by striking ''Secretary'' each place it appears and inserting ''lead agency'';

(3) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''As head of the lead agency, the Secretary'' and inserting ''The lead agency'';

(4) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking ''As lead agency head, the Secretary'' and inserting ''The lead agency''; and

(5) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''18 months after the date of enactment of this section'' and inserting ''18 months after the date of enactment of the Building American Energy Security Act of 2022''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''1 year after the date of enactment of this section'' and inserting ''18 months after the date of enactment of the Building American Energy Security Act of 2022''.

(f) INTERSTATE COMPACTS.—Section 216(i)(4) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824p(i)(4)) is amended by striking ''in disagreement'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''unable to reach an agreement on an application seeking approval by the date that is 1 year after the date on which the application for the facility was filed.''.

(g) TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.—Section 219(b)(4) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824s(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) all prudently incurred costs associated with payments to jurisdictions impacted by electric transmission facilities developed pursuant to section 216.''.

(h) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 50151(b) of Public Law 117–169 (42 U.S.C. 18715(b)) is amended by striking ''facilities designated by the Secretary to be necessary in the national interest'' and inserting ''facilities in national interest electric transmission corridors designated by the Secretary''.

SEC. 12122. DEFINITION OF NATURAL GAS UNDER THE NATURAL GAS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) 'Natural gas' means—

''(A) natural gas unmixed;

''(B) any mixture of natural and artificial gas; or

''(C) hydrogen mixed or unmixed with natural gas.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 7(c)(1)(A) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(c)(1)(A)) is amended, in the first sentence, in the proviso—

(1) by inserting ''or, in the case of any person engaged in the transportation of natural gas described in section 2(5)(C), on the date of enactment of the Building American Energy Security Act of 2022,'' before ''over the route''; and

(2) by striking ''within ninety days after the effective date of this amendatory Act'' and inserting ''within 90 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act, or, in the case of any person engaged in the transportation of natural gas described in section 2(5)(C), within 90 days after the date of enactment of the Building American Energy Security Act of 2022''.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—

(1) to order a natural-gas company under section 7(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(a)) to extend or modify the transportation facilities of the natural-gas company used for natural gas described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 2(5) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 717a(5)) to transport natural gas described in subparagraph (C) of that section; or

(2) to attach to a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under section 7(e) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f(e)) any requirement that transportation facilities used for natural gas described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 2(5) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 717a(5)) be capable of transporting natural gas described in subparagraph (C) of that section.

SEC. 12123. AUTHORIZATION OF MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the timely completion of the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline—

(1) is necessary—

(A) to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of natural gas to consumers at reasonable prices;

(B) to facilitate an orderly transition of the energy industry to cleaner fuels; and

(C) to reduce carbon emissions; and

(2) is in the national interest.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to require the appropriate Federal officers and agencies to take all necessary actions to permit the timely completion of the construction and operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline without further administrative or judicial delay or impediment.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE.—The term ''Mountain Valley Pipeline'' means the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, as generally described and approved in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket Nos. CP16–10 and CP19–477.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means, as applicable—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior; or

(C) the Secretary of the Army.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF NECESSARY APPROVALS.—

(1) BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue a biological opinion and incidental take statement for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, substantially in the form of the biological opinion and incidental take statement for the Mountain Valley Pipeline issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on September 4, 2020.

(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior shall issue all rights-of-way, permits, leases, and other authorizations that are necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, substantially in the form approved in the record of decision of the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Decision to Grant Right-of-Way and Temporary Use Permit'' and dated January 14, 2021;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture shall amend the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Jefferson National Forest as necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline within the Jefferson National Forest, substantially in the form approved in the record of decision of the Forest Service entitled ''Record of Decision for the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project'' and dated January 2021;

(C) the Secretary of the Army shall issue all permits and verifications necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline across waters of the United States; and

(D) the Commission shall—

(i) approve any amendments to the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Commission on October 13, 2017 (161 FERC 61,043); and

(ii) grant any extensions necessary to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

(e) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY PRIOR DECISIONS OR APPROVALS.—In meeting the applicable requirements of subsection (d), a Secretary concerned may modify the applicable prior biological opinion, incidental take statement, right-of-way, amendment, permit, verification, or other authorization described in that subsection if the Secretary concerned determines that the modification is necessary—

(1) to correct a deficiency in the record; or

(2) to protect the public interest or the environment.

(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—

(1) DETERMINATION TO ISSUE OR GRANT.—The requirements of subsection (d) shall supersede the provisions of any law (including regulations) relating to an administrative determination as to whether the biological opinion, incidental take statement, right-of-way, amendment, permit, verification, or other authorization shall be issued for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of a Secretary concerned or the Commission to administer a right-of-way or enforce any permit or other authorization issued under subsection (d) in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

(g) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The actions of the Secretaries concerned and the Commission pursuant to subsection (d) that are necessary for the construction and initial operation at full capacity of the Mountain Valley Pipeline shall not be subject to judicial review.

(2) OTHER ACTIONS.—The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over—

(A) any claim alleging—

(i) the invalidity of this section; or

(ii) that an action is beyond the scope of authority conferred by this section; and

(B) any claim relating to any action taken by a Secretary concerned or the Commission relating to the Mountain Valley Pipeline other than an action described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 12124. RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS INDIAN LAND.

The first section of the Act of February 5, 1948 (62 Stat. 17, chapter 45; 25 U.S.C. 323) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Any right-of-way granted by an Indian tribe for the purposes authorized under this section shall not require the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, on the condition that the right-of-way approval process by the Indian tribe substantially complies with subsection (h) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)) or the Indian tribe has approved regulations under paragraph (1) of that subsection.''.

SEC. 12125. FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFFING.

(a) CONSULTATION DEADLINE.—Section 401(k)(6) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7171(k)(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Chairman'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairman''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) DEADLINE.—The requirement under subparagraph (A) shall be considered met if the Director of the Office of Personnel Management has not taken final action on a plan for applying authorities under this subsection within 120 days of submission of the plan by the Chairman to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.''.

(b) ELIMINATION OF REPORTING SUNSET.—Section 11004(b)(1) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 7171 note; Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking ''thereafter for 10 years,'' and inserting ''thereafter,''.

SA 6514. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEE, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 525 the following:

SEC. 525A. REMEDIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DISCHARGED OR SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT UNDER THE COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATE.

(a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.—The Secretary of Defense may not issue any COVID–19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the rescinded mandates under this Act absent a further act of Congress expressly authorizing a replacement mandate.

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 736 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 10 U.S.C. 1161 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**TO OBEY LAWFUL ORDER TO RECEIVE**'' and inserting ''**TO RECEIVE**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''a lawful order'' and inserting ''an order''; and

(B) by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''shall be an honorable discharge.'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (e); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:

''(b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Secretary of Defense may not take any adverse action against a covered member based solely on the refusal of such member to receive a vaccine for COVID–19.

''(c) REMEDIES AVAILABLE FOR A COVERED MEMBER DISCHARGED OR PUNISHED BASED ON COVID–19 STATUS.—At the election of a covered member and upon application through a process established by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall—

''(1) adjust to 'honorable discharge' the status of the member if—

''(A) the member was separated from the Armed Forces based solely on the failure of the member to obey an order to receive a vaccine for COVID–19; and

''(B) the discharge status of the member would have been an 'honorable discharge' but for the refusal to obtain such vaccine;

''(2) reinstate the member at the grade held by the member immediately prior to the involuntary separation or any other punishment received by the member based on the member's vaccine status;

''(3) expunge from the service record of the member any reference to any adverse action based solely on COVID–19 status, including involuntary separation; and

''(4) include the time of involuntary separation of the member reinstated under paragraph (2) in the computation of the retired or retainer pay of the member.

''(d) ATTEMPT TO AVOID DISCHARGE.—The Secretary of Defense shall make every effort to retain members of the Armed Forces who are not vaccinated against COVID–19.''.

(c) IMMEDIATE RESCISSION OF MANDATE.—Notwithstanding the deadline provided for in section 525, the rescission of the COVID–19 mandate shall take effect immediately.

SA 6515. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6513 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enachment of this Act.

SA 6516. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 2 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 6517. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6516 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United

States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''2'' and insert ''3''.

SA 6518. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6517 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 6516 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 1, strike ''3'' and insert ''4''.

SA 6519. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4926, to amend chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, to require appropriate use of multidisciplinary teams for investigations of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Respect for Child Survivors Act''.

SEC. 2. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 540D. Multidisciplinary teams

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'child sexual abuse material' means a visual depiction described in section 2256(8)(A) of title 18;

''(2) the term 'covered investigation' means any investigation of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

''(3) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

''(4) the term 'multidisciplinary team' means a multidisciplinary team established or used under subsection (b)(2);

''(5) the term 'relevant children's advocacy center personnel' means children's advocacy center staff that regularly participate in multidisciplinary child support settings, including the director of the children's advocacy center, the coordinator of a multidisciplinary team, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, forensic medical evaluators, physicians, sexual assault nurse examiners, and mental health clinicians; and

''(6) the term 'victim advocate' means a person, whether paid or serving as a volunteer, who provides services to victims under the auspices or supervision of a victim services program.

''(b) FBI VICTIM SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the functions described in subsection (c) in connection with each covered investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director shall, unless unavailable or otherwise inconsistent with applicable Federal law—

''(A) use a multidisciplinary team; and

''(B) in accordance with paragraph (3), use—

''(i) a trained Federal Bureau of Investigation child adolescent forensic interviewer; or

''(ii) in the absence of a trained Federal Bureau of Investigation child adolescent forensic interviewer, a trained forensic interviewer at a children's advocacy center.

''(2) USE AND COORDINATION.—The Director shall use and coordinate with children's advocacy center-based multidisciplinary teams as necessary to carry out paragraph (1).

''(3) CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—The Director—

''(A) may work with children's advocacy centers to implement a multidisciplinary team approaches for purposes of covered investigations; and

''(B) shall allow, facilitate, and encourage multidisciplinary teams to collaborate with a children's advocacy center with regard to availability, provision, and use of services to and by victims and families that are participants in or affected by the actions at issue in a covered investigation.

''(4) REPORT.—The Director shall submit to the Attorney General an annual report identifying any interview of a victim reporting child sexual abuse material or child trafficking that took place—

''(A) without the use of—

''(i) a multidisciplinary approach;

''(ii) a trained forensic interviewer; or

''(iii) either the use of a multidisciplinary approach or a trained forensic interviewer; and

''(B) for each interview identified under subparagraph (A), describing the exigent circumstances that existed with respect to the interview, in accordance with paragraph (1).

''(5) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a reputable national accrediting organization for children's advocacy centers—

''(A) under which—

''(i) the children's advocacy services of the national organization are made available to field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States; and

''(ii) special agents and other employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are made aware of the existence of such memoranda and its purposes; and

''(B) which shall reflect a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach and provide for case review.

''(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions described in this subsection are the following:

''(1) To provide for the sharing of information among the members of a multidisciplinary team, when such a team is used, and with other appropriate personnel regarding the progress of a covered investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(2) To provide for and enhance collaborative efforts among the members of a multidisciplinary team, when such a team is used, and other appropriate personnel regarding a covered investigation.

''(3) To enhance the social services available to victims in connection with a covered investigation, including through the enhancement of cooperation among specialists and other personnel providing such services in connection with a covered investigation.

''(4) To carry out other duties regarding the response to investigations of child sexual abuse or trafficking.

''(d) PERSONNEL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each multidisciplinary team shall be composed of the following:

''(A) Appropriate investigative personnel.

''(B) Appropriate mental health professionals.

''(C) Appropriate medical personnel.

''(D) Victim advocates or victim specialists.

''(E) Relevant children's advocacy center personnel, with respect to covered investigations in which the children's advocacy center or personnel of the children's advocacy center were used in the course of the covered investigation.

''(F) Prosecutors, as appropriate.

''(2) EXPERTISE AND TRAINING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual assigned to a multidisciplinary team shall possess such expertise, and shall undertake such training as is required to maintain such expertise, in order to ensure that members of the team remain appropriately qualified to carry out the functions of the team under this section.

''(B) REQUIREMENT.—The training and expertise required under subparagraph (A) shall include training and expertise on special victims' crimes, including child sexual abuse.

''(e) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—

''(1) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), relevant children's advocacy center personnel who are assigned to work on a covered investigation under this section shall be granted access to the case information necessary to perform their role conducting forensic interviews and providing mental health treatment, medical care, and victim advocacy for Federal Bureau of Investigation cases.

''(B) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—The case information described in subparagraph (A) to which relevant children's advocacy center personnel shall be granted access includes—

''(i) case outcome of forensic interviews;

''(ii) medical evaluation outcomes;

''(iii) mental health treatment referrals and treatment completion;

''(iv) safety planning and child protection issues;

''(v) victim service needs and referrals addressed by the victim advocate;

''(vi) case disposition;

''(vii) case outcomes; and

''(viii) any other information required for a children's advocacy centers as a part of the standards of practice of the children's advocacy center; and

''(C) EXEMPT INFORMATION.—The case information described in subparagraph (A) does not include—

''(i) classified information;

''(ii) the identity of confidential informants; or

''(iii) other investigative information not included as a part of the standards of practice of the children's advocacy center.

''(2) SHARING INFORMATION WITH FBI.—Children's advocacy centers shall provide the Federal Bureau of Investigation with forensic interview recordings and documentation, medical reports, and other case information on Federal Bureau of Investigation-related cases.

''(3) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation may provide security clearances to relevant children's advocacy center personnel for purposes of case review by multidisciplinary teams, if it is determined that those personnel are eligible and possess a need-to-know specific classified information to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized government function.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out subparagraph (A).

''(f) USE OF TEAMS.—Multidisciplinary teams used under this section shall be made available to victims reporting child sexual abuse or child trafficking in covered investigations, regardless of the age of the victim making the report.

''(g) CASE REVIEW BY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM.—Throughout a covered investigation, a multidisciplinary team supporting an investigation under this section shall, at regularly scheduled times, convene to—

''(1) share information about case progress;

''(2) address any investigative or prosecutorial barriers; and

''(3) ensure that victims receive support and needed treatment.

''(h) AVAILABILITY OF ADVOCATES.—The Director shall make advocates available to each victim who reports child sexual abuse or child trafficking in connection with an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to augment any existing investigative authority of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or to expand the jurisdiction of any Federal law enforcement agency.

''(2) PROTECTING INVESTIGATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the legal obligations of the Director under any other provision of law, including section 552a of title 5 (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), or require the sharing of classified information with unauthorized persons.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 540C the following:

''540D. Multidisciplinary teams.''.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 211 (34 U.S.C. 20301)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''3,300,000'' and inserting ''3,400,000''; and

(ii) by striking '', and drug abuse is associated with a significant portion of these'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), respectively;

(C) by inserting afer paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) a key to a child victim healing from abuse is access to supportive and healthy families and communities;''; and

(D) in paragraph (9)(B), as so redesignated, by inserting '', and operations of centers'' before the period at the end;

(2) in section 212 (34 U.S.C. 20302)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by inserting ''coordinated team'' before ''response''; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by inserting ''organizational capacity'' before ''support'';

(3) in section 213 (34 U.S.C. 20303)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting ''AND MAINTENANCE'' after ''ESTABLISHMENT'';

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking '', in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,''; and

(II) by inserting ''and maintain'' after ''establish'';

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''and victim advocates'' and inserting ''victim advocates, multidisciplinary team leadership, and children's advocacy center staff''; and

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iv) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(v) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) provide technical assistance, training, coordination, and organizational capacity support for State chapters; and''; and

(vi) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking ''and oversight to'' and inserting ''organizational capacity support, and oversight of'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and maintain'' after ''establish''; and

(II) in the matter following subparagraph (B), by striking ''and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing'' and inserting ''training and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing and maintaining''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A)—

(aa) in clause (ii), by inserting ''Center'' after ''Advocacy''; and

(bb) in clause (iii), by striking ''of, assessment of, and intervention in'' and inserting ''and intervention in child''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''centers and interested communities'' and inserting ''centers, interested communities, and chapters''; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''evaluation, intervention, evidence gathering, and counseling'' and inserting ''investigation and intervention in child abuse''; and

(II) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''judicial handling of child abuse and neglect'' and inserting ''multidisciplinary response to child abuse'';

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking ''so that communities can establish multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse'' and inserting ''and chapters so that communities can establish and maintain multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse and chapters can establish and maintain children's advocacy centers in their State'';

(iii) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(III) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) best result in supporting chapters in each State; and''; and

(iv) in paragraph (6), by inserting ''under this Act'' after ''recipients'';

(4) in section 214 (34 U.S.C. 20304)—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make grants to—

''(1) establish and maintain a network of care for child abuse victims where investigation, prosecutions, and interventions are continually occurring and coordinating activities within local children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

''(2) develop, enhance, and coordinate multidisciplinary child abuse investigations, intervention, and prosecution activities;

''(3) promote the effective delivery of the evidence-based, trauma-informed Children's Advocacy Center Model and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse; and

''(4) develop and disseminate practice standards for care and best practices in programmatic evaluation, and support State chapter organizational capacity and local children's advocacy center organizational capacity and operations in order to meet such practice standards and best practices.'';

(B) in subsection (b), by striking '', in coordination with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime,'';

(C) in subsection (c)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''to the greatest extent practicable, but in no case later than 72 hours,'' after ''hours''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (D) through (I) and inserting the following:

''(D) Forensic interviews of child victims by trained personnel that are used by law enforcement, health, and child protective service agencies to interview suspected abuse victims about allegations of abuse.

''(E) Provision of needed follow up services such as medical care, mental healthcare, and victims advocacy services.

''(F) A requirement that, to the extent practicable, all interviews and meetings with a child victim occur at the children's advocacy center or an agency with which there is a linkage agreement regarding the delivery of multidisciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecution, and intervention services.

''(G) Coordination of each step of the investigation process to eliminate duplicative forensic interviews with a child victim.

''(H) Designation of a director for the children's advocacy center.

''(I) Designation of a multidisciplinary team coordinator.

''(J) Assignment of a volunteer or staff advocate to each child in order to assist the child and, when appropriate, the child's family, throughout each step of intervention and judicial proceedings.

''(K) Coordination with State chapters to assist and provide oversight, and organizational capacity that supports local children's advocacy centers, multidisciplinary teams, and communities working to implement a multidisciplinary response to child abuse in the provision of evidence-informed initiatives, including mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and victim advocacy.

''(L) Such other criteria as the Administrator shall establish by regulation.''; and

(D) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) GRANTS TO STATE CHAPTERS FOR ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a portion of the grants is distributed to State chapters to enable State chapters to provide oversight, training, and technical assistance to local centers on evidence-informed initiatives including mental health, counseling, forensic interviewing, multidisciplinary team coordination, and victim advocacy.'';

(5) in section 214A (34 U.S.C. 20305)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''attorneys and other allied'' and inserting ''prosecutors and other attorneys and allied''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting ''Center'' after ''Advocacy''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) a significant connection to prosecutors who handle child abuse cases in State courts, such as a membership organization or support service providers; and''; and

(6) by striking 214B (34 U.S.C. 20306) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 214B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 213, 214, and 214A, $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2028.''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to

meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA, AND BROADBAND

The Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION, SPECIALTY CROPS, ORGANICS, AND RESEARCH

The Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, FISHERIES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANUFACTURING

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change and Manufacturing of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT

The Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 7776.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message:

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7776) entitled ''An Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes'', with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 6513

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment, with an amendment No. 6513, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment numbered 6513.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6515 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6513

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to amendment No. 6513, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 6515 to amendment No. 6513.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 6516

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to refer the House message to the Armed Services Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 6516.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to refer the bill to the Armed Services Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 6516.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 2 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6517

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to the instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 6517 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''2'' and insert ''3''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6518 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6517

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to amendment No. 6517, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 6518 to amendment No. 6517.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, strike ''3'' and insert ''4''.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1053, Francisco O. Mora, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual

form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 977, 1106, 1113, 1119, 1257, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, and 1272; 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 the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Michael Battle, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania; William H. Duncan, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador; Heide B. Fulton, of West Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; Robert J. Faucher, of Arizona, 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 Suriname; Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali; Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria; Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, 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 Cyprus; Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, 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 Latvia; Manuel P. Micaller, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan; Kristina A. Kvien, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia; Henry V. Jardine, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles; Bijan Sabet, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic; George P. Kent, of Massachusetts, 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 Estonia; and Carol Spahn, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of PN2402 and PN2249; that the Senate proceed to their en bloc consideration and vote without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years; and Catherine J.K. Sandoval, of California, to be a Member of Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

DATA MAPPING TO SAVE MOMS' LIVES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 198.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 198) entitled ''An Act to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESPECT FOR CHILD SURVIVORS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4926 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4926) to amend chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, to require appropriate use of multidisciplinary teams for investigations of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn 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. 6519) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 4926), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE MONTH ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 5006 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5006) to designate the month of September as African Diaspora Heritage Month.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5006) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5006

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 ''African Diaspora Heritage Month Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the African diaspora population in the United States has grown significantly in recent years, with the number of African immigrants growing at a rate of almost 246 percent from 2000 to 2019;

(2) the African diaspora community is one of the most diverse communities in the United States, inclusive of people who speak multiple languages, whose rich heritage comes from all across the African continent, and whose members practice various faiths;

(3) during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of enslaved people from Africa were brought to the United States;

(4) immigrants of African origin boast some of the highest educational achievements of any immigrant group;

(5) African diaspora households contribute billions of dollars to the economy of the United States, with an estimated $10,100,000,000 in Federal taxes, $4,700,000,000 in State and local taxes, and a spending power of more than $40,300,000,000 in 2015;

(6) Sub-Saharan African immigrants living in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere sent back $46,000,000,000 in remittances to the continent of Africa in 2021;

(7) Government agencies, including the International Development Finance Corporation, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Treasury, and the United States Trade Representative are critical to investments and enduring mutual partnerships between the United States and African nations;

(8) in 2019, through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the United States imported $8,400,000,000 in goods, up 2.4 percent as compared to 2001;

(9) Prosper Africa and other similar Government initiatives are critical to building and strengthening ties between the United States and African businesses;

(10) the total two-way goods trade with Sub-Saharan Africa totaled $44,900,000,000 in 2021, a 22 percent increase from $36,800,000,000 in 2019;

(11) the African diaspora plays an invaluable role in shaping Government policy;

(12) members of the African diaspora have an invaluable understanding of cross-cultural engagement between the United States and Africa, existing relations and networks on the African continent, and can support efforts to facilitate stronger ties between the United States and Africa;

(13) the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationships between the United States and countries throughout the African continent;

(14) Congress strongly supports the United States hosting a second United States-Africa Leaders Summit in December 2022, and urges collaboration between the Government and the African diaspora community in the United States in advance, during, and after the Summit as an opportunity to strengthen ties between the United States and African nations;

(15) the African diaspora harbors a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to the society of the United States; and

(16) all members of the African diaspora in the United States deserve access to Federal resources and a voice in the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. AFRICAN DIASPORA HERITAGE MONTH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 146 as section 147; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 148. African Diaspora Heritage Month

''(a) DESIGNATION.—September is African Diaspora Heritage Month.

''(b) PROCLAMATIONS.—The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, and the chief executive officers of each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and each territory and possession of the United States are requested to issue each year proclamations calling on the people of their respective jurisdictions, to observe African Diaspora Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to the second section 146 and inserting the following:

''147. Choose Respect Day.
''148. African Diaspora Heritage Month.''.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE PORTLAND THORNS FOOTBALL CLUB ON WINNING THE 2022 NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 869, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 869) commending and congratulating the Portland Thorns Football Club on winning the 2022 National Women's Soccer League championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 869) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SECRETARY ASH CARTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 870, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 870) honoring the life and the legacy of Secretary Ash Carter.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 870) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.''

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 5244

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5244) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, and 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 consideration of Calendar No. 640, S.J. Res. 60; further, that at 12 noon, the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; that upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of executive Calendar No. 1053, Francisco Mora, that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Mora nomination at 5 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 870.

There being no objection, as a further mark of respect to the late Ashton Baldwin Carter, former Secretary of Defense, the Senate, at 8:23 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

STEPHEN A. OWENS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 13, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL BATTLE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JAY CURTIS SHAMBAUGH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM H. DUNCAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

HEIDE B. FULTON, OF WEST VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

ROBERT J. FAUCHER, OF ARIZONA, 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 SURINAME.

THE JUDICIARY

DANA M. DOUGLAS, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RACHNA SACHDEVA KORHONEN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALI.

KENNETH MERTEN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.

JULIE D. FISHER, OF TENNESSEE, 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 CYPRUS.

CHRISTOPHER T. ROBINSON, OF MARYLAND, 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 LATVIA.

MANUEL P. MICALLER, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN.

KRISTINA A. KVIEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.

HENRY V. JARDINE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES.

BIJAN SABET, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

GEORGE P. KENT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, 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 ESTONIA.

PEACE CORPS

CAROL SPAHN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

STEPHEN A. OWENS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARY ANN ULLRICH ON HER RETIREMENT FROM GPO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a distinguished public servant and an inspiring resident of Maryland's Fifth District: Mary Ann Ullrich, Manager of the Office of Congressional Publishing of the Government Publishing Office (GPO). After spending 37 years in public service, Mary will begin her well-deserved retirement at the end of this year.

Equipped with typing skills, a high school diploma, and a good work ethic, Mary started as a Clerk Typist in the GPO's Personnel Office in 1980. Through her determination, talent, and dedication to GPO's mission, she will retire as the GPO's second shift Manager in Congressional Publishing.

As she advanced through the ranks, Mary helped the GPO navigate a period of great change and modernization as computers and digitization became increasingly common. She played an important role in the GPOAccess initiative, which made the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the Federal Register, and other key government publications accessible to the public online. Mary even received a prestigious Hammer Award in recognition of her crucial contributions to this project to ensure the transparency and accessibility of government information.

Similarly, during her time in the Typography and Design division, she typeset many prestigious products, including the card and program for President Ronald Reagan's lying-in-state ceremony, Colin Powell's Joint Force Quarterly magazine, and fine-art books such as the Senate Catalogue of Fine Art and Glenn Brown's History of the Capitol. Perhaps the most important project she worked on, however, was the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Program. Upon learning of the attacks on the morning September 11, 2001, Mary worked for nearly thirty-two hours straight to ensure that all the programs were ready for the memorial service at the National Cathedral the following morning. First Lady Laura Bush was so grateful for Mary's work on that solemn day that she sent her a personally signed thank-you note. In the following years, Mary brought her same diligent and dedicated work ethic to leadership roles with GPO's Congressional Publishing team.

If you ask Mary, she will tell you how fortunate she felt every day to work at the GPO and how proud she is to be a career federal employee. Mary looked up at the Capitol every day from the front door of the GPO building and was proud to be a small part of the daily congressional legislative process and GPO's mission to 'Keep America Informed.' Similarly, her district, state, country, and Congress take pride in her and in all those federal employees like her who work behind the scenes to make our government function For the People. That's why I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Mary Ann Ullrich on starting her well-earned retirement after decades of loyal service.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF WARREN LIEBERMAN FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Belmont City Councilman Warren Lieberman upon the occasion of his departure from the Belmont City Council after 22 years of remarkable service to Belmont, including three terms as Mayor. He served for 17 years on the council and for 5 years on the city's Finance Commission. He has lived in Belmont for over 20 years. He and his wife, Gracie, raised two children in Belmont, Vanessa and Max.

Warren graduated from Yale University with a Ph.D. in Operations Research and from SUNY Binghamton with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science. He is President of Veritec Solutions, and helps companies improve pricing and revenue management practices.

When first elected to the city council in 2005, Warren focused on improving opportunities for youth sports and recreation. He was a coach in AYSO Soccer and Little League and realized that Belmont needed improved facilities. Substantial improvements were made to the city's sports complex.

Given its steep, wooded canyons and grassy areas, Belmont is at risk of a catastrophic wildfire. As a councilmember, Warren worked hard to ensure that residents were always served by a fire department with adequate personnel and equipment. He joined the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department Board and negotiated to restructure the obligations of his city so that they were fairer to Belmont residents. He was later selected by his colleagues on the city council to negotiate entry of Belmont into the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department. He serves on its governing board.

As a councilmember, Warren Lieberman also supported numerous efforts to stabilize and then grow Belmont's tax base. Business development was his central focus, but he also supported increasing the hotel occupancy tax and a local sales tax measure, both of which were approved by voters. As COVID ravaged the community, then acting-Mayor Lieberman led virtual meetings of the council and helped direct student energies in a positive manner during protests originating at Carlmont High School.

Affordable housing is a challenge for all communities in my district. Warren voted to approve developments and made the case to the community that Belmont's success hinged on families of all income groups being able to feel secure in their housing. When residents objected to placing cannabis businesses near their homes and schools, Warren listened patiently. The council eventually voted to ban these businesses from school routes and neighborhoods.

At the time that Warren joined the city council, its meetings were often fractious. He has worked hard to build relationships with other councilmembers so that the city's governance is more sure-footed. In 2014, he led the Council's effort to develop and implement a Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials. The public appreciates his focus, and that of his colleagues, on policymaking rather than disputes. In part due to this focus, the city's infrastructure is being upgraded, affordable housing was constructed and is in the pipeline, and the city's budget has weathered the challenges of COVID and recessions. Growing families now may also utilize city rules that are more friendly to remodeling.

Other council accomplishments during his time in office include: creation of a construction time ordinance; development of a better relationship with Notre Dame de Namur University; creation of the Beautify Belmont Awards; and, conversion of Davey Glen Park from a passive park into an active park.

Madam Speaker, I note that this longtime civic leader will now return to private life so that he may concentrate on personal and business affairs. City Council work is a volunteer job, and it takes quite a bit of time away from one's family. I know that Gracie, Vanessa and Max will appreciate having more time to hear from Warren, and time for him to participate in family events. I wish Warren a wonderful life in the many years ahead. He made a difference, and as he travels around Belmont his accomplishments will stand before his eyes everywhere that he goes.

HONORING LANGSTON LONGLEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mr. Langston Longley, Sr., a beloved husband, father, and friend.

Whereas, Langston O. Longley was born in Nassau, Bahamas. His youth was filled with many activities and organizations, including the Boys Brigade, church and athletics. He came to Miami at an early age and lived in the greater Miami area for over 40 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Longley furthered his education in Miami, graduating from Miami Dade Community College, University of Miami & Barry University in Real Estate Business/Marketing Programs. He successfully completed

the required courses and training for the American Real Estate University, earning the designation of Certified REO Specialist (CREO) which better equipped him to utilize his real estate knowledge to assist those in critical need; and

Whereas, for nearly four decades, Mr. Longley served Dade and Broward counties as a licensed Realtor. He was an experienced Real Estate Developer, having built and sold single family homes. He also provided rental housing for Miami-Dade Section Eight and Moderate Rehab clients for over 25 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Longley was an active member in several cultural/community organizations. He was a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, appointed to the Miami-Dade Housing Program Landlord Advisory Council, a member of Dade and Broward Real Estate Investment Associations as well as a longtime member of the National Association of the Bahamas. Mr, Longley served as Chairman of St. Mary's Wesleyan Methodist Church as Trustee Chairman for over 20 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Longley was immensely proud of his Bahamian heritage. He was a Bahamian Junkanoo Musician and Costume Maker. He was the co-leader and founder of the Bahamas Junkanoo Revue of Miami, which performs the colorful Bahamian masquerade tradition throughout the United States. For decades, Langston served as a cultural bridge between the United States and the Bahamas promoting junkanoo all across the United States; and

Whereas, Mr. Longley leaves behind to cherish his precious memory: his lovely wife of 50 years Lula; his three children; seven adorable grandchildren; and numerous relatives and friends; and now, therefore,

Be it resolved That I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a Member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the late Mr. Langston Longley, Sr. for his commitment, dedication, and service to our community.

HONORING SHERIFF BRIAN MARTIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Brian Martin in recognition of his retirement and decades of service to the people of Lake County, California.

Mr. Martin was born in Granada Hills, California to Deputy District Attorney Joyce Campbell and Judge Richard Martin. After moving to Lake County, Mr. Martin attended Clear Lake High School and later received his bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Union Institute and University. His lifetime of service began with a tour of duty in the United States Army's Military Police Corps.

Mr. Martin then served with the Pismo Beach Police Department as Patrol Officer and Motors Officer before joining the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy in 2005. He has also worked as a Special Agent with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer in the Lake County Probation Office. Continuing his service with the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Martin rose to the rank of Lieutenant before successfully running for two terms as the Lake County Sheriff.

As Sheriff. Mr. Martin has provided exemplary leadership in the face of unprecedented challenges such as the COVID–19 pandemic, major flood events and devastating wildfires like the LNU-Lightning Complex Fire, North Bay Complex Fires and the Sulphur Fire. He has testified in front of the California State Senate following the Valley Fire and made major technological advancements to the County's notification system. Additionally, Mr. Martin reclassified Correctional Officers to Peace Officers and promoted the first two female Deputy Sheriff Sergeants in the department's history. Some of his other achievements include safety improvements to Sheriff's Office buildings and vehicles, the addition of body-worn camera technology and the formation of the Sheriff's Foundation. In recognition of his outstanding work, I was proud to recognize Sheriff Martin as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in 2016.

Mr. Martin is a devoted husband of 28 years to Crystal Martin and father of three. His children, Brian, Hayley and Matthew have all continued their family's proud tradition of military service.

Madam Speaker, I thank Sheriff Martin for his many years of selfless service and commitment to the people of Lake County. His efforts have undoubtedly made his community a safer place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6611, which would authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C., to establish a commemorative bench honoring the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union.

Jean Monnet, known as the ''Father of Europe,'' was a French diplomat and political economist who was instrumental behind the scenes in negotiating an early end to the Second World War, fortifying American and French relations, and politically and economically integrating Europe in the post-war era. Thanks to his innovation and vision, the United States and the European Union continue to share an enduring commitment to defending peace and liberty around the world and to standing together in the face of great challenges.

Throughout his many years of diplomatic service, Jean Monnet was a frequent visitor to Washington, D.C.—and like many of us, he felt a special connection to the natural beauty of Rock Creek Park. My hope is that this small token of respect in the place he loved will inspire others to follow in his footsteps and celebrate the democratic values that unite us all.

I ask all members to join me in supporting H.R. 6611, and in paying tribute to one of the great peacemakers of the 20th century.

RECOGNIZING KRISTI MALLARD ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Kristi ''Kris'' Mallard as she retires following 24 years of government service, including over two decades within the House of Representatives.

Kris began her career in the Office of Congressman Sonny Montgomery from her homestate of Mississippi. After serving at the Pentagon, including during the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Kris came to Congress as a Navy detailee in 2002 with a unique perspective. Following these challenging years, Kris left the Department of the Navy to join the House Appropriations Committee as professional staff where she has served diligently and assiduously—first on the Defense Subcommittee and later the Homeland Security Subcommittee—since 2003.

With exceptional understanding of both the Defense and Homeland Security Appropriations bills, Kris has worked on a wide range of issues that have made our nation stronger and the world safer. Her expertise has made her a strong negotiator of some of the toughest policy areas under our Committee's jurisdiction, leading to responsible investments that have strengthened our national and domestic security. Her hard work and oversight efforts have helped our government work better for the American people, and her kindness and dedication to mentoring other staffers has made our Committee and our Congress stronger.

I believe I speak for myself and all Members of the Committee in saying we will miss Kris's valuable insight and her hard work greatly, Her dedication to the Appropriations Committee and to advancing reforms to make government work better have made her an unparalleled asset. I congratulate Kris on a wonderful career. The Nation and this body are deeply thankful to her for her leadership, service, and dedication.

RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTÍN MASON UPON HER DEPARTURE FROM THE SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Linda Martín Mason who served on the San Bruno City Council for three years, the last one as Vice Mayor. The timing of her term was truly challenging because the majority of it was during the COVID–19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event that no city council candidate could have possibly foreseen. Linda, her council colleagues and city staff rose to the occasion and found ways to keep San Bruno residents as safe as possible and to assist small businesses through these difficult years.

The challenges of the pandemic played out in the Mason household. Linda, as General

Counsel and Chief People Officer at the Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco, was an essential worker and required to work from her office. So too was her husband, Andrew Mason, as the President of the San Bruno Park School District Board of Trustees. Linda and Andrew have two young children, Fabian and Gabriel, now ten and six. Balancing their duties as a council member and trustee while alternating who was working remotely or from the office while also caring for their children whose daycare had been closed due to the pandemic was very difficult and stressful, but with the support of each other, Linda and Andrew managed. We owe them both a big debt for their unwavering service.

During her time on the council, Linda and her colleagues were very productive. They negotiated a community benefits package with one of San Bruno's top employers, YouTube, that will result in $54 million coming to the city and create a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly office park and community space in the Bayhill neighborhood. The construction of the new Recreation and Aquatic Center, funded by a PG&E settlement after the tragic pipeline explosion in 2010 that killed eight residents, is on time and within budget. The council successfully placed a transit occupancy tax measure on the ballot that will bring the tax to industry standards. They also negotiated with WalMart to bring over $3 million in additional tax revenue to the city. This year I was pleased that the House of Representatives approved almost half a million dollars in Community Project Funding for wildfire prevention for the cities of San Bruno and Belmont. Additionally, we voted to approve $2.4 million to the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County that would address flood control issues in San Bruno. It's now up to the U.S. Senate to approve this funding.

The council enacted an emergency ordinance to protect small businesses from being evicted during the pandemic. Outdated rules were updated so that small restaurants downtown are now allowed to open without having to create parking. The council created a much-needed street paving schedule and supported $6 million in funding this year.

Linda didn't hesitate to initiate or lead projects. Local press reports that Linda jumpstarted the negotiations with Artichoke Joe's which will provide about a million additional dollars to the city. She was also instrumental in securing $200,000 in county funds to beautify Posey Park and to fix a non-working fountain. Linda was a strong proponent for 12-year term limits for council council members and mayors, a measure that passed by more than 80 percent.

Always advocating for transparency, equity and good governance, Linda has successfully pushed for more diversity on committees. commissions, and boards. She also advocated for stricter accountability measures from the San Bruno Foundation to assure grants are utilized as intended. Thanks to her, all foundation meetings are now recorded and available for public viewing. As a parent with children in public schools, Linda pushed for open communication and partnership between the school district and the city. The city manager and superintendent now meet regularly and during the pandemic, the city provided its internet service to low-income students who lacked internet access during the lockdown. Linda introduced the idea of the Peninsula Museum of Art moving into Tanforan Mall and repurposing additional empty mall space as working artists' studios.

Linda is a San Francisco native. She earned a double major BA in Political Science and Spanish from San Francisco State University. She completed most of the coursework for her BA at Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain. She received her JD from San Francisco Law School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vice Mayor Linda Mason for her service to the residents of San Bruno who are among the most resilient constituents in my Congressional District. I have no doubt that Linda will stay engaged in public life and continue to contribute to the community she loves.

RECOGNIZING JAYLEE LYNCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaylee Lynch, Garden City, Michigan's longest-serving city council member, as she celebrates 23 years of service, including 4 years as Mayor of Garden City.

A lifelong resident of Garden City, Jaylee Lynch has embodied the spirit of public service. The people of Garden City hold a special place in her heart and took pride in representing a welcoming community. Jaylee Lynch's dedication to her city was evident in the work she championed to ensure the expansion of the fire department, community center, and downtown redevelopment.

During her tenure, Council Member Lynch advocated for the issues most important to the residents of Garden City as a representative on the Conference of Western Wayne. Outside of her official work, Council Member Lynch is an active member of several service-oriented organizations, including the Garden City Kiwanis Club.

Please join me in showing appreciation for Garden City Council Member Jaylee Lynch for more than two decades of public service for her 15 years of service to the people of Michigan's 13th District Strong, as we wish her well on her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING STAFF ON THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of three long-time staffers, each of whom has served this body and the American people for more than two decades.

All of us on this floor recognize the essential contribution staff make towards our individual and collective success—whether crafting policy, shepherding legislation, or serving our constituents. Knowledgeable, diligent, talented public servants are the glue of this institution, and those who dedicate their lives and careers towards this service deserve our special appreciation for sharing their wisdom and experience with the next generation of public professionals.

The staff I hope to honor here today embody those ideals, working tirelessly and selflessly to support progress on issues that matter to the American people, serving as a model for our entire team and for this chamber. Though no speech could encapsulate the breadth of their dedicated service, I firmly believe they deserve to be recognized before the full House for their distinguished careers.

David Watkins, the Staff Director for the House Committee on Natural Resources, began his career on Capitol Hill more than two decades ago, first joining the office of his hometown Congressman and our esteemed colleague, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT.

David then joined the Committee working on public lands issues before working his way up to Subcommittee Staff Director, Chief Counsel, and eventually to Staff Director of the full Committee. Under David's leadership in the majority and minority, our Committee saw historic accomplishments, from advancing comprehensive environmental justice legislation to supporting self-determination for the people of Puerto Rico.

Even as the Full Committee Staff Director, David's work on the behalf of public lands was never far from his heart. Throughout his career he was an adept advocate for special places, advancing historic lands bills from P.L. 111–11 and the Dingell Act to the Great American Outdoors Act.

Perhaps most of all, David was a trusted and respected leader on our team, helping to support and develop staff, incorporate diversity and inclusivity, and ensure we championed issues too often forgotten. His knowledge of Committee process and history was invaluable as I took on a Committee leadership role, and his guidance and good humor have helped our Committee through many long markups and floor debates.

Nancy Locke, the Chief Clerk of the House Committee on Natural Resources, has been in her current role since 2019, but her service to this Committee and this Congress began long before.

Nancy first joined the Committee more than twenty years ago, first serving as the Clerk for the Subcommittees on Energy and Mineral Resources and National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands under Chair Doc Hastings, before working her way up to Deputy Chief Clerk and then Chief Clerk of the Full Committee. Her distinguished career also included more than a half decade of service on the House Education and Labor Committee as their Chief Clerk.

Throughout her time on the Hill, Nancy has seen this chamber change hands and change in its composition, but she has remained an unwavering force. Over the years, Nancy has kept our hearings and markups in order, consistently ensuring proper procedure, and keeping the Committee on track.

Her famed weekly meetings served as an opportunity for her team to coordinate activities across the Committee but was also at the heart of our work—she kept the trains running on time, helped ease staff transitions, and organized procedurally complex Committee business.

In addition to her work as Chief Clerk, Nancy has provided invaluable mentorship to

many talented teams of Subcommittee Clerks and Policy Aides, whose own successes serve as a testament to her guidance and leadership.

Finally, I want to thank Chris Kaumo for his twenty years of service. I have known Chris since before I was a Member of Congress as he was one of the first staffers on my first campaign. Chris was an essential force in my early work in this Chamber, helping to organize and staff our offices, while ensuring quality service for the people of southern Arizona.

From running phone banks to now serving as a Deputy Staff Director and Senior Advisor to the Committee, his work and friendship have meant the world to me. When I first assumed my role as Ranking Member on the House Natural Resources Committee, I asked for Chris's help in a new capacity, and brought him on to serve as Staff Director on the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. In that role, Chris has been an essential advocate for elevating Indigenous voices and protecting the rights of Indigenous communities.

He is a Committee leader and a trusted advisor, and I am deeply indebted to his long service to our district, state, and the Nation.

Madam Speaker, though David, Nancy, and Chris will be deeply missed on the Natural Resources team, I have no doubt they will find fulfilling and exciting opportunities in their next steps. I want to thank them all for their dedication, service, and friendship over the years.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE MARION COUNTY MEMORIAL HONOR GUARD

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we recognize the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

We thank them for their hard work in commemorating the lives of fallen veterans in North Central Florida. Funeral services for our fallen servicemembers deserve the utmost respect and care, and we are grateful that the Honor Guard provides such memorable honors ceremonies for veterans and their families. With many in our district having served, it is a comfort knowing the Honor Guard bestows such a great appreciation for our servicemembers.

We thank each of the 20 members of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard: Captain Stephen Peter Foster, U.S. Air Force, Retired; Captain Stephen Petty, U.S. Army, Retired; 1st Lieutenant Peter Peno, U.S. Army, Retired; CWO Bill Dorsey, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired; ATCS(AW) Donald S, Kennedy, U.S. Navy, Retired; MSG James Lynch, U.S. Air Force, Retired; MSG Sharon Cooley, U.S. Air Force, Retired; ASMC Ron Roberts, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired; SGT Tommy Carter, U.S. Army; RM2 Thomas Dewey, U.S. Navy; EON2 John "Moses" Morris, U.S. Navy; Cpl Joe Dewey, U.S. Army; Cpl. Lewis Alston, U.S. Marine Corps; Cpl. Lew Wolfe, U.S. Marine Corps; Cpl. Jack Kiner, U.S. Marine Corps; EM3 Marshal Searles, U.S. Navy: LCpl Larry Barnes, U.S. Marine Corps; PVT Bruce Hutchinson, U.S. Army; Mr. John Earl, Bagpiper; and Roberta Foster.

ANOTHER HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR NATION'S SPACE PROGRAM

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize a historic achievement in our nation's Space Program. Yesterday marked the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 17's landing on the moon—the last time humans went to the moon. Now, 50 years later to the day, Artemis I's Orion capsule splashed down off the Baja California coast, signifying our return to the lunar surface, and beyond.

As a teenager I was deeply inspired by President Kennedy's famous Rice University speech declaring America's intent to go to the Moon. I wanted so much to be part it, and, like many in Brevard County. I found work on the Apollo program just a few years later. It was a truly great experience.

Space is not only important to our national security, but to advancing American ingenuity and technological prowess, and ultimately, to ensuring the survival of our species. This is an exciting time for space exploration and discovery, and I encourage young people looking to be part of something special, something important, to consider a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE DIANE PAPAN, DEPUTY MAYOR, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER DEPARTURE FROM THE SAN MATEO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize San Mateo Deputy Mayor Diane Papan as she leaves the San Mateo City Council to become a member of the California State Assembly. The voters of the district have elected a strong leader who has always been attuned to the needs of her constituents.

Diane Papan grew up in Daly City and Millbrae and then moved to the City of San Mateo. She was President of the Baywood Owners Improvement Association, Second Vice-President of the United Homeowners Association, and Chair of the Baywood School Site Council. She also worked on the San Mateo Downtown Master Plan and Parking Plan.

She is a proud graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received her bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1985, and of my alma mater the University of California Hastings College of the Law from which she graduated in 1988. As an attorney, she began her legal career litigating public works projects. Today, she has her own commercial law practice representing small businesses. She also serves as the administrator of her family's charity, John's Closet, and a scholarship named for her late brother, the John Papan Memorial Scholarship.

Diane is deeply concerned about climate change and has been instrumental in helping San Mateo County adjust to this new reality through her service on OneShoreline, a countywide district that creates projects to deal with sea level rise. As an original board member, she recognizes that San Mateo County is the No. 1 county in California at risk of damage to property and infrastructure. Together with her fellow board members, she has overseen the implementation of a project in Redwood City and Menlo Park to relieve flooding for hundreds of low-income residents of mobile homes. She and her colleagues are also guiding a project that will protect businesses and infrastructure in an area from the border with San Francisco International Airport through Burlingame to San Mateo. Some in San Mateo County questioned the need for a countywide agency to deal with climate change and sea level rise. Diane saw the aim of this agency and has always strongly supported it.

As a councilmember and Mayor, Diane pushed to establish the 101 Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority so that San Mateo County could implement toll lanes along a lengthy stretch of our main freeway. The project will be completed next year but it promises to reduce carbon emissions and to speed commuters through a heavily congested corridor. She also represents the city on the board of the consolidated fire district.

Diane has been a strong supporter of more housing within the City of San Mateo. For example, while on the council, she voted to allow two additional levels and 61 additional units to the city's Kiku Crossing development, an affordable housing project presently under construction. It was a controversial decision because it relied on recent changes to state law. Using state authority to create these units illustrates the important role that the state legislature plays in creating economic opportunity despite the opposition of some.

Diane Papan's father, Lou, served in the State Assembly and she is therefore steeped in the history of the institution. However, I know that she will be her own person, as she has proven to be during her time on the city council. In fact, some lobbyists may ignore her individuality and attempt to ingratiate themselves by appeals to her father's memory and sensibilities, Diane, as intelligent and talented as she is, may wish to remind them of their folly by keeping a desk sign close at hand. It might read: "Diane Papan: Proudly Lou's daughter, not his clone."

Serving in elective office is a privilege. It is especially so when you are able to see the immediate impact of your work as is possible when you serve in the California legislature. In our present times, so much depends upon state law. Diane is a strong supporter of the reproductive rights of women, a supporter of California's assault weapons ban, and wants California to invest in wildfire prevention. She will be able to see these priorities and others turned into concrete action in the years ahead.

I wish Diane Papan, her husband Dan Latini, and their daughter Alexa, all the best in the years to come.

HONORING TAYLOR BURTCH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Taylor Burtch, my fellow who has worked to improve our Nation's education system. Taylor has proven to be a talented and intelligent policy analyst, always ready to take on any task and apply her knowledge.

Taylor assisted my education policy team, where she worked on legislation, partook in stakeholder meetings, and considered various ways to improve education and teacher assistance. She is a detailed and focused professional with the ability to excel in her projects.

Originally from Dundee, Michigan, Taylor completed her bachelor's degree in Women's Studies at the University of Toledo and her master's degree in Gender and Sexualities Research at the University of Florida. Currently, Taylor is a doctoral candidate at the University of Florida. She will receive her PhD in Higher Education Administration and Policy after successfully defending her dissertation, which focuses on the exploration of college trajectories among young persons with adverse childhood experiences, in the Summer of 2023. Taylor will use her passion for education equity to continue her policy research and advocate for improve conditions for marginalized communities.

The first fellow to serve in the University of Florida's Legislative Education Fellows program, Taylor has made my office proud to receive the university's inaugural fellow.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Taylor Burtch for her inevitable success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RYAN COONERTY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Santa Cruz County's Third District Supervisor, Ryan Coonerty, who is retiring after serving two terms as a Member of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

Ryan Coonerty has a long and distinguished history of public service. He served twice as the Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz, and was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2014. He hosts a podcast, An Honorable Profession, and co-founded NextSpace Coworking and Innovation, serves as a lecturer on law and government at U.C. Santa Cruz, and co-wrote The Rise of the Naked Economy.

As a Santa Cruz County Supervisor, Ryan worked to create affordable housing, expanded public safety programs, voter access and family health. He is a respected leader on environmental issues and opposed offshore oil and gas drilling. He is a steadfast supporter of women's rights and LGBTQIA+ equality, and an advocate for local immigrant families.

Supervisor Coonerty has been a leader on the Board of Supervisors in bringing forward proposals to address post CZU Fire issues, such as the creation of the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience, initiating a debris clearance process, and more recently, addressing permitting and rebuilding challenges. While the fire was burning, he put out an email newsletter almost daily to keep residents informed.

Ryan and I have worked together on North Coast issues, especially balancing tourism with control over traffic, noise, and trash. He helped set up the North Coast Multi-Agency Working Group, which I'm an ex-officio member of.

Ryan has received many honors, among them his selection as a Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership by the Aspen Institute as one of ''the nation's most promising young elected officials''. He was honored as a Community Hero by the Red Cross of Santa Cruz County, and Advocate of the Year by the United Way of the County.

Ryan Coonerty is a graduate of the University of Oregon's Clark Honors College, the London School of Economics, and earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. He and his wife Emily reside in Santa Cruz with their children Daisy and Kellan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ryan Coonerty for his exemplary service and wishing him every blessing in the next chapter of his life. Because of his superb leadership we are a better community and a stronger country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Bobby Silverstein. a devoted public servant who made monumental progress advancing disability rights. Over the span of a career serving both chambers of Congress, Bobby worked behind the scenes to deliver countless wins for the disability community. Notably, he played a pivotal role in the development and enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act during his time serving as staff director and chief counsel for Senator Harkin's Disability Policy Subcommittee.

Every person deserves to live and age with dignity, and this was a principal Bobby committed himself to every day. Bobby will be remembered for his compassion, track record of success, and passion for giving a voice to those who feel forgotten, and these sentiments are shared by his colleague and friend, Peter Thomas, who spoke at Bobby's memorial service. In honor of Bobby, I include in the Record Peter's speech.

REMARKS OF PETER W. THOMAS AT BOBBY SILVERSTEIN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Like the bright sun on this crisp fall afternoon, Bobby Silverstein shines his light on us today.

Good afternoon. I'm Peter Thomas, Managing Partner of Powers law firm in Washington, DC.

If the measure of a person's life is the number who mourn his or her passing, then Bobby Silverstein knocked life out of the park.

There are no words to express the depth of loss we all feel. I usually take Bobby's lead and try to speak diplomatically, rather than bluntly. but you can't sugarcoat this. Bobby's untimely passing is a dagger. It's a gut punch that will be felt for a long time to come.

But we would not have learned from Bobby if we did not focus on the positive. The impact his life had on so many. The love he spread throughout his life and the fact that we are all better off for knowing him.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us recognize those who can be thankful for Bobby Silverstein and all he did to improve the lives of people with disabilities:

1. If you have a child with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), think about thanking Bobby.
2. If someone you know needed special education and an individualized education plan (IEP), think about thanking Bobby.
3. If you can access public services and transportation despite your disability, think about thanking Bobby.
4. If you are employed as a person with a disability, Bobby probably deserves your thanks.
5. If you benefitted from research on rehabilitation, disability, and independent living, thank Bobby Silverstein.
6. If you are relying on this interpreter or using closed captioning on this livestream, Bobby played a role and is worthy of thanks.
7. I could go on, but the magnitude of the positive impact Bobby had on our lives is truly astounding.

Bobby was my partner at Powers' health care and disability practice for the past 15 years. What an honor and privilege it is to have shared his space on this earth; to have shared a front-row seat in his work on behalf of the people he devoted his professional life to; individuals with disabilities.

I first met Bobby in 1989 while I was in law school trying to pass legislation to establish a prosthetics research program to help people with limb loss, like myself. Bobby was working for Senator Tom Harkin's Disability Policy Subcommittee as staff director and chief counsel. I was no one, and I was very nervous.

Bobby was gracious but serious and direct. He told me the Claude Pepper Act for Amputees, as the bill was known, had little chance of passing because it was ''not integrated into the disability policy framework.'' That probably sounds familiar to some of you but I scratched my head. He said he could not be supportive of legislation to help amputees alone at the exclusion of others with disabilities in similar circumstances.

Long story short, in the end, and with much help from Bobby, the bill enacted into law the following year created the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) at NIH. The center's mission is medical rehabilitation research writ large, but the law includes specific mention of prosthetics research and development. The center has been a major funder of prosthetics research for over 30 years which, of course, accomplished the original goal of the Claude Pepper bill but did it in a way that was, in fact, integrated into the disability policy framework.

I learned a great deal from that experience that I have put to use throughout my career, and in life. I know many others who have had the same experience when they came into Bobby's orbit.

In fact, one of Bobby's most blessed gifts was to those who sought his guidance. Bobby was an exceptional mentor to those with and

without disabilities. I am so grateful that the health care associates and young professionals in my firm got the opportunity to hear from Bobby just one week before he passed away.

Bobby presented virtually to the Powers health care group on the ''Art of Negotiation'' and imparted years of wisdom on the younger members of the Powers Team. Bobby was his old self, methodically presenting his well-prepared remarks, highlighting his points with examples of bill negotiations from his Senate days, and laying out his process which relied heavily on preparation.

I took a look at some of Bobby's binders over the past few days and could not believe what I saw. Well-organized, tabbed, color-coded, and dog-eared for sure, but each page is full of comments in the margins, underlined words, double underlines, circled words, pencil, pen highlighter, sticky notes, stars, exclamation points! Double explanation points!!

He sucked the pulp off those pages. It was an exercise in aggressive reading!

His dedication, passion, and clarity of focus left me awe-struck. Those were not the work papers of a casual lawyer. Bobby was no 9–to–5er. He was most fulfilled after a full weekend of work, producing a 12–page, single-spaced memo and seeking review and substantive comment; before 12:00 Noon on Monday.

Bobby was the consummate professional who lived and breathed disability policy. As he said many times, Bobby considered his work to be his therapy, even in his final hours.

His list of accomplishments is remarkable: The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University Law Center, cutting his teeth at a public interest law firm, House committee staff, Senate Disability Policy Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy, and mediator for the U.S. Appellate Court in Washington, DC—all before settling into the last 15 years of his career at Powers law.

His awards are too numerous to mention. While he accepted them graciously, his beloved wife Lynne tells me that he housed them in his closet. And that's really all you need to know about Bobby Silverstein.

Bobby never sought the limelight. He never craved credit. They say ''Success has many parents and failure is an orphan.'' There are many who can legitimately claim playing a key role in enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, some of whom will speak after me, but Bobby went out of his way to stay behind-the-scenes: To do the heavy lifting; the principled negotiation; always with a goal of getting to ''yes.'' And his track record demonstrates his effectiveness: Twenty federal laws impacting people with disabilities, all bipartisan and all based on consensus. It is an incredible legacy to leave behind.

In the past few days, I have heard from literally hundreds of Bobby's colleagues and friends expressing their sentiments:

1. A genuine, kind, and humble man
2. An endless fountain of good humor and optimism
3. One of a kind; he has no equal
4. Such a force and a relentless advocate
5. Uncompromising defender of what is right and true
6. Thorough and analytical yet thoughtful and compassionate
7. A selfless mentor to anyone in need of guidance
8. A visionary, yet practical
9. Tough but warm, and always the voice of reason Case in point: When Bobby told a room full of leaders that their theory was ''preposterous''—We were all thinking it, but he was the only one brave enough to say it!
10. A giant in the disability community

For me personally, I will miss Bobby painfully in our internal policy debates, our advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities, and on our weekly Legislative Practice calls. But mostly, I will just miss my friend.

Bobby was the most positive person I have ever known and I will always be grateful for the time we spent together. For that, let me say thank you, Bobby. Thank you so very much.

COMMEMORATING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Birmingham, Michigan, for its role in the American abolitionist movement and to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of those who risked their lives seeking freedom from the atrocity of slavery in the United States. As important work continues to appropriately recognize and educate around this terrible period of American history, it is a great honor to highlight the story of Birmingham, Michigan, and two individuals who dedicated themselves to helping others achieve their freedom.

The Birmingham Museum of Birmingham, Michigan, documented the remarkable role the city and its residents played in the anti-slavery movement through its research into Birmingham's Black heritage. The city was proud to submit its application to list Birmingham's Greenwood Cemetery on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom list. Birmingham's application to the network was officially accepted in March of 2022 and was further recognized by the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission. The stories of two men, Elijah S. Fish and George B. Taylor, were compiled as accounts of Birmingham's connection to the Underground Railroad, and I would like to share more about their harrowing stories today.

Elijah S. Fish was among the first settlers to purchase land in what is now Birmingham, Michigan, in 1820. Mr. Fish's land acquisition occurred just two years after Birmingham's founding as one of the oldest settlements in Michigan. Described as a ''principled and hardworking man,'' Mr. Fish became an influential figure in Birmingham's early history, founding its first Presbyterian Church and becoming its first deacon. As territorial Michigan grew, Birmingham became an important stop along the route from Detroit to Pontiac. Its convenient location expanded Birmingham's potential to influence regional economy and politics, and Mr. Fish seized upon this opportunity to become a key figure in the abolition movement of early Michigan.

Mr. Fish served as a dedicated organizer of anti-slavery efforts through the associations he formed with other abolitionists, such as lawyer and state legislator George Wisner of Pontiac and Quaker activist Nathan Power of Farmington. Even before Michigan was granted statehood, Mr. Fish and 50 other abolitionists founded the Oakland County Free Discussion and Anti-Slavery Society, His work with the organization continued throughout the early 1840's, as he continued to fight to end the enslavement of black Americans from his home in Birmingham, Michigan.

By 1840, Michigan had developed a strong network of anti-slavery organizers and thousands of freedom seekers were aided through Michigan's Underground Railroad network. As bounty hunters became more aggressive in their efforts to recapture freedom-seekers in the region, and upon the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, anti-slavery advocates redirected freedom-seekers through the state and toward Canada as a safer destination for those escaping enslavement. Individuals such as Henry Bibb, an influential abolitionist lecturer, relocated across the Detroit River to Windsor, Ontario, around 1850, to assist in resettling escapees who arrived via the Underground Railroad and began publication of The Voice of the Fugitive. Helping people who were enslaved establish new lives in Canada required a system of abolitionists on both sides of the border. Organizations such as Michigan's Friends of Humanity had active anti-slavery advocates from Oakland County such as Elijah Fish and Nathan Power, and Wayne County's Reverend Marcus Swift who were instrumental in fueling the continued efforts to combat slavery in America and safely usher Black Americans to freedom in Canada.

A convention of anti-slavery advocates was held in May of 1851 in Detroit with Elijah Fish presiding as President. The convention resulted in the formation of the Refugee Home Society to raise funds necessary to make land purchases in Canada for freedom-seekers. Mr. Fish remained committed to the cause following the convention by funding and providing supplies to freedom-seekers navigating the Underground Railroad and by organizing influential abolitionist speakers to the region to raise awareness and speak on the anti-slavery movement. While Mr. Fish was unable to celebrate the successful prohibition of slavery due to his death in February of 1861, his contribution to the movement in Michigan helped propel the nation toward abolition, a feat that was accomplished just four years after his death. His admirable dedication to abolition makes him a noteworthy historical figure of Birmingham and deserving of this posthumous recognition.

Mr. George B. Taylor's story illustrates the cruel conditions that were withstood by those who were enslaved, and the sacrifices made to gain their freedom. Mr. Taylor, like many other people born into slavery, did not know his family history and did not have birth records, but his estimates place his birth year around 1822 to 1824. Despite years of inhumane treatment during his enslavement by the Greathouse family of Hancock County, Kentucky, it was not until 1855, after experiencing a public whipping, that he became determined to escape to the north. Throughout his treacherous and long journey northward, he encountered unimaginable risk that was, sadly, not unique to him. He narrowly evaded capture by armed bounty hunters who were aided by bloodhounds and navigated hundreds of miles of difficult terrain using only the stars in the night sky. His journey can be described as nothing short of incredible.

The month-long trip from Hancock, Kentucky, to Michigan was over 300 miles, and even upon arrival in the north, significant danger remained as raids of known abolitionists'

homes and inconsistent enforcement of laws pertaining to slavery victimized freedom-seekers. Of the thousands who escaped toward Michigan, many were captured and returned to their enslavers. Upon Mr. Taylor's escape, he faced the difficult crossing of the Ohio River, and on April 1, 1855, he began a slow, two-week journey through the rugged terrain only by night, avoiding settlements and farms to evade capture. Deciding his progress was significantly hindered by the darkness, he sought to travel by day. Experiencing significant exhaustion as he slowly advanced in his travels, he fell asleep in bushes alongside the road one day only to be awoken by two bounty hunters and their bloodhounds who had taken him prisoner. Narrowly escaping, Mr. Taylor hid in the undergrowth as the bloodhounds and gunshots followed. The next five days of his trip were inconceivably taxing. He traveled five days by foot, without food or water, before being discovered by an abolitionist family who helped him regain his health before recommencing his trip northward. Although he had walked for three weeks, he was still far from his destination.

Just two days after resuming his trip, he was once again run down by bloodhounds. This time, Mr. Taylor was unable to escape his abductors and was arrested to be taken before a local justice. Through good fortune, the justice, an abolitionist, granted his release, and he continued on his way before finally reaching Niles, Michigan. From there, the Underground Railroad network assisted him in the final leg of his trip, east to Detroit and then to his freedom in Windsor, Ontario.

Two years after achieving his freedom, Mr. Taylor returned to Michigan, settling in the Birmingham area. Upon his arrival in rural Birmingham, Mr. Taylor worked as a farmhand and began living with Mr. J.P. Stewart. The Stewart's neighbor, Reverend James S. T. Milligan of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church, was known to be active with the Michigan Underground Railroad network and his farm remained a safe place for freedom-seekers leading up to the Civil War's conclusion. By 1870, slavery had officially been abolished in the reunited country, and Mr. Taylor had continued to build his new life in Michigan. No longer a laborer, Mr. Taylor now farmed his own land with his wife, Mrs. Eliza Dosier, also someone who was formerly enslaved. His position as a respected and contributing member of society grew, and in 1872, Reverend Milligan sought the Taylors' help to set up a new church in Denison, Kansas, relocating the family westward.

The Taylors returned to Michigan from 1876 to after 1880, when they once again relocated to Denison, Kansas. When Milligan retired and left Denison, the Taylors returned to Birmingham in 1893, and were proudly the first African American property owners in town. While Reverend Milligan and Mr. Taylor's connection can be verified through their work in Kansas, it is possible that the two had known each other since Mr. Taylor's escape in 1855 and remained in contact as anti-slavery advocates. Records suggest that, during his time in Michigan, Mr. Taylor may have played a key role in resettling newly freed Black Americans. Census records show several children present in the household who then are absent from the household by the time of the next census. While it is difficult to verify, it is speculated that Black families, such as the Taylors, were fostering homeless African American minors and orphans, continuing their contributions to the abolition movement by assisting with their transition to freedom. Mr. Taylor faced unimaginable hardship in his early life, but he courageously pressed on, finding his purpose in service to others.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the City of Birmingham, Michigan, a community that's history is so closely intertwined with the fight for a more just nation. Its role as a destination for freedom-seekers and home to influential abolitionists, including Mr. Elijah S. Fish and Mr. George B. Taylor, makes the 11th Congressional District proud. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the rich history of Birmingham, Michigan, and honor the two men whose stories were highlighted today, and may Michigan maintain its role as a destination for freedom-seekers and those who fight for a more just society.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CHARLES STONE UPON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE ON THE BELMONT CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Belmont City Councilmember and former Mayor Charles Stone as he concludes his term of office on the city council. The city is losing a truly conscientious and forward-looking leader.

Charles Stone is a lifelong resident of San Mateo County and a resident of Belmont since 2004. He was first elected to the city council in 2013 and then was re-elected in 2017. He is a graduate of Hillsdale High School, the University of California at San Diego, where he received his degree in political science, and Santa Clara University School of Law. He practices law at the Law Office of Katherine R. Moore in Redwood City.

Prior to joining the city council, he served on the Board of Directors of School-Force!, a nonprofit raising funds for Belmont and Redwood Shores schools. His interest in city policy began as he noticed a lack of cooperation between the city and school district. As he put it, ''It was more like two fists pounding together than two hands being aligned and I didn't like that.'' In 2013, he threw his hat into the ring to create more family-friendly policies and those more amendable to working families.

Throughout his time on the city council, Charles Stone has been focused on housing, transportation and economic development. After two terms on the council, and after many long nights discussing housing and the city's general plan, Belmont is one of the few cities in San Mateo County that is on track to meet its state-mandated goals to produce affordable units. The most recent development, Firehouse Square, is 100 percent affordable and has 66 units adjacent to the Belmont Caltrain Station. There are 331 units of affordable housing built in recent years or in the pipeline, along the El Camino Real transit corridor. Charles has been a leader in making this new housing a reality.

As a councilmember, he serves as the council's representative to seven intergovernmental agencies and to multiple nonprofits. He has six council committee assignments.

However, his most time-consuming assignment outside of the council chambers is his role as a member of the board of our local transit agency, Samtrans, and as a board member of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain). He is an undisputed regional leader in transportation. He successfully negotiated, along with two other local leaders, for the payment of $35 million to Samtrans for its 1991 purchase of the Caltrain right of way on behalf of three counties. For more than a year, and in the midst of confusion and finger pointing by leaders in other counties, Charles repeatedly and publicly read the terms of the longstanding contract and demanded that the terms not be changed without appropriate repayment of the outstanding debt. The money and new terms were approved this year, marking a rare moment when San Mateo County and its transportation interests were treated equally by the other two counties.

Charles fought successfully to raise the minimum wage in Belmont. He twice served as Mayor. He worked with a neighboring community to end traffic gridlock near a high school. He supported his police department while embracing the need for change to ensure equity. He also supported the arrival of Stanford University to the campus of a small liberal arts university long located in Belmont. During his time on the council, bioscience discovered Belmont. Councilman Stone supported conversion of office space to lab space and the construction of new labs. During the darkest days of the pandemic, Charles and his colleagues created a $100,000 fund for local businesses, adding to state and federal small business funds. He also appropriately chastised the federal government's business pandemic relief programs for leaving too many behind and for operating with insufficient controls. ''Had [the federal government] dug in a little more and spent more time on this I think we'd be in better shape today,'' he noted in April 2020. I think the GAO auditors tracing fraud would agree with Councilman Stone.

It is now time for Charles Stone to step down from the city council and to regain time to hike with his daughters, Sophia and Sara, around Waterdog Lake. I want to thank him for putting his astute mind to use on behalf of working and middle-class families in San Mateo County for over 10 years. He can honestly state that the difference he made is cast in concrete, framed in steel, and sits within a beautiful city blessed with green hills and oak trees that he cherishes. He improved the lives of tens of thousands. This ex-rugby player is temporarily leaving the field, but the score on the board shows that, despite occasional injuries and perhaps a few involuntary blood donations, he was key to delivering a win for the people of Belmont.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER JOHN SAWYER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Sawyer of Santa Rosa, California in honor of his retirement and sixteen years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Sawyer was born in Santa Rosa, California. He graduated from Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa in 1973. He took over management of his family's business at age 21—Sawyer's News, a very popular downtown Santa Rosa news and magazine stand started by his great grandfather in 1936. Several years later he joined the Santa Rosa Downtown Development Association beginning his successful career of community and public service.

In 2004, Mr. Sawyer was elected to the Santa Rosa City Council for his first term. He served from 2004 to 2012 and then another two terms from 2014 to 2022. In 2008, Mr. Sawyer was appointed mayor and served as the city's first openly gay mayor. He was appointed mayor again in 2014. Mr. Sawyer worked tirelessly to secure the reunification of Old Courthouse Square. Santa Rosa's downtown square had been bisected since 1966. Old Courthouse Square is now a popular hub for markets, performances, shows, and other community events. In addition, Mr, Sawyer led an effort to annex Roseland, a 700-acre island of unincorporated land, into the City of Santa Rosa. For decades, the Roseland community, a vibrant neighborhood with many Latino residents but with one of the lowest income levels in Sonoma County, had languished with limited access to vital services and poor infrastructure. Mr. Sawyer helped resolve this crisis of equity with a historic financial agreement that brought critical services to the 7,400 new residents of Santa Rosa.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Sawyer for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Santa Rosa. His efforts have made Santa Rosa a more dynamic, diverse, and prosperous city. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID TADLOCK ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize David Tadlock.

As the owner and operator of Tadlock Stockyards for nearly 50 years, Mr. Tadlock has played a crucial role in the success of the cattle industry in Mississippi. David's commitment to the industry is clear, not only in the time and energy he has dedicated to his business, but also in the fact that he comes from a long line of cattlemen.

Mr. Tadlock's family has owned and operated Tadlock Stockyards for nearly a century, passing the business down from one generation to the next. David's dedication to his family's legacy is evident in his determination to take over the business at such a young age, and in his plans to involve his granddaughter in the family business.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Tadlock on his induction into the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor. The Mississippi Cattlemen's Association is blessed to have members like David Tadlock, who have made such a significant impact on the industry as well as my home state of Mississippi. I am pleased to highlight this prestigious honor and recognize a lifetime of contributions and impactful service.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. David Tadlock for his many accomplishments and his dedication to Mississippi and the United States. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring David Tadlock.

HONORING DWIGHT BULLARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Senator Dwight Bullard for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2020.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on the July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Senator Dwight Bullard's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dwight Bullard for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF THE HONORABLE REGINA WALLACE-JONES FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF EAST PALO ALTO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Regina Wallace-Jones as she steps away from the City Council of East Palo Alto. Her service will influence the course of the city for decades to come.

Regina was raised in West Covina in a family with multiple requirements: Obtain an excellent education, clean the house on Saturday, go to church on Sunday, and give service to the community. She noted on her campaign blog that Family Pizza Fridays were a must. In her 200-word candidate statement she mentioned that she is the daughter of union laborers and that she understood the struggle for livable wages and affordable housing. Upon reviewing the statement, her father asked if she would substitute Communications Workers of America for union laborers. She acknowledged that his change would be better, but then she would be two words over the limit. The proud union member relented.

Regina received her bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and her Master of Science in Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles. She specialized in telecommunications and technology policy.

She and her husband, Sheffond Jones, moved into their home in East Palo Alto in April of 2002, part of a new development known as Shorebrezze Runnymede. It's a small cluster of homes where neighbors fix their broken fences together, deal with infestations of field mice, help out with childcare, and stay friendly over time.

In fact, friendliness is a word that describes East Palo Alto. Its people work hard across its 2.2 square miles, and often help out each other when times are difficult. It's a community where the median household income is $96,000, about 70 percent of the countywide median. It also sits side-by-side with Meta, and gentrification of the community is a significant concern.

It was into this community that Regina advanced in 2018 with her 500 campaign signs and dozens of volunteers, offering to take up the challenges of being a city councilmember. She advocated for closer relations with the school district, technology training for residents, decreased traffic, economic development, and building affordable housing.

The Ravenswood Business District is the city's largest opportunity to create new laboratory and office buildings. In 2019, the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration made a $4.4 million investment as part of an economic renewal project in this district. Regina has supported responsible development of the area to bring thousands of new employees to what will eventually be a new downtown. For the entire city, she supported obtaining water from neighboring communities to cure reliability problems that plague the existing water system. During her time in office, she strongly supported new infrastructure, including a new bike bridge over Highway 101 to connect residents on the west side of the city with the eastern side that has most of the stores and services.

Regina was Mayor in 2020. Many of the residents of East Palo Alto are front-line essential workers. In September 2020, the city had a test positivity rate of 15 percent, more than three times higher than the countywide positivity rate. At a council meeting that month she noted, ''One of the biggest solutions that helps people recover is early identification and early intervention. And that comes from testing,'' As the pandemic sickened and killed residents, Mayor Wallace-Jones and her colleagues used city funds to first establish widespread testing and then to support outreach and staffing for a large vaccination program. Culturally competent outreach and volunteer efforts spread throughout the community. She and her council colleagues also had to grapple with a significant decline in tax revenue. Careful management of vacant positions and an infusion of federal aid helped bridge the gap.

It is now time for the mother of Addison and Jocelyn to return to evenings with her family. It will not be easy, as Regina is also a CEO of a non-profit. However, this busy executive, daughter, mom and spouse deserves time to spend with her family. On our recent election day, when she had chosen not to be on the ballot, she reflected online, ''I loved my opportunity to serve. And I hope that more get out there and do the same. The end is only bitter when you've got nothing left. I'm grateful for every vote and every dollar that supported me.''

Madam Speaker, the whirlwind of Shorebreeze Runnymede will be remembered as a woman who made a difference. We are grateful that she was in leadership when a crisis hit her community and that she will remain an active resident as we edge our way into more normal times ahead.

HONORING MRS. KATHY J. THOMAS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district staffers, Mrs. Kathy J. Thomas. I met Kathy in 2019 and quickly brought her on staff as a Constituent Liaison in my Gulfport district office. During her tenure, Kathy has assisted nearly 3,000 constituents through casework with compassion and dedication.

Kathy grew up in West Virginia in the small town of Follansbee. In 1988, she graduated from Brooke High School, and shortly thereafter, she married her high school sweetheart, Mark. After their wedding, she and her new husband moved to Biloxi, MS, where he served in the United States Navy Seabees and Master Chief to Command Master Chief. Her grandfather, Kale E. Wells, served in the United States Navy during WWII. Kale would have been proud of her decision to marry Mark as he rose through the ranks to retire after serving 30 years as a Master Chief.

Kathy and her husband raised two beautiful, intelligent daughters, Taylor and Riley. Taylor graduated from Mississippi State and the University of South Alabama and works as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at USA Children's and Women's Hospital in Mobile, AL. Riley graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and recently started a job at the DuBard School for Language Disorders in Hattiesburg, MS.

Kathy attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, earning an associate degree. Kathy volunteered for years as an ombudsman as her husband served and deployed with the United States Navy Seabees. While raising her daughters, she worked as a preschool teacher and assistant teacher. Her passion and dedication to helping others led her to work as a Congressional Liaison making a difference in the daily lives of the constituents of South Mississippi.

Kathy has been a valued, loyal, dedicated, and compassionate asset to my staff and me. I am grateful for her positivity and can-do attitude over the years. It is my honor to express my gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Thomas for her service to Mississippi and my constituents.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. SHIRLEY

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness to remember and honor the life of Richard A. Shirley of Anderson who passed away on December 8th at the age of 68. Before his unexpected passing, Richard served as the Clerk of the Court in Anderson County.

In 1978, Richard began his career in public service by being elected to the Anderson City Council, becoming the youngest person ever to be elected to the council. In 1998, Richard was elected Mayor of Anderson and faithfully served as mayor for 8 years. During his tenure as mayor, he played an important role in revitalizing the Anderson Soiree festival and making Anderson the prosperous place it is today. Richard was also a successful local community banker for over 30 years and proud graduate of T.L. Hanna High School and Presbyterian College.

Richard was a proud husband, father, son, and friend and he will be immensely missed by the community of Anderson. Richard will be remembered for his constant smile, witty humor, and his love of God and country. I am reminded of the verse Mark 10:45, ''For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'' Richard had a servant's heart and was always there to help people with a smile and those in need. His profound impact on the Anderson community will be felt for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to honor my dear friend, Richard Shirley. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time.

TRIBUTE ON THE BIRTH OF HENRY LEE DRAGANO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Garrett and Cecelia Dragano, of Aiken, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby son. Henry Lee Dragano was born on December 5, 2022, at 7:56 p.m., weighing 8 pounds and 7 ounces. He has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Garrett, Cecelia, and Henry all the best.

RECOGNIZING BILL WILD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to acknowledge the legacy and dedication of William ''Bill'' Wild for his more than 20 years of public service to our communities.

Mayor Wild is Westland's longest-serving mayor. A Westland native and graduate of John Glenn High School, Mayor Wild took pride in giving back to the community that raised him. He was especially proud of his accomplishments in helping improve infrastructure, including an overhaul of Westland's municipal center, building a vibrant shopping district, and bringing a citywide recycling program to Westland.

Mayor Wild's commitment and many years of services has been exceptional and outstanding. The 13th District, Wayne County and the Westland community extend their gratitude to Mayor Bill Wild for his many contributions to the growth and prosperity of Westland. It has been an honor to be one of his many partners serving Westland neighborhoods.

Please join me as we recognize Mayor Bill Wild's many contributions to the families of the Westland and 13th Congressional District as we wish him well.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE ANNE OLIVA AS SHE ENDS HER TERM OF SERVICE ON THE MILLBRAE CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Millbrae Mayor Anne Oliva as she steps down from the city council at the end of her present term, and after serving nine years on the council. She has distinguished herself by doing outstanding work while in elective office.

Anne has lived in Millbrae for more than 20 years. She was appointed to the Millbrae City Council in 2013 to fill a vacancy and was elected to a full four year term in November of that year. Her top priorities at the time were building economic strength and sustainability, protecting private property rights, and ensuring public safety. Millbrae was emerging from the housing recession and its downtown business district was suffering. Hotel occupancy taxes, a major source of city revenue, were significantly depressed. The city's budget had been cut repeatedly and difficult decisions lay ahead.

In subsequent years, Anne and her colleagues made tough choices. They contracted for police services from the San Mateo County Sheriff's office, a decision that was discussed at great length due to the affection that the people of Millbrae had for their own department. Economic growth came with controversy. Millbrae is a major transportation hub with a combined BART and Caltrain station serving thousands of daily commuters. The council approved a large development on the BART parking lot, delivering hundreds of units of needed housing, a new hotel and accompanying tax revenue, offices, and retail to serve all. Anne supported the development as part of her promise to build the economic strength of the city and the sustainability of its budget.

Her experience as a real estate agent and broker has informed her public service. She served on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors, including on its legislative committee and as President. She also served on similar legislative committees for the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. When the County of San Mateo sought assistance from property owners and managers to find apartments for persons holding

federal housing vouchers, Anne worked with my office and San Mateo County to identify willing owners and managers. She and her brother also manage hundreds of apartment units and homes. They encourage property owners to accept federal housing vouchers and many do, thus helping low-income households throughout San Mateo County.

At least part of her dedication to ending homelessness arises from personal experience. Anne once noted that, "One of the most impactful and tough experiences in my life was the night my husband Jose and I received a call that we will never forget. We learned that our son, who suffers addiction and mental health issues, was living on the street. We are blessed that he is fine now and doing much better. But my family's story is all too typical. I refuse to accept the status quo on homelessness. We cannot continue to let people live and die on our streets."

Over her 20+ years as a resident, Anne has been a volunteer for the PTA, the Mills High School Athletics Booster Club, and the Italian-American Women's Guild. She is a local coordinator for the Coats for Kids program, and in 2010 she was awarded the Community Service Award by the realtor's association. She also fundraises for the San Mateo County Historical Association.

We thank her husband Jose, daughter Francesca, and two sons Joey and Marco, for allowing Anne time to serve the public. Her presence will now be more predictable, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that Anne's occasional absences were needed to build a better Millbrae for everyone. Most importantly for Anne, she will now have time to spend with her two new grandchildren, Carolina and Isabella, born October 10, 2022. It may be a step down from public service to leave a city council, but it's a step up in service to humanity to become a grandmother. Anne is very fortunate to have received a promotion at this point in her life.

It is now time to say farewell to Anne Oliva as she leaves public life, but thankfully she isn't moving away. Her ever-present smile and can-do attitude will be evident in her community, and her willingness to volunteer will endure. When local businesses seek an advocate, they will always have Anne as an ally. Importantly, she will continue to work her magic in the real estate market, providing housing to those who need it, opportunities for those who seek the American Dream, and fair returns to owners. The wind and fog that occasionally sweep through Millbrae will continue to have their rival in Anne's energy, and the optimism about the future that she exudes will be remembered as a major force for good during the nine years that she served Millbrae, a community that she loves.

HONORING VEER SAWHNEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Veer Sawhney, my intern who has completed his Winter 2022 semester serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Veer has proven to be a very capable young man and shows great promise for his future endeavors.

Veer has assisted my office in various areas, including education policy, communications, and constituent engagement. He has shown a great understanding of the legislative process and has demonstrated his ability to adapt to the political arena. Veer has presented an excellent work ethic and willingness to learn.

Veer is a proud first-generation Indian-American from Leonia, New Jersey. A student at American University, Veer is working to receive his bachelors in Political Science and his master's in Public Policy with a concentration in education policy and policy, management, and leadership.

Veer is using his time at American University to gain practical skills which he plans to use in his future endeavors. His passion will drive him to work in education policy, where he plans to develop policies to improve our nation's education system.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Veer Sawhney for his hard work and accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DAREK NEWBY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Darek Lane Newby as he retires following 25 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Hailing from North Carolina, Darek began his career with Congressman David Price as a Legislative Assistant before serving as the Congressman's Appropriations and Budget Committee associate staffer, Legislative Director, and Acting and Deputy Chief of Staff. In these roles, he advised the Congressman on issues and legislation related to the federal budget, homeland security, health care, and the environment.

In 2009, Darek came home to the Appropriations Committee, initially joining the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, of which he took over as Clerk in 2011. Since 2013, he has been serving as the Homeland Security Subcommittee Clerk. He provides other Members and me with vital counsel and expertly leads staff in developing the Subcommittee's bill.

During his time with the Appropriations Committee, Darek has proven time and time again to be a fair negotiator whose superb leadership and compassion have made our nation and the world safer and more humane. His career was never shy of managing crises, but he led with dedication and poise through any conflict that came his way. Darek's profound technical knowledge, coupled with his diligence and poise, has been critical in reducing refugee and asylum application backlogs, bolstering maritime security, strengthening our cyber infrastructure, respecting the dignity of immigrants, and supporting disaster relief.

I am excited for what the future holds for Darek and wish him, his wife Patty, and their children Ben and Sam all the best. As Darek stalls a new beginning, the Appropriations Committee and our Nation will miss him, are indebted to his service, and are forever grateful for his hard work. Congratulations on a remarkable career.

HONORING THE LATE BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on November 17 of this year, we lost a dedicated public servant and crucial advocate for disability rights: Bobby Silverstein. He served in the House of Representatives as counsel to the Education and Labor Committee's Select Education Subcommittee and later in the Senate as staff director and chief counsel for the Disability Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. I worked with him most closely when I was the lead House sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and he was working as Senator Tom Harkin's chief aide. In that role, he helped craft the ADA and fought tirelessly to secure its enactment. Like so many others. I admired Bobby's intellect, strong character, and commitment to public service. I believe that my friends Katy and Ralph Neas articulated that admiration we all feel for Bobby perfectly in their remarks at his funeral service, and in honor of Bobby, I include in the RECORD their speeches.

[Nov. 22, 2022]

REMARKS FOR BOBBY SILVERSTEIN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

(By Katy Neas)

In 1987, Bobby was my boss. When I left the Hill in 1991, he was my friend, and somewhere along the way over these 35 years, he and Lynne became family.

There are three things you need to know about Bobby.

No one was better prepared. Yes, he really did have a binder for everything.

No one wanted to get to ''YES'' more than Bobby.

No one was more genuine, thoughtful, loving, respectful, and patient, and he was fun.

I worked for Bobby on the original Americans with Disabilities Act. One of his many gifts was his devotion to bringing people together—the disability community, the business community, Republicans and Democrats. He had endless patience and wanted to learn from each individual's perspective so that the ADA could be the strongest LAW possible. One of the best parts of this time was a certain individual from the Leadership Conference, Ralph Neas, who was in our office almost daily to coordinate with Bobby. Ralph and I were married in November of 1988 and spent the next 20 months engulfed in the ADA.

During those months, I had many conversations with Lynne, asking her about ''Bobby time''—meaning, what time did Bobby come into the office. Her typical response was ''don't ask.'' What most people didn't know is that he would be in the office around 3:00 a.m. every day so that he could leave by 6:00 p.m. to have dinner with Lynne and the boys. That was his schedule for months.

Bobby at his ''Bobby-est'' when in conversation with Senator Orrin Hatch. There were amendments that sought to discriminate against people with HIV that Senator

Hatch was considering supporting. Bobby tracked him down in the hallway to share with him an anecdote about a zoo in Ohio that had requested a group of students with down syndrome leave because their presence was upsetting to the animals. Bobby explained to Senator Hatch that the fundamental discrimination these children faced was the same discrimination that people with HIV faced. In his sincere Bobby way, he was the perfect messenger and Senator Hatch ended up doing the right thing.

So on to the fun Bobby. Bobby and Lynne joined the Lowes Island County Club as it was a club without gender-based restrictions where Lynne could be the primary member and play golf anytime she wanted. The club was purchased by the Trump organization sometime later. Several times in that first year of the Trump presidency, Bobby would call, using that golf-tv announcer voice—to let me know that the President was on the 17th hole with a gazillion secret service agents—because I was in desperate need of this important information.

So, while I won't ever pick up the phone to ''Hi, it's Bobby'' again, I will carry him in my heart for all the days of my life. And I will always ask myself in a tough situation, what would Bobby do? And I would ask you do to the same.

When someone treats you with disrespect or anger, think—What would Bobby do? He would try to find out why they are upset and to see if there is a way to reach consensus.

When life throws you a curve ball, think—What would Bobby do? He would analyze the problem from every angle, go back to his fundamental principles of right and wrong, and come up with a solution.

And finally, when you are having a really bad day, think—What would Bobby do? Know that he would envelop you in his love, patience, and generosity and move heaven and earth to support you. And if you do that for someone else, Bobby will be on your shoulder cheering you on.

I am the most grateful person on the planet to have had this incredibly intimate personal and professional relationship with Bobby Silverstein. Every day since his death last week, I've woken up crushed by sadness but overwhelmed with the joy that comes with being Bobby's friend. How can you think about Bobby and not smile? As I put one foot in front of the other, I will think about what would Bobby do, what would Bobby expect me to do, and how can I advance his legacy. It won't be easy, but Bobby showed us what's possible.

[Nov. 22, 2022]

EULOGY FOR BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

(By Ralph Neas)

For 35 years, I have been in awe of Bobby Silverstein. The reasons are many. High on my list, of course, are his notable and numerous professional accomplishments, especially his leadership role in the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act.

But my role today is to discuss primarily the personal and not the professional. I would like to share with you two episodes in my life that demonstrate why no one could have a better friend than Bobby Silverstein.

In early November of 2018, I was laying paralyzed on an I.C.U. bed at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. For the second time in my life, I had contracted Guillain Barre Syndrome, a rare and usually reversible auto-immune disorder that can sometimes lead to total paralysis and death.

After confining me to more than 100 days in hospital beds, the syndrome had struck most of my body, but not my lungs. However, it had become increasingly apparent, as breathing and talking became more difficult, that my lungs were its next target and a ventilator might be necessary to increase my chances of survival.

At this critical moment, in walks Bobby, with his perpetual grin, his sense of humor, and his trademark optimism. He had learned from Katy that I was in really bad shape. Bobby correctly figured out that I probably needed a close friend to help Katy keep me company and my sanity. And very importantly be my advocate when necessary.

He sure got that one right. And no one was better qualified. Bobby understood how vital it was for a patient in my condition to communicate needs and participate in important decisionmaking. He realized that without augmentative and alternative communication devices, those goals would be impossible to achieve. Bobby and the hospital's alphabet chart became an incredible team. Thanks to them, my anxiety level dropped considerably.

But soon it was clear that if I were to live, I had to be put on a ventilator. Bobby was the last nonmedical person I saw before the medical procedure and the first one I saw as I regained consciousness. And Bobby and the alphabet chart remained my constant companions until I was out of the woods. Bobby had been the indispensable friend we all need when the stakes are the highest.

Fast forward four years: Bobby is battling cancer and my communications with him are by email or phone calls. I told Katy that I forever will owe Bobby ''big time'' for what he did for me in 2018. It was time for me to return the favor. I would visit him in person on a regular basis for as long as it took to get him better.

On November 5, I was on my way to the Silverstein home, armed with three bowls of chicken soup (of course) for Lynne, Bobby, and myself. While we waited for Lynne to return from an errand, Bobby and I sat on the porch, basking in the early fall sunlight and talking about everything: families, politics, sports, friends, and his tenacious battle to defeat pancreatic cancer.

An hour into our conversation, Bobby pivoted suddenly and dramatically to the strong possibility that pancreatic cancer might win. He made it abundantly clear that he would continue to fight the cancer with all his might, but he knew the odds were not in his favor. He just wanted me and everyone else to know that he was not afraid of dying. Indeed, if he died, he would die a happy man. He explained that he had lived a full life, experiencing all its joys, especially the love of his family and friends and his enormous love for them.

Bobby first talked about how wonderful it was to have been married to Lynne, the love of his life, for 51 years. Then he turned to Mark and Evan and how fabulous and loving they had been as sons and how they had married Steph and Christie, two remarkable and loving women. And to the surprise of no one in this room, Bobby shared with me for the millionth time, how spectacular it was to be the grandfather of Cyrus, Chloe, Jacob, and Bailey.

And yes, he did mention his professional career with a sense of pride in his accomplishments and the opportunities he had to help better the lives of countless Americans.

While Bobby talked, I realized that once again I was the one receiving another friendship gift. In his careful, diplomatic, and effective way, Bobby was making it clear that it is possible to achieve balance in one's personal and professional lives—with a lot of hard work, the willingness to compromise, and love.

As I drove home that day, I promised myself that no matter what life still had to offer, I would try to be more like Bobby. Once again, thank you, my dear friend.

HONORING MAYOR JOHN DUNBAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor John Dunbar in honor of his retirement and record eighteen years of service on the Yountville Town Council.

Mr. Dunbar is a native of Oakland, California and a graduate of the University of California, Davis. He moved to Yountville in 1998 and joined the Zoning and Design Review Board in 2003. In 2004, he was appointed to the Town Council and was elected to his first full term two years later. Mr. Dunbar was elected Vice Mayor of Yountville in 2008 and Mayor in 2010, 2014 and 2018. His 18 years on the Town Council and 12 years as Mayor are both record-long tenures.

Over the course of nearly two decades of public service, Mr. Dunbar has been a leading advocate for equality in the Napa Valley. In 2009, he authored the successful Yountville Equal Rights Resolution and in 2019, supported the raising of the Rainbow Flag in honor of Pride Month. In an effort to boost local interest in the arts, Mr. Dunbar helped found the Yountville Arts Commission and made countless investments in community programs.

As Mayor, Mr. Dunbar oversaw years of a balanced budget and remained committed to supporting local industry, wildfire prevention and affordable housing within the town of Yountville. He has also been a champion of climate change initiatives and conservation efforts. Outside of his local duties, Mr. Dunbar has represented Yountville within the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For the 2019–2020 term, he became President of Cal Cities where he represented the state's almost 500 municipalities in both regional and national discussions on local government.

Mr. Dunbar is a member of many boards and organizations including the Napa County Climate Action Committee, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, the Yountville Tourism Improvement District's Local Governing Committee and the Pathway Home nonprofit veteran treatment program. Since 2012, he has also served on the Napa Exposition and Fair Board.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Dunbar for his years of selfless service and commitment to the people of Yountville. His efforts have made the town a more welcoming, safe and enjoyable place to live, Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, it has been more than two months since 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died alone in a hospital bed in Tehran.

Two days before her death, Amini had been arrested by the Iranian regime's ''morality police.'' Her crime, in their eyes, was wearing a loose-fitting headscarf and tight-fitting pants. The Iranian regime claims that she died of a heart attack, but we know the truth: the police beat her to death.

The world has a tendency to look away from tragedies like Amini's. Stories like hers fade from the news cycle until they are forgotten or met with indifference. But when the Iranian people take to the streets every day to protest Amini's murder and demand fundamental rights, they make it impossible for the world to avert its gaze. By virtue of their courage, they force the world to bear witness. In the streets, protestors chant the inscription on Amini's tombstone: ''Beloved Mahsa, you will not die. Your name will become a rallying call.'' And her name has become just that.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the brave women of Iran who are fighting for the right to live in freedom and dignity. I rise in support of the men standing alongside them who are demanding political rights and an end to theocratic rule. And I rise to solemnly recognize the terrible cost that the people of Iran are paying as they take to the streets. Security forces have killed hundreds of protestors, firing on them with live ammunition and beating them severely. Those caught up in mass arrests could face the death penalty.

The people of Iran are putting their lives on the line to demand fundamental freedoms. They suffer today in hopes of building a better tomorrow—for themselves, for their families, and for future generations. This is a profoundly noble effort that deserves not just our admiration, but also our support.

Those taking to the streets across Iran should know that we are watching them and that we are praying for them. And members of the Iranian regime should know that when a people truly yearn for freedom, and are willing to give their lives for it, their cause is a flame that will never go out.

RECOGNIZING RAY MUELLER UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague Ray Mueller who served on the Menlo Park City Council for ten years, two terms as mayor, as he is entering a new chapter in his public service career. Ray was just elected as the San Mateo County Supervisor for the 3rd District where he will undoubtedly continue his outstanding and dedicated service to the community.

Ray was first elected to the council in 2012. During his tenure he was always focused on improving the quality of life and safety of residents, the economy and the environment. As the father of two teenagers, Max, 16 and Elle, 12, he is particularly driven to work towards policies that will ensure the future of his and all children. He is married to his high school sweetheart Kristen Shima. I have known Ray for a decade and have always been impressed and inspired by his can-do attitude, resourcefulness, and optimism.

Ray is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and he received his JD from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He now works as an attorney in the emergency response and services sector. His legal acumen and analytical mind have certainly served the city of Menlo Park very well. Along with his council colleagues, he has been able to balance the city budget for eight consecutive years and to maintain the city's AAA bond rating since he was elected. He and the council have also saved taxpayers millions of dollars through smart policies.

Menlo Park, like the rest of the Bay Area, is plagued by a lack of affordable housing and traffic congestion. Ray has strongly advocated solutions for these interconnected issues. During his time on the council, Menlo Park adopted two housing elements. He was appointed and served on the State of California Tax Credit Allocation Committee which administers the federal and state low-income housing tax credit programs. Menlo Park set aside housing units with rental subsidies for teachers and other community-serving professionals in housing development approvals. Ray worked with Facebook to add housing units on its proposed campus expansion. During the pandemic, Menlo Park made $100,000 available in grants for emergency rental housing assistance. Ray served on the board of LifeMoves, one of the largest homeless services providers in Silicon Valley.

He and his fellow council members also developed and approved a citywide Transportation Master Plan which focuses on traffic mitigation, safe routes to schools and across freeways, street resurfacing and sidewalks, and improved rail service.

Ray is particularly passionate about our youth. When he was mayor in 2019, he created a youth advisory commission. He launched an after school homework center at the Belle Haven Library bringing in skilled volunteers to provide one-on-one support. He also hosted several civics days at city hall and taught leadership classes at the Boys and Girls Club. During the pandemic, he reactivated childcare centers and transformed after-school programs into learning pods for distance learning.

Ray fully understands that without climate change mitigation our planet and the future of our youth hangs in the balance. In 2020, Menlo Park adopted its first Climate Action Plan. Four years prior, he voted to enroll all city facilities in ECO 100, a program that provides 100 percent renewable energy for city buildings, streetlights and charging stations. As mayor in 2014, Ray prioritized the formation of Menlo Park Spark to promote regional climate action policy. He is also a staunch defender of our open spaces and parks. Despite his extensive work hours as an attorney and council member, he manages to find time to volunteer for the San Mateo chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. An avid surfer himself, Ray has a deep love and respect for the awesome power of nature. He is currently taking a hiatus from the sport to allow a serious neck injury to heal.

Madam Speaker, I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to rise with me to thank Ray Mueller for his exemplary service on the Menlo Park City Council and to wish him continued success and stamina for his upcoming service on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. His contributions will keep shaping our beautiful county and coast.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN SMITH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Smith for his service to Kentucky's Second District as my director of economic development for more than a decade.

Brian, a proud Western Kentucky University graduate, had served on my congressional team since I was first sworn into office in January 2009. Prior to joining my office, Brian had years of government service to Kentucky, including working for my predecessor, Congressman Ron Lewis, and former Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher. During Brian's first month in my congressional office, Brian helped lead my office's emergency response efforts after an ice storm hit Kentucky. He walked constituents through the FEMA process and directed them to federal resources to help with recovery.

In addition to covering Green and Hardin counties for my congressional office, Brian guided constituents through the federal grant process and handled issues related to federal agencies, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, USDA Rural Development, and HUD. Brian also proudly served as a liaison to Fort Knox, working with both civilian and military leaders.

Brian's extensive knowledge of Kentucky and passion for serving constituents made him a valuable asset to my team. I want to thank Brian for his service to Kentucky's Second District, and I wish him the best in the next chapter of his public service career.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of the International Career Advancement Program (ICAP). Founded and led by Prof. E. Thomas Rowe since 1997 at the University of Denver's Korbel School of International Affairs, ICAP's aim is to bring greater quality and diversity to the highest level of senior management and policy-making positions in international affairs. ICAP is one of the only programs in the United States dedicated to helping mid-career professionals from under-represented communities advance to senior positions in international careers. Each cohort since 1997 has been immersed in a week-long seminar in Aspen CO consisting of workshops and discussions designed to prepare participants to serve in senior management and policy roles.

Madam Speaker, to date, over 770 people have participated in the program and several ICAP Fellows have achieved the rank of United States Ambassador, serve as heads of NGOs, established their own non-profit organizations, and lead companies. The ICAP Fellows Association (ICAPFA) continues the mission of ICAP to offer its members mentorship, networking opportunities, and community service.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Prof. Rowe on his vision and ICAP's quarter century of work investing in the next generation of leaders in foreign affairs to ensure that the United States can be effective, innovative, and globally competitive.

HONORING ANNETT REYES-ALVAREZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Annett Reyes-Alvarez, my intern who has completed her Winter 2022 semester serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Annett has proven to be a curious and intelligent young woman.

Annett has assisted my office in various areas, including foreign relations, communications, and constituent engagement. She has demonstrated her ability to adapt and her willingness to learn and research. Annett has exhibited her ability to grow and improve her skillset.

The daughter of Loreley Alvarez and Jorge Luis Reyes, Annett is a first-generation Cuban-American from Miami, Florida. She is majoring in International Relations at Florida International University's Honors College. During her time at Florida International University (FIU), Annett has joined many organizations such as UN Women and UNICEF. She took part in FIU's Hamilton Scholars program to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of America's place in the global arena. Annett will use her lessons to pursue a career in foreign affairs.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Annett Reyes-Alvarez for her professional growth, service to her community, and her present and future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND REOPENING OF THE UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA J. WAYNE LEONARD PROSPERITY CENTER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the re-grand opening of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana's J. Wayne Leonard Prosperity Center, a one-stop financial stability center offering an array of programming to the citizens of Greater New Orleans including financial education and coaching, credit building and counseling, benefits screening, and income tax assistance.

As part of United Way's footprint located at a newly acquired site at 2901 Canal Street, the new facility will also house United Way's IDA Project, a matched savings account program helping low-income individuals purchase long-term assets through a 4:1 match of their own savings. The program is addressing the challenges of intergenerational poverty by providing opportunities for participants to purchase a new home or vehicle, start or expand a small business, or pay for post-secondary education, all through their IDA accounts.

These in-house financial stability resources wiil help empower low-to-moderate income families to achieve financial stability today and prosperity tomorrow, leading to more vibrant cornmunities for us all. In its first year of operation, the J. Wayne Leonard Prosperity Center has already served more than 2,000 people referred from the City of New Orleans' Network for Economic Opportunity's Workforce Partnership Centers. These opportunity centers include Strive New Orleans, JOBI Business and Career Solutions Center, Total Community Action, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, and Goodwill Industries. And as a result of the center's successes, United Way has expanded the center's offerings to each parish of United Way's Southeast Region.

A remarkable man I called my friend and neighbor, J. Wayne Leonard, the Prosperity Center's namesake and longest-serving head of Entergy Corporation, facilitated more than $50 million in charitable dondtions through Entergy aimed at moving people out of poverty and improving early childhood education. In October 2017, Mr. Leonard was awarded United Way of Southeast Louisiana's prestigious Tocqueville Society Award. During his powerful and inspiring acceptance speech, Mr. Leonard offered a sulprise gift of $1 million toward UWSELA's anti-poverty agenda. Entergy matched the generous gesture with a surprise $ 1 million gift of their own.

Mr. Leonard's legacy continues to positively impact the people of Southeast Louisiana. ''It has been an honor and privilege to play a role in powering people's lives, whether by providing electricity or offering a helping hand,'' said Leonard in a previous quote. ''I am pleased that Entergy has contributed to the sustainability of the Prosperity Center, which will give local residents access to the kind of critical services that can be life changing. As lives change for the better, so do communities.''

According to the ALICE Report, the study of financial hardship conducted with the help of our partners at Entergy, low-wage jobs continue to dominate our local economy while basic costs of living continue to outpace wages. In Orleans Parish, 27 percent of our neighbors are living below the Federal Poverty Line, while more than half are living below the ALICE threshold (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These families and individuals include men and women, young and old, and myriad races and ethnicities. They are people that you see each and every day—the cashier at the grocely store, the server at your favorite diner—many taking on two and three jobs just to make ends meet. ALICE is unable to save for the future and is just one medical emergency, one car repair, or one harsh storm away from falling into poverty themselves.

United Way has also recognized that many of our community's social issues are rooted in poverty and we've put a stake in the ground around creating innovative solutions with our partners. United, we will eradicate poverty in Southeast Louisiana. And the J. Wayne Leonard Prosperity Center is a critical step in the right direction.

J. Wayne Leonard saved as the former chairman and CEO of Entergy Corporation, and passed away September 18, 2018, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Born November 22, 1950, Mr. Leonard understood first hand the vision of this prosperity Center, growing up in Greenfield, Indiana. He rose from humble childhood beginnings to become CEO of a Fortune 500 company and a thought-leader for environmental stewardship and fighting poverty. He was among the first leaders in the energy sector to call for action to stem climate change and offered policy solutions to address the issue. Mr. Leonard was also known for his humanitarian spirit and passion for social justice, giving of his time and money to support causes, especially ones to improve the lives of people living in poverty.

On a more personal note, I am happy to work alongside the United Way of Southeast

Louisiana supporting Louisiana's constituents working across the River Parish. Congratulations to United Way of Southeast Louisiana and its J. Wayne Leonard Prosperity Center continuing the vision of a remarkable man. May they continue to change the lives of thousands in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF THE HONORABLE REUBEN HOLOBER FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF MILLBRAE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Millbrae Councilman Reuben Holober as he leaves the City Council. Reuben was 25 years old when first elected in 2013. He grew up in Millbrae, received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington and his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to joining the council, he served on the city's Sister City Commission. He also served as an intern for the late Congressman Tom Lantos. During his youth, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Millbrae is a small town of 22,000 stretching from the edge of the bay adjacent to San Francisco International Airport to the wooded hillsides of the Peninsula. Its businesses are almost all small companies. Historically, they largely served local residents, travelers and the airport. In the wake of the housing collapse, Millbrae businesses were hit hard. It was during recovery from that recession that Reuben first ran for public office. He noted in his candidate statement that while the first priority for residents was public safety, the city's tax base needed to grow to support the goal of safety. Developing the areas around the BART/Caltrain station was key to generating revenue.

Today, at the site of the station, construction companies are putting the final touches on 840 units of new housing, 50,000 square feet of retail, and a new hotel. Reuben supported this addition to Millbrae, and it will undoubtedly become a template for similar sites around the country.

The city council made many difficult decisions during Reuben's time in office. When a fire consumed the beloved Millbrae Recreation Center, he and colleagues secured the funds to build a beautiful new facility. In recent years, water rates have escalated because of

aging infrastructure as well as price increases by the city's water supplier. It fell to then-Mayor Holober to note these painful increases in his 2020 reports to the residents, but he also explained all the wonderful work that was done by the public works department, including replacement of many pipes that were more than 50 years old

A new biotechnology building is under construction near the BART/Caltrain station. Due to the openness of Reuben and his colleagues to new business development, the city is known as a place where companies with the right ideas can get projects successfully through the approval process.

When he joined the council, he was half the age of a typical councilmember. With youthful optimism, he joined the council's Technology Subcommittee and Infrastructure Task Force. His colleagues also assigned him to be the council's representative to the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority, and the Caltrain Local Policy Makers Group. Millbrae Community Television, which broadcasts local events, also benefited from his service on its Board of Directors

Reuben was Mayor in 2020 when COVID arrived. It is almost painful today to read his remarks to colleagues, delivered in November. He noted, ''2020 has been an extremely difficult year due to the COVID–19 pandemic. From job losses and economic decline . . . to feelings of isolation and depression . . . due to necessary shelter-in-place and social distancing orders. In many ways . . . we were not prepared for the pandemic.'' He and his council colleagues rose to the challenge. He noted that the council provided grants to local businesses and helped them apply for greater funding through the SBA. He fulther noted that 409 businesses received PPP loans that saved 2,600 jobs, The council also passed ordinances to allow curbside dining outdoors, expedited construction permits, closed streets to allow residents and visitors to stroll, and limited fees charged by DoorDash and others so that restaurants could survive without customers being gouged by delivery charges.

All of this was done even though at the time the city's budget took a $6.5 million hit due to revenue reductions. By cutting other expenses sharply, the deficit was reduced to $1.3 million, but this left the city operating ''on a shoestring budget'' according to then-Mayor Holober.

With completion of the new recreation center, major development at the Caltrain/BART station, and commencement of development of a nearby biotechnology complex, Millbrae is finally poised to soar. Reuben Holober can be confident that his quiet and effective leadership was crucial to building a bright future for the city he loves. I wish him, his wife Amy and his son, Nolan, all the best in the years ahead. Reuben Holober, the 25-year-old who wanted to serve, has done a wonderful job for his city and his neighbors. He's now earned the ultimate badge towards the rank of Eagle Scout: Civic duty. Democracy in Millbrae is better due to his time on the council.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER PAM STAFFORD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilmember Pam Stafford in recognition of her 16 years of dedicated service to the people of Rohnert Park, California.

Ms. Stafford is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English. She moved to Rohnert Park in the mid-1970s where she has worked as a fitness trainer and a small business owner for more than 42 years. In 2006, Ms. Stafford was elected to the Rohnert Park City Council. During her tenure, she has served as both Vice Mayor and Mayor, being elected unanimously to the latter in 2009 and 2012.

Ms. Stafford has also been a member of the Waste and Recycling Committee, the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. Her outside agency appointments include the Association of Bay Area Government General Assembly, Zero Waste Sonoma, the Water Advisory Committee to Sonoma Water and the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

As a councilmember, Ms. Stafford has supported countless improvements to local parks and voted to approve the development of Sonoma Mountain (SOMO) Village—a 200-acre mixed-use and sustainable property that includes over 1,800 housing units, soccer field and commercial space. She has been incredibly active in her community, attending countless events, guiding a dance and exercise class at the Rohnert Park Community Center and supporting the performing arts at the local community theater.

Ms. Stafford and her late husband Jospeh Mark Stafford have three children, Bryce, Kyle and Megan. She is also the proud grandmother of six.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilmember Stafford for more than a decade of exemplary leadership and selfless service. Her efforts have undoubtedly made Rohnert Park a more green, welcoming and enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LATE BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Bobby Silverstein. Bobby was a dedicated public servant and advocate for advancing disability rights. Within both the House of Representatives and the Senate, he worked tirelessly to champion the needs and priorities of the disability community. Specifically, Bobby played a critical role in crafting the Americans with Disabilities Act and fighting to secure its enactment while serving as staff director and chief counsel for Senator Harkin's Disability Policy Committee.

Bobby will be remembered for his compassion and commitment to creating a society that is fully inclusive and accessible for all Americans. Bobby's dedication to advancing the opportunities for and dignity of those with disabilities were shared by his colleague and friend. Judy Heumann at his memorial service. In honor of Bobby, I include in the RECORD Judy's speech.

When I learned of Bobby's passing, like all of you I was stunned and deeply saddened. I thought immediately of you Lynne, Mark, Evan and your families, and the shock and sadness you would be experiencing. Then I began to think about Bobby and the life that he led. The example he was to everyone whose life he touched. And then a smile came across my face, because Bobby was the epitome of a life well lived.

Like many of us joining today, I had the opportunity and privilege to work with Bobby on some of the critical pieces of legislation that he helped conceptualize. negotiate, and lead on with Congress—especially Senator Harkin—and the disability community to pass. In particular, I remember being both honored and fearful when I was asked to be one of the presenters at the ADA joint hearings. I wanted to make sure that my words enabled the members of Congress to get a clear understanding of why passage of the ADA was so important. But I was, to say the least, quite terrified because of the 1 gravity of the hearings and all that was riding on them.

I shouldn't have worried though, and it was a beautiful experience for me to work with Bobby on the testimony. He was, as always, completely prepared, and he worked tirelessly with me and the other presenters to ensure that we were prepared too. In his diligent way, he made sure that we were acknowledged, respected, and felt valued in sharing our personal stories of discrimination and how it impacted our lives. This testimony was one of my proudest moments, and it meant a great deal to me that Bobby felt it was a powerful and impactful presentation.

How fortunate we were to have had Bobby Silverstein in our movement. Bobby took the time to learn about our lives, and to leam about the importance of being able to get laws like the ADA passed, or the IDEA reauthorized, He understood how important it was for concepts like independent living to be enshrined in the law, He knew how to collaborate, and negotiate—to negotiate hard if the 2 circumstances called for it—and how to disagree without being disagreeable. As smart and strategic as he was, he was also proud of our accomplishments, but at the same time humble, kind, and ethical. And he would always pick up the phone when I called, whether it was 7:00 in the morning or 10 pm in the evening! I will miss being able to do that, to get guidance on one thing or another, or just to check in.

That said, when it came to work / life balance, you always knew that with Bobby, family came first. Being in the presence of Bobby and Lynne was to know a deep love and respect that spanned more than 50 years, and to see what it can produce; not only in a relationship but in a family. You could see how lovingly they raised their wonderful sons, Mark and Evan, and the joy that they experienced when, in turn, Mark and Evan married and had their own children. I loved when Bobby talked about what he and Lynne were doing with the grandchildren, and the pride they took in being able to devote such time and care to them. It has been a privilege to see such devoted parents raising children who have grown up to carry forward the same principled approach to life.

Yoshiko Dart and I were speaking about Bobby the other day, and reflecting on his strength and vision, love and discipline. And his beautiful smile. True to the core of his humanity, you could believe him, and trust that what he said and what he did were always in-sync.

I am certain that Bobby's life work will continue to grow. The decades he worked on the Hill in support of the bipartisan passage of more than 20 bills. The work he has been doing for the past 15 years with Powers, Pyles, Sutter, and Verville, and the hundreds—if not thousands of people—he has trained and mentored to understand how to effectively implement those laws. All of this will continue to bear fruit.

Lynne, Mark, Evan, the entire Silverstein family and friends, we thank you for having shared Bobby's life so lovingly with our community. It is our responsibility to carry forth his work as we continue to fight for equality. To lead with humility, to listen, to encourage the growth of our movement, to mentor, and to attribute some of the progress we have made to the vision, fortitude, and integrity of Bobby Silverstein.

How many of us in this room can say that we have led a life as rich as Bobby's?

We will miss you Bobby—and always find solace and encouragement in remembering your warm smile.

WISHING MS. ELEANORE JOHNSON A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to wish Ms. Eleanore Johnson a happy 100th birthday. While reaching 100 years is an impressive accomplishment, I am here to honor Ms. Johnson not only for her centennial birthday, but also for the life she has lived and the service she has given to others.

Ms. Johnson was married to her husband, Howard, a World War II pilot, for 48 years. Together, they raised four daughters and now have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Ms. Johnson began her career as a secretary and later worked as a teacher and librarian's assistant. She also dedicated time to being a stay-at-home mom while her children were young.

In her retirement, Ms. Johnson has remained dedicated to serving her community, She has volunteered at Rankin General Hospital and Peachtree Retirement Center, and she has been a committed Christian her entire life. Additionally, she has served as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School Director, and church librarian, among other roles. Ms. Johnson also has a keen interest in politics and stays informed on national, state, and local matters as a lifelong Republican.

It is my honor to recognize Ms. Eleanore Johnson for her many accomplishments and her dedication to Mississippi and the United States. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Eleanore Johnson.

HONORING RAEDEEN BIGELOW AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Raedeen Bigelow, who leads the MATURA Neighborhood Center in Greenfield, as our Iowan of the Week,

In September of 1974, Raedeen found herself working a brand-new job after graduating high school. She wasn't exactly sure where her career path would take her, but she was finding her footing working with Head Start, the preschool program provided by MATURA Action Corporation. Raedeen was at Head Start for two years when she saw the MATURA Outreach Center in Greenfield was looking for an aide. She applied in May of 1976, and since then. she has worked tirelessly at the Greenfield Neighborhood Center to help those in need of assistance.

MATURA is a non-profit community action agency that partners with communities in southwest Iowa to provide a multitude of comprehensive programs for individuals and families seeking assistance. It's dedicated staff provides crisis assistance to Iowans in need of food and help with utilities and rent, but services go far beyond that, MATURA also offers access to its Head Start comprehensive preschool program, thrift stores, education for pregnant women, assistance wIth programs like WIC breast feeding peer counseling and Healthy and Well Kids of Iowa, and workforce training for youth, dislocated workers, and long-term unemployed individuals. Each year MATURA provides these types of critical services to more than 10,000 individuals and 3,700 families across Adams, Adair, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union Counties, where some of the state's most rural areas are located.

This September, Raedeen will be celebrating 48 years at the Greenfield Neighborhood Center, in that time, she has helped folks get the assistance they need, no matter the challenges. But when the COVID–19 pandemic prevented normal interactions between neighbors and changed business operations nationwide. Raedeen and the rest of the folks at MATURA faced their biggest challenge yet. With their doors closed for the first time, meeting families and others to discuss their needs and offer solutions was difficult. Raedeen's Outreach Center was getting more and more requests for assistance as the pandemic prolonged. People needed general assistance, help with housing, energy needs, maternal health service, and much more.

Knowing there was great demand for their help, each Outreach Center had to figure out what processes worked best for each individual office across its six-county footprint, such as drive-through appointments. Raedeen and her team adjusted as each Outreach Center did things their own way, working tirelessly to accommodate each person and family and get them connected with the help they needed at such a crucial time.

Today, Raedeen and the Greenfield Outreach Center are stepping up to help those in their community as our economy struggles with the burden of inflation. Rural communities are facing increased challenges as costs rise. Raedeen's work and expertise is critical while the Outreach Center yet again adjusts to meet high demand. She is now focused on connecting folks with resources like food pantries, of which the Greenfield Outreach Center has its own that's used across the area. She engages the community regularly so neighbors know when the Center is open and what services are being offered, including handing out backpacks at the beginning of August.

Assistance in rural communities can often be overlooked, and it's people like Raedeen who make these services accessible for those who need it most and during times of crisis. Raedeen is as dedicated as ever, and she's excited to soon pass the 50-year anniversary of her time at MATURA. Madam Speaker, because of her perseverance, passion, and nearly 50 years of dedicated service to her community. I am honored to recognize Raedeen Bigelow as this week's Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES MICHAEL ''MIKE'' FUTRELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most extraordinary city managers I have ever known. My friend and colleague Charles Michael ''Mike'' Futrell leaves his position as city manager of South San Francisco, my hometown, after nine years of exemplary service. Mike has proven over and over again that he is one of the most productive, most creative, and most professional community leaders in the region. He superbly led this city of 67,000 people with a budget of over $400 million and set it on a path to success.

Most residents of cities don't realize how much impact a city manager has on every aspect of their lives. Mike led 900 full and part-time personnel across all departments: police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, public works, parks and recreation, library, human resources, finance, communications, and economic and community development. He greatly improved South San Francisco's finances earning the city its first ever AAA bond rating. During his tenure, the city yielded budget surpluses every year, and he delivered record budget reserves.

To appreciate how much Mike brought to the table when he started his job as city manager, it helps to know his background. Mike earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts. Amherst, and a JD from Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law School. He was a Ph.D. scholar in Management of Complex Systems at the University of California, Merced, and he received a Learn, Engage, Accelerate, Disrupt (L.E.A.D.) Certification in Corporate Innovation from Stanford.

Mike did not confine his accomplishments to academics. He also served in public office and held other senior administrative positions in both the public and private sectors. He was an elected member of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council, an elected member of the

Louisiana House of Representatives, a state director for a U.S. Senator, the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Baton Rouge, a U.S. Navy Captain at the U.S. Pacific Command, and an Executive Vice President for Hawaii Gas. As you can surmise from this impressive background, there isn't any situation or problem Mike can't tackle.

Among the most visible changes in South San Francisco during his tenure are the increase in the construction of housing units and the revitalization of the downtown, both priorities for Mike. More than 4,500 new residential units will be built in the next five years, a significant effort to address the crushing housing shortage in the Bay Area. Press reports indicate that, under his leadership, the city's biotechnology employers are expected to more than double their square footage. from 12 million to 25 million square feet, within the next few years.

Madam Speaker, South San Francisco is a remarkable community, and Mike contributed greatly to its success. He will now take his talents to Riverside, California, where he will also be closer to his children. We wish Mike and his wife, Susan Freeman, our very best for a successful future in their new home. Both will be missed, but fondly remembered, in the years ahead.

LIFE INSEPARABLE FROM ART: HONORING GRETA CHAPIN MCGILL

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary artist who has mastered the talent and skill of expression. Ms. Greta Chapin McGill translates her emotions and experiences as an African American woman flawlessly to canvas, and all who have had the pleasure to view her work are left in awe of its beauty.

Ms. Chapin McGill grew up in Washington, DC, and associates her time riding the bus around the city with blossoming a feeling of independence within herself that has run parallel during her brave journey as an artist. During this time, Greta's father took her to Constitution Hall, where he asked her to close her eyes, and "see" the music. The ability for art to pull us out of reality, and encapsulate us in harmony with emotion and surrealness, is what surrounded Greta as she "saw" the music herself. Greta's own art is a reflection of this experience, unlocking every emotion and story she can elicit from canvas and color.

Inspired by her father's encouragement that anything is possible if you believe in it. Greta began to fully pursue art. She studied painting and art history at Howard University and The Corcoran School of Fine Art, and her exceptional ability has since taken her across the globe to exhibits in Italy, France, and Switzerland. Greta has allowed her craft to take the lead in her life, as she believes one's own art is a living, breathing canvas that evolves over time through one's experiences and perspectives gained.

Greta cites feminism as having a profound impact on her work, drawing on women's ability to openly and clearly address their emotions, spirituality, and strength. Her creative process arises from the fundamental understanding and belief that it is the artist's job to tell the story of their time, so she must always be observant on what's going on around her and what is changing. As evidenced in her work, Greta employs color in such powerful and responsive ways that anyone who observes her work is astonished by the "abstractly real" aesthetic prevalent in her pieces.

However, despite such explosive and free works of color and design, Greta still affirms that in her art there remain underlying messages she keeps from the observer. The allure of an artistic piece's mystery adds to the impressive intricacy of Greta's portfolio. She believes there is a deeper meaning behind an artist's ability to maintain the privacy and intimacy of their art. Considering, that as a woman of African Ancestry, Greta's ancestors did not have control of their lives, there is a power she feels as a Black artist able to control her story and how much she discloses through art.

Ms. Chapin McGill is someone who should not only be celebrated for her art, but for her character, determination, and influence. Greta is the embodiment of perseverance. She proclaims that you must have the backbone to change facets of your life when they warrant change, and that things in peoples' lives happen for a reason. She is a firm believer that the universe will hand you what you want if you have the courage to ask for it, and when the universe presents an opportunity, you must say yes.

To Ms. Greta Chapin McGill, the promise to create is a commitment she has given to fully. Greta at her core is still that young girl standing in Constitution Hall who "saw" the music and could not live without art. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to commemorate Greta Chapin McGill's devotion to advancing the arts and depicting the experiences of all Americans through that art.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER TOM SCHWEDHELM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Schwedhelm of Santa Rosa, California in honor of his retirement and eight years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Schwedhelm moved to Santa Rosa, California in 1981. He received an Associate degree in the Administration of Justice from Santa Rosa Junior College's Police Academy, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from St. Mary's College, and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from Sonoma State University.

In 1983, Mr, Schwedhelm joined the Santa Rosa Police Department beginning a three-decade career as a police officer in Santa Rosa. He also served as an adjunct faculty member for Santa Rosa Junior College from 1985 to 2002. In 2009, Mr. Schwedhelm was named Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa and was the first chief to be hired from among the department's ranks in over 70 years. He oversaw the department until his retirement in 2013.

Mr. Schwedhelm's service did not end there. In 2014, Mr. Schwedhelm was elected to the City Council and has now served two terms. He helped lead the city through some of its darkest days. In 2017, the Tubbs Fire destroyed 1,400 homes, most of which were in his neighborhood of Coffey Park, and took at least 22 lives. Mr. Schwedhelm was appointed mayor in 2018. During his tenure, Mr. Schwedhelm worked tirelessly to represent fire survivors and support Santa Rosa's recovery from the Tubbs Fire. In addition, he led his city through massive evacuations caused by the 2019 Kincade Fire, the first years of the COVID–19 pandemic, social unrest following the murder of George Floyd, and the 2020 Glass Fire which destroyed 334 homes in Santa Rosa and wider Sonoma County.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Schwedhelm for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Santa Rosa. His leadership steered Santa Rosa through numerous crises and accelerated his city's recovery in their wake. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING RANDY WALKER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Randy Walker, Garden City, Michigan's longest-serving mayor.

Randy Walker held the office of mayor from 2008 until 2022. Prior to that he served a term on city council. Mayor Walker is a lifelong resident of Garden City. He has always been passionate about serving the community that raised him. Over the years, Mayor Walker has given his time to many service-oriented organizations, including the Kiwanis Club. His love for the community runs deep and it shined through in the initiatives he undertook and supported as our public official.

Please join me in thanking Mayor Randy Walker for his 15 years of service to the people of Garden City in Michigan's 13th District Strong. The 13th Congressional District wishes him well in his retirement and thanks him for his partnership and service to our district.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7107–S7151

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5240–5248, S.J. Res. 66, and S. Res. 869–870. **Page S7134**

Measures Reported:

S. 2439, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the responsibility of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to maintain capabilities to identify threats to industrial control systems, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 117–247)

S. 2540, to make technical corrections to title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–248)

S. 2875, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Cyber Incident Review Office in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–249)

S. 2989, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–250)

S. 4592, to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 117–251)

S. 4894, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards. (S. Rept. No. 117–252)

H.R. 473, to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs. (S. Rept. No. 117–253)

S. 4488, to establish an interagency committee on global catastrophic risk, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–254)

S. 521, to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold. (S. Rept. No. 117–255) **Page S7134**

Measures Passed:

Respect for Child Survivors Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 4926, to amend chapter 33 of title 28, United States Code, to require appropriate use of multidisciplinary teams for investigations of child sexual exploitation or abuse, the production of child sexual abuse material, or child trafficking conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7149**

Schumer (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 6519, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7149**

African Diaspora Heritage Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 5006, to designate the month of September as African Diaspora Heritage Month, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7150**

Congratulating the Portland Thorns Football Club: Senate agreed to S. Res. 869, commending and congratulating the Portland Thorns Football Club on winning the 2022 National Women's Soccer League championship. **Page S7150**

Honoring Secretary Ash Carter: Senate agreed to S. Res. 870, honoring the life and the legacy of Secretary Ash Carter. **Page S7150**

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S7148**

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer (for Manchin) Amendment No. 6513 (to the House amendment to the Senate

amendment), to provide for American energy security by improving the permitting process. **Page S7148**

Schumer Amendment No. 6515 (to Amendment No. 6513), to add an effective date. **Page S7148**

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 6516, to add an effective date. **Page S7148**

Schumer Amendment No. 6517 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 6516), to modify the effective date. **Page S7148**

Schumer Amendment No. 6518 (to Amendment No. 6517), to modify the effective date. **Page S7148**

Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act: Senate concurred in the House amendment to S. 198, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps. **Page S7149**

Yemen War Powers Resolution—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the order of Monday, December 12, 2022 with respect to the motion to discharge S.J. Res 56, directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, be vitiated. **Page S7128**

Mora Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following disposition of S.J. Res. 60, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria-Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants); Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants); and Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants), Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Francisco O. Mora, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador; that there be ten minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; and that at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, without intervening action or debate. **Pages S7148–49**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 65 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 388), Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S7107–14**

By 70 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 389), Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S7114–30**

Michael Battle, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania.

William H. Duncan, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador.

Carol Spahn, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.

Heide B. Fulton, of West Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Catherine J.K. Sandoval, of California, to be a Member of Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years.

Robert J. Faucher, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname.

Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.

Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Manuel P. Micaller, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Kristina A. Kvien, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia.

Henry V. Jardine, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles.

Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years.

Bijan Sabet, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

George P. Kent, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia. **Page S7151**

Messages from the House: **Page S7133**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S7134**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7134**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7134–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7135–36**

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7136–47**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S7147–48**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—389) **Pages S7114–15**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory

of the late Ash Carter, former Secretary of Defense, in accordance with S. Res. 870, at 8:23 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7151.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FOOD AS MEDICINE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research concluded a hearing to examine food as medicine, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities, after receiving testimony from Martin Richards, Community Farm Alliance, Berea, Kentucky; Leah Penniman, Soul Fire Farm, Petersburg, New York; John Bulger, Geisinger, Danville, Pennsylvania; Kevin Volpp, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and Wharton School, Philadelphia, on behalf of the American Heart Association; and Bob Chestnut, Cummins Inc., Columbus, Indiana.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member and Chairperson, Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be a Member and Vice Chairperson, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be a Member, all of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Kimberly Ann McClain, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment concluded a hearing to examine how capital markets serve diverse entrepreneurs and investors, including S. 4065, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, S. 4992, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to extend the maximum period for which a company can be an emerging growth company from 5 years to 10 years, S. 3967, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to preempt State securities law requiring registration for secondary transactions, S. 5005, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require that information required to be disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission by issuers be material to investors of those issuers, and S. 3919, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide that an issuer that is required to file certain quarterly reports may elect to file those reports semiannually, after receiving testimony from Gilbert Andrew Garcia, Garcia Hamilton and Associates, Houston, Texas; and Tom Quaadman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, Washington, D.C.

AMERICA'S BROADBAND NEEDS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband concluded a hearing to examine solutions to meet America's broadband needs, after receiving testimony from Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Santa Fe Indian School, Santa Fe, New Mexico, on behalf of the Connect New Mexico Council; Michael K. Powell, NCTA—The Internet and Television Association, and Jonathan Spalter, USTelecom, both of Washington, D.C.; and Angela Siefer, National Digital Inclusion Alliance, Columbus, Ohio.

SMALL AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing concluded a hearing to examine promoting and investing in small American manufacturers, after receiving testimony from Carrie Hines, American Small Manufacturers Coalition, and Sujai Shivakumar, Center for Strategic and International Studies, both of Washington, D.C.; Kelvin H. Lee, National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals, Newark, Delaware; C. Todd Zakreski, Husco Automotive LLC, Waukesha, Wisconsin, on behalf of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership; and David Vasko, Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

DOI'S IMPLEMENTATION OF IIJA

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, after receiving testimony from Tommy Beaudreau, Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

ABUSE IN FEDERAL PRISONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine sexual abuse of female inmates in Federal prisons, after receiving testimony from Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, and Colette S. Peters, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, both of the Department of Justice; Brenda V. Smith, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.; Carolyn Richardson; Briane Moore; and Linda De La Rosa.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Gordon P. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, who was introduced by Senator Bennet, P. Casey Pitts, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Andrew G. Schopler, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, who were both introduced by Senators Feinstein and Padilla, Arun Subramanian, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, and Rosemarie Hidalgo, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 9500–9523; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 102; H. Con. Res. 123–124; and H. Res. 1517, were introduced. **Pages H9728–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9730**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1466, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID–19 virus (H. Rept. 117–620);

H. Res. 1467, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence (H. Rept. 117–621);

H.R. 2187, to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to set aside certain funds to provide parking for commercial motor vehicles on the Federal-aid highway system, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–622);

H. Res. 1477, calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information in the possession of the Attorney General regarding NICS Indices Self-Submission Forms, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–623); and

H. Res. 1478, calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information regarding the decision of the President of the United States to institute the "Ghost Gun" Rule, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–624). **Page H9728**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Ryan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9691**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9699**

Former Members Program: Agreed by unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the Congressional Record and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

Pages H9699–H9705, H9708

Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act: The House considered H.R. 3648, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants. Further consideration was postponed.

Pages H9708–17

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–590, shall be considered as adopted.

Pages H9708–11

H. Res. 1508, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3648) and (H.R. 7946) was agreed to Tuesday, December 6th.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, December 12th.

Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.

7535, to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 519. **Pages H9717–18**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 2:16 p.m. **Page H9719**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2:32 p.m. **Page H9719**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the twenty years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program: H. Res. 1156, expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the twenty years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program; **Pages H9719–23**

Paul D. Wellstone Building Act of 2022: S. 5060, to redesignate the Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the ''Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building''; and **Pages H9723–24**

Designating the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the ''James D. Todd United States Courthouse'': S. 4017, to designate the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the ''James D. Todd United States Courthouse''. **Pages H9724–25**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Sami's Law: H.R. 1082, amended, to require ride-hailing companies to implement an enhanced digital system to verify passengers with their authorized ride-hailing vehicles and drivers. **Pages H9725–28**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H9717–18.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 1475, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives any record created on or after January 21, 2021, under the control of the President or the Secretary, respectively, that refers to the Department of Defense and includes certain terms and phrases relating to gender. H. Res. 1475 was ordered reported, as amended.

INVESTIGATING THE COLLAPSE OF FTX, PART I

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Investigating the Collapse of FTX, Part I''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MODERNIZING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled ''Modernizing International Development Assistance: Opportunities and Challenges''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Operations of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis''. Testimony was heard from Kenneth L. Wainstein, Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

CONFRONTING WHITE SUPREMACY (PART VII): THE EVOLUTION OF ANTI-DEMOCRATIC EXTREMIST GROUPS AND THE ONGOING THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Confronting White Supremacy (Part VII): The Evolution of Anti-Democratic Extremist Groups and the Ongoing Threat to Democracy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PREVENTING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN FEDERAL ACQUISITION ACT; VA EMPLOYEE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2021; LAW ENFORCEMENT DE-ESCALATION TRAINING ACT OF 2022; SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE PRECIP ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 3905, the ''Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act''; H.R. 1948, the ''VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021''; S. 4003, the ''Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022'' [Rule Markup Only]; and the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437, the ''PRECIP Act'' [Further

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1948, the ''VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021'', S. 3905, the ''Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act'', S. 4003, the ''Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022'', and the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1948, the ''VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021'', under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–71 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of S. 3905, the ''Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act'', under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule provides for consideration of S. 4003, the ''Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule provides that House Resolution 1516 is hereby adopted. The rule provides that at any time through the legislative day of December 15, 2022, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules with respect to multiple measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative day of December 12, December 13, December 14, or December 15, 2022, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed. The Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion, and the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated. The rule provides that proceedings may be postponed through December 15, 2022, on measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative day of December 12, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The rule provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1437. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–72. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees. The rule provides that the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table H.R. 2617, with the Senate amendments thereto, to have concurred in the Senate amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, and 5, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment numbered 4 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–73. The rule provides that House Concurrent Resolution 124 is hereby adopted. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, Chairman Carolyn B. Maloney of New York; and Representatives Comer and Bost.

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF VA'S FOURTH MISSION AND PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Review of the Role of VA's Fourth Mission and Pandemic Response''. Testimony was heard from Steve Lieberman, Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Tammy Czarnecki, Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jane Kim, Executive Director for Preventative Medicine, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carla Boyce, Executive Director Operations, Security and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on the United States-Europe Coalition on Russia Sanctions from Representatives Steve Cohen and Joe Wilson, both Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; Oleksii Goncharenko, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament; Robert Seely, Member of the British Parliament; Eerik Kross, Member of the Estonian Parliament; Petras Austrevicius, Member of the European Union Parliament; and Arkadius Mularczyk, Member of the Polish Sejm.

ANTISEMITISM

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the alarming rise in Antisemitism and its threat to democracy, after receiving testimony from Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Department of State; and Rabbi Andrew Baker, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and American Jewish Committee.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine why the FTX bubble burst and the harm to consumers, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 4439, to take certain Federal land located in Siskiyou County, California, and Humboldt County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe, 2:30 p.m., S–120, Capitol.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine improving access to capital in underserved communities, focusing on the Community Advantage program, microloans, and other Small Business Administration initiatives, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

House

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Corporation for National and Community Service'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 1476, of inquiry requesting the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents or records relating to coordination between social media companies and the Biden administration on information, censorship, and censorship meetings in order to suppress or deplatform persons or information the administration views as misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation on COVID–19, Hunter Biden, and elections, and certain documents or records relating to plans to provide grant funding to consortiums, including the Democratic National Committee, in the United States, 10:35 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Consumers First: Semi-Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy Towards the Caucasus'', 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Rise of Anti-LGBTQI+ Extremism and Violence in the United States'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled ''Preparing for and Preventing the Next Public Health Emergency: Lessons Learned from the Coronavirus Crisis'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus, business meeting on report entitled *Preparing for and Preventing the Next Public Health Emergency: Lessons Learned from the Coronavirus Crisis*, 3:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Building Regional Innovation Economies Part II'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled ''Protecting the Privacy of Veterans' Data'', 1 p.m., 360 Cannon and Zoom.

Full Committee, hearing on legislation on the VA Housing Loan Forever Act of 2022, 3 p.m., 360 Cannon and Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Promoting Sustainable Environmental Practices Through Trade Policy'', 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on saving Ukraine's children, 2:30 p.m., WEBEX.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 60, Charter Schools Resolution, and vote on passage thereon at 12 noon.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 60, Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Francisco O. Mora, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 14

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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