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No. 25

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Guide us, O Lord, for many are the plans of our hearts. The schedules we have carefully laid out on our calendars, the expectations we bring with us into this Chamber, the outcomes we desire from the decisions before us are multitude. Many are the plans of our hearts, but it is Your purpose that prevails.

Remind us then of Your sovereignty in all that befalls us in this day. When our schedules are upended, when our expectations are far from met, and when those outcomes we desire escape our ability to influence, remind us that it is always Your purpose that prevails.

In Your grace plan for us, may we find that in all that we intend, You have a grander vision. In all that we anticipate, You offer us so much more. In the results we seek, You have already provided a future beyond our imaginings.

Many are the plans of our hearts, but Your purpose, O Lord, prevails.

In sure and certain hope in Your divine guidance and in the strength of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SEWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

RECOGNIZING ANDREA LINETTE RODRIGUEZ

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Andrea Linette Rodriguez, a third grade student from Sanchez Elementary School in McAllen, Texas.

Andrea recently won the first place prize in the NABE's Being Bilingual Essay Competition.

In her award-winning essay, Andrea wrote, "Because I speak Spanish, I was able to say good-bye when my abuelito became a star."

Andrea, I am sure your abuelito is very proud of you, as we all are. Like many children in south Texas, Andrea exemplifies a beautiful tradition that is deeply rooted in our Nation's history of patriotic Americans.

In south Texas, we celebrate both our Hispanic culture and our being patriotic Americans. I encourage all youth to embrace both the English language and a second language. Knowledge is power.

Felicidades, Andrea, on your achievement and showcasing the very best of south Texas.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CURRY FAMILY AS 2023 STATE OF THE UNION GUESTS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my distinguished guests for the 2023 State of the Union, the Curry family of Selma, Alabama.

Mr. Thomas Curry is a native of Selma who bravely served our Nation for over 30 years in the United States Air Force. Mrs. Annie Curry, his wife, spent over a decade working as a teacher and a counselor at Selma High School.

The Currys have been married for over 60 years and are currently in their nineties. Tragically, as a result of the tornadoes that tore through Alabama on January 12, the Currys lost their home of over 50 years, displacing them and destroying the place where they raised their five children. Luckily, the Currys escaped without injury. God is indeed good.

The people of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District are indeed resilient, and the Curry family represents the very best of us. Their story is yet another reminder of the need for increased Federal assistance for Alabama families impacted by the tornadoes.

I was honored to lead a delegation letter to President Biden asking for 100 percent Federal share, given the dire straits of the historic city of Selma, Alabama, and that of Autauga County.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to welcome the Currys to our Nation's Capitol and keep them in your prayers. We are indeed Selma strong.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HARVEY HOTINGER

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

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

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



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Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of Harvey Hotinger, who passed away recently at the age of 91.

Harvey was born in Kerrs Creek outside of Lexington in 1932 and grew up on the family farm that formed the roots of not only service to his own but also a life of service to his community and country.

After graduating from Virginia Tech with a focus on engineering, Hotinger joined the Army, specializing in missile systems. Following his military service, he began teaching algebra to high school students while also opening up a small business.

During his career and throughout retirement, Harvey also took pride in his garden, giving his friends and neighbors thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables, as well as delicious honey, never straying far from the roots of his family farm.

He continued his service as he taught Sunday school to the youth of New Monmouth Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years. He also served the Kerrs Creek District on the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors for 4 years.

After a well-lived life, Harvey is survived by his wife, Rhunelle, and his children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His dedication and commitment to his community represent the best the valley has to offer, and he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN LEADERS JOE TATE AND BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Black History Month, I pay tribute to a Detroit-born African-American leader, Joe Tate, who became the first African-American man elected as Speaker of the Michigan State House this year.

Speaker Joe Tate, the son of a firefighter, played football at Michigan State and later in the NFL. He also served in Afghanistan as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

I am honored to have Speaker Tate as my guest for tonight's State of the Union Address.

Along with Joe Tate, today I also honor Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins, the first Black woman elected to Congress from Michigan, who worked tirelessly to break down barriers.

I proudly served with Mr. Tate in the Michigan House and look forward to working with him for a better Michigan.

TRUE STATE OF OUR UNION

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, President Biden will give his address on the state of our Union. His version of the facts will sound wonderful but stand in stark contrast to the true state of the Union for many Americans today.

Unmentioned in his speech will be the fact that over a third of American households have forgone basic expenses to afford their energy bill, the highest energy costs in 15 years.

President Biden will say the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know better. That is why Republicans in the House are following our Commitment to America, a series of commonsense solutions to our most pressing issues.

In just a few short weeks, House Republicans have used our new majority position to hold China accountable, defund the Biden IRS army, protect our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and bring accountability to overreaching Federal Government agencies.

When it comes to a union that is truly strong, House Republicans stand ready to deliver.

WE ARE BETTER AS A NATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden has been our President for 25 months. He said he would build an economy for working families in America.

The largest infrastructure law in U.S. history: Done.

The American Rescue Plan: Done.

The CHIPS and Science Act: Done.

The Inflation Reduction Act: Done.

The United States economy added 517,000 jobs last month alone. The unemployment rate is 3.4 percent, the lowest in 54 years. Biden created 11 million jobs. That is 440,000 jobs every single month.

According to Bloomberg Business, Biden is now on his way to becoming the greatest job-producing President in U.S. history.

Mr. Speaker, 35 million Americans today have healthcare because of the Affordable Care Act, and 92 percent of all Americans have healthcare that is better and more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder why our Republican House colleagues are now threatening to destroy the American economy by defaulting on the very obligations that they voted to create. We are better as a nation, and we are better as a Congress.

HONORING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible man from the great State of Georgia. Supreme

Court Justice Clarence Thomas, a native son of Pin Point, near Savannah, was nominated to the Supreme Court by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

At that time, he was just the second Black American ever appointed to the Supreme Court, where he is now its longest serving member.

Since taking the Bench, Justice Thomas has ruled on some of the most consequential cases in American history. He has safeguarded our rights by defending the principles of natural law that are central to America's founding.

Justice Thomas exemplifies the American Dream, rising from humble beginnings to a seat on our Nation's highest court through hard work and dedication.

There would be nothing more fitting than the Georgia State legislature finishing the job it started last year and putting a statue of Justice Thomas under the gold dome of the State capitol.

Justice Thomas' legacy of service and footprint on American jurisprudence is worthy of honor and commemoration.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN ADAMS

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Adams, a man who needs no introduction in Cleveland or Progressive Field, thanks to his passion for baseball and his iconic drum. John passed away last week at 71 years of age.

John, a 1969 graduate of Parma High, bought a base drum at a garage sale and first hauled it to an Indians game in 1973. Over the next 46 years, John and his drum would attend more than 3,700 games, including all three All-Star games, 11 playoff series, and three World Series. He missed just 45 games over nearly five decades of fandom.

John and his drum were the beating heart of Cleveland baseball, and they have rightfully been immortalized with a statue at the field.

I thank John for the memories. May he rest in peace.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama). 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 10 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1015

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama) at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.

READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(h) of House Resolution 5, the Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) for the reading of the Constitution.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning we will read the full text of the United States Constitution. The text read today reflects the changes to the Constitution made by the 27 amendments. Those portions superseded by amendment will not be read.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

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

I will start:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the State of California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Article I, Section 1:

"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Section 2:

"The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

"No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

"The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

"When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

"The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman

from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) control the time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Section 3:

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State for six years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

"Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year.

"No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

"The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

"The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

"The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

"Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law."

Section 4:

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

"The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day."

Section 5:

"Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum

to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

"Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

"Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

"Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting."

Section 6:

"The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

"No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office."

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Section 7:

"All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

"Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of

both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

"Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill."

Section 8:

"The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

"To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

"To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

"To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

"To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

"To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

"To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

"To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

"To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

"To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

"To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

"To provide and maintain a Navy;

"To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

"To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

"To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

"To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), who is the chair of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Section 9:

"The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

"The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

"No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

"No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census Or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

□ 1030

"No Tax Or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

"No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

"No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

Section 10:

"No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

"No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws; and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

"No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay."

Article II, Section 1:

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

"Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office or Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

"The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

"The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

"Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY).

Mr. FRY. Section 2:

"The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

"He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

"The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session."

Section 3:

"He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States."

Section 4:

"The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Article III, Section 1:

"The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office."

Section 2:

"The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising

under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

"In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

"The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed."

Section 3:

"Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

"The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted."

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Article IV, Section 1:

"Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof."

Section 2:

"The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

"A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime."

Section 3:

"New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State;

nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

Section 4:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive, when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic Violence."

Article V:

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate."

Article VI:

"All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Article VII:

"The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Amendment I:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Amendment II:

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Amendment III:

"No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law."

Amendment IV:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Amendment V:

"No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

Amendment VI:

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence."

Amendment VII:

"In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law."

Amendment VIII:

"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

Amendment IX:

"The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

Amendment X:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Amendment XI:

"The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State."

Amendment XII:

"The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;—the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice.

"The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States."

Amendment XIII, Section 1:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Section 2:

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Amendment XIV, Section 1:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Section 2:

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State."

Section 3:

"No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability."

Section 4:

"The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of

any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

Section 5:

"The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

Amendment XV, Section 1:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Section 2:

"The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Amendment XVI:

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

Mr. CLINE. Amendment XVII:

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures."

"When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct."

"This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution."

Amendment XIX:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Amendment XX, Section 1:

"The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin."

Section 2:

"The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day."

Section 3:

"If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have

been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified."

Section 4:

"The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them."

Section 5:

"Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article."

Section 6:

"This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission."

Amendment XXI, Section 1:

"The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed."

Section 2:

"The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited."

Section 3:

"This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress."

Amendment XXII, Section 1:

"No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term."

Section 2:

"This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an

amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress."

Amendment XXIII, Section 1:

"The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

"A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment."

Section 2:

"The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Amendment XXIV, Section 1:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax."

Section 2:

"The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Amendment XXV, Section 1:

"In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President."

Section 2:

"Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress."

Section 3:

"Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President."

Section 4:

"Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President

shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

“Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.”

□ 1100

Mr. SCALISE. Amendment XXVI, Section 1:

“The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”

Section 2:

“The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Mr. CLINE. Amendment XXVII:

“No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.”

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the reading of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may revise and extend my remarks and include omitted material in the RECORD during the reading of the Constitution?

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 185, TERMINATING CDC REQUIREMENT FOR PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR FOREIGN TRAVELERS; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 24, DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE LOCAL RESIDENT VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 26, DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE REVISED CRIMINAL CODE ACT OF 2022

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 97 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 97

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be debat-

able for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit (if otherwise in order).

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit (if otherwise in order).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 97 provides for consideration of three measures: H.R. 185, H.J. Res. 24, and H.J. Res. 26.

The rule provides for H.R. 185 to be considered under a structured rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I should point out that in only our second week after organizing, this Republican majority has already tied House Democrats in the number of times a structured rule makes in order more minority amendments than majority amendments. In the 117th Congress, House Democrats only reported one structured rule making in order more Republican amendments than Democratic amendments. Clearly, House Republicans are delivering a more open and transparent legislative process for the American people.

The rule further provides for consideration of two measures, H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 26, under closed rules with 1 hour of debate each equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the

Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their designees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

H.R. 185 would finally end the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's proof of COVID-19 vaccination requirement for foreign travelers entering the United States.

This legislation should receive broad, bipartisan support. After all, it was President Biden in September 2022 who acknowledged that "the pandemic is over."

Life has returned to normal across the country. Yet, despite the world moving on from the pandemic, this administration persists in retaining an unnecessary vaccination requirement for those visiting the United States.

Maintaining this mandate has led to great hardship for many Americans, including those in my own district in western New York. People have been separated from their family, their friends, and loved ones for years. It is time that we acknowledge that these vaccine mandates do not definitively stop the spread of COVID. It is time for Congress to act where this administration refuses and finally end this mandate.

Additionally, the rule before us provides consideration of H.J. Res. 24, a resolution disapproving of the District of Columbia's Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022, a law which would allow noncitizens of the U.S. to vote in D.C.'s local elections.

Citizenship is at the core of our society. It represents an acceptance of duties and privileges, including the right to vote. The oath of allegiance for newly naturalized individuals includes the following: "I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty."

These aren't just words. This is a pledge of loyalty to this country and an assumption of responsibilities as a citizen.

With the enacting of the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act, the District of Columbia has violated the core idea of what it means to be a citizen of this great country.

America is not a geographic expression where the concept of citizenship and sovereignty is meaningless or relative. We are a sovereign nation and a sovereign people. It is Congress' right and responsibility to step in and right a wrong that threatens one of the pillars of our democracy—the right of citizens to vote.

Finally, this rule provides before us the consideration of H.J. Res. 26, disapproving of the District of Columbia's Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

In the past few years, murders, rapes, carjackings, robberies, and theft have skyrocketed here in our Nation's Capital. The District of Columbia's law enforcement remains understaffed and overwhelmed by the soaring rates of

violent crime. Residents have routinely registered this concern, as a recent poll showed 75 percent of D.C. residents sought more police officers and safer streets.

Yet, the D.C. Council, in their infinite wisdom, chose not to heed the concerns of D.C. residents or its many visitors and, instead, approved the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, a bill patterned after the disastrous policies already implemented in Democratic-led cities across this country.

The Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 will drastically reduce sentences for violent offenders and make it easier than ever before for those offenders to obtain early release. To be clear, when I say "violent offenders," I am referring to those convicted of murder, rape, and other seriously horrific crimes.

Additionally, D.C.'s revised criminal code provides a right to a jury trial for a slew of misdemeanors, forcing the court system, already strained, to take on a new workload. Not only does this deprive Americans of their right to a speedy trial, but it will also deny victims resolution and closure against perpetrators of serious offenses as they face an overwhelmed and understaffed justice system.

Democratic leadership in most major cities across this country are trading the safety of Americans for the lawlessness of their pie-in-the-sky policies that, in reality, let violent offenders go, reduce sentences, avoid prosecution, and deny victims justice.

Just downstate from my own district, New York City has seen its crime rate skyrocket by 22 percent since this time last year alone. Arrests linked to shootings and homicides jumped 12 percent in just 1 year.

In Chicago, Illinois, the homicide rate is up a whopping 34 percent from 2019.

In San Francisco, businesses from mom-and-pop shops to national retail chains have closed their doors. They have laid off workers because they can't afford to stay open in a city whose leadership refuses to prosecute basic offenses like theft and shoplifting.

Now, not to be outdone, the District of Columbia has chosen to import these dangerous and disastrous policies.

Just last week, only a mile or so away from this Capitol, a gunman went on a rampage at the Potomac Avenue Metro Station. A Metro employee, 64-year-old Robert Cunningham, was killed, and three people were injured.

This tragic event is just one more in a wave of violent crime that has swept across the District of Columbia in recent years. Yet, the D.C. Council seems unperturbed as it steamrolls ahead with a policy that will only make the District, its residents, and the many visitors to this city, our Nation's Capital, less safe.

Residents of D.C. have the same rights as other Americans to be secure in their homes and to be protected

against crimes committed against their lives, their families, and their property. Putting violent offenders back on the streets and reducing sentences for violent crimes will only endanger the lives of D.C. residents.

It is our duty as Members of Congress, as laid out in the D.C. Home Rule Act, to disapprove of a policy like this that threatens the safety of this city's residents.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for yielding the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, here we are, 6 weeks into a new Congress, and the Republican majority has yet to bring substantive, serious legislation to the floor that does anything to address the serious issues confronting our great Nation.

Instead, we have seen Republican leadership buckle under time and again to the demands of a rightwing minority that seems more interested in stoking controversy and conspiracy theories than crafting actual legislation or governing.

Instead of delivering for the American people, we have seen precious time and taxpayer dollars wasted in power struggles and political stunts, rather than doing the people's business.

True to that pattern, today's rule provides for the consideration of three deeply problematic measures, measures that further the objectives of that extremist minority, measures that stoke division, that undermine government institutions, and that threaten fundamental American freedoms when they don't align with the radical right's ideology.

By caving to these fringe forces, Republican leadership is squandering precious time and taxpayer dollars that would be better spent working together on the issues most Americans want us to address: lowering prices; housing, healthcare, and education needs; making our communities safer; and protecting our planet.

The first two resolutions under consideration today would nullify legislation recently passed by the democratically elected D.C. Council and, in the process, would undermine the fundamental right of citizens of Washington, D.C., to political self-determination.

□ 1245

H.J. Res. 24 would overrule the Local Resident Voting Rights Act, which was recently passed by the D.C. Council.

With this measure, the citizens of D.C. decided to join other municipalities around the country in allowing noncitizen residents to vote in local D.C. elections.

H.J. Res. 26 would nullify the Revised Criminal Code Act, the RCCA, which reformed D.C.'s criminal code. That code has not been comprehensively revised since it was first enacted in 1901.

The American people expect their Members of Congress to prioritize their most pressing kitchen table issues, but instead of focusing on lowering costs or creating better-paying jobs, we are here today to interfere with legislation duly enacted by the citizens of D.C. and their government.

Not only is that not what our constituents sent us to do, it is distinctly antidemocratic to substitute our policy judgment for the local policy judgment of D.C.'s elected officials.

The nearly 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia, a majority of whom are Black and Brown, are worthy and capable of self-government.

Instead of seeking to undo the work of that democratically elected body, we should be holding hearings and considering whether it is finally time to address the issue of D.C. statehood.

As my colleague, Mr. RASKIN, said in the Rules Committee yesterday, if my Republican colleagues insist on acting as a colonial overseer of the District of Columbia, the least they can do is hear from the people of D.C.

Those promoting these resolutions should have called a hearing or at least attempted to engage the D.C. Council and community leaders in some way.

If my colleagues think they have the best interests of the people of D.C. at heart, let's hear from the D.C. residents.

I believe they have made it quite clear they don't appreciate being made a pawn in national political battles.

We owe it to the people of D.C. to enact statehood, not this radical attempt to interfere with the district's Democratic process.

The subject of these disapproval resolutions, the Revised Criminal Code Act and Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act, should be irrelevant.

But just so we are clear, let's look at the legislative history of those two acts that our colleagues across the aisle want to overturn.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, which is a Federal statute, the democratically elected 13-member D.C. Council is required to enact a new law twice, with at least 13 days intervening between each vote, in order to pass legislation.

Legislation passed by the council and affirmed by the Mayor or with a veto override is then transmitted to Congress for a review period.

The legislation takes effect at the expiration of the review period unless Congress intervenes by passing a resolution of disapproval.

Congress has only overturned duly elected D.C. laws three times before the misguided efforts that we are forced to consider today.

Now, the D.C. Council passed the Revised Criminal Code Act by votes of 12-0 and 13-0. While the Mayor vetoed it, the council voted to override that veto by a vote of 12-1.

The Revised Criminal Code Act is the culmination of a 5-year process to revise and update D.C.'s criminal code,

which, as mentioned previously, has not happened since it was first created over a century ago.

Everyone in the D.C. legal system, from prosecutors to judges to defense attorneys to scholars, agrees that this revision is long overdue.

Our colleagues across the aisle object to the revised criminal code that has been crafted with so much care to meet local conditions because they don't like some sentencing provisions that seek to match up the law with current standards.

They posit that harsher penalties would be a greater deterrent to the criminal conduct that they want to target when, in fact, the data shows that harsher penalties in some of the States that they represent does not, in fact, deter that conduct.

So think about this: Republican politicians from Georgia and Kentucky and Texas, who haven't bothered to take the time to hold a hearing or study this issue, have decided to parachute in and dictate to the 700,000 residents of D.C. that they know better than those residents and their elected Representatives how to run their city.

Can you imagine how those politicians would react if the D.C. Council tried to tell them how to run the jails in Athens, Georgia; Lexington, Kentucky; or Buffalo, New York?

What is particularly infuriating is that our Republican colleagues claim that they want to block the D.C. law because they want to be tougher on crime. But, once again, this is empty rhetoric. Overturning the D.C. criminal code will do nothing to increase public safety in D.C. or anywhere else.

As I mentioned at the outset, we are 6 weeks into the new Congress, and the Republican majority has not brought forward any legislation to address crime in America.

They won't consider legislation to block the flood of unregulated guns into American communities, they won't ban the weapons of war that take innocent lives in horrifying and predictably regular mass shootings, and they haven't taken any action to address the societal issues that produce violence.

The second resolution under consideration would vacate the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act, which the D.C. Council passed by votes of 12-1 and 12-0 after holding hearings and soliciting public comment.

This act would allow otherwise qualified D.C. residents who are not U.S. citizens to vote in local D.C. elections.

Qualified noncitizen residents could vote in races for Mayor, council, attorney general, neighborhood commissioners, school district, and local referenda.

Of course, this does not apply to Federal elections. Our colleagues are trying to paint this legislation as some radical new idea, but there is nothing in the U.S. Constitution—which I understand was read here on the floor today, so we could check—that pro-

hibits noncitizens from voting in local, State, or Federal elections.

In fact, there is a long history in the U.S. of noncitizens being allowed to vote in those elections, and they have done so since at least 1704 in what would later become the U.S. At various points, 40 States have permitted noncitizens to vote. Congress only first prohibited noncitizens from voting in Federal elections in 1996.

Currently, there are at least 15 municipalities that permit noncitizens to vote in local elections. They do so in recognition of the fact that noncitizens, who are allowed to vote under such local laws, pay a variety of State, local, and Federal taxes, and they have an inherent interest in helping to shape policies in the communities where they live.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to oppose these profoundly undemocratic and paternalistic resolutions.

Now, today's rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 185, which would terminate the CDC requirement for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers to enter the U.S.

The CDC order was put in place to open the world back up and allow vaccinated foreign travelers to visit the U.S. while keeping our community safe.

Revising or revoking the COVID-19 public health guidance should be at the behest of public health experts with understanding and knowledge of global case trends, up-to-date data, and real-time safety information about emerging infections and COVID-19 epidemiology, not partisan politicians looking to settle political scores or curry favor with the disgraced former President and his base.

This bill would upend our current COVID-19 travel protocol, and worse, tie the hands of our public health experts by prohibiting any future order to require COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of entering the United States.

As I said last week when the majority brought several bills to the floor attacking COVID-19 emergency declarations and vaccines, we shouldn't jeopardize our progress in fighting COVID with political stunts.

This is just the latest bill inspired by anti-vax conspiracy theories that has been rushed to the floor, uninformed by any hearings or any scientific evidence.

It is dangerous to repeatedly mislead the public about the efficacy of these vaccines that are proven to save lives.

This bill increases the risk of spreading new variants, just as hospitals and public health infrastructure are trying to rebuild.

Once again, an extremist fringe is putting politics over science and undermining public health experts at the expense of the American people, and Republican leadership is letting them get away with it.

We need Republican leaders to embrace science and promote the public

good, instead of undermining them to score political points.

I am disappointed that my colleagues continue to waste this body's time and taxpayer dollars on frivolous bills and resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, the resolutions and bill we are considering today do not address the issues we were elected to address for the American people.

We have now been in this Congress for over a month and have yet to take up any serious legislation. I hope my colleagues can work in a bipartisan manner to address the problems our constituents sent us here to solve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As we talk about following the science, I have to ask the question: France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, they don't have a vaccine mandate for their visitors.

Are they following the science?

Are they in great peril?

Back to the matter of public safety. I think it is very important to point out that in letters to the leadership of this great body, the National Fraternal Order of Police, a union representing the men and women of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, they are proudly standing against the wrong-headed policies in the District of Columbia that overrode their Democratic Mayor's veto on this very legislation, as well as the D.C. Police Union itself in a letter to Speaker MCCARTHY doing the same.

Are they wrong? I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), my fellow Rules Committee member.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. He is new to the Rules Committee, and we have really enjoyed having him there so far.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution providing for consideration of three important bills.

H.J. Res. 24 and 26 would repeal two recent actions by the D.C. Council that would have drastic negative consequences nationwide.

The first would give illegal immigrants the right to vote in local elections. By pursuing this effort, D.C. leftists would dilute every lawful vote, which would have profound implications on all of our elections.

The second would further promote the left's soft-on-crime agenda. According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association, cities across the country have experienced increases in homicides by nearly 50 percent and aggravated assaults by over a third.

The so-called Revised Criminal Code Act would only accelerate these crime rates by eliminating mandatory minimums, reduce penalties for violent crimes, and bottle up local courts that

are paid for by the Federal Government—Federal tax dollars from across the country.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act of 1973, Congress retains the ultimate say over affairs within the seat of our Federal Government.

The authority is derived under Article I of the Constitution, which grants Congress the authority over D.C., in "all cases whatsoever."

Congress has voted to overturn various D.C. efforts throughout the years, as recently as 2014. Western Minnesotans know these efforts will not simply remain in Washington. Radical leftists in the Twin Cities are pursuing similar efforts.

Recently, it was claimed at the Minnesota State Capitol that illegal immigrants are voting in droves. Western Minnesotans know that the Twin Cities' liberals will not be outdone by D.C. in promoting soft-on-crime policies.

My constituents know that if we do not take a stand, these radical ideas will continue to spread across the country.

Finally, I appreciate that Representative MASSIE's legislation to repeal the vaccine mandate for air travel is also included in this rule.

We still face issues at the land ports of entry in my district and across the northern border. It is my sincere hope that we also repeal a similar restriction on travel between the U.S. and Canada at land ports of entry in the coming weeks.

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from The Sentencing Project advocacy group, which is signed by over a dozen civil rights organizations opposing the Republican efforts to obstruct the enactment of the District of Columbia's Revised Criminal Code Act.

It states: "Washingtonians know best how to address criminal justice policies in their community and deserve the right to determine their own laws. Local leaders are better positioned and retain more expertise to address safety and justice issues in the District than Congress."

THE SENTENCING PROJECT,

February 6, 2023.

Re Oppose efforts to obstruct the District of Columbia's Revised Criminal Code Act.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Chairman JIM JORDAN,
Judiciary Committee, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Rep. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member JERRY NADLER,
Judiciary Committee, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our opposition to efforts to obstruct the District of Columbia's Revised Criminal Code Act, in-

cluding any resolution of disapproval or budget rider. The Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 (RCCA) is the product of 16 years of research, an expert commission, 51 public meetings, extensive public feedback, and robust negotiation. As such, the D.C. Council voted unanimously to pass the RCCA and the RCCA is supported by 83% of District voters. Opponents of the RCCA, however, are spreading misinformation about the RCCA's impact in a blatant attempt to erode home rule and trample on the rights of District residents. We urge you to oppose these attacks on the RCCA and vote against any resolution of disapproval.

Washingtonians know best how to address criminal justice policies in their community and deserve the right to determine their own laws. Local leaders are better positioned and retain more expertise to address safety and justice issues in the District than Congress. Federal overstepping to interfere with RCCA's implementation, which does not go into effect until 2025, would be inappropriate and misguided. The D.C. Council can continue to amend the RCCA, if desired, to address stakeholder concerns.

The RCCA is a long-overdue modernization of the D.C. Criminal Code. Since the 1960s, dozens of states have embarked on criminal code reforms, removing obsolete provisions, ensuring sentences are proportionate and equitable, and simplifying overlapping charges. The RCCA follows that trend—the District last comprehensively revised the criminal code in 1901. A revision to reflect best practices in sentencing and criminological evidence is necessary to ensure justice, fairness, and safety in the District. By ensuring the statutes are clear and constitutional, the RCCA makes the law easier for police officers, attorneys, and judges to understand and administer.

To arrive at that revision, the District engaged in a thorough, transparent, and evidence-based process. The D.C. Council created a Criminal Code Reform Commission (CCRC) which prepared recommendations based on a review of recent code reforms in other jurisdictions, current sentencing practices in D.C. Superior Court, court data, recommendations by the American Law Institute, social science, and the current sentencing guidelines. The CCRC Advisory Group, whose five voting members included representatives from the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and two professors from Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University Law School, unanimously voted to approve the recommendations. The D.C. Council also made numerous changes to the introduced version of the bill, reflecting negotiations with the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Office of the Attorney General, the Public Defender Service, D.C. Superior Court judges, and members of the community. As Mayor Bowser acknowledged in her January 4, 2023 letter to D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, there is "consensus agreement" on "95% of the bill."

The RCCA is a balanced bill—bringing the District in line with national sentencing norms by lengthening some sentences, reducing some maximums, and other reforms. The RCCA includes many modernizations, such as aligning D.C. with the majority of the country by creating the right to a jury trial for misdemeanors. The RCCA also lengthened sentences for several offenses and permits enhancements and stacking that can make the sentences much longer. The RCCA increases penalties for possession of assault rifles, ghost guns, and restricted explosive

devices, to 4 years from 1 year under current law. It also creates a new offense, endangerment with a firearm, which criminalizes discharging a firearm in a public place, or in a manner that creates a substantial risk of death. Additionally, the RCCA reduced the statutory maximum for certain offenses, in order to improve proportionality and reflect current sentencing practices, which are typically well below the maximum. As such, the sentence maximum changes in the RCCA are not expected to lower sentences for serious crimes. For example, the RCCA's 20-year maximum penalty for robbery is seven times higher than the median sentence imposed for robbery, and 11 years higher than the 97.5th percentile sentence imposed for robbery. For robberies and carjackings, over 97.5% of sentences currently imposed by judges are lower than the maximum allowable penalty outlined in the RCCA.

The people and leaders of the District support the RCCA. The RCCA is also backed by an abundance of research, data, and stakeholder feedback. Attempts by Congress to intervene are rooted in efforts to end home rule and falsehoods. We urge you to respect the will of Washingtonians and oppose all efforts, whether a resolution of disapproval or budget rider, to obstruct the RCCA.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union, American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia, Center for Disability Rights, DC Justice Lab, Drug Policy Alliance, Due Process Institute, FAMM, FWD.us, Justice Policy Institute, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, The Festival Center, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Sentencing Project.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), our esteemed colleague.

□ 1300

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I strongly oppose this rule. This rule would allow the House to consider two resolutions that would nullify two bills recently enacted by the District of Columbia's local legislature, the D.C. Council. These are profoundly undemocratic, paternalistic resolutions.

The House, in which the nearly 700,000 D.C. residents have no voting representation, is attempting to nullify a bill enacted by the D.C. Council, whose members are elected by and accountable to D.C. residents.

What is democracy? The dictionary defines it as a "government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections."

Perhaps President Lincoln described democracy best in the Gettysburg Address as "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The D.C. Council has 13 members. The members are elected by D.C. residents. Eight members are elected by geographical area and five members are elected at-large. If D.C. residents do not like how the members vote, they can vote them out of office.

Congress has 535 Members. The Members are elected by residents of the several States. None are elected by D.C. residents. If D.C. residents do not like how Members vote, even on legislation that applies to the District of Columbia, such as the two disapproval resolutions, they can ask politely for residents of the several States to vote Members out of office.

The Revolutionary War was fought to give consent to the governed and to end taxation without representation. Yet, D.C. residents cannot consent to any action taken by Congress, whether on national or D.C. matters, and pay full Federal taxes. Indeed, D.C. residents pay more Federal taxes per capita than any State and more Federal taxes than 23 States.

Instead of abusing its power by nullifying legislation enacted by the D.C. Council, the House should adhere to democratic principles and pass my D.C. statehood bill, which would give D.C. residents voting representation in Congress and full control over its local affairs.

I will have more to say on these undemocratic, paternalistic resolutions during floor debate on them on Thursday; but I will say to all Members of the House now: Keep your hands off of the District of Columbia.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, as a reminder, the resolutions before us today, they are not about the question of D.C. statehood. These are based on current law and not what we would like the law to look like as it relates to the District of Columbia.

Under the Home Rule Act, Congress has the ability, the responsibility, to provide oversight and review of policies enacted by the D.C. Government.

Let's also remember that the District of Columbia isn't just another town or locality. It is a Federal district. It is our Nation's capital. We have an obligation to protect the residents of this country in our Nation's capital.

The criminal justice revisions, as well as weakening the protections for the elections in the District of Columbia by opening it up to foreign nationals, go and fly directly in the face of that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my fellow Rules Committee member.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

The U.S. should be leading the free world right now but, instead, we are falling behind. Hundreds of countries have a vaccine policy that is more liberal than the United States at the moment.

If you live in Japan, Italy, Spain, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Israel, Germany, France, Australia, South Africa, Egypt, Brazil, Taiwan, Mexico, all of our neighbors to the north and to the south, to the east and to the west have gotten rid of their COVID vaccine mandates to enter their

countries, but we have not. Why is that?

What is our policy right now?

To enter into the United States, if you are a foreigner, you have to have a COVID vaccine. Who can enter right now without a vaccine?

Well, if you are an illegal alien apprehended at the border and awaiting a trial or a hearing, you don't need a vaccine; just come on into the country, we will check it out later.

What if you are somebody who comes in and you have been vaccinated, but you have got a full-blown case of symptomatic COVID? Oh, you are vaccinated? No problem. Come on in. Bring your new variant, whatever it is. We will welcome you.

If you are a healthy tennis player who has not been vaccinated, then stay out of our country. That is the message that we have been sending.

Our policy is at least 2 years out of date. The U.S. Travel Association recognizes this. They said that every day this policy remains in place encourages some travelers to avoid the U.S., costing us valuable visitor spending and delaying our efforts to re-ignite inbound travel.

So our economy is suffering. But that is not really what compelled me to offer this bill. I am concerned about the families who have been separated for 3 years; children who haven't seen their parents; spouses who haven't seen each other, separated for 3 years.

There is no religious exemption in the vaccine mandate policy that the United States has. In fact, there are dictatorships that have better policies than ours right now: Iran, Russia, China, Cuba, Syria; oh, not vaccinated? Not a problem because they recognize at least the science behind it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a structured rule. During the debate, we are going to allow three amendments from the Democrats on my bill, and we are going to allow two Republican amendments. I think that is very kind of us. We didn't see this kind of openness and legislative deliberative process when the other party was in the majority.

Think about this as I close: Today, later in this Chamber, there will be over 1,000 people, sharing the oxygen, the air in this room with the President and the Vice President of the United States, and none of those thousand people that will be in this room have been mandated to take the vaccine.

So when you think about casting your vote on this, just consider for a second: Are you being a hypocrite?

None of your staff and none of the Members of this legislative body, or the Supreme Court, or the Senate who are going to join us here later today with the President, none of them have been mandated to take the vaccine. We shouldn't do the same.

We should not project xenophobia from this country. We should allow visitors; we should reunite families; and we should re-ignite our economy by eliminating this policy.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule.

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

I am afraid we have to dig into the weeds a little bit with Rules Committee process right now.

Earlier, the gentleman from New York said that with this rule, the new majority has tied the number of times that more minority amendments were made in order than majority amendments.

While I am certainly supportive of minority amendments, that sounded wrong, so we asked our staff to check. They haven't had much time while we have been speaking, but they have already found at least two times that the Democratic majority did this in the last Congress, H.R. 302 and H.R. 963. Perhaps our colleagues need to check their facts.

What I do know is that this rule contains the 18th and 19th closed rules of this new Congress. That is already over 30 percent of what we did during the first year of the Democratic majority. So it is more like a return to Republican habits, just like they ran the most-closed Congress in history last time they had control.

I am also astonished to learn that it was the possibility of family separation that inspired our colleagues to introduce H.R. 185, when the issue of family separation due to our outmoded, broken immigration system has not served to inspire any urgency to reform that system.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say we will all have an opportunity to debate this legislation in general debate. I do think it is important to frame the challenges that all of these particular initiatives have.

Frankly, let me, first of all, say that I am disappointed that the Rules Committee did not let a very straightforward amendment which I think expresses the view of many of us to strike the entire text of H.R. 185.

During the pandemic, I organized a bipartisan COVID-19 task force. We worked very hard; included a Republican, a doctor, and other Members. We held meetings with doctors. We held meeting with scientists, hospital administrators. They were very grateful.

Many of you may have heard me say that I did over 70-plus testing sites and over 70-plus vaccination sites, going up to 150 in my community.

It is about the science. People understood the science and they gravitated toward vaccines. That means that any elimination of the requirement of foreign travelers should be on the science, not to be on the whims of individuals who believe that they are helping to unify families. It is about the science.

The reason why we are where we are today, even though there are 500 people getting COVID, and there are people dying every single day, is because more Americans believed in the science than

did not. That is why we developed this protection. So I think this is wrong-headed to have this legislation.

Finally, H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 26, disapproving the actions of the District of Columbia on voting rights and on the criminal code is, again, undermining local rule, and they have the right to local rule.

Constitutionally, everyone should have the right to equal protection under the law in the place where they are.

Washington, D.C., Mr. Speaker, should not have the intrusion of the United States Congress.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) my fellow Rules Committee member.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am glad to have him on the Rules Committee and glad to serve with him.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been asking what have we been doing over the last few weeks?

Well, I will tell you what we have been doing. We have been protecting babies born alive. We have been protecting families from the invasive audits of the Internal Revenue Service, or at least trying to if CHUCK SCHUMER doesn't block it; trying to protect the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from 200 million barrels being dumped by the President heading right into an election, lo and behold.

Now, how about protecting, last week, nurses and doctors from being fired for daring to want to protect their own health and well-being by not taking a shot, a shot which the CDC Director says does nothing for transmission of COVID. Those are the facts.

We are standing with the American people. American people are sick and tired of an overbearing Federal Government sticking its nose where it doesn't belong into the well-being, into the health, into the jobs, into the lives of the American people. That is the truth.

Now, what are we trying to do? Today, we want to protect individuals from being punished if they want to try to come to the United States but haven't had a vaccine; again, a vaccine which the CDC Director says does nothing for transmission. Those are the truths.

Here is the fact: Right now, a vaccinated noncitizen with COVID can enter the United States, via air travel, but an unvaccinated noncitizen who doesn't have COVID would be denied entry. That is the logic of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle; that is, there is no logic. That is the problem.

Everything about COVID has been free of logic and, rather, full of emotion. That is the truth.

We have been destroying the American economy. We have been destroying the future of our children; forcing them into the corners with masks; forcing them to be denied education. We have been destroying the futures of families

whose family members have lost jobs; who haven't been able to serve; who haven't been able to carry out their livelihoods as doctors, as nurses, as public servants who have been unable to carry out their jobs, including men and women in uniform, until Republicans demanded, in December, that we protect our men and women in uniform from getting fired for daring to say I don't want to have a needle stuck in my arm when there is plenty of evidence indicating myocarditis and other concerns that arise from it.

I wonder why we haven't had any committee hearings by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle diving into the origins of COVID, diving into the side effects of the vaccine?

Well, we are going to do it now, and history is going to judge us, and we are going to be on the side of protecting the American people.

I will tell you one last thing: This is the capital city of the United States of America, and Congress has the authority to protect the people who want to visit here and to make sure that American citizens are the ones who vote. It is not a State. It is our Nation's Capital seat.

□ 1315

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to ensure that H.R. 185 does not take effect unless it is certified that it won't decrease Social Security benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is the bedrock of our Nation's social safety net. Since its inception, it has lifted millions of our seniors out of poverty. Protecting the benefits that Social Security provides should be a priority for this Congress, for everyone in this Congress, as my Republican colleagues demand reckless cuts in exchange for paying our Nation's bills.

Democrats are going to continue to push to ensure that these vital benefits are protected and will continue to give Republicans every opportunity to ease the American people's anxiety by demonstrating with their votes, including on this measure, that they do not intend to cut Social Security.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, my dad died 5 years ago. I think one of the most precious moments I remember with him as a child is going with him to vote back in the late 1960s, early 1970s, when the polling stations had the

boxes you would go in and the curtains would close and you would go in and pull a lever.

My dad wanted to make sure that we all knew, me and my three brothers, just how important voting was. It is not only our right; it is our responsibility as U.S. citizens.

Today, I rise in support of the rule, House Resolution 24. Free, fair, and trusted elections are the most sacred and the most essential part of our democracy for a healthy republic.

Unfortunately, the D.C. Council has tried to undermine the voice of American citizens who vote in D.C. by granting illegal aliens the right to vote. This is wrong. We know it is wrong. It jeopardizes the sanctity of our elections. Law-abiding U.S. citizens should not be disenfranchised by noncitizens voting.

Preserving the integrity of our elections could not be more important. We must trust the vote. We must protect the vote. We must ensure the highest level of confidence for all Americans.

If the D.C. Council allows illegal voters to exercise the right to vote, this would have massive affects across our Nation.

Where would it end?

Our Constitution has set forth the founding law which determines voting rights, and it could not be more clear. The 26th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says: "The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age."

The Constitution is clear, Mr. Speaker. The right to vote is a privilege reserved for U.S. citizens, not illegal aliens.

Let me continue to section 2: "The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." That is what we are here today to do, with appropriate legislation, this resolution.

The right to vote is one of the most sacred rights we have. It is a bedrock of our society. It is a fundamental part of what we are as a Nation. We cannot throw this right away to the D.C. Council. We will not let it happen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution and join my colleagues to take a stand to protect the integrity of our elections, the right of every U.S. citizen, including my late father.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 26 are blatant attempts to undermine D.C. Home Rule. These resolutions are explicit efforts by Members of Congress to interfere in local government. They aim to directly override the D.C. Council and dictate what D.C. residents can and cannot do on a local level.

I firmly believe that the District of Columbia, like any other jurisdiction across the country, should be allowed to govern itself. I am just confused

that my Republican friends, who have such a deep commitment to federalism—federalism, where decisions are best made at the local level—why they would work to impede the right of 700,000 American citizens to self-govern?

It is critical that we fiercely protect this right on behalf of citizens living in D.C. We weren't voted to be D.C. City Council members. D.C. citizens didn't ask for our say in local matters. I trust my mayor of the city of Alexandria, Justin Wilson, to represent me ably there, and everyone else respects the people in their hometown, their home States, to do the same.

I am certainly not here offering to overturn local city council rulemaking in Kentucky or Georgia or Texas, but I am sure I could find plenty to disagree with.

We have got to respect the American democratic process and allow the people of D.C. to govern themselves. If we, as a Congress, value and respect the principle of local self-governance that makes up the core of our democracy, it is hypocritical of us to revoke that right for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to strongly join me in opposing H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 26.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, let's just sort this out in our minds for a minute here.

Giving the privilege that our soldiers have fought for, the very cornerstone privilege of voting in this country, to people that have broken into this country and are here in this city illegally, granting them the right to vote, the people all across the fruited plain have got to believe that they are out of their minds here to extend that privilege to people whose first act was to break into this country. Now, they want to confer the privilege of voting and deciding who the decisionmakers in Washington, D.C., are going to be for them. It is absurd.

Now, there are a lot of things going on with D.C. politics and demands for the area here. I understand, on some level, part of it. But D.C. is about one-eighteenth the size of Rhode Island. Its population is only a little bit larger than Fresno, California, one of the towns in my home State.

They are demanding statehood?

It is right in the Constitution that the District of Columbia will be kept separate from any State, so it doesn't have undue influence by a State in conducting the business of the city and of the district and of the Federal Government housed here.

It just shows that Congress, having been authorized and given the duties of overseeing the district, needs to reassert itself once again, because the council here is out of control, thinking that that is a good idea, with some of the crime legislation that is being

talked about. But the right to vote being conferred upon people whose very first act was to break into this country, people are really wondering if this place has lost its collective mind.

I support this legislation to put D.C. back on the right path, the right foot, of following the law. It would undermine elections all across this country to have the idea of illegal immigrants voting in this city or other ones around the country.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, these measures today do nothing to address the important issues facing American families. These resolutions are misguided and unserious at best and deeply undemocratic at their core. House Republicans continue to waste precious time and taxpayer dollars on power struggles and political stunts.

Republican leadership's acquiescence to the fringe forces in their party is a disservice to the American public. With all of the challenges this Congress should contend with, an extremist overreach to nullify democratically passed legislation and rolling back life-saving COVID protections is a waste of precious time and resources.

My Democratic colleagues and I are here to work on behalf of the American people and are ready to do the serious work of delivering for them, fighting for better jobs and safer communities. We will oppose extremist attempts to stoke division, to undermine government institutions, and to threaten fundamental American freedoms.

I invite my colleagues to work across the aisle, to work together on the issues that matter to all of our constituents: lowering prices; addressing housing, healthcare, and education needs; making our communities safer; and protecting our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, if individuals would like the power to vote in our elections, they must go through the legal process to become U.S. citizens, like the millions before them did.

Ask yourself: Should we be extending the right to vote, no matter at any level, to the CCP members who work at the Chinese Embassy?

Should we extend the right to vote in elections in this country to members of the Russian Federation staff at their embassy?

That would happen under the D.C. voting rights legislation.

If individuals attack, kill, steal, and destroy property, they should be punished for those offenses, not let off the hook. These are basic tenets of our society, of our democracy, and of this great Nation.

The District of Columbia is the seat of the Federal Government, and as

such has a special place in American society. Congress has a clear responsibility under the Home Rule Act to block policies that jeopardize the democratic rights and the lives of American citizens.

We have an opportunity today not just to provide much-needed oversight to D.C.'s disastrous policies but to also finally end a draconian vaccine mandate that has kept families and friends apart.

Let's remember that around the world, other countries have ended their own COVID-19 vaccine mandates for air travelers. Europe, Canada, and elsewhere no longer require Americans to arrive with a proof of vaccination.

Why has the administration persisted in upholding this mandate?

With the proof about the vaccine's true efficacy and limitation in preventing the spread of COVID, why have they so obsessively upheld this mandate or any of the others, for that matter?

The time has come for Congress to step in and to remind the administration that the pandemic is over and allow families and friends and loved ones to reunite after years of forced separation.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 97

Strike the first section after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and the amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for further amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in section 4 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and re-

port the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

Insert at the end the following:

SEC. 4. The amendment referred to in the first section of this resolution is as follows:

“At the end, add the following:

“This Act shall not be effective unless and until the date on which the Director of the Congressional Budget Office certifies that this Act will not result in a decrease to Social Security benefits.”.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 208, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]

YEAS—217

Alford	Duarte	Huizenga
Allen	Duncan	Issa
Amodei	Dunn (FL)	Jackson (TX)
Armstrong	Edwards	James
Babin	Ellzey	Johnson (LA)
Bacon	Emmer	Johnson (OH)
Baird	Estes	Johnson (SD)
Balderson	Ezell	Jordan
Banks	Fallon	Joyce (OH)
Barr	Feenstra	Joyce (PA)
Bean (FL)	Ferguson	Kean (NJ)
Bentz	Finstad	Kelly (MS)
Bergman	Fischbach	Kelly (PA)
Bice	Fitzgerald	Kiggans (VA)
Biggs	Fitzpatrick	Kiley
Bilirakis	Fleischmann	Kim (CA)
Bishop (NC)	Flood	Kustoff
Boebert	Foxx	LaHood
Bost	Franklin, C.	LaLota
Brecheen	Scott	LaMalfa
Buchanan	Fry	Lamborn
Buck	Fulcher	Langworthy
Buchson	Gaetz	Latta
Burchett	Gallagher	LaTurner
Burgess	Garbarino	Lawler
Burlison	Garcia, Mike	Lee (FL)
Calvert	Gimenez	Lesko
Cammack	Gonzales, Tony	Letlow
Carey	Good (VA)	Loudermilk
Carl	Gooden (TX)	Lucas
Carter (GA)	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Carter (TX)	Granger	Luna
Chavez-DeRemer	Graves (LA)	Luttrell
Ciscomani	Graves (MO)	Mace
Cline	Green (TN)	Malliotakis
Cloud	Green, Al (TX)	Mann
Clyde	Greene (GA)	Massie
Cole	Griffith	Mast
Collins	Grothman	McCarthy
Comer	Guest	McCaul
Crane	Guthrie	McClain
Crawford	Hageman	McClintock
Crenshaw	Harris	McCormick
Curtis	Harshbarger	McHenry
D'Esposito	Hern	Meuser
Davidson	Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)
De La Cruz	Hill	Miller (OH)
DesJarlais	Hinson	Miller (WV)
Diaz-Balart	Houchin	Miller-Meeks
Donalds	Hudson	Mills

Molinaro	Rosendale	Thompson (PA)
Moolenaar	Rouzer	Tiffany
Mooney	Roy	Timmons
Moore (AL)	Rutherford	Turner
Moore (UT)	Salazar	Valadao
Moran	Santos	Van Drew
Murphy	Scalise	Van Duyn
Newhouse	Schweikert	Van Orden
Norman	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Nunn (IA)	Self	Walberg
Obernolte	Sessions	Waltz
Ogles	Simpson	Weber (TX)
Owens	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Palmer	Smith (NE)	Wenstrup
Pence	Smith (NJ)	Westerman
Perry	Smucker	Williams (NY)
Pfleger	Stauber	Williams (TX)
Posey	Steel	Wilson (SC)
Reschenthaler	Stefanik	Wittman
Rodgers (WA)	Stell	Womack
Rogers (AL)	Stewart	Yakym
Rogers (KY)	Strong	Zinke
Rose	Tenney	

NAYS—208

Adams	Garcia, Robert	Pascrell
Aguilar	Golden (ME)	Payne
Allred	Goldman (NY)	Pelosi
Auchincloss	Gomez	Peltola
Balint	Gonzalez,	Perez
Barragan	Vicente	Peters
Beatty	Gottheimer	Petterson
Bera	Grijalva	Phillips
Beyer	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Hayes	Pocan
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Porter
Blunt Rochester	Himes	Pressley
Bonamici	Horsford	Quigley
Bowman	Houlahan	Ramirez
Boyle (PA)	Hoyer	Raskin
Brown	Hoyle (OR)	Ross
Brownley	Huffman	Ruiz
Budzinski	Ivey	Ruppersberger
Bush	Jackson (IL)	Ryan
Caraveo	Jackson (NC)	Salinas
Carbajal	Jackson Lee	Sanchez
Cárdenas	Jacobs	Sarbanes
Carson	Jayapal	Scanlon
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Schakowsky
Cartwright	Kamlager-Dove	Schiff
Casar	Kaptur	Schneider
Case	Keating	Scholten
Casten	Kelly (IL)	Schrier
Castor (FL)	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Castro (TX)	Kildee	Scott, David
Cherfilus-	Kilmer	Sewell
McCormick	Kim (NJ)	Sherman
Chu	Krishnamoorthi	Sherrill
Cicilline	Kuster	Slotkin
Clark (MA)	Landsman	Smith (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sorensen
Cleaver	Lee (CA)	Soto
Clyburn	Lee (NV)	Spanberger
Cohen	Lee (PA)	Stansbury
Connolly	Leger Fernandez	Stanton
Correa	Levin	Stevens
Costa	Lieu	Strickland
Courtney	Lofgren	Swalwell
Craig	Lynch	Sykes
Crockett	Magaziner	Takano
Crow	Manning	Thanedar
Cuellar	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Davids (KS)	McBath	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	McColum	Titus
Davis (NC)	McGarvey	Tlaib
Dean (PA)	McGovern	Tokuda
DeGette	Meeks	Tonko
DeLauro	Menendez	Torres (CA)
DelBene	Meng	Torres (NY)
Deluzio	Moore (WI)	Trahan
DeSaulnier	Morelle	Trone
Dingell	Moskowitz	Underwood
Doggett	Moulton	Vargas
Escobar	Mrvan	Vasquez
Eshoo	Mullin	Veasey
Espallat	Nadler	Velázquez
Evans	Napolitano	Wasserman
Fletcher	Neal	Schultz
Foster	Neguse	Waters
Foushee	Nickel	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Norcross	Wexton
Frost	Ocasio-Cortez	Wild
Galleo	Omar	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Panetta	
Garcia (TX)	Pappas	

NOT VOTING—9

Aderholt	Johnson (GA)	Nehls
Arrington	Larson (CT)	Spartz
Hunt	Mfume	Steube

□ 1352

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PORTER, Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, EVANS, MCGOVERN, and Ms. STANSBURY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. COLE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 208, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 109]

AYES—217

Alford	Ezell	Kiley
Allen	Fallon	Kim (CA)
Amodei	Feenstra	Kustoff
Armstrong	Ferguson	LaHood
Babin	Finstad	LaLota
Bacon	Fischbach	LaMalfa
Baird	Fitzgerald	Lamborn
Balderson	Fitzpatrick	Langworthy
Banks	Fleischmann	Latta
Barr	Flood	LaTurner
Bean (FL)	Foxx	Lawler
Bentz	Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)
Bergman	Scott	Lesko
Bice	Fry	Letlow
Biggs	Fulcher	Loudermilk
Billakis	Gaetz	Lucas
Bishop (NC)	Gallagher	Luetkemeyer
Boebert	Garbarino	Luna
Bost	Garcia, Mike	Luttrell
Brecheen	Gimenez	Mace
Buchanan	Golden (ME)	Malliotakis
Buck	Gonzales, Tony	Mann
Bucshon	Good (VA)	Massie
Burchett	Gooden (TX)	Mast
Burgess	Gosar	McCarthy
Burlison	Granger	McCauley
Calvert	Graves (LA)	McClain
Cammack	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Carey	Green (TN)	McCormick
Carl	Greene (GA)	McHenry
Carter (GA)	Griffith	Meuser
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Miller (IL)
Chavez-DeRemer	Guest	Miller (OH)
Ciscomani	Guthrie	Miller (WV)
Cline	Hageman	Miller-Meeks
Cloud	Harris	Mills
Clyde	Harshbarger	Molinaro
Cole	Hern	Moolenaar
Collins	Higgins (LA)	Mooney
Comer	Hill	Moore (AL)
Crane	Hinson	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Houchin	Moran
Crenshaw	Hudson	Murphy
Curtis	Huizenga	Nehls
D'Esposito	Issa	Newhouse
Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Norman
De La Cruz	James	Nunn (IA)
DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)	Oberholte
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Ogles
Donalds	Johnson (SD)	Owens
Duarte	Jordan	Palmer
Duncan	Joyce (OH)	Pence
Dunn (FL)	Joyce (PA)	Perry
Edwards	Kean (NJ)	Pfleger
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Posey
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Reschenthaler
Estes	Kiggins (VA)	Rodgers (WA)

Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Van Orden
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NJ)	Wagner
Rose	Smucker	Walberg
Rosendale	Staubert	Waltz
Rouzer	Steel	Weber (TX)
Roy	Stefanik	Webster (FL)
Rutherford	Steil	Wenstrup
Salazar	Stewart	Westerman
Santos	Strong	Williams (NY)
Scalise	Tenney	Williams (TX)
Schweikert	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Scott, Austin	Tiffany	Wittman
Self	Turner	Womack
Sessions	Valadao	Yakym
Simpson	Van Drew	Zinke
Smith (MO)	Van Duyn	

NOES—208

Adams	Garcia, Robert	Pascarell
Aguilar	Goldman (NY)	Payne
Allred	Gomez	Pelosi
Auchincloss	Gonzalez,	Peltola
Balint	Vicente	Perez
Barragan	Gottheimer	Peters
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)	Pettersen
Bera	Grijalva	Phillips
Beyer	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Hayes	Pocan
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Porter
Blunt Rochester	Himes	Pressley
Bonamici	Horsford	Quigley
Bowman	Houlahan	Ramirez
Boyle (PA)	Hoyer	Raskin
Brown	Hoyle (OR)	Ross
Brownley	Huffman	Ruiz
Buddzinski	Ivey	Ruppersberger
Bush	Jackson (IL)	Ryan
Caraveo	Jackson (NC)	Salinas
Carbajal	Jackson Lee	Sanchez
Cardenas	Jacobs	Sarbanes
Carson	Jayapal	Scanlon
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Schakowsky
Cartwright	Kamlager-Dove	Schiff
Casas	Kaptur	Schneider
Case	Keating	Scholten
Casten	Kelly (IL)	Schrier
Castor (FL)	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Castro (TX)	Kildee	Scott, David
Cheriflus-	Kilmer	Sewell
McCormick	Kim (NJ)	Sherman
Chu	Krishnamoorthi	Sherrill
Cicilline	Kuster	Slotkin
Clark (MA)	Landsman	Smith (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sorensen
Cleaver	Lee (CA)	Soto
Clyburn	Lee (NV)	Spanberger
Cohen	Lee (PA)	Stansbury
Connolly	Leger Fernandez	Stanton
Correa	Levin	Stevens
Costa	Lieu	Strickland
Courtney	Lofgren	Swalwell
Craig	Lynch	Sykes
Crockett	Magaziner	Takano
Crow	Manning	Thanedar
Cuellar	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Davids (KS)	McBath	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	McCollum	Titus
Davis (NC)	McGarvey	Tlaib
Dean (PA)	McGovern	Tokuda
DeGette	Meeks	Tonko
DeLauro	Menendez	Torres (CA)
DelBene	Meng	Torres (NY)
Deluzio	Moore (WI)	Trahan
DeSaulnier	Morelle	Trone
Dingell	Moskowitz	Underwood
Doggett	Moulton	Vargas
Escobar	Mrvan	Vasquez
Eshoo	Mullin	Veasey
Espallat	Nadler	Velazquez
Evans	Napolitano	Wasserman
Fletcher	Neal	Schultz
Foster	Neguse	Waters
Foushee	Nickel	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Norcross	Wexton
Frost	Ocasio-Cortez	Wild
Gallego	Omar	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Panetta	
Garcia (TX)	Pappas	

NOT VOTING—9

Aderholt	Johnson (GA)	Spartz
Arrington	Larson (CT)	Steube
Hunt	Mfume	Timmons

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1401

Mrs. PELTOLA changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2033

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right

of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON);

The gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER);

The gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE); and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST); and

The Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Rep-

resentatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m., the Acting Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor to present to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker. Thank you. You can smile, it is okay.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, our First Lady and Second Gentleman, good to see you guys up there, Members of Congress.

By the way, Chief Justice, I may need a Court order. She gets to go to the game next week. I have to stay home. I have got to work something out here.

Members of the Cabinet, leaders of our military, Chief Justice, Associate Justices and retired Justices of the Supreme Court, and to you, my fellow Americans, I start tonight by congratulating the 118th Congress and the new Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to ruin your reputation, but I look forward to working with you.

I want to congratulate the new leader of the House Democrats, the first African-American minority leader in history, HAKEEM JEFFRIES. He won in spite of the fact that I campaigned for him.

Congratulations to the longest serving leader in the history of the United States Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL. Where are you, Mitch?

Congratulations to CHUCK SCHUMER on another term as Senate minority leader—only this time you have a slightly bigger majority, Mr. Leader. You are the majority leader. About that much bigger.

Well, I tell you what. I want to give special recognition to someone who I think is going to be considered the greatest Speaker in the history of the House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI.

Folks, the story of America is a story of progress and resilience, of always moving forward, of never ever giving up. It is a story that is unique among all nations. We are the only country that has emerged from every crisis we have ever entered stronger than we got into it.

Look, folks, that is what we are doing again. Two years ago, the economy was reeling. I stand here tonight after we have created, with the help of many people in this room, 12 million new jobs, more jobs created in 2 years than any President has created in 4 years because of you all, because of the American people.

Two years ago, COVID had shut down—our businesses were closed. Our schools were robbed of so much. Today, COVID no longer controls our lives.

And 2 years ago, democracy faced its greatest threat since the Civil War, and today, though bruised, our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken.

As we gather here tonight, we are writing the next chapter in the great American story, a story of progress and resilience. When world leaders ask me to define America—and they do, believe it or not—I say that I can define it in one word, and I mean this: possibilities. We don't think anything is beyond our capacity. Everything is a possibility.

You know, we are often told that Democrats and Republicans can't work together, but over the past 2 years, we have proved the cynics and the naysayers wrong. Yes, we disagreed plenty. Yes, there were times when Democrats went alone. But time and again, Democrats and Republicans came together, came together to defend a stronger and safer Europe, came together to pass a once-in-a-generation infrastructure law, building bridges connecting our Nation and our people.

We came together to pass one of the most significant laws ever, helping veterans exposed to toxic burn pits. It was important.

In fact, I signed over 300 bipartisan pieces of legislation since becoming President, from reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, to the Electoral Count Reform Act, to the Respect for Marriage Act that protects the right to marry the person you love.

To my Republican friends, if we could work together in the last Congress, there is no reason we can't work together and find consensus on important things in this Congress, as well.

Folks, you all are as informed as I am, but I think the people sent us a clear message. Fighting for the sake of fighting, power for the sake of power, conflict for the sake of conflict gets us nowhere.

That has always been my vision of our country, and I know it is many of yours: to restore the soul of this Nation; to rebuild the backbone of America, America's middle class; to unite the country.

We have been sent here to finish the job, in my view.

For decades, the middle class has been hollowed out, and not under one administration but for a long time.

Too many good-paying manufacturing jobs moved overseas. Factories closed down. Once thriving cities and towns that many of you represent became shadows of what they used to be. And along the way, something else was lost: pride, our sense of self-worth.

I ran for President to fundamentally change things, to make sure our economy works for everyone so we can all feel that pride in what we do, to build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, not from the top down, because when the middle class does well, the poor have a ladder up, and the wealthy still do very well. We all do well.

I know a lot of you kid me for always quoting my dad, but my dad used to say, "Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck." He really would say this. It is about a lot more than a paycheck. It is about your dignity. It is about respect. It is about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, "Honey, it is going to be okay," and mean it.

Well, folks, let's look at the results. We are not finished yet, by any stretch of the imagination. The unemployment rate is at 3.4 percent, a 50-year low, with near record unemployment for Black and Hispanic workers.

We have already created, with your help, 800,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs, the fastest growth in 40 years.

Where is it written that America can't lead the world in manufacturing again? I don't know where that is written.

For too many decades, we imported products and exported jobs. Now, thanks to what you have all done, we are exporting American products and creating American jobs.

Folks, inflation has been a global problem because the pandemic disrupted our supply chains, and Putin's unfair and brutal war in Ukraine disrupted energy supplies, as well as food supplies, blocking all that grain in Ukraine.

But we are better positioned than any country on Earth right now. We have more to do, but here at home, inflation is coming down. Here at home, gas prices are down \$1.50 from their peak. Food inflation is coming down—not fast enough, but coming down.

Inflation has fallen every month for the last 6 months while take-home pay has gone up.

Additionally, over the last 2 years, a record 10 million Americans applied to start new businesses—10 million. And by the way, every time someone starts a small business, it is an act of hope.

Madam Vice President, I want to thank you for leading that effort to ensure that small businesses have access to capital and the historic laws we enacted that are going to just come into being.

Standing here last year, I shared with you a story of American genius

and possibilities. Semiconductors, the small computer chips the size of a fingertip that power everything from cell phones to automobiles and so much more, these chips were invented in America. Let's get that straight. They were invented in America.

We used to make 40 percent of the world's chips. In the last several decades, we lost our edge, and we are down to producing only 10 percent. We all saw what happened during the pandemic when chip factories shut down overseas.

Today's automobiles need 3,000 chips each for those automobiles. But American automakers couldn't make enough cars because there weren't enough chips. Car prices went up—people got laid off—so did everything from refrigerators to cell phones. We can never let that happen again.

That is why we came together to pass the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act.

Folks, I know I have been criticized for saying this, but I am not changing my view. We are going to make sure the supply chain for America begins in America.

The supply chain begins in America. We have already created it. We have already created it. 800,000 new manufacturing jobs without this law, before the law kicks in.

With this new law, we are going to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs across the country. I mean, all across the country, throughout not just the coasts but through the middle of the country, as well.

That is going to come from companies that have announced more than \$300 billion in investments in American manufacturing in the last few years.

Outside of Columbus, Ohio, Intel is building a semiconductor factory on a thousand acres—literally a field of dreams.

It is going to create 10,000 jobs, that one investment; 7,000 construction jobs, 3,000 jobs in those factories once they are finished. They call them factories.

Jobs paying an average of \$130,000 a year, and many do not require a college degree. Because we worked together, these jobs are where people don't have to leave home to search for opportunity. And it is just getting started.

Think about the new homes, the small businesses, the big and the medium-size businesses; so much more that is going to be needed to support those 3,000 permanent jobs and the factories that are going to be built.

Talk to mayors and governors, Democrats and Republicans, and they will tell you what this means for their communities.

We are seeing these fields of dreams transform the heartland.

But to maintain the strongest economy in the world, we need the best infrastructure in the world.

Folks, as you all know, we used to be number one in the world in infrastructure. We have sunk to 13th in the world. The United States of America,

13th in the world in infrastructure, modern infrastructure.

But now we are coming back because we came together and passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the largest investment in infrastructure since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway System.

Folks, already we have funded over 20,000 projects, including major airports from Boston to Atlanta to Portland; projects that are going to put thousands of people to work rebuilding our highways, our bridges, our railroads, our tunnels, ports, airports, clean water, high-speed internet all across America—urban, rural, Tribal. Folks, we are just getting started. We are just getting started.

I mean this sincerely. I want to thank my Republican friends who voted for the law and my Republican friends who voted against it as well, but I still get asked to fund the projects in those districts, as well.

But don't worry. I promised I would be a President for all Americans. We will fund these projects, and I will see you at the groundbreaking.

Look, this law will further unite all of America.

Projects like the Brent Spence Bridge in Kentucky over the Ohio River. Built 60 years ago, badly needed repairs, one of the Nation's most congested freight routes, carrying \$2 billion worth of freight every single day across the Ohio River.

Folks, we have been talking about fixing it for decades, but we are really finally going to get it done. I went there last month with Democrats and Republicans from both States to deliver a commitment of \$1.6 billion for this project.

While I was there, I met a young woman named Saria who is here tonight. I don't know where Saria is. Is she up in the box? I don't know. Saria, how are you?

Well, Saria, for 30 years, I learned—she told me she had been a proud member of the Ironworkers Local 44, known as the "cowboys of the sky," the folks who built the Cincinnati skyline.

Saria said she can't wait to be 10 stories above the Ohio River building that new bridge. God bless her. That is pride. That is what we are also building. We are building back pride.

Look, we are also replacing poisonous lead pipes that go into 10 million homes in America, 400,000 schools and childcare centers, so every child in America, every child in America can drink the water instead of having permanent damage to their brain.

Look, we are making sure that every community, every community in America, has access to affordable high-speed internet.

No parent should have to drive by a McDonald's parking lot to help do homework online with their kids, which many thousands were doing across the country.

When we do these projects—and, again, I get criticized for this, but I

make no excuses for it—we are going to buy American. We are going to buy American.

Folks, it is totally consistent with international trade rules. Buy American has been the law of the land since 1933. But for too long, past administrations, Democrat and Republican, have fought to get around it. Not anymore.

Tonight, I am announcing new standards to require all construction materials used in Federal infrastructure projects to be made in America. Made in America. I mean it. Lumber, glass, drywall, fiber-optic cable.

On my watch, American roads, American bridges, and American highways are going to be made with American products, as well.

Folks, my economic plan is about investing in places and people that have been forgotten. So many of you listening to me tonight, I know you feel it.

So many of you felt like you have just simply been forgotten. Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades, too many people have been left behind and treated like they are invisible. Maybe that is you, watching from home.

Remember the jobs that went away?

You remember them, don't you? The folks at home remember them.

You wonder whether the path even exists anymore for your children to get ahead without having to move away. I get that.

That is why we are building an economy where no one's left behind. Jobs are coming back. Pride is coming back because of choices we made in the last several years.

This is my view of the blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America and make a real difference in your lives at home.

For example, too many of you lay in bed at night, like my dad did, staring at the ceiling, wondering what in God's name happens if your spouse gets cancer or your child gets deathly ill or something happens to you.

Do you have the money to pay for those medical bills, or are you going to have to sell the house or try to get a second mortgage on it?

I get it. I get it.

With the Inflation Reduction Act that I signed into law, we are taking on powerful interests to bring healthcare costs down so you can sleep better at night with more security.

You know, we pay more for prescription drugs than any Nation in the world. Let me say it again: We pay more for prescription drugs than any major Nation on Earth.

For example, 1 in 10 Americans has diabetes. Many of you in this Chamber do, and in the audience. But every day, millions need insulin to control their diabetes so they can literally stay alive.

Insulin has been around for over 100 years. The guy who invented it didn't even patent it because he wanted it to be available for everyone.

It costs the drug companies roughly \$10 a vial to make that insulin. Packaging and all, you may get up to \$13.

But, Big Pharma has been unfairly charging people hundreds of dollars, \$400 to \$500 a month, making record profits.

Not anymore. Not anymore.

So many things that we did are only now coming to fruition. We said we were doing this, and we passed a law to do it, but people didn't know because the law didn't take effect until January 1 of this year.

We capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for seniors on Medicare, but people are just finding out. I am sure you are getting the same calls I am getting.

Look, there are millions of other Americans who are not on Medicare, including 200,000 young people with type 1 diabetes who need this insulin to stay alive.

Let's finish the job this time. Let's cap the cost of insulin for everybody at \$35.

Folks, Big Pharma is still going to do very well, I promise y'all. I promise you they are going to do very well.

This law also caps, and won't even go into effect until 2025, the cost of out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors on Medicare at a maximum of \$2,000 a year. You don't have to pay more than \$2,000 a year, no matter how much your drug costs are. Because you know why? You all know it.

Many of you, like many in my family, have cancer. You know the drugs can range from \$10-, \$11-, \$14-, \$15,000 for the cancer drugs. If drug prices rise faster than inflation, drug companies are going to have to pay Medicare back the difference.

We are finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices. Bringing down prescription drugs costs doesn't just save seniors money. It cuts the Federal deficit by billions of dollars, by hundreds of billions of dollars because these prescription drugs are drugs purchased by Medicare to keep their commitment to the seniors.

Well, guess what? Instead of paying \$400 or \$500 bucks a month, you are paying \$15. That is a lot of savings for the Federal Government.

By the way, why wouldn't we want that?

Now, some Members here are threatening—and I know it is not an official party position, so I am not going to exaggerate—but threatening to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. As my coach—that is okay. That is fair.

As my football coach used to say, lots of luck in your senior year.

Make no mistake, if you try anything to raise the cost of prescription drugs, I will veto it.

Look, I am pleased to say that more Americans have health insurance now than ever in history. A record 16 million people are enrolled in the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to the law I signed last year, millions are saving \$800 a year on their premiums.

By the way, that law was written, and the benefit expires in 2025. So my plea to some of you, at least, in this

audience, let's finish the job and make these savings permanent. Expand coverage on Medicaid.

Look, the Inflation Reduction Act is also the most significant investment ever in climate change; ever; lowering utility bills, creating American jobs, leading the world to a clean energy future.

I have visited the devastating aftermath of record floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires from Arizona, New Mexico and all the way up to the Canadian border. More timber has been burned that I have observed from helicopters than the entire State of Missouri, and we don't have global warming? Not a problem.

In addition to emergency recovery from Puerto Rico to Florida to Idaho we are rebuilding for the long term; new electric grids that are able to weather major storms and prevent those forest fires; roads and water systems to withstand the next big flood; clean energy to cut pollution and create jobs in communities often left behind.

We are going to build 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations installed across the country by tens of thousands of IBEW workers. And we are helping families save more than \$1,000 a year with tax credits to purchase electric vehicles and energy-efficient appliances; historic conservation efforts to be responsible stewards of our land.

Let's face reality. The climate crisis doesn't care if you are in a red or blue State. It is an existential threat.

We have an obligation, not to ourselves, but to our children and grandchildren to confront it. I am proud of how America, at last, is stepping up to the challenge.

We are still going to need oil and gas for a while, but guess what—no, we do. But there is so much more to do. We have got to finish the job.

We pay for these investments in our future by finally making the wealthiest and biggest corporations begin to pay their fair share. Just begin.

Look, I am a capitalist. I am a capitalist, so pay your fair share. I think a lot of you at home, a lot of you at home agree with me, and many people that you know, the tax system is not fair. It is not fair.

Look, the idea that in 2020, 55 of the largest corporations in America, the Fortune 500, made \$40 billion in profits and paid zero in Federal taxes? Zero? Folks, it is simply not fair.

But now, because of the law I signed, billion-dollar companies have to pay a minimum of 15 percent. God love them, 15 percent. That is less than a nurse pays.

Let me be crystal clear. I said at the very beginning, under my plans, as long as I am President, nobody earning less than \$400,000 will pay an additional penny in taxes; nobody, not one penny.

But let's finish the job. There is more to do. We have to reward work, not just wealth. Pass my proposal for the billionaire minimum tax.

You know, there are a thousand billionaires in America. It is up from about 600 in the beginning of my term. But no billionaire should be paying a lower tax rate than a schoolteacher or firefighter. I mean it.

Think about it. I mean, look, I know you aren't enthusiastic about that. But think about it. Think about it.

Have you noticed Big Oil just reported its profits, record profits. Last year, they made \$200 billion in the midst of a global energy crisis. I think it is outrageous. Why?

They invested too little of that profit to increase domestic production. And when I talked to a couple of them, they say, we are afraid you are going to shut down all the oil wells and all the oil refineries anyway, so why should we invest in them.

I said, we are going to need oil for at least another decade and beyond that. We are going to need it. Production.

If they had, in fact, invested in the production, to keep gas prices down; instead, they used the record profits to buy back their own stock, rewarding their CEOs and shareholders. Corporations ought to do the right thing.

That is why I propose we quadruple the tax on corporate stock buybacks and encourage long-term investments. They will still make considerable profit.

Let's finish the job and close the loopholes that allow the very wealthy to avoid paying their taxes. Instead of cutting the number of audits for wealthy taxpayers, I just signed a law to reduce the deficit by \$114 billion by cracking down on wealthy tax cheats. That is being fiscally responsible.

In the last 2 years, my administration has cut the deficit by more than \$1.7 trillion, the largest deficit reduction in American history. Under the previous administration, the American deficit went up 4 years in a row.

Because of those record deficits, no President added more to the national debt in any 4 years than my predecessor. Nearly 25 percent of the entire national debt, a debt that took over 200 years to accumulate, was added by just one administration alone, the last one. They are the facts. Check it out. Check it out.

How did Congress respond to that debt? They did the right thing. They lifted the debt ceiling three times without preconditions or crisis. They paid America's bills to prevent an economic disaster for the country.

Tonight, I am asking the Congress to follow suit. Let's commit here tonight that the full faith and credit of the United States of America will never ever be questioned.

Some of my Republican friends want to take the economy hostage—I get it—unless I agree to their economic plans. All of you at home should know what those plans are. Instead of making the wealthy pay their fair share, some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security sunset.

I am not saying it is a majority. Let me give you—anybody who doubts it,

contact my office. I will give you a copy of the proposal.

That means if Congress doesn't vote—I am glad to see it. I tell you, I enjoy conversion. It means if Congress doesn't keep the programs the way they are, they will go away.

Other Republicans say—I am not saying it is a majority of you. I don't even think it is a significant—but it is being proposed by individuals. I am politely not naming them, but it is being proposed by some of you.

Look, folks, the idea is that we are not going to be moved into being threatened to default on the debt if we don't respond.

Folks, as we all apparently agree, Social Security and Medicare are off the books now, right? They are not to be—all right. We got unanimity.

Social Security and Medicare are a lifeline for millions of seniors. Americans have to pay into them from their very first paycheck when they started.

So, tonight, let's all agree, and we apparently are: Let's stand up for seniors. Stand up and show them we will not cut Social Security. We will not cut Medicare.

Those benefits belong to the American people. They earned it. And if anyone tries to cut Social Security, which apparently no one is going to do—if anyone tries to cut Medicare, I will stop them. I will veto it.

Look, I am not going to allow them to be taken away, not today, not tomorrow, not ever. But apparently, it is not going to be a problem.

Next month, when I offer my fiscal plan, I ask my Republican friends to lay down their plan, as well. I really mean it. Let's sit down together and discuss our mutual plans together. Let's do that.

I can tell you, the plan I am going to share is going to cut the deficit by another \$2 trillion, and it won't cut a single bit of Medicare or Social Security. In fact, we are going to extend the Medicare trust fund at least two decades because that is going to be the next argument: How do we keep it solvent, right?

We will not raise taxes on anyone making under 400 grand, but we will pay for it the way we talked about, by making sure the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share.

Look, here is the deal. They are not just taking advantage of the tax code. They are taking advantage of you, the American consumer.

Here is my message to all of you out there: I have your back. We are already preventing Americans from receiving surprise medical bills, stopping \$1 billion in surprise bills per month so far.

We are protecting seniors' lifesavings by cracking down on nursing homes that commit fraud, endanger patient safety, or prescribe drugs that are not needed.

Millions of Americans can now save thousands of dollars because they can finally get a hearing aid over the counter without a prescription.

Look, capitalism without competition is not capitalism. It is extortion. It is exploitation.

Last year, I cracked down, with the help of many of you, on foreign shipping companies that were making you pay higher prices for every good coming into the country. I signed a bipartisan bill that cut shipping costs by 90 percent, helping American farmers, businesses, and consumers.

Let's finish the job. Pass the bipartisan legislation to strengthen anti-trust enforcement and prevent big online platforms from giving their own products an unfair advantage.

My administration is also taking on junk fees, those hidden surcharges too many companies use to make you pay more. For example, we are making airlines show you the full ticket price up front and refund your money if your flight is canceled or delayed.

We have reduced exorbitant bank overdraft fees, saving consumers over \$1 billion a year. We are cutting credit card late fees by 75 percent, from \$30 to \$8.

Look, junk fees may not matter to the very wealthy, but they matter to most other folks in homes like the one I grew up in, like many of you did. They add up to hundreds of dollars a month. They make it harder for you to pay your bills or afford that family trip.

I know how unfair it feels when a company overcharges you and gets away with it. Not anymore. We have written a bill to stop it all. It is called the Junk Fee Prevention Act.

We are going to ban surprise resort fees that hotels charge on your bill. Those fees can cost up to \$90 a night at hotels that aren't even resorts.

The idea that cable, internet, and cell phone companies can charge you \$200 or more if you decide to switch to another provider, give me a break.

We can stop service fees on tickets to concerts and sporting events and make companies disclose all the fees up front.

And we will prohibit airlines from charging \$50 roundtrip for families just to be able to sit together. Baggage fees are bad enough. Airlines can't treat your child like a piece of baggage.

Americans are tired of being played for suckers. So pass the Junk Fee Prevention Act so companies stop ripping us off.

For too long, workers have been getting stiffed. But not anymore. We are beginning to restore the dignity of work.

For example—I should have known this, but I didn't until 2 years ago—30 million workers have to sign noncompete agreements for the jobs they take. So a cashier at a burger place can't walk across town and take the same job at another burger place and make a few bucks more. They just changed it because we exposed it. That was part of the deal, guys. Look it up.

But not anymore. We are banning those agreements so companies have to

compete for workers and pay them what they are worth.

I must tell you, this is bound to get a response from my friends on my left with the right.

I am so sick and tired of companies breaking the law by preventing workers from organizing. Pass the PRO Act because workers have a right to form a union, and let's guarantee all workers have a living wage.

Let's also make sure working parents can afford to raise a family with sick days, paid family and medical leave, and affordable childcare that will enable millions of more people to go and stay at work.

Let's restore the full child tax credit which gave tens of millions of parents some breathing room and cut child poverty in half to the lowest level in history.

By the way, when we do all of these things, we increase productivity, and we increase economic growth.

Let's also finish the job and get more families access to affordable and quality housing. Let's get seniors who want to stay in their homes the care they need to do so. Let's give more breathing room to millions of family caregivers looking after their loved ones.

Pass my plan so we get seniors and people with disabilities the home care services they need and support the workers who are doing God's work. These plans are fully paid for, and we can afford to do them.

Restoring the dignity of work means making education an affordable ticket to the middle class.

When we made 12 years of public education universal in the last century, we became the best educated and best prepared nation in the world. But the rest of the world has caught up. Jill, my wife, who teaches full-time, has an expression. I hope I get it right, kid. "Any nation that out-educates us is going to out-compete us."

Any nation that out-educates us is going to out-compete us.

Folks, we all know 12 years of education is not enough to win the economic competition for the 21st century.

If we want America to have the best educated workforce, then let's finish the job by providing access to preschool for 3- and 4-year olds. Studies show that children who go to preschool are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a 2- or 4-year degree no matter the background they came from.

Let's give public schoolteachers a raise.

We are making progress by reducing student debt and increasing Pell grants for working and middle class families. Let's finish the job, connect students to career opportunities starting in high school, and let's provide access to 2 years of community college, some of the best career training in America, in addition to being a pathway to a 4-year degree.

Let's offer every American a path to a good career whether they go to college or not.

And folks, in the midst of the COVID crisis when schools were closed and we were shutting down everything, let's also recognize how far we have come in the fight against the pandemic itself. While the virus is not gone, thanks to the resilience of the American people and the ingenuity of medicine, we have broken the COVID grip on us.

COVID deaths are down by nearly 90 percent. We have saved millions of lives, opened our country back up, and soon we will end the public health emergency.

But we will remember the toll and pain that is never going to go away. More than 1 million Americans have lost their lives to COVID—1 million. Families are grieving, children are orphaned, and the empty chair at the dining room table is constantly reminding us that she used to sit there. We remember them, and we remain vigilant. We still need to monitor dozens of variants and support new vaccines and treatments. So Congress needs to fund these efforts and keep America safe.

As we emerge from this crisis stronger, we also have to double down on prosecuting criminals who stole relief money meant to keep workers and small businesses afloat during the pandemic.

Before I came to office, during that campaign, the big issue was about inspector generals who protect taxpayer dollars were sidelined. They were fired. Many people said that we don't need them, and fraud became rampant.

Last year, I told you the watchdogs are back. Since then, we have recovered billions of taxpayer dollars. Now, let's triple our antifraud strike forces going after these criminals, double the statute of limitations on these crimes, and crack down on identity fraud by criminal syndicates stealing billions of dollars—billions of dollars—from the American people.

The data shows that for every dollar we put into fighting fraud, the taxpayer gets back at least 10 times as much. It matters.

COVID left other scars, like the spike in violent crime in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. We have an obligation to make sure all our people are safe. Public safety depends on public trust, as all of us know, but too often that trust is violated.

Joining us tonight are the parents of Tyre Nichols.

I welcome them.

They had to bury Tyre last week.

As many of you personally know, there are no words to describe the heartache or grief of losing a child. But imagine—imagine—if you lost that child at the hands of the law. Imagine having to worry whether your son or daughter will come home from walking down the street, playing in the park, or just driving a car.

Most of us in here have never had to have the talk—the talk that Brown and Black parents have had to have with their children. I never had to have the

talk with my children, Beau, Hunter, and Ashley.

I never had to tell them: If a police officer pulls you over, turn your interior lights on right away, don't reach for your license, and keep your hands on the steering wheel.

Imagine having to worry like that every single time your kid got in a car.

Here is what Tyre's mother shared with me when I spoke to her, when I asked her how she finds the courage to carry on and speak out: With faith in God, she said her son "was a beautiful soul and something good will come from this."

Imagine how much courage and character that takes.

It is up to us. It is up to all of us. We all want the same thing: neighborhoods free of violence and law enforcement who earn the community's trust.

Just as every cop, when they pin on that badge in the morning, has a right to be able to go home at night, so does everybody else out there. Our children have a right to come home safely.

Equal protection under the law is a covenant we have with each other in America. We know police officers put their lives on the line every single night and day, and we know we ask them in many cases to do too much, to be counselors, social workers, and psychologists responding to the drug overdoses, mental health crises, and so much more. In one sense we ask much too much of them.

I know the vast majority of cops and their families are good, decent, and honorable people. But they risk their lives every time they put that shield on.

But what happened to Tyre in Memphis happens too often. We have to do better. We have to give law enforcement the real training they need, hold them to higher standards, and help them succeed in keeping us safe.

We also need more first responders and professionals to address the growing mental health and substance abuse challenges, more resources to reduce violent crime and gun crime, more community intervention programs, and more investments in housing, education, and job training.

All this can help prevent violence in the first place.

When police officers or police departments violate the public trust, they must be held accountable.

With the support of the families of victims, civil rights groups, and law enforcement, I signed an executive order for all Federal officers banning chokeholds, restricting no-knock warrants, and other key elements of the George Floyd Act.

Let's commit ourselves to make the words of Tyre's mom come true. Something good must come from this. Something good.

All of us, all of us—folks, it is difficult, but it is simple. All of us in this Chamber, we need to rise to this moment. We can't turn away. Let's do what we know in our hearts that we

need to do. Let's come together to finish the job on police reform.

Do something. Do something. That was the plea of parents who lost their children in Uvalde. I met with every one of them. Do something about gun violence. Thank God, thank God we did, passing the most sweeping gun safety law in three decades.

That includes things that the majority of responsible gun owners already support, like enhanced background checks for 18- to 21-year-olds, red flag laws, keeping guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and others.

But we know our work is not done.

Joining us tonight is Brandon Tsay, a 26-year-old hero. Brandon put his college dreams on hold to be at his mom's side when she was dying from cancer. Brandon now works at a dance studio started by his grandparents.

Two weeks ago, during the Lunar New Year celebrations, he heard the studio's door close, and he saw a man standing there pointing a semiautomatic pistol at him. He thought he was going to die, but then he thought about the people inside. In that instant, he found the courage to act and wrestled the semiautomatic pistol away from the gunman who had already killed 11 people at another dance studio. Eleven. He saved lives.

It is time we do the same. Ban assault weapons now. Ban them now. Once and for all.

I led the fight to do that in 1994. In the 10 years that ban was law, mass shootings went down. After we let it expire in a Republican administration, mass shootings tripled. Let's finish the job and ban these assault weapons.

Let's also come together on immigration and make it a bipartisan issue once again. We now have a record number of personnel working to secure the border, arresting 8,000 human smugglers, seizing over 23,000 pounds of fentanyl in just the last several months.

We have launched a new border plan last month. Unlawful migration from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela has come down 97 percent as a consequence of that. But America's border problems won't be fixed until Congress acts.

If you won't pass my comprehensive immigration reform, at least pass my plan to provide the equipment and officers to secure the border, and a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, those on temporary status, farmworkers, and essential workers.

Here in the people's House, it is our duty to protect all the people's rights and freedoms. Congress must restore the right that was taken away and codify *Roe v. Wade* to protect every woman's right to choose.

The Vice President and I are doing everything we can to protect access to reproductive healthcare and safeguard patient safety. Already more than a dozen States are enforcing extreme abortion bans. Make no mistake about

it: If Congress passes a national ban, I will veto it.

Let's also pass the bipartisan Equality Act to ensure LGBTQ Americans, especially transgender young people, can live with safety and dignity.

Our strength is not just the example of our power, but the power of our example. Let's remember, the world is watching.

I spoke from this Chamber 1 year ago, just days after Vladimir Putin unleashed his brutal attack against Ukraine. A murderous assault, evoking images of the death and destruction Europe suffered in World War II.

Putin's invasion has been a test for the ages. A test for America. A test for the world.

Would we stand for the most basic of principles?

Would we stand for sovereignty?

Would we stand for the right of people to live free from tyranny?

Would we stand for the defense of democracy?

For such a defense matters to us because it keeps peace and prevents open season on would-be aggressors that threaten our prosperity.

One year later, we know the answer. Yes, we would. And we did. We did. Together, we did what America always does at our best. We led. We united NATO, we built a global coalition. We stood against Putin's aggression. We stood with the Ukrainian people.

Tonight, we are once again joined by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States. She represents not just her nation, but the courage of her people. The Ambassador is here. We are united in our support of your country. Would you stand so we can all take a look at you. Thank you. We are going to stand with you, as long as it takes.

Our Nation is working for more freedom, more dignity, and more peace. Not just in Europe, but everywhere.

Before I came to office, the story was about how the People's Republic of China was increasing its power and America was falling in the world. Not anymore. I made clear in my personal conversations, which have been many, with President Xi that we seek competition, not conflict.

I will make no apologies that we are investing to make America stronger. Investing in American innovation and industries that will define the future that China intends to be dominating. Investing in our alliances and working with our allies to protect advanced technologies so they will not be used against us. Modernizing our military to safeguard stability and deter aggression.

Today, we are in the strongest position in decades to compete with China or anyone else in the world. Anyone else in the world.

I am committed to work with China where we can advance American interests and benefit the world. But make no mistake about it. As we made clear last week, if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did.

Look, let's be clear: Winning the competition should unite all of us. We face serious challenges across the world, but in the past 2 years, democracies have become stronger, not weaker. Autocracies have grown weaker, not stronger.

Name me a world leader who changed places with Xi Jinping. Name me one. Name me one.

America is rallying the world to meet those challenges, from climate, to global health, to food insecurity, to terrorism, to territorial aggression. Allies are stepping up, spending more and doing more.

Look, the bridges we are forming between partners in the Pacific and those in the Atlantic, and those who bet against America are learning how wrong they are. It has never, ever been a good bet to bet against America. Never.

When I came to office, most everyone assumed bipartisanship was impossible. But I never believed it. That is why a year ago, I offered a unity agenda for the Nation as I stood here. We have made real progress together. We passed a law making it easier for doctors to prescribe effective treatments for opioid addiction. We passed a gun safety law making historic investments in mental health. We launched ARPA-H to drive breakthroughs in the fight against cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and so much more.

We passed the Heath Robinson PACT Act, named after the late Iraq war veteran whose story about exposure to toxic burn pits I shared here last year. I understand something about those burn pits. But there is so much more to do, and we can do it together.

Joining us tonight is a father named Doug from Newton, New Hampshire. He wrote Jill, my wife, a letter, and me, as well, about his courageous daughter, Courtney—a contagious laugh, her sister's best friend. He shared a story all too familiar to millions of Americans and many of you in the audience.

Courtney discovered pills in high school. It spiraled into addiction and eventually death from a fentanyl overdose. She was just 20 years old. Describing the last 8 years without her, Doug said: "There is no worse pain."

Yet, their family has turned pain into purpose, working to end the stigma and change laws. He told us he wants to start a journey toward American recovery.

Doug, we are with you.

Fentanyl is killing more than 70,000 Americans a year, so let's launch a major surge to stop fentanyl production, sale, and trafficking, with more drug detection machines to inspect cargo and stop pills and powder at the border; working with couriers like FedEx to inspect more packages for drugs; strong penalties to crack down on fentanyl trafficking.

Second, let's do more on mental health, especially for our children. When millions of young people are struggling with bullying, violence,

trauma, we owe them greater access to mental health care at their schools.

We must finally hold social media companies accountable for the experiment they are running on our children for profit. It is time to pass bipartisan legislation to stop Big Tech from collecting personal data on our kids and teenagers online, ban targeted advertising to children, and impose stricter limits on the personal data these companies collect on all of us.

Third, let's do more to keep our Nation's one truly sacred obligation: to equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home; job training and job placement for veterans and their spouses as they return to civilian life; helping veterans afford the rent because no one should be homeless in America, especially someone who served the country.

Denis McDonough is here from the VA. We had our first real discussion when I asked him to take the job. I am glad he did. We were losing up to 25 veterans a day from suicide. Now we are losing 17 to the silent scourge of suicide. Seventeen veterans a day are committing suicide, more than all the people being killed in the wars.

Folks, the VA is doing everything it can, including expanding mental health screenings and a proven program that recruits veterans to help other veterans understand what they are going through and get them the help they need. We have to do more.

And fourth, last year, Jill and I reignited the Cancer Moonshot that I was able to start when President Obama asked me to lead our administration on this issue.

Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate at least by 50 percent in the next 25 years, turn more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases, and provide more support for patients and their families. It is personal to so many of us, so many of us in this audience.

Joining us are Maurice and Kandice, an Irishman and a daughter of immigrants from Panama. They met and fell in love in New York City and got married in the same chapel as Jill and I got married in, in New York City. Kindred spirits.

He wrote us a letter about his little daughter, Ava, and I saw her just before I came over. She was just a year old when she was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease, cancer. After 26 blood transfusions, 11 rounds of radiation, 8 rounds of chemo, 1 kidney removed, she was given a 5 percent survival rate. He wrote how, in the darkest moments, he thought: If she goes, I can't stay.

Many of you have been through that, as well. Jill and I understand that, like so many of you. He read Jill's book describing our family's cancer journey and how we tried to steal moments of joy where we could with Beau.

For them, that glimmer of joy was the half smile from their baby girl. It meant everything to them. They never

gave up hope, and little Ava never gave up hope. She turns 4 next month. They just found out that Ava is beating the odds and is on her way to being cured of cancer. And she is watching from the White House tonight if she is not asleep already.

For the lives we can save and the lives we have lost, let this be a truly American moment that rallies the country and the world together and proves that we can still do big things.

Twenty years ago, under the leadership of President Bush and countless advocates and champions, we undertook a bipartisan effort through PEPFAR to transform the global fight against HIV/AIDS. It has been a huge success. He thought big. He thought large. He moved.

I believe we can do the same thing with cancer. Let's end cancer as we know it and cure some cancers once and for all.

Folks, there is one reason why we have been able to do all these things: our democracy itself. It is the most fundamental thing of all. With democracy, everything is possible. Without it, nothing is.

For the last few years, our democracy has been threatened and attacked and put at risk. It was put to the test in this very room on January 6.

And then, just a few months ago, unhinged by the big lie, an assailant unleashed political violence in the home of the then-Speaker of the House of Representatives, using the very same language the insurrectionists used as they stalked these Halls and chanted on January 6.

Here tonight in this Chamber is the man who bears the scars of that brutal attack but is as tough and strong and resilient as they get, my friend, Paul Pelosi.

Paul, stand up.

But such a heinous act should have never happened. We must all speak out. There is no place for political violence in America. We have to protect the right to vote, not suppress that fundamental right. Honor the results of our elections, not subvert the will of the people. We have to uphold the rule of law and restore trust in our institutions of democracy. And we must give hate and extremism in any form no safe harbor.

Democracy must not be a partisan issue. It is an American issue. Every generation of Americans has faced a moment where they have been called to protect our democracy, to defend it, stand up for it, and this is our moment.

My fellow Americans, we meet tonight at an inflection point, one of those moments that only a few generations ever face, where the direction we now take is going to decide the course of this Nation for decades to come.

We are not bystanders of history. We are not powerless before the forces that confront us. It is within our power of we the people. We are facing the test of our time. We have to be the Nation we have always been at our best: opti-

mistic, hopeful, forward-looking, a nation that embraces light over dark, hope over fear, unity over division, stability over chaos.

We have to see each other not as enemies but as fellow Americans. We are a good people, the only nation in the world built on an idea—the only one.

Other nations are defined by geography and ethnicity, but we are the only Nation based on an idea that all of us, every one of us is created equal in the image of God. A Nation that stands as a beacon to the world. A Nation in a new age of possibilities.

So I have come here to fulfill my constitutional obligation to report on the state of the Union, and here is my report.

Because the soul of this Nation is strong, because the backbone of this Nation is strong, because the people of this Nation are strong, the state of the Union is strong.

I am not new to this place. I stand here tonight having served as long as about any one of you have ever served here. But I have never been more optimistic about our future, about the future of America. We just have to remember who we are.

We are the United States of America, and there is nothing, nothing beyond our capacity if we do it together.

God bless you all, and may God protect our troops. Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 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-352. A letter from the President, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond February 10, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118-7); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-353. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-354. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-790, "Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way Designation Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-355. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-791, "Business and Entrepreneurship Support to Thrive Amendment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-356. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-792, "Theresa Howe Jones Way Designation Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-357. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-793, "Metro for D.C. Amendment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-358. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-794, "Migratory Local Wildlife Protection Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-359. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-795, "Wilhelmina and Calvin Rolark Way Designation Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-360. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-796, "Protecting Adjacent and Adjoining Property Owners from Construction Damage Amendment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-361. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-798, "Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-362. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

DC Act 24-799, "Office of District Waterways Management Establishment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-363. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-797, "Fare-Free Bus Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2022", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-364. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-5, "Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-365. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's FY 2023 Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-366. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North Atlantic Swordfish Fishery [Docket No.: 120627194-3657-02; RTID 0648-XT030] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-367. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2018 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season [Docket No.: 170605543-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-XF486) received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-368. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Authorization of an Oregon Recreational Fishery for Midwater Groundfish Species [Docket No.: 161024999-8248-02] (RIN: 0648-BG40) received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-369. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category December Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 220523-0119; RTID 0648-XC483] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-370. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to the 2022 Specifications [Docket No.: 210325-0071; RTID 0648-XC475] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-371. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS,

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category October Through November Fishery for 2022 [Docket No.: 220523-0119; RTID 0648-XC431] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-372. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Fishery; Final 2022 and 2023 and Projected 2024 Specifications [Docket No.: 221026-0227; RTID 0648-XC411] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-373. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to the 2022 Specifications [Docket No.: 210325-0071; RTID 0648-XC475] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-374. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2022 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measure and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper [Docket No.: 211217-0261; RTID 0648-XC537] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-375. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 220223-0054; RTID 0648-XC510] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-376. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 220216-0049] (RTID: 0648-XC499) received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-377. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders [RTID: 0648-XC446] received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-378. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2018 Recreational Management Measures [Docket No.: 180201108-8393-02] (RIN: 0648-BH55) received February 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 97. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 (Rept. 118-3). 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. BEYER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 856. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave to Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and 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. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. MACE, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 857. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for travel by the President if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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 Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 858. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for the salaries or expenses of political employees if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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 Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 859. A bill to authorize references to the museum located at Blytheville/Eaker Air

Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas, as the "National Cold War Center"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. STEIL, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BUCK, and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H.R. 860. A bill to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 861. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to permit an individual who is subject to a requirement to present identification as a condition of voting in an election for Federal office to meet such requirement by presenting a sworn written statement attesting to the individual's identification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 862. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit dismemberment abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 863. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a publishing house from knowingly furnishing sexually explicit material to a school or an educational agency, to prohibit Federal funds from being provided to a school that obtains or an educational agency that distributes sexually explicit material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. MOYLAN:

H.R. 864. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to the Territory of Guam for the purpose of reimbursing the territory for expenses related to security measures associated with aliens unlawfully entering the Territory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 865. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. MANN (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. BIGGS,

Mr. STEIL, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HILL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. FOXX, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. ROY, Mr. EMMER, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. FLOOD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MANN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. EZELL, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. PALMER):

H.J. Res. 30. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MANN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. CARL, Mr. HERN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. OGLES, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ROY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.J. Res. 31. 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 Mrs. LESKO (for herself and Mr. BALDERSON):

H. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution expressing disapproval of the revocation by President Biden of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H. Res. 98. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and

the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MENG, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. IVEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 99. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. OWENS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. KILMER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BOST, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. FALLON, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. TURNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. HERN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MAST, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BERA, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. HILL, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. EZELL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. SELF, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BACON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. LAM-

BORN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CHU, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BARR, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. KILEY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H. Res. 100. A resolution expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran, and condemning violations of human rights and state-sponsored terrorism by the Iranian Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 101. A resolution expressing deepest condolences for the lives lost, and unwavering solidarity with the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish people following the destructive earthquakes that devastated the Turkish cities of Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, and Kilis; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Government Reform

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 and Article I Section 9, Clause 7

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill creates statutory consequences for the President failing to submit a budget to Congress in a timely manner consistent with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 and Article I Section 9, Clause 7

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill creates statutory consequences for the President failing to submit a budget to Congress in a timely manner consistent with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause—Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill authorizes the museum located at Blytheville/Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, AR as the "National Cold War Center."

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill directs the U.S. Postal Service, by 270 days after its enactment, to designate a single, unique ZIP code for each of: Miami Lakes, Florida; Hollywood, Florida; Village of Somers, Wisconsin; Village of Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin; Village of Caledonia, Wisconsin; Eastvale, California; Castle Pines, Colorado.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Elections

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Abortion

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends title 18, U.S.C., to prohibit a publishing house from knowingly furnishing sexually explicit material to a school or an educational agency, and to prohibit federal funds from being provided to a school that obtains or an educational agency that distributes sexually explicit material.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To Direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to take specific actions.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War.

By Mr. MANN:

H.J. Res. 29.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Congressional Review Act pertaining to the listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken under the Endangered Species Act.

By Mr. BARR:

H.J. Res. 30.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Resolution under the Congressional Review Act to nullify the Department of Labor's Rule, "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights".

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.J. Res. 31.

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.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to “Reproductive Health Services” (87 Fed. Reg. 55287; published September 9, 2022).

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 41: Mr. MANN and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 51: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 82: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 146: Ms. GREENE of Georgia and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 157: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 185: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 343: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 345: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 354: Mr. SANTOS.

H.R. 413: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 474: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 475: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 506: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 536: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 552: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 564: Mr. MANN, Mr. BERGMAN, and Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 589: Mr. ISSA, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 603: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 621: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 644: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 645: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 648: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 659: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 660: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. BALINT, Ms. MANNING, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 661: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 662: Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 666: Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. MENG, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 667: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 668: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 670: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 683: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 697: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 698: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 703: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 705: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 709: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 717: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 727: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 734: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 742: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. ALLEN, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 765: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. BALINT, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 767: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 770: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 775: Mr. SANTOS.

H.R. 782: Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 789: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 792: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 794: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 795: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 804: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 806: Mr. McCAUL.

H.R. 807: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 809: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HERN, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 825: Mr. SANTOS.

H.J. Res. 11: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.J. Res. 24: Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. McCORMICK.

H.J. Res. 25: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.J. Res. 26: Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. POSEY.

H. Con. Res. 10: Mrs. BOEBERT.

H. Res. 43: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 54: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 68: Mr. GARBARINO.

H. Res. 92: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 96: Mr. MANN.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

No. 25

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most gracious Father, remind us that we never drift out of Your love and care. Faces may change, and conditions may alter, but You are always there just when we need You most. Thank You for protecting us from seen and unseen dangers, for being our refuge and strength.

Today, lead our Senators to do Your will. May their actions spring from thoughts that are pure, just, true, honest, and good.

And, Lord, we pray for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 259

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first a little housekeeping business, and then we will get to the statement.

First, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 259) to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin by offering my prayers to everyone affected by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Over 6,000 have been reported dead. It is just awful—awful. You see the pictures, and you ache. We stand ready to help however we can.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Tonight, President Biden will come before a joint session of Congress and deliver his State of the Union to the American people. It is a chance for all of us to hear directly from the Commander in Chief about the tremendous progress we have made as a nation, the challenges we have overcome in recent years, and how Democrats are keeping our promises to make the lives of the American people better.

I expect the President will make the case clearly and convincingly that today the United States is far better off than it was a year ago. Inflation is coming down; wages are going up; gas prices have eased at last; unemployment is near record lows; and the pandemic, after causing so much suffering, so much destruction, no longer dominates our lives. Our work is not finished, but today we can confidently say America is headed in the right direction thanks to President Biden's leadership and thanks to the work of a strong, unified Democratic Party in Congress.

As Americans listen to President Biden, I am confident they will see the glaring contrast between Democratic unity on the one hand and Republican chaos on the other. Democrats remain laser-focused on delivering our people-first agenda. Every bill Democrats passed last Congress was written with average Americans in mind, from the American Rescue Plan to the infrastructure bill, to the Inflation Reduction Act, to gun safety, marriage equality, and so, so much more.

Let's just take one example out of many. It is an important example but just one. Senate Democrats worked very hard to deliver a \$35 insulin cap for every American on Medicare, but, of course, we want to go further. We tried to get it for everybody before reconciliation, but the reconciliation bill only allowed us to pass, in the IRA, an insulin cap for some Americans. When

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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an amendment was offered to add everybody in, unfortunately we did not get enough Republicans to vote for it. But this idea deserves new life and bipartisan cooperation in this Congress, and I look forward to hearing more from the President tonight.

Very soon, Americans are going to feel the benefits of our agenda in their daily lives. Implementation is going to be a top priority for Senate Democrats in the months to come. Not everyone has the time to follow what happens in Congress day by day, but when we actually start doing things, implementing the bills, oh, it gets out.

Just look at my home State of New York. After we passed infrastructure, many people didn't hear about it. To others, it was a line in the newspaper—oh, they have a bipartisan infrastructure bill. But last week, when the President came to New York to celebrate Gateway, you could feel the exaltation and excitement in the city. That is going to start happening again and again everywhere, in every State, in every community, as these large bills that helped American families are implemented and people see the actual results in their communities.

So let me say it again. Democrats are proud we stuck together and delivered on an agenda that lowered costs, lifted America out of crisis, and helped lay a foundation for future prosperity. Our MAGA Republicans cannot claim the same. On the very first day in the new majority, House Republicans passed a bill not to help average Americans but, rather, that helps the ultrarich so they can avoid paying their fair share in taxes. The bottom line is, these people who are going to be added to the IRS are going to focus on all of those who are much richer than the average American but pay at a much lower rate. But the Republicans couldn't go for that. Those are the people they want to represent. Then they hardly stopped there. In just 1 month, the MAGA House majority has doubled down on their war on women, tripled down on their asinine national sales tax proposal, and Republicans continue to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage to their radical agenda.

In the coming months, nothing will require more cooperation and serious-mindedness than lifting the debt ceiling. I was glad to work with both Presidents Biden and Trump to lift the debt ceiling over the past couple of years. We did it without political blackmail, without brinkmanship. But Speaker MCCARTHY and many of his House MAGA Republicans are taking the debt ceiling hostage and basically saying: Our way or the highway. Agree to cuts or we won't lift the debt ceiling.

That is not going to work, plain and simple. History shows that those who try to threaten their way to an agreement end up losing.

If Speaker MCCARTHY is insistent on spending cuts, which we Democrats will strongly oppose, he has an obliga-

tion to take the next step and actually say what those cuts are for. We will oppose tying the debt ceiling to these types of cuts. The debt ceiling is debts we have already incurred and should be paid without brinkmanship, without adding things to the agenda, which risks a great deal for the American people.

So what are the Republicans asking for? They say they want cuts. What are they? Are Republicans going to ax Social Security or Medicare? We think it is not enough for the Speaker to just say he doesn't want to make those cuts, because Members of his own party, including some of the very MAGA Republicans he followed in the first week of his session, are saying otherwise, and they have shown—some of them—that they can get their way in the new majority. Speaker MCCARTHY needs to prove he won't cut Social Security and Medicare by showing us the plan, his plan.

What about funding for national defense? Our military just shot down the Chinese spy balloon. Are Republicans seriously thinking about cutting defense on some bogus claims of fighting a "woke agenda"? What the heck does that mean?

Republicans, show us the specific cuts. Show us the plan.

What about families and children who rely on nutrition aid? The chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee recently said they are still looking at cuts to SNAP benefits at a time when children are hungry and groceries are far too expensive. This is from the party that cut taxes for billionaires and mega corporations back in 2017. If making sure hungry children have enough to eat is part of the "woke agenda," then we sure don't have the same definition.

Look, I know it is not easy for this new majority. The 20 or so extremists who dictated the House rules package can now thwart whatever proposal the Speaker wants to come up with if they feel the cuts don't go far enough. So I am gravely concerned that things will be very, very hard for the Speaker to manage, if he can come up with a plan at all.

All this brings us back to what Democrats have been insisting on from the very beginning: No brinkmanship. No hostage-taking. Let's lift the debt ceiling together. Let's pay the debts that Democrats and Republicans, including Donald Trump, already incurred without ultimatums.

Tonight, I expect the President will make this very clear to the American people, and it will be the responsibility of House Republicans to show that they take the debt ceiling seriously before they create an unprecedented crisis that will wreak havoc on every single American.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the Chinese surveillance balloon, I

strongly—very strongly—condemn President Xi's brazen incursion into American airspace with the Chinese surveillance balloon, and I commend President Biden for being calm, calculated, and effective in taking down the balloon over water to ensure the safety of Americans on the ground and to ensure we maximize our intelligence gains as we examine this balloon, which is far less likely to burn and crash into a million pieces in water than over land.

Instead of criticizing China, I was shocked to hear MAGA Republicans—before they even knew what was happening, before they even knew the whole story—direct their criticism toward the President, saying that we should have shot down the balloon the moment we saw it. So it is clear that the MAGA Republican criticism was at best premature and at worst political.

This is one area where we don't need politics. We need Democrats and Republicans to come together to condemn China and be a unified front against the CCP.

President Biden and his team did the right thing. They waited and took down the balloon carefully, precisely, and with what both the military and intelligence experts urged them to do. Had the President not gone along with what the military said, I can imagine that some of these same Republicans, so highly political in their criticism, would have then criticized the President for not listening to the military leaders. But now we can recover most of the equipment and begin to analyze the technology in the way it was done.

Again, I applaud President Biden for his leadership. And on Thursday, all Senators—all Senators—we have upgraded this. Because so many Senators wanted a briefing, I asked the administration to do it as an all-Senators briefing instead of the Gang of 8, and that is what is going to happen. So all Senators will receive a classified briefing from administration officials on the surveillance balloon.

NOMINATION OF DEANDREA GIST BENJAMIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, finally, on the Fourth Circuit, before Senators join with our House colleagues for the State of the Union, the Senate will take its first judicial nomination vote of the Congress by advancing DeAndrea Benjamin to serve as a circuit court judge—a circuit court judge—for the Fourth Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Benjamin would make history as only the second woman of color to sit on that court, a long overdue step in making sure the bench reflects the vibrancy of the Fourth Circuit. Judge Benjamin's credentials are unassailable, and I thank my Republican colleagues in the Judiciary Committee who supported her.

The Senate is going to continue prioritizing judicial confirmations on the floor of this Congress. We have a

lot of outstanding men and women coming out of the Judiciary very soon, and we will work quickly to move them out of this Chamber and onto the bench.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this evening, President Biden will begin the back half of his term with his State of the Union address to Congress and to the American people. But the White House's attempts to script the message for this week have been upset by recent events. Over the last several days, the country learned that on President Biden's watch, the state of our Union is apparently under Chinese surveillance from our own skies.

It is ludicrous to suggest that Canada and the United States had no choice but to let this thing traipse across the continent from coast to coast. President Obama's own Defense Secretary, Leon Panetta, says, "We should have acted earlier."

The administration's handwringing and indecision, finally downing the balloon only after it had toured the length of our country, was typical of how President Biden and his team have conducted our foreign affairs.

Our top military commanders and civilian experts all say that our broader strategic competition with China is our most serious challenge. But this President's last budget request tried to cut funding for our military after inflation, while Beijing keeps investing in their own capabilities.

The commander of our U.S. Strategic Command just told Congress that China now has more land-based intercontinental ballistic missile launchers than we do. The administration's reckless retreat from Afghanistan blew past the expert warnings, cost the lives of 13 American servicemembers, let thousands of terrorists waltz out of prison, and incentivize others to challenge an America that looked cowardly.

Its hesitating, indecisive, self-deterred approach to helping Ukraine before Putin invaded and in the earliest days right afterwards left freedom's friends flat-footed and are making the substantive fight more difficult than it ever had to be.

And now the Biden administration apparently has pivoted from chasing another bad nuclear deal with Iran to trying to let terrorists out of Guantanamo Bay.

These are just some of the reasons why 41 percent of Americans say the state of our union is weak—weak—and only 13 percent say it is strong.

Of course, this administration has also created problems for American families closer to home. A nationwide poll published last week revealed that just 16 percent of Americans say they are in a better financial situation today than they were 2 years ago when the President and his party assumed total control of government.

For 84 percent of Americans, one-party Democratic control of Washington either failed to live up to its promises or actively made life worse. Two years ago, over the objections of their own party's top economists, Washington Democrats misinterpreted a narrow election victory as a mandate for an unprecedented spending spree.

When President Biden took office, inflation was at 1.4 percent. From Inauguration Day to today, inflation is over 13 percent.

Working families have seen grocery prices jump 18.6 percent, used car prices rise 26.2 percent, and energy prices soar by 33.9 percent. Millions—millions—of Americans have earned pay raises at work, but runaway inflation has left them with less purchasing power than before.

Our southern border is in crisis, shattering all-time records for illegal immigrant apprehensions. Streets and neighborhoods are being swallowed up by violent crime—after local Democrats have cut police budgets, liberal prosecutors have turned jails into revolving doors, and national Democrats spent years amplifying the kinds of anti-police rhetoric that result in more crime.

And President Biden is helping the radical left go on offense and bring a culture war to the doorsteps of normal American families—trying to squeeze Catholic hospitals and faith-based daycares out of business; trying to take school choice and curriculum transparency away from parents—and on and on and on.

President Biden campaigned on being the adult in the room. But he is not even calling the shots in his own party. Over and over on issue after issue, this President hands the car keys to the radical left and turned himself into a passenger. That is why working families across the country have voted for change.

They elected a Republican majority in the House of Representatives to put the emergency brakes on runaway liberal spending. They reelected all-star Republican governors in places like Texas, Georgia, and Florida. And they elevated a talented new generation of leaders, including the youngest serving governor in America—Governor Sanders of Arkansas—whom the American people will hear from tonight.

Our country may still be struggling to understand what on earth Washington Democrats think they have actually accomplished in the past 2 years. But they can be absolutely sure where Republicans stand.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COVID

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, when the COVID pandemic hit, small businesses were shut down; millions of Americans lost their jobs; schools were shut down; flights were canceled; and traveling ground to a halt. The sick and the elderly were forced to die in hospitals and nursing homes, tragically alone, without the comforting embrace of loved ones.

The corporate media told us there was no way that this virus could have escaped from a Chinese Government lab, and Big Tech companies banned and censored posts laying out the evidence that it had escaped from a Chinese lab, labeling that evidence a "conspiracy theory." Masks were mandated everywhere.

And when the COVID vaccines came out, those were mandated too. Doctors, nurses, and our brave service men and women who chose not to get the vaccine were fired, discharged, sent home.

The corrupt corporate media's reaction to COVID devastated our economy and led directly to massive inflation, to weakening and even destroying faith in public health institutions, and resulted in learning loss that millions of American children may never recover from.

The pandemic is over. President Biden has even admitted that. The vast majority of America has moved on with their lives. But, sadly, the Biden

White House and too many Senate Democrats want to cling to power. During the pandemic, we saw abuses of power at every level of government but especially the Federal Government. Over the past 2 years, I have been proud to lead the fight in the Senate to stop these abuses by introducing targeted pieces of legislation that I have reintroduced in this new Congress.

Five of these bills would get rid of mandates. If passed into law, they would mean no more mask mandates, no vaccine mandates, no vaccine passports, no vaccine mandates for minors, and no vaccine mandates for kids to go back to school in Washington, DC.

Two other bills concern vital healthcare. The GIVE LIFE Act, or Doss's bill, is named after a teenager in Texas who was denied a kidney transplant because he hadn't been vaccinated against COVID. No American should be denied a lifesaving medical treatment such as an organ transplant because of their COVID vaccine status. That is wrong.

Unfortunately, we have seen this kind of discrimination over and over again. We saw it happen to a teenager in Texas. It also happened to a 31-year-old man in Boston who was denied a heart transplant, to a 38-year-old veteran who had already had COVID twice who was denied a kidney transplant in North Carolina, and a man in South Carolina who was also denied a kidney transplant because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID. Just in December, yet another teenager was denied a kidney transplant, this time in North Carolina, because she wasn't vaccinated against COVID. The GIVE LIFE Act would stop the Federal Government from enabling this discrimination when it comes to organ donation.

Another bill, the Ending Discrimination in COVID-19 Treatments Act, would mandate the Department of Health and Human Services to require that providers not engage in discriminatory practices when treating COVID. I filed this bill in response to reports that States across the country have used race and ethnicity as a factor in determining whether someone is eligible to receive COVID treatments, particularly monoclonal antibodies when they were first introduced. This bill now applies to all COVID funding and treatments, not just monoclonal antibodies.

This kind of discrimination and treatment has happened in the past year. In January 2022, a man in New York who had both COVID and pneumonia was denied monoclonal antibodies. He told CBS News:

The doctor just shut me down and said this is the criteria: You're not of age, which is 65, and you're not a minority.

As part of its response, the New York Department of Health told CBS:

This guidance is based on CDC guidelines that show COVID mortality rates are higher among certain demographic groups, including senior citizens, immunocompromised individuals, and nonwhite/Hispanic communities.

So what New York said is they were following CDC guidelines in determining how this COVID treatment would be distributed. As New York, itself, admitted, the CDC guidelines are encouraging racial discrimination in the distribution of healthcare, and that is immoral and wrong. My bill would stop this discrimination. Let's be very clear here. Race, religion, ethnicity should not be a factor—zero—in determining anyone's medical treatment. Doing so is unconstitutional; it is wrong; and it is abhorrent.

These are battles worth fighting.

For those of us who have been standing up against these abusive mandates, we recently won a big victory in December of last year on COVID vaccines in the military. I have fought hard to end President Biden's military vaccine mandate and last month, December, we succeeded. We passed into law a provision to end the mandate, finally, but, sadly, that provision was prospective. The Democrats in Congress would only agree to it going forward if it applied in the future, but provided zero relief to the thousands or even tens of thousands of service men and women who were terminated because they declined to get the vaccine.

To fix this, I have introduced legislation called the AMERICANS Act, which would allow those service men and women who were terminated to be reinstated if they want to go back into the military. And if they do, they could go back to their original rank and receive the benefits to which they were entitled and which they have earned.

If those servicemembers choose not to go back in the military, my bill would ensure that they receive an honorable discharge—not merely a general discharge, as too many of them have received—which will ensure that they can receive the benefits they earned by fighting to defend this country.

I am committed to fighting for every soldier, every sailor, every airman, every marine, every coastguardsman who was wrongfully terminated or wrongfully demoted because of the COVID vaccine mandate. And I give my word: I am going to keep fighting for them until they see justice.

That is why tonight, we are going to be at the State of the Union Address on the other side of the Capitol, and my guest tonight for the State of the Union is LT Levi Beaird, a naval surface warfare officer. Lieutenant Beaird is a Texas resident and a top-rated officer. In March of 2022, he faced a separation board because he made the personal decision to decline to get the COVID vaccine. But before the Biden administration could kick him out, a Federal judge entered an injunction preventing the Navy from terminating Lieutenant Beaird. However, the Navy is, right now, trying to recoup from him \$75,000 that they already paid him in anticipation of Lieutenant Beaird's becoming a department head because he wasn't named a department head. Well, the reason he wasn't named a de-

partment head is because he made the personal decision not to get the COVID vaccine due to his own sincere religious objection.

I am proud to be welcoming Lieutenant Beaird to the State of the Union tonight. I hope that his being there will cause those in the media to tell his story because it really underscores how grotesquely unfair the Biden administration's policies have been and how they punish those American heroes. So Lieutenant Beaird will be in the audience tonight as Joe Biden, no doubt, will congratulate himself and try to avoid accountability for the problems his administration has caused.

When it comes to COVID, the pandemic we endured as a nation was an enormous challenge. The policies that were put in place across this country in response to the pandemic, many of them have caused enormous damage. I believe, as a nation, we will look back on these policies, in the years and decades to come, and wonder what collective insanity came over this country; what insanity led to the judgment that it is a good idea to shut down schools for tens of millions of children across this country for more than a year; that it is a good idea for young children, elementary school children, not to learn reading and writing and math. That policy has resulted in massive learning loss, and that learning loss has been all the greater among the economically disadvantaged, among Hispanic and African-American kids.

The result of these shutdowns is a generation of kids who have been harmed, perhaps, irreparably.

In our military, the results of firing thousands upon thousands of service men and women—and we don't know how many. I would note, I asked the Biden administration over and over again: How many of our heroes have you fired? The administration refuses to answer. It is, in the minimum, thousands; it may be in the tens of thousands. But I can tell you, I have spoken with Navy SEALs, heroes who spent their lives training and defending this Nation, and they are being fired—some of the youngest, healthiest people we have in our country are being fired because they didn't comply with an arbitrary decree.

And now, the President and the administration have admitted that decree should no longer be enforced, but the Navy Seals they fired last year or the year before are still out of the military. All the while, we have massive recruiting shortfalls, and America is in greater jeopardy.

Mr. President, you are new on this side of the aisle but not new to Congress. There was a time in this body when Republicans and Democrats could come together and reason together, where not everything we did was a shirts-and-skins partisan battle: Good morning. No, it is not.

In less vituperative times, these shouldn't be difficult questions. When I forced a vote on the Senate floor that

the DC Public Schools should not throw out of school every student who hasn't received the COVID vaccine—and, mind you, that is 20 percent of the students in DC Public Schools, and, in the African-American community, it is 40 percent of the African-American students in the DC Public Schools. I am sorry to say, but when we voted on that on the Senate floor, every single Democrat—all of them—voted to throw out of public schools 40 percent of the Black kids in DC. You are talking about a 13-, 14-, 15-year-old kid who Senate Democrats were willing to make a high-school dropout involuntarily because that child or that child's parents made the decision not to receive the vaccine.

In ordinary sane times, that should be a 100-to-nothing vote. You would think it was almost satirical that someone would stand up and say: We are debating whether or not to throw out of DC Public Schools 40 percent of the African-American children.

If you and I go home and talk to our citizens at home, to a person, they would think that was nuts, unless they happened to work in this building.

On the question of service men and women, we saw, in the preceding year, that President Biden called to congratulate a coastguardsman who showed incredible heroism rescuing people at a time of natural disaster. That coastguardsman, within the week, was notified that he was being terminated because he hadn't gotten the COVID vaccine. This shouldn't be divisive.

We want our soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines and coastguardsmen to be ready, to be trained, to be serving, and, if the administration agrees the mandate makes no sense today, why would we sit by and let thousands upon thousands of them remain fired, terminated, and denied the benefits they have earned?

So I call upon this body: Let's have a return to sanity. Let's fight for the men and women we are elected to represent. And I give you my word that I am going to continue to fight against these mandates that are wrong, that are unjust, that are harmful, and I hope and pray this body can come together and embrace sanity once again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this evening, President Biden will deliver his second State of the Union Address.

Presidents, of course, typically use the speech as an opportunity to claim credit for all the ways Americans' lives

have improved under their leadership. Former Presidents have touted everything from economic growth to progress battling the opioid epidemic.

In this case, President Biden hasn't given his speech writers much material to work with. Families in Texas and across the country are still being battered by inflation. I know there are hopes for inflation to abate, but yet the Federal Reserve has shown no indication that they will fail to increase the discount rate—in other words, interest rate—meaning that, more and more, they are concerned still about the impact of inflation.

Inflation, as we have seen, means that people's standard of living is decreased because their earned income does not go as far as it used to, and we know high prices have wiped out wage gains, giving most workers a pay cut.

We also know that public safety remains a matter of serious public concern, and starting from the impact of the "defund the police" movement to now the difficulty law enforcement has actually recruiting and retaining an adequate number of officers, we know crime continues to be a matter of widespread public concern.

Then there are the failed policies at the border, which have led to a humanitarian and public health crisis.

The humanitarian part is evidenced, obviously, by the millions of people who show up at the border with every expectation they will be admitted to the United States.

The public health crisis comes from the 108,000 Americans who died from drug overdoses, where those drugs almost exclusively transited the U.S.-Mexican border into the United States. We know the chaos of mass migration has helped make the drug runners' job easier, and we know of the devastating impact it is having across the country.

I don't know how much of this the President will actually talk about, whether it is inflation, whether it is crime, or whether it is the border, but these are the kitchen-table issues most American families care deeply about—the cost of groceries, the ability to put gas in your tank, and living in a safe neighborhood and raising your family.

I don't know whether the President will dwell on any of those topics at all, but just to recapitulate, inflation now is the highest it has been in 40 years. We know that many cities have broken their alltime homicide records, and we are still in the midst of a completely unprecedented crisis on the southern border.

We have seen some pretty big missteps on the world stage too. For example, the Biden administration led a deadly and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that resulted in the loss of 13 servicemembers and countless Americans stranded in Taliban territory.

The administration continues to try to revive the failed Iran nuclear deal and to give Tehran even more resources to pursue its nuclear ambitions.

Just last week, the administration hit an embarrassing new low when the People's Republic of China flew a surveillance balloon across the United States, spying on the U.S. military and on all civilians. It took 7 days before the administration finally gave the green light to shoot it down off the coast of South Carolina. To be specific, it wasn't just the administration; it was the President of the United States who gave that instruction 7 days after it began its transit across U.S. territory.

During his first 2 years in office, President Biden had a pretty big advantage: His party held the majority in both Houses of Congress. He had the golden opportunity to enact his agenda and address the biggest problems facing American families. Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of overlap between the Biden agenda and the American agenda.

While people were struggling to keep up with high gas prices, the administration waged war on American energy. While parents questioned what was being taught in their kids' classrooms, the administration threatened to unleash the FBI on concerned parents who spoke out at the school board meetings. While inflation raged, Democrats poured even more fuel on the fire by spending an additional \$2½-plus trillion on purely partisan spending bills; namely, the American Recovery Act and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act—all passed without a single Republican vote but which added easily \$2.5 trillion to our national debt. So it doesn't come as a surprise, I guess, that voters decided to change the direction of the country in the last election by electing a Republican majority in the House.

Tonight, for the first time, President Biden will deliver his State of the Union Address before a divided Congress—a Democrat-controlled Senate, a Republican-controlled House, and a President who ran on the promise of governing from the middle and bringing us together but who hasn't shown a willingness to do that so far.

I think we are all eager to know how President Biden will broach all of these topics this evening. Will he simply try to gloss over his claimed successes and ignore his failures? Will he try to blame Republicans for the current state of our country even though Democrats controlled all the levers of government for the last 2 years? Or will he finally acknowledge the many problems that proliferated under his leadership and get serious about solutions?

One of the most critical areas where we need to see real leadership is the current border crisis, which has been raging since President Biden took office 2 years ago. Day after day, month after month, migrants have crossed our border in unprecedented numbers. Over the years, we have seen plenty of migration surges but nothing like this.

Last fiscal year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection logged nearly 2.4

million border crossings, shattering the previous record. In December, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than a quarter of a million migrants at the southern border—a quarter of a million people in a single month, which is a new record.

The President has not offered a single serious plan to address this crisis. Secretary Mayorkas keeps saying: Well, this is something Congress needs to weigh in on. But they have engaged in zero outreach or any visible indication that they actually do want a congressionally passed solution to this problem, one that the President would have to sign into law.

The only policy changes that the President has offered will do nothing to stop people from coming because they just parole them faster. In other words, they show up at the border, and they are given a piece of paper and told: Go to the closest Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in wherever it is you are locating in the interior of the United States—with no followup and no real assurance that they will actually go to an ICE office and ultimately end up in front of an immigration judge.

We know that is part of the game, too, because if the human smugglers flood the zone with people, they can overwhelm the capacity of our immigration court system to actually deal with these asylum cases. Those who ultimately end up before an immigration judge are only successful in roughly 10 to 15 percent of the cases, but if you flood the zone with enough people, you can overwhelm the capacity of the court system, and you can basically succeed in living permanently in the United States even though you have not complied with our immigration laws to do so.

We know that for 2 years, the men and women on the frontline of the border have been pleading with the administration to do something. Law enforcement are understaffed and overwhelmed by the workload they are expected to shoulder.

Nonprofit organizations and local governments are trying to mitigate the humanitarian crisis that has landed on their doorstep, and legitimate trade and travel have taken a big hit. Mexico was our single largest trading partner. Yet legitimate trade and travel are hampered by this flood of humanity coming across the border as well.

So I hope the President will be candid with the American people tonight and acknowledge not only what he views as his successes but where more work needs to be done. Now that he no longer enjoys a majority in the House and the Senate but now has a divided Congress, I hope he is candid enough to acknowledge that the only way we are going to be able to solve some of these problems is to finally work together to do so.

We know that what the President shouldn't say is that he will somehow use his Executive powers to create new

categories of immigrants or microscopic pilot programs. It needs to center on the basic idea of enforcing our immigration laws and reforming our asylum system. That is the only way to restore order and get this crisis under control.

Legal immigration has, to my mind, been one of the greatest successes America has to show to the rest of the world—legal immigration, orderly, humane, and legal—but what we are seeing now is the antithesis of orderly, humane, or legal. It is just the opposite.

We know our country is facing a diverse set of challenges in our homes, schools, workplaces, and along the border, and on the world stage, democracy itself continues to be under attack by hostile autocrats and dictators. The American people deserve to hear the President explain his plan to address each of these looming challenges, and I hope he does so tonight.

Once the State of the Union concludes, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders will deliver the Republican address. She is a champion for workers and families who have been left behind. I look forward to hearing her response to President Biden's speech, and I expect to see a stark contrast between the cloistered unrealities of the Biden administration and the reality that American families are facing.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

DEBT CEILING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, as my colleague from Texas said, people are looking forward to hearing what the President will say and what he will not say tonight.

As I have been home over the weekend, one of the things I have heard from Tennesseans about is the out-of-control Federal spending.

Now, we know what the Democrats have done in plussing up the budget for the last couple of years, but one number kind of stuck with me, and it is about \$3.6 trillion—that is taxpayer dollars—that has been spent on Democratic wish-list items. A lot of this is the Green New Deal. A lot of this is the reckless spending agenda they are pushing.

Now, they forced through, in 2021, \$1.85 trillion in spending. Then they came back around, and they wanted to talk about inflation. Joe Biden had 1.4 percent inflation when he took office, and because of this out-of-control spending and spending more and more and more and hundreds of billions of dollars, we saw inflation in June of 2022 hit 9.1 percent. People are frustrated about this.

But one of the things that got Tennesseans was the fact that this President didn't say: Well, it is because we put all this money—Federal spending—your dollars—we are putting these back out there. No, he blamed Vladimir Putin. It was Putin's fault. To Tennesseans, this was outrageous. It was the "go blame somebody else" game.

The Biden administration's neglect of the economy and their complete disregard for the destructive effects of their spending is something that has caught the attention of Tennesseans. This term for this President wasn't even halfway over, and already his policies are making everyday life too expensive to afford.

To be clear, Tennesseans talk to me about being worried about the basics of life: food security, food for the table, clothes for the kids, gas for the car. They feel like this agenda, this set of priorities that this administration has, is just peeling away a lot of their life, their living, their enjoyment, because there is no extra money left over. It is all going into necessities.

They are struggling to manage 6.5 percent inflation. They are looking at the cost of food that is up 13 percent from where it was a year ago. Keeping the heat on in this cold winter is 15 percent more. And it is the same story when you talk about school supplies and when you talk about clothes for the kids.

It is the same story here in Washington, where it seems that Joe Biden and this administration and the Democrats are once again poised and ready to spend more money. They are wanting to raise the debt ceiling without even a conversation about spending cuts. To Tennesseans, that is outrageous.

Now, my Democratic colleagues have spent a lot of time talking about what will happen if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling, and I don't think anyone here denies that the country has some serious discussions that need to be had. But I would ask my colleagues to remember that raising the debt ceiling is not a green light to keep spending money until we crash into another debt ceiling.

Tennesseans understand this. They spent 2 years cutting costs because common sense told them that you just can't keep spending with reckless abandon, and they want to know why the Democrats in Washington don't get this. Yes, indeed, everybody spends too much up here; but why are my Democratic colleagues unwilling to talk about making any cuts?

Now there are some things that we could do to start this process. There are three bills that I file every single year. When the Presiding Officer and I were across the dome in the House, I would file these bills every single year, because it is common sense. They would make a 1-percent or a 2-percent or a 5-percent across-the-board spending cut. Every Federal Agency ought to be able to do that. The American people do that. Making that one penny out of a dollar reduction in spending would save us money.

There again, you do this in the discretionary spending to get things rolling. Start it there—a penny in a dollar. How about two pennies in a dollar? If you take a penny out of a dollar, that would save you \$5.2 billion. If you did

that just in discretionary—didn't do it in the military, didn't do it in mandatory spending—just discretionary—2 cents out of the dollar, then you are going to get more than \$10 billion in savings. These are small, little steps. But, you know what? In the end, if you do that, if you cut a nickel out, it saves \$26 billion. Do it every year. Do it so we are not wasting taxpayers' money.

This is not government money. It is not your money. It is not my money. It is not the money of this Chamber or the House. It is the money of the people of this country, and we are charged with spending that carefully, accountably, and transparently to the people.

Tennesseans cannot take and they will not accept another year of this reckless spending. They are demanding change, and this is the barest minimum of what they would accept—tiny little cuts like that, just in the right direction, and then holding to it. Don't come back in 2 years and say: We have to raise the debt. They want to see some structural change.

Now, unfortunately, the President has said that he has no plans to negotiate his spending levels. It will be interesting to see what he has to say about this tonight, because to Tennesseans, it is almost, unfortunately—somebody said this weekend—it is laughable. It is shameful that he does not want to negotiate, that he is not going to talk about spending less, that he only wants to talk about spending more.

Senate Democrats cannot keep putting off this debate in order to save the President's failed agenda. Our job is not to serve the White House. It is to serve the American people. And they are saying: Do something about the wasteful, out-of-control spending.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING 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. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 5, Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 9, Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W.

Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 7, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Kaine
Bennet	Duckworth	Kelly
Blumenthal	Durbin	King
Booker	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Fetterman	Lujan
Cardin	Gillibrand	Manchin
Carper	Hassan	Markey
Casey	Heinrich	Menendez
Collins	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Coons	Hirono	Murkowski

Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders

Schatz
Schumer
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester

Tillis
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst

Fischer
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Mullin

Paul
Ricketts
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Thune
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—3

Brown Graham Sullivan

(Mr. MENENDEZ assumed the Chair.)
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 54; the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.
The Senator from Virginia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Senate Budget Committee is charged with the enforcement of budgetary levels and associated budgetary laws. This duty entails the review of measures through all stages of the legislative process. Consistent with the practice of previous chairs and ranking members of the committee, I have instructed my staff to review all bills and resolutions for which unanimous consent for passage is requested for any budgetary and programmatic effects.

To help my staff perform their duties and avoid unnecessary delays during the unanimous consent process, Members are encouraged to provide Budget Committee staff with legislative text and corresponding budgetary information from either the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation. I will use this information to weigh the budgetary and policy implications of each matter.

If after considering this information I decide to object to legislation, I will file notice of that decision publicly.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE RULES—118TH CONGRESS

JURISDICTION

Per Rule XXV(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

(1) Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the Small Business Administration;

(2) Any proposed legislation reported by such committee which relates to matters other than the functions of the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the chairman of any standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter extraneous to the functions of the Small Business Administration, be considered and reported by such standing committee prior to its consideration by the Senate; and likewise measures reported by other committees directly relating to the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, be referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for its consideration of any portion of the measure dealing with the Small Business Administration and be reported by this committee prior to its consideration by the Senate.

(3) Such committee shall also study and survey by means of research and investigation all problems of American small business enterprises, and report thereon from time to time.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

General

All applicable provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate Resolutions, and the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and of 1970 (as amended), shall govern the Committee.

Meetings

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Wednesday of each month unless otherwise directed by the Chair. All other meetings may be called by the Chair as he or she deems necessary, on 5 business days notice where practicable. If at least three Members of the Committee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file in the office of the Committee a written request therefore, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Office of the Committee their written notice that a special Committee meeting will be held, specifying the date, hour and place thereof, and the Committee shall meet at that time and place. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date, hour and place. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, such member of the Committee as the Chair shall designate shall preside. For

any meeting or hearing of the Committee, the Ranking Member may delegate to any Minority Member the authority to serve as Ranking Member, and that Minority Member shall be afforded all the rights and responsibilities of the Ranking Member for the duration of that meeting or hearing. Notice of any designation shall be provided to the Chief Clerk as early as practicable.

(b) It shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless an electronic copy of such amendment has been delivered to the Clerk of the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. Following receipt of all amendments, the Clerk shall disseminate the amendments to all Members of the Committee. This subsection may be waived by agreement of the Chair and Ranking Member or by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

Quorums

(a)(1) A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting any legislative measure or nomination.

(2) One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Minority Member is present. The term "routine business" includes, but is not limited to, the consideration of legislation pending before the Committee and any amendments thereto, and voting on such amendments, and steps in an investigation including, but not limited to, authorizing the issuance of a subpoena.

(3) In hearings, whether in public or closed session, a quorum for the asking of testimony, including sworn testimony, shall consist of one Member of the Committee.

(b) Proxies will be permitted in voting upon the business of the Committee. A Member who is unable to attend a business meeting may submit a proxy vote on any matter, in writing, or through oral or written personal instructions to a Member of the Committee or staff. Proxies shall in no case be counted for establishing a quorum.

Nominations

In considering a nomination, the Committee shall conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. In any hearings on the nomination, the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her nomination for office. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the Committee may request. The Committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis.

Hearings, Subpoenas, & Legal Counsel

(a)(1) The Chair of the Committee may initiate a hearing of the Committee on his or her authority or upon his or her approval of a request by any Member of the Committee. If such request is by the Ranking Member, a decision shall be communicated to the Ranking Member within 7 business days. Written notice of all hearings, including the title, a description of the hearing, and a tentative witness list shall be given at least 5 business days in advance, where practicable, to all Members of the Committee.

(2) Hearings of the Committee shall not be scheduled outside the District of Columbia unless specifically authorized by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or by consent of a majority of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing.

(b)(1) Any Member of the Committee shall be empowered to administer the oath to any witness testifying as to fact.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Member shall be empowered to call an equal number of witnesses to a Committee hearing. Subject to Senate Standing Rule 26(4)(d), such number shall exclude any Administration witness unless such witness would be the sole hearing witness, in which case the Ranking Member shall be entitled to invite one witness. The preceding two sentences shall not apply when a witness appears as the nominee. Interrogation of witnesses at hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Committee by Members of the Committee or such Committee staff as is authorized by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member.

(3) Witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file with the Clerk of the Committee a written statement of the prepared testimony at least two business days in advance of the hearing at which the witness is to appear unless this requirement is waived by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

(c) Any witness summoned to a public or closed hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who shall be permitted while the witness is testifying to advise the witness of his or her legal rights. Failure to obtain counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(d) Subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials may be authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member or by the consent of a majority of the Members of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing. The Chair may subpoena attendance or production without the consent of the Ranking Minority Member when the Chair has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours of being notified of the intended subpoena, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Subpoenas shall be issued by the Chair or by the Member of the Committee designated by him or her. A subpoena for the attendance of a witness shall state briefly the purpose of the hearing and the matter or matters to which the witness is expected to testify. A subpoena for the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials shall identify the papers or materials required to be produced with as much particularity as is practicable.

(e) The Chair shall rule on any objections or assertions of privilege as to testimony or evidence in response to subpoenas or questions of Committee Members and staff in hearings.

(f) Testimony may be submitted to the formal record for a period not less than two weeks following a hearing or roundtable, unless otherwise agreed to by Chair and Ranking Member.

Confidential Information

(a) No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to, the Committee in executive session, or any report of the proceedings of a closed hearing, or confidential testimony or material submitted pursuant to a subpoena, shall be made public, either in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members. Other confidential material or testimony submitted to the Committee may be disclosed if authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Member.

(b) Persons asserting confidentiality of documents or materials submitted to the Committee offices shall clearly designate them as such on their face. Designation of

submissions as confidential does not prevent their use in furtherance of Committee business.

Media & Broadcasting

(a) At the discretion of the Chair, public meetings of the Committee may be televised, broadcasted, or recorded in whole or in part by a member of the Senate Press Gallery or an employee of the Senate. Any such person wishing to televise, broadcast, or record a Committee meeting must request approval of the Chair by submitting a written request to the Committee Office by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. Notice of televised or broadcasted hearings shall be provided to the Ranking Minority Member as soon as practicable.

(b) During public meetings of the Committee, any person using a camera, microphone, or other electronic equipment may not position or use the equipment in a way that interferes with the seating, vision, or hearing of Committee members or staff on the dais, or with the orderly process of the meeting.

Subcommittees

The Committee shall not have standing subcommittees.

Amendment of Rules

The foregoing rules may be added to, modified or amended; provided, however, that not less than a majority of the entire Membership so determined at a regular meeting with due notice, or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging, having adopted rules governing its procedures for the 118th Congress, have a copy of their rules printed in the RECORD, pursuant to XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING COMMITTEE RULES—118TH CONGRESS JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

A.

There is established a Special Committee on Aging (hereafter in this section referred to as the "special committee") which shall consist of nineteen Members. The Members and chairman of the special committee shall be appointed in the same manner and at the same time as the Members and chairman of a standing committee of the Senate. After the date on which the majority and minority Members of the special committee are initially appointed on or affect the effective date of title I of the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977, each time a vacancy occurs in the Membership of the special committee, the number of Members of the special committee shall be reduced by one until the number of Members of the special committee consists of nine Senators.

For the purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XXV; paragraphs 1, 7(a)(1)–(2), 9, and 10(a) of rule XXVI; and paragraphs 1(a)–(d), and 2(a) and 1(d) of rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and the purposes of section 202(1) and (j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

B.

It shall be the duty of the special committee to conduct a continuing study of any

and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people, including, but not limited to, problems and opportunities of maintaining health, of assuring adequate income, of finding employment, of engaging in productive and rewarding activity, of securing proper housing, and when necessary, of obtaining care or assistance. No proposed legislation shall be referred to such committee, and such committee shall not have power to report by bill, or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

The special committee shall, from time to time (but not less than once year), report to the Senate the results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), together with such recommendation as it considers appropriate.

C.

For the purposes of this section, the special committee is authorized, in its discretion, (A) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (B) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (C) to employ personnel, (D) to hold hearings, (E) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (F) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence books, papers, and documents, (G) to take depositions and other testimony, (H) to procure the serve of individual consultants or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(I) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended) and (I) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

The chairman of the special committee or any Member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

Subpoenas authorized by the special committee may be issued over the signature of the chairman, or any Member of the special committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or the Member signing the subpoena.

D.

All records and papers of the temporary Special Committee on Aging established by Senate Resolution 33, Eighty-seventh Congress, are transferred to the special committee.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. Convening of Meetings

Meetings. The Committee shall meet to conduct Committee business at the call of the Chairman. The Members of the Committee may call additional meetings as provided in Senate Rule XXVI (3).

Notice and Agenda:

(a) Written or Electronic Notice. The Chairman shall give the Members written or electronic notice of any Committee meeting, accompanied by an agenda enumerating the items of business to be considered, at least 5 days in advance of such meeting.

(b) Shortened Notice. A meeting may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting on shortened notice. An agenda will be furnished prior to such a meeting.

Presiding Officer. The Chairman shall preside when present. If the Chairman is not present at any meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

II. Convening of Hearings

Notice. The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject

matter of any hearing at least one week before its commencement. A hearing may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing on shortened notice.

Presiding Officer. The Chairman shall preside over the conduct of a hearing when present, or, whether present or not, may delegate authority to preside to any Member of the Committee.

Witnesses. Witnesses called before the Committee shall be given, absent extraordinary circumstances, at least 48 hours notice, and all witnesses called shall be furnished with a copy of these rules upon request.

Oath. All witnesses who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn unless the Committee waives the oath. The Chairman, or any Member, may request and administer the oath.

Testimony. At least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member determine that there is good cause for a witness's failure to do so. A witness shall be allowed no more than five minutes to orally summarize his or her prepared statement. Officials of the federal government shall file 40 copies of such statement with the clerk of the Committee 48 hours in advance of their appearance, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member determine there is good cause for noncompliance.

Counsel. A witness's counsel shall be permitted to be present during his testimony at any public or closed hearing or depositions or staff interview to advise such witness of his or her rights, provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness shall be represented by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association.

Transcript. An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in closed sessions and public hearings. Any witness shall be afforded, upon request, the right to review that portion of such record, and for this purpose, a copy of a witness's testimony in public or closed session shall be provided to the witness. Upon inspecting his or her transcript, within a time limit set by the committee clerk, a witness may request changes in testimony to correct errors of transcription, grammatical errors, and obvious errors of fact. The Chairman or a staff officer designated by him shall rule on such request.

Impugned Persons. Any person who believes that evidence presented, or comment made by a Member or staff, at a public hearing or at a closed hearing concerning which there have been public reports, tends to impugn his or her character or adversely affect his or her reputation may:

(a) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the evidence or comment, which shall be placed in the hearing record; and

(b) request the opportunity to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf.

Minority Witnesses. Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee, the Ranking Member shall be entitled to call at least one witness to testify or produce documents with respect to the measure or matter under consideration at the hearing. Such request must

be made before the completion of the hearing or, if subpoenas are required to call the minority witnesses, no later than three days before the hearing.

Conduct of Witnesses, Counsel and Members of the Audience. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, his or her counsel, or any spectator conducts him or herself in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing the Chairman or presiding Member of the Committee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, his representative or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

III. Closed Sessions and Confidential Materials

Procedure. All meetings and hearings shall be open to the public unless closed. To close a meeting or hearing or portion thereof, a motion shall be made and seconded to go into closed discussion of whether the meeting or hearing will concern Committee investigations or matters enumerated in Senate Rule XXVI(5)(b). Immediately after such discussion, the meeting or hearing or portion thereof may be closed by a vote in open session of a majority of the Members of the Committee present.

Witness Request. Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written or an electronic request to the Chairman no later than twenty-four hours in advance for his or her examination to be in closed or open session. The Chairman shall inform the Committee of any such request.

Confidential Matter. No record made of a closed session, or material declared confidential by a majority of the Committee, or report of the proceedings of a closed session, shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.

IV. Broadcasting

Control. Any meeting or hearing open to the public may be covered by television, radio, or still photography. Such coverage must be conducted in an orderly and unobtrusive manner, and the Chairman may for good cause terminate such coverage in whole or in part, or take such other action to control it as the circumstances may warrant.

Request. A witness may request of the Chairman, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during his or her testimony cameras, media microphones, and lights shall not be directed at him or her.

V. Quorums and Voting

Reporting. A majority shall constitute a quorum for reporting a resolution, recommendation or report to the Senate.

Committee Business. A third shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Committee business, other than a final vote on reporting, providing a minority Member is present.

Hearings. One Member shall constitute a quorum for the receipt of evidence, the swearing of witnesses, and the taking of testimony at hearings.

Polling:

(a) **Subjects.** The Committee may poll (1) internal Committee matters including those concerning the Committee's staff, records, and budget; (2) Committee rules changes and (3) other Committee business which has been designated for polling at a meeting.

(b) **Procedure.** The Chairman shall circulate polling sheets to each Member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any Member so requests in advance of the meeting, the matter shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The clerk shall keep a

record of polls. If the Chairman determines that the polled matter is one of the areas enumerated in Rule III(1), the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any Member may request a Committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

VI. Investigations

Authorization for Investigations. All investigations shall be conducted on a bipartisan basis by Committee staff. Investigations may be initiated by the Committee staff upon the approval of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member. Staff shall keep the Committee fully informed of the progress of continuing investigations, except where the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member agree that there exists temporary cause for more limited knowledge.

Subpoenas. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, acting together, shall authorize a subpoena. Subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials shall be issued by the Chairman, or by any other Member of the Committee designated by him. Prior to the issuance of each subpoena, the Ranking Minority Member, and any other Member so requesting, shall be notified regarding the identity of the person to whom the subpoena will be issued and the nature of the information sought, and its relationship to the investigation.

Investigative Reports. All reports containing findings or recommendations stemming from Committee investigations shall be printed only with the approval of a majority of the Members of the Committee.

VII. Depositions and Commissions

Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Committee shall be authorized and issued by the Chairman or by a staff officer designated by him. Such notices shall specify a time and place for examination, and the name of the staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Committee subpoena.

Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights, subject to the provisions of Rule II(6).

Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Committee staff. Objections by the witnesses as to the form of questions shall be noted by the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Committee staff may proceed with the deposition, or may at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from a Member of the Committee. If the Member overrules the objection, he or she may refer the matter to the Committee or the Member may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Committee shall not initiate the procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after he or she has been ordered and directed to answer by a Member of the Committee.

Filing. The Committee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded.

Commissions. The Committee may authorize the staff, by issuance of commissions, to fill in prepared subpoenas, conduct field hearings, inspect locations, facilities, or systems of records, or otherwise act on behalf of

the Committee. Commissions shall be accompanied by instructions from the Committee regulating their use.

VIII. Subcommittees

Establishment. The Committee will operate as a Committee of the Whole, reserving to itself the right to establish temporary subcommittees at any time by majority vote. The Chairman of the full Committee and the Ranking Minority Member shall be ex officio Members of all subcommittees.

Jurisdiction. Within its jurisdiction as described in the Standing Rules of the Senate, each subcommittee is authorized to conduct investigations, including use of subpoenas, depositions, and commissions.

Rules. A subcommittee shall be governed by the Committee rules, except that its quorum for all business shall be one-third of the subcommittee Membership, and for hearings shall be one Member.

IX. Reports

Committee reports incorporating Committee findings and recommendations shall be printed only with the prior approval of a majority of the Committee, after an adequate period for review and comment. The printing, as Committee documents, of materials prepared by staff for informational purposes, or the printing of materials not originating with the Committee or staff, shall require prior consultation with the minority staff; these publications shall have the following language printed on the cover of the document: "Note: This document has been printed for informational purposes. It does not represent either findings or recommendations formally adopted by the Committee."

X. Amendment of Rules

The rules of the Committee may be amended or revised at any time, provided that not less than a majority of the Committee present so determine at a Committee meeting preceded by at least 3 days notice of the amendments or revisions proposed or via polling, subject to Rule V (4).

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of

the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-10, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$10 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$8 billion.

Other \$2 billion.

Total \$10 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eighteen (18) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers.

Four hundred sixty-eight (468) HIMARS Launcher Loader Module Kits.

Forty-five (45) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS).

Four hundred sixty-one (461) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS).

Five hundred twenty-one (521) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Unitary (GMLRS-U) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS).

Five hundred thirty-two (532) XM403 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Extended Range Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-ER AW) Pods.

Non-MDE: Also included are Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rockets; support equipment; communications equipment; spare and repair parts; test sets; batteries; laptop computers; publications and technical data; facility design; personnel training and equipment; systems integration support; Quality Assurance Teams and a Technical Assistance Fielding Team; United States Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services; training; sensors; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEA, PL-B-UEB, PL-B-UEF, PL-B-UEG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-B-UDJ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 7, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

The Republic of Poland has requested to buy eighteen (18) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers; four hundred sixty-eight (468) HIMARS Launcher Loader Module kits; forty-five (45) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS); four hundred sixty-one (461) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-AW) pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); five hundred twenty-one (521) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Sys-

tem Unitary (GMLRS-U) pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); and five hundred thirty-two (532) XM403 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Extended Range Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-ER AW) pods. Also included are Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rockets; support equipment; communications equipment; spare and repair parts; test sets; batteries; laptop computers; publications and technical data; facility design; personnel training and equipment; systems integration support; Quality Assurance Teams and a Technical Assistance Fielding Team; United States Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services; training; sensors; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$10 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any future offset agreement would be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Poland for program management reviews to support the program. Travel is expected to occur approximately twice per year as needed to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM) including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy.

2. The HIMARS Launcher Loader Module (LM) is mounted to the vehicle chassis and provides the necessary structure and mechanisms for the loading, launching, and unloading of all the MFOM rocket and missile munitions. The LM consists of a platform, a turret, and a base assembly. The base assembly interfaces with the carrier vehicle. The turret system sits on top of the base and allows for the aiming of the LM assembly in azimuth. The platform, on which one rocket pod is mounted, allows for the aiming of the LM in elevation.

3. The M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)—Unitary is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers, and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/Precise Position System (PPS) aided navigation system.

4. The M31A2 GMLRS Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 Multiple Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) Launchers. The M31 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges from 15–70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

5. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS-U and GMLRS-AW is the replacement of the Unitary's high explosive warhead with a 200 pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance and control system, fuzing mechanism, multi-option height of burst capability, and effective range of 15–70km.

6. The Extended Range (ER) GMLRS provides a persistent, responsive, all-weather, rapidly deployed, long range, surface-to-surface, area- and point-precision strike capability. The XM403 Alternative Warhead (AW) carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of preformed penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The ER GMLRS maintains the accuracy and effectiveness demonstrated by the baseline GMLRS out to an increased range of 150 km and includes a modernized Height of Burst (HOB) capability.

7. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

8. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

9. A determination has been made that Poland will provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

10. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Poland.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELMARVA CHICKEN INDUSTRY

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I stand today on behalf of Delaware's congressional delegation to recognize the 100th anniversary of the broiler chicken in-

dustries and its contributions to the region's economy, our Nation's food supply, and its innovations in farming practices over the last century. Raising broiler chickens is a way of life for the more than 1,300 farm families on Delmarva whose hard work provides food for hundreds of thousands of people in our country and around the world.

The industry all started with an accidental delivery. In 1923, Ocean View, DE, resident Cecile Steele ordered 50 chickens, but instead she received 500. This led Cecile and her husband, Wilmer, to start the first broiler chicken farm on Delmarva. Within 3 years, their new business grew exponentially, and the Steele family built enough coops to house 10,000 chickens. This new kind of farm—one dedicated to raising chickens for meat instead of laying eggs—paved the way for the modern U.S. broiler chicken industry we know today.

The industry may have started with an accidental delivery, but we can look back on it now as an amazing economic opportunity for Delmarva and the thousands of families it supports. Farms in our region now produce 567 million chickens a year; 200 million of those chickens are raised in Delaware. The poultry industry has \$13.6 billion in economic impact and supports more than 51,900 jobs. It also purchases \$1.3 billion worth of crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat annually, making this industry a major purchaser for hundreds of other farmers.

I have long known that many farmers are among our best environmental stewards since my days as Governor of Delaware when my administration worked with farmers to create common-sense, effective environmental strategies like the farmer-led Nutrient Management Commission. Today, the adverse impacts of chicken farming on our environment has greatly decreased. Compared to 1960, it now takes 75 percent fewer resources to produce the same amount of chicken than it did back then, and more than 95 percent of poultry litter is recycled and reused as organic, locally produced fertilizer for crops like corn, soybeans, wheat, and mushrooms.

It is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of U.S. Senator CHRIS COONS and U.S. Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER to honor the 100th anniversary of the Delmarva chicken industry. Along with the hard work of the many farmers, suppliers, employees, not to mention the Delmarva Chicken Association that is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Delmarva chicken industry keeps Delaware's economy thriving.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CADE KEENAN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Commander Cade Keenan of the Missouri Air National Guard.

Cade Keenan, of Great Bend, KS, was recently named commander of the

139th Operations Support Squadron, 139th Airlift Wing, of the Missouri Air National Guard in St. Joseph, MO. In this role, Commander Keenan will lead 46 full-time instructor pilots, navigators, flight engineers, loadmasters, and other support staff of the 139th Airlift Wing.

Commander Keenan has served our Nation faithfully, with his first deployment being to Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as regularly deploying throughout southwest Asia between 2003 and 2020. An expert in infrared weapons and defense systems, he instructed crews from across the USAF, USMC, and 10 partner countries in combat tactics for the C-130, C-17, C-160, and C-235 aircraft. As a command pilot, Commander Keenan has 4,764 hours in military aircraft, with 852 of those hours being in combat.

Commander Keenan has earned a certificate in electro-optical and infrared applications from the Georgia Tech Research Institute, a master of business administration from Colorado State University, and a bachelor of science in industrial engineering from Kansas State University. He has also graduated from the USAF Advanced Instrument and USAF Weapons schools. Commander Keenan's extensive experience, wide breadth of knowledge on U.S. Air Force operations, and his impressive academic achievements give me great confidence in his ability to lead the 139th Operations Support Squadron. He will certainly make his country, the State of Kansas, and his community proud.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commander Cade Keenan for his recent promotion, as well as thank him for his dedicated service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE FRITZ

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor, in my opinion, the Kansan of the year, Willie Fritz. Fritz is currently the head football coach at Tulane University in New Orleans, which saw unprecedented success this year, culminating in a thrilling victory over the University of Southern California in the Cotton Bowl Classic.

To give some background on Coach Fritz, he graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in 1978 and went on to be a dual sport athlete in basketball and football at Pittsburg State University for 4 years, both fantastic Kansas institutions. After multiple assistant coaching roles at various colleges—including Pittsburg State—Coach Fritz landed his first head coaching job at Central Missouri in 1997 and began his run of success as a head coach. He would stay at Central Missouri for 12 years and then went to coach at Sam Houston State and Georgia Southern before arriving at Tulane in 2016.

During his time at Tulane, his teams have played in three consecutive bowl

games from 2018–2020, winning two, but this season the program's success was historic for Tulane. Coach Fritz and the team made their mark first by winning Tulane's first-ever American Athletic Conference Championship after beating the University of Central Florida. The team then not only won the program's first Cotton Bowl, but did so in heroic fashion by coming from behind 28–14 at halftime and scoring 16 points in the final 5 minutes to beat USC and Heisman winner Caleb Williams by a final of 46–45. The team finished the season ranked No. 9 in both the coaches and AP polls at the end of the year. Following a 2–10 season in 2021 in which Tulane lost 17 players to season-ending injuries and were forced to play two of their home games on the road due to damage from Hurricane Ida, the 10-win increase marks the greatest turnaround in college football history.

The success for Tulane's football program didn't stop on the field though. This year alone, the team had 46 players receive Academic All-AAC honors and holds an 87 percent graduation rate. Both are true signs of the high standards that Coach Fritz certainly holds his team to.

For as much success as the team has had, I would be remiss not to mention a few of Coach Fritz's individual achievements. After the Cotton Bowl victory, Coach Fritz now has the most bowl appearances ever by a Tulane coach and now boasts a 236–119–1 career record. He was also awarded both the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation's 2022 Dodd Trophy and the George Munger College Coach of the year award. He is deserving of all these accolades and has also been recognized for his efforts on giving back and making a positive impact in the New Orleans community.

The only blemish on Coach Fritz's resume is that he had beat my alma mater, Kansas State, in Manhattan, KS, this season. Since he is a Kansan, I am willing to look past that one. I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Fritz on an incredible season at Tulane. May he see continued success throughout his career.●

TRIBUTE TO DAWN SMITH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize U.S. Air Force veteran Master Sergeant Dawn Smith of Notasulga. Sergeant Smith joined the Air Force immediately after graduating high school when a recruitment poster caught her mom's eye. Once she learned about the opportunities available to her through military service, Sergeant Smith felt that it was the right path for her.

Sergeant Smith was stationed at several posts during her 20-year career. She started as a missile maintainer, but retrained as an eyecare technician. As a tribute to her dedicated work ethic, she was selected as a non-

commissioned officer academy instructor. Even though the military isn't a traditional, 4-year educational route, she described it as a "continuing education" experience.

After she retired from the military, Sergeant Smith started a cattle operation named Lone Oak Farm with her husband Tim, who also served in the Air Force for 23 years. She credits the "no-fail" mentality learned in the military for helping her succeed as a first-time farmer. The Smiths have grown their operation from 2 cows to 35, and now, they sell fresh beef to families across Alabama.

Sergeant Smith is truly a "lifelong learner" who is always willing to share her knowledge and experiences with others. That is why she is proud to be a 4-H agent assistant for the Tallapoosa County School System, where she teaches ag-related skills to more than 1,000 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders each month. And twice a year, she works with high schoolers, helping them learn how to work with their hands and grow their own produce.

Now, Sergeant Smith helps develop new curriculums for students, including a "Respect for the Flag" lesson that teaches the American flag's history, meaning, and how to properly care for it. Sergeant Smith credits the military for giving her greater awareness and compassion for the needs of others around the world. She went to Guatemala for the first time on a medical mission while in the service, which inspired her and her husband to continue mission trips to Guatemala and Alaska after their retirement.

Alabama is grateful for Sergeant Smith's service and proud to recognize her for the February veteran of the Month.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023—PM 1

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker. Madam Vice President. Our First Lady and Second Gentleman. Members of Congress and the Cabinet. Leaders of our military. Mr. Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and retired Justices of the Supreme Court. And you, my fellow Americans.

I start tonight by congratulating the members of the 118th Congress and the new Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working together.

I also want to congratulate the new leader of the House Democrats and the first Black House Minority Leader in history, HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Congratulations to the longest serving Senate leader in history, MITCH MCCONNELL.

And congratulations to CHUCK SCHUMER for another term as Senate Majority Leader, this time with an even bigger majority.

And I want to give special recognition to someone who I think will be considered the greatest Speaker in the history of this country, NANCY PELOSI.

The story of America is a story of progress and resilience. Of always moving forward. Of never giving up. A story that is unique among all nations.

We are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than when we entered it. That is what we are doing again.

Two years ago, our economy was reeling. As I stand here tonight—we have created a record 12 million new jobs—more jobs created in 2 years than any President has ever created in 4 years.

Two years ago, COVID had shut down our businesses, closed our schools and robbed us of so much. Today, COVID no longer controls our lives.

And 2 years ago, our democracy faced its greatest threat since the civil War. Today—though bruised—our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken.

As we gather here tonight—we are writing the next chapter in the great American story—a story of progress and resilience. When world leaders ask me to define America—I define our country in one word—Possibilities.

You know, we're often told that Democrats and Republicans can't work together. But over these past 2 years we proved the cynics and the naysayers wrong. Yes, we disagreed plenty. And yes, there were times when Democrats had to go it alone.

But time and again, Democrats and Republicans came together. Came together to defend a stronger and safer Europe. Came together to pass a once-in-a-generation infrastructure law—building bridges to connect our Nation and people. Came together to pass one of the most significant laws ever—helping veterans exposed to toxic burn pits.

In fact—I signed over 300 bipartisan laws since becoming President—from reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act to the Electoral Count Reform Act to the Respect For Marriage Act—that protects the right to marry the person you love.

To my Republican friends—if we could work together in the last Congress—there is no reason we can't work together in this new Congress. The people sent us a clear message.

Fighting for the sake of fighting—power for the sake of power—conflict for the sake of conflict—gets us nowhere.

And that's always been my vision for our country. To restore the soul of the Nation. To rebuild the backbone of America—the middle class. To unite the country. We've been sent here to finish the job!

For decades the middle class was hollowed out. Too many good-paying

manufacturing jobs moved overseas. Factories at home closed down. Once-thriving cities and towns became shadows of what they used to be. And along the way something else was lost. Pride. That sense of self-worth.

I ran for President to fundamentally change things—to make sure the economy works for everyone so we can all feel pride in what we do. To build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out—not from the top down. Because when the middle class does well—the poor have a ladder up—and the wealthy still do very well. We all do well.

As my Dad used to say—a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say "Honey—it's going to be OK"—and mean it.

So—let's look at the results. Unemployment rate at 3.4 percent—a 50-year low. Near record low unemployment—for Black and Hispanic workers.

We've already created 800,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs—the fastest growth in 40 years. Where is it written—that America can't lead the world in manufacturing again?

For too many decades we imported products and exported jobs. Now—thanks to all we've done—we're exporting American products and creating American jobs.

Inflation has been a global problem because of the pandemic that disrupted supply chains and Putin's war that disrupted energy and food supplies. But we're better positioned than any country on Earth. We have more to do—but here at home inflation is coming down! Here at home—gas prices are down \$1.50 a gallon since their peak. Food inflation is coming down. Inflation has fallen every month for the last 6 months while take home pay has gone up.

Additionally—over the last 2 years—a record 10 million Americans applied to start a new small business. Every time somebody starts a small business—it's an act of hope.

And the Vice President will continue her work to ensure more small businesses can access capital and the historic laws we enacted.

Standing here last year—I shared with you a story of—American genius and possibility. Semiconductors—the small computer chips the size of your fingertip that power everything from cellphones to automobiles and so much more. These chips were invented right here in America. America used to make nearly 40 percent of the world's chips. But in the last few decades we lost our edge and we're down to producing only 10 percent.

We all saw what happened during the pandemic when chip factories overseas shut down. Today's automobiles need up to 3,000 chips each—but American automakers couldn't make enough cars because there weren't enough chips. Car prices went up. So did everything from refrigerators to cellphones. We can never let that happen again!

That's why we came together to pass the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. We're making sure the supply chain for America begins in America!

We've already created 800,000 manufacturing jobs even without this law. With this new law—we will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs across the country. That's going to come from companies that have announced more than \$300 billion in investments in American manufacturing in the last 2 years.

Outside of Columbus, Ohio—Intel is building semiconductor factories on a thousand acres—a literal field of dreams. That'll create 10,000 jobs. 7,000 construction jobs. 3,000 jobs once the factories are finished. Jobs paying \$130,000 a year—and many don't require a college degree. Jobs where people don't have to leave home in search of opportunity.

And it's just getting started. Think about the new homes—new small businesses—and so much more that will come to life. Talk to mayors and Governors—Democrats and Republicans—and they'll tell you what this means to their communities. We're seeing these fields of dreams—transform the heartland!

But to maintain the strongest economy in the world—we also need the best infrastructure in the world. We used to be #1 in the world in infrastructure—then we fell to 13th.

Now we're coming back because we came together to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—the largest investment in infrastructure since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway system.

Already—we've funded over 20,000 projects—including at major airports from Boston to Atlanta to Portland. These projects will put hundreds of thousands of people to work rebuilding our highways—bridges—railroads—tunnels—ports and airports—clean water—and high-speed internet—across America. Urban. Suburban. Rural. Tribal.

And we're just getting started. I sincerely thank my Republican friends who voted for the law. And to my Republican friends who voted against it but still ask to fund projects in their districts—don't worry. I promised to be the President for all Americans. We'll fund your projects. And—I'll see you at the ground-breaking.

This law will help further unite all of America. Major projects like the Brent Spence bridge between Kentucky and Ohio—over the Ohio River. Built 60 years ago. Badly in need of repairs. One of the Nation's most congested freight routes—carrying \$2 billion worth of freight every day. Folks have been talking about fixing it for decades but we're finally going to get it done.

I went there last month with Democrats and Republicans from both States to deliver \$1.6 billion for this project. While I was there I met an ironworker named Saria—who is here tonight. For 30 years she's been a proud member of Iron Workers Local 44—known as the

"cowboys of the sky"—who built the Cincinnati skyline. Saria said she can't wait to be ten stories above the Ohio River building that new bridge. That's pride. That's what we're also building—pride.

We're also replacing poisonous lead pipes that go into 10 million homes—and 400,000 schools and childcare centers—so every child in America can drink clean water!

We're making sure that every community has access to affordable high-speed Internet. No parent should have to drive to a McDonald's parking lot so their kid can do their homework online.

And when we do these projects—we're going to Buy American. Buy American has been the law of the land since 1933. But for too long past administrations have found ways to get around it. Not anymore.

Tonight—I'm also announcing new standards to require all construction materials used in Federal infrastructure projects to be made in America. American-made—lumber—glass—drywall—fiber optic cables. And on my watch—American roads—American bridges—and American highways will be made with American products.

My economic plan is about investing in places and people that have been forgotten. Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades—too many people have been left behind—or treated like they're invisible. Maybe that's you watching at home. You remember the jobs that went away. And you wonder whether a path even exists anymore for you and your children to get ahead—without moving away. I get it. That's why we're building an economy where no one is left behind.

Jobs are coming back—pride is coming back—because of the choices we made in the last 2 years. This is a blue-collar blue print—to rebuild America—and make a real difference in your lives.

For example—too many of you lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling wondering what will happen if your spouse gets cancer—your child gets sick—or if something happens to you. Will you have the money to pay your medical bills? Will you have to sell the house? I get it.

With the Inflation Reduction Act that I signed into law—we're taking on powerful interests to bring your health care costs down so you can sleep better at night.

You know—we pay more for prescription drugs than any major country on Earth. For example—1 in 10 Americans has diabetes. Every day—millions need insulin to control their diabetes so they can stay alive. Insulin has been around for 100 years. It costs drug companies just \$10 a vial to make. But—Big Pharma has been unfairly charging people hundreds of dollars and making record profits. Not anymore. We capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for seniors on Medicare.

But there are millions of other Americans who are not on Medicare—including 200,000 young people with Type I diabetes who need insulin to save their lives. Let's finish the job this time. Let's cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month—for every American who needs it!

This law also caps out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors on Medicare at a maximum \$2,000 per year when there are in fact many drugs—like expensive cancer drugs—that can cost up to \$10,000—\$12,000—and \$14,000 a year. If drug prices rise faster than inflation—drug companies will have to pay Medicare back the difference.

And we're finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices. Bringing down prescription drug costs doesn't just save seniors money. It will cut the Federal deficit saving tax payers hundreds of billions of dollars on the prescription drugs the Government buys for Medicare.

Why wouldn't we want to do that? Now—some members here are threatening to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. Make no mistake—if you try to do anything to raise the cost of prescription drugs—I will veto it!

I'm pleased to say that more Americans have health insurance now than ever in history. A record 16 million people are enrolled under the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to the law I signed last year—millions are saving \$800 a year on their premiums. But the way that law was written—that benefit expires after 2025. Let's finish the job—make those savings permanent—and expand coverage to those left off Medicaid.

Look—the Inflation Reduction Act—is also the most significant investment ever—to tackle the climate crisis. Lowering utility bills—creating American jobs—and leading the world to a clean energy future.

I've visited the devastating aftermaths of record floods and droughts—storms and wildfires. In addition to emergency recovery—from Puerto Rico to Florida to Idaho—we are rebuilding for the long term. New electric grids—able to weather the next major storm. Roads and water systems—to withstand the next big flood. Clean energy—to cut pollution and create jobs in communities too often left behind.

We're building 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations—installed across the country—by tens of thousands of IBEW workers. And helping families save more than \$1,000 a year—with tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles—and energy-efficient appliances.

Historic conservation efforts—to be responsible stewards of our lands. Let's face reality. The climate crisis doesn't care if your State is red or blue. It is an existential threat. We have an obligation—to our children and grandchildren—to confront it.

I'm proud of how America is at last—stepping up to the challenge. But there's so much more to do. We will finish the job!

And we pay for these investments in our future by finally making the wealthiest and the biggest corporations begin to pay their fair share. I'm a capitalist. But just pay your fair share.

And I think a lot of you at home agree with me—that our present tax system is simply unfair. The idea that in 2020—55 of the biggest companies in America made \$40 billion in profits and paid zero in Federal income taxes? That's simply not fair.

But now—because of the law I signed—billion-dollar companies have to pay a minimum of 15 percent. Just 15 percent. That's less than a nurse pays.

Let me be clear. Under my plan—nobody earning less than \$400,000 a year—will pay an additional penny in taxes. Nobody. Not one penny.

But there's more to do. Let's finish the job. Reward work—not just wealth. Pass my proposal for a billionaire minimum tax. Because no billionaire should pay a lower tax rate than a school teacher or a firefighter.

You may have noticed that Big Oil just reported record profits. Last year they made \$200 billion—in the midst of a global energy crisis. It's outrageous. They invested too little of that profit to increase domestic production and keep gas prices down.

Instead—they used those record profits to buy back their own stock—rewarding their CEOs and shareholders. Corporations ought to do the right thing. That's why I propose that we quadruple the tax on corporate stock buybacks—to encourage long term investments instead. They will still make a considerable profit.

Let's finish the job and close the loopholes that allow the very wealthy to avoid paying their taxes. Instead of cutting the number of audits of wealthy tax payers—I signed a law that will reduce the deficit by \$114 billion—by cracking down on wealthy tax cheats. That's being fiscally responsible.

In the last 2 years—my Administration cut the deficit by more than \$1.7 trillion—the largest deficit reduction in American history. Under the previous administration—America's deficit went up 4 years in a row.

Because of those record deficits—no President added more to the national debt in any 4 years than my predecessor. Nearly 25 percent of the entire national debt—a debt that took 200 years to accumulate—was added by that administration alone.

How did Congress respond to all that debt? They lifted the debt ceiling three times without preconditions or crisis. They paid America's bills to prevent economic disaster for our country. Tonight—I'm asking this Congress—to follow suit.

Let us commit here tonight—that the full faith and credit of the United States of America will never—ever—be questioned!

Some of my Republican friends want to take the economy hostage—unless I

agree to their economic plans. All of you at home should know what their plans are. Instead of making the wealthy pay their fair share—some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset every 5 years. That means if Congress doesn't vote to keep them—those programs will go away.

Other Republicans say if we don't cut Social Security and Medicare they'll let America default on its debt for the first time in our history. I won't let that happen. Social Security and Medicare are a lifeline for millions of seniors. Americans have been paying into them with every single paycheck since they started working.

So tonight—let's all agree to stand up for seniors. Stand up and show them—we will not cut Social Security! We will not cut Medicare!

Those benefits belong to the American people. They earned them. If anyone tries to cut Social Security—I will stop them. And if anyone tries to cut Medicare—I will stop them. I will not allow them to be taken away. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not ever.

Next month—when I offer my fiscal plan—I ask my Republican friends to offer their plan. We can sit down together and discuss both plans together. My plan will lower the deficit by \$2 trillion. I won't cut a single Social Security or Medicare benefit. In fact—I will extend the Medicare Trust Fund by at least two decades.

I will not raise taxes on anyone making under \$400,000 a year. And I will pay for the ideas I've talked about tonight by making the wealthy and big corporations begin to pay their fair share.

Look—here's the deal. Big corporations aren't just taking advantage of the tax code. They're taking advantage of you—the American consumer. Here's my message to all of you out there—I have your back.

We're already preventing insurance companies from sending surprise medical bills—stopping 1 million surprise bills a month. We're protecting seniors' lives—and life savings—by cracking down on nursing homes that commit fraud—endanger patient safety—or prescribe drugs they don't need.

Millions of Americans can now save thousands of dollars because they can finally get hearing aids over-the-counter without a prescription.

Capitalism without competition is not capitalism. It is exploitation.

Last year I cracked down on foreign shipping companies that were making you pay higher prices for everyday goods coming into our country. I signed a bipartisan bill that cut shipping costs by 90 percent—helping American farmers—businesses—and consumers. Let's finish the job.

Pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen antitrust enforcement and prevent big online platforms from giving their own products an unfair advantage. My Administration is also taking on "junk" fees—those hidden surcharges too many businesses use to make you pay more. For example—

we're making airlines show you the full ticket price upfront and refund your money if your flight is cancelled or delayed.

We've reduced exorbitant bank overdraft fees—saving consumers more than \$1 billion a year. We're cutting credit card late fees by 75 percent—from \$30 to \$8. Junk fees may not matter to the very wealthy—but they matter to most folks in homes like the one I grew up in. They add up to hundreds of dollars a month. They make it harder for you to pay the bills or afford that family trip. I know how unfair it feels when a company overcharges you and gets away with it.

Not anymore. We've written a bill to stop all that. It's called the Junk Fee Prevention Act. We'll ban surprise "resort fees" that hotels tack on to your bill. These fees can cost you up to \$90 a night—at hotels that aren't even resorts. We'll make—cable—internet—and cellphone companies—stop charging you up to \$200 or more when you decide to switch to another provider. We'll cap service fees on tickets to concerts and sporting events and make companies disclose all fees upfront.

And we'll prohibit airlines from charging up to \$50 roundtrip for families just to sit together. Baggage fees are bad enough—they can't just treat your child like a piece of luggage. Americans are tired of being played for suckers. Pass the Junk Fee Prevention Act so companies stop ripping us off!

For too long—workers have been getting stiffed. Not anymore. We're beginning to restore the dignity of work.

For example—30 million workers had to sign non-compete agreements when they took a job. So—a cashier at a burger place can't cross the street to take the same job at another burger place to make a couple bucks more. Not anymore. We're banning those agreements so companies have to compete for workers and pay them what they're worth.

I'm so sick and tired of companies breaking the law by preventing workers from organizing. Pass the PRO Act—because workers have a right to form a union.

And let's guarantee all workers a living wage. Let's also make sure working parents can afford to raise a family with sick days—paid family and medical leave—and affordable child care—that will enable millions more people to go to work. Let's also restore the full Child Tax Credit—which gave tens of millions of parents some breathing room and cut child poverty in half—to the lowest level in history.

And by the way—when we do all of these things—we increase productivity—we increase economic growth.

Let's also finish the job—and get more families access to affordable and quality housing. Let's get seniors who want to stay in their homes the care they need to do so. And give a little more breathing room to millions of family caregivers looking after their loved ones.

Pass my plan so we get seniors and people with disabilities the home care services they need and support the workers who are doing God's work. These plans are fully paid for and we can afford to do them.

Restoring the dignity of work also means making education an affordable ticket to the middle class. When we made 12 years of public education universal in the last century—it made us the best-educated—best-prepared Nation in the world. But the world has caught up.

Jill—who teaches full-time—has an expression—"Any nation that out-educates us—will out-compete us."

Folks—you all know—12 years is not enough to win the economic competition for the 21st Century. If you want America to have the best-educated workforce—let's finish the job by providing access to pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Studies show that children who go to pre-school are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a 2- or 4-year degree—no matter their background. Let's give public school teachers a raise.

And—we're making progress by reducing student debt and increasing Pell Grants for working and middle-class families.

Let's finish the job—connect students to career opportunities starting in high school—and provide 2 years of community college—some of the best career training in America in addition to being a pathway to a 4-year degree. Let's offer every American the path to a good career—whether they go to college or not!

And folks—in the midst of the COVID crisis—when schools were closed—let's also recognize how far we've come in the fight against the pandemic itself. While the virus is not gone—thanks to the resilience of the American people—we have broken COVID's grip on us.

COVID deaths are down nearly 90 percent. We've saved millions of lives and opened our country back up. And soon—we'll end the public health emergency.

But we will remember the toll and pain that will never go away for so many. More than 1 million Americans have lost their lives to COVID. Families grieving. Children orphaned. Empty chairs at the dining room table. We remember them—and we remain vigilant.

We still need to monitor dozens of variants and support new vaccines and treatments. So—Congress needs to fund these efforts and keep America safe!

And as we emerge from this crisis stronger—I'm also doubling down on prosecuting criminals who stole relief money meant to keep workers and small businesses afloat during the pandemic.

Before I came to office—many inspectors general—who protect taxpayer dollars—were sidelined. Fraud was rampant.

Last year—I told you the watchdogs are back. Since then—we've recovered billions of taxpayer dollars.

Now—let's triple our anti-fraud strike forces going after these criminals—double the statute of limitations on these crimes—and crack down on identity fraud by criminal syndicates stealing billions of dollars from the American people. For every dollar we put into fighting fraud—taxpayers get back at least 10 times as much.

COVID left other scars—like the spike in violent crime in 2020—the first year of the pandemic. We have an obligation to make sure all our people are safe. Public safety depends on public trust. But too often—that trust is violated.

Joining us tonight are the parents of Tyre Nichols—who had to bury him just last week. There are no words to describe the heartbreak and grief of losing a child. But—imagine what it's like to lose a child at the hands of the law. Imagine having to worry whether your son or daughter will come home from walking down the street—or playing in the park—or just driving their car.

I've never had to have the talk with my children—Beau, Hunter, and Ashley—that so many Black and Brown families have had with their children. If a police officer pulls you over—turn on your interior lights. Don't reach for your license. Keep your hands on the steering wheel.

Imagine having to worry like that every day—in America.

Here's what Tyre's Mom shared with me when I asked her how she finds the courage to carry on and speak out. With faith in God—she said her son—"was a beautiful soul—and something good will come from this."

Imagine how much courage and character that takes.

It's up to us. It's up to all of us.

We all want the same thing. Neighborhoods free of violence. Law enforcement who earn the community's trust. Our children to come home safely.

Equal protection under the law—that's the covenant we have with each other in America. And we know police officers put their lives on the line every day—and we ask them to do too much. To be counselors, social workers, psychologists—responding to drug overdoses, mental health crises, and more. We ask too much of them. But what happened to Tyre in Memphis happens too often. We have to do better.

Give law enforcement the training they need—hold them to higher standards—and help them succeed in keeping everyone safe.

We also need more first responders and other professionals to address growing mental health and substance abuse challenges. More resources to reduce violent crime and gun crime—more community intervention programs—more investments in housing, education, and job training. All this can help prevent violence in the first place.

And when police officers or departments violate the public's trust—we

must hold them accountable. With the support of families of victims—civil rights groups—and law enforcement—I signed an Executive Order for all Federal officers. Banning chokeholds—restricting no-knock warrants—and other key elements of the—George Floyd Act.

Let's commit ourselves to make the words of Tyre's mother come true—something good must come from this. All of us in this chamber—we need to rise to this moment. We can't turn away. Let's do what we know in our hearts we need to do. Let's come together and finish the job on police reform. Do something. That was the same plea of parents who lost their children in Uvalde—do something on gun violence.

Thank God we did—passing the most sweeping gun safety law in three decades. That includes things that the majority of responsible gun owners support like—enhanced background checks for 18- to 21-year-olds—and red flag laws keeping guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and others.

But we know our work is not done.

Joining us tonight is Brandon Tsay—a 26-year-old hero. Brandon put off his college dreams to stay by his mom's side as she was dying from cancer. He now works at a dance studio started by his grandparents. Two weeks ago—during Lunar New Year celebrations—he heard the studio's front door close and saw a man pointing a gun at him. He thought he was going to die—but then he thought about the people inside. In that instant—he found the courage to act—and wrestled the semi-automatic pistol away from a gunman who had already killed 11 people at another dance studio.

He saved lives. It's time we do the same as well. Ban assault weapons once and for all!

We did it before. I led the fight to ban them in 1994. In the 10 years the ban was law—mass shootings went down. After Republicans let it expire—mass shootings tripled.

Let's finish the job—and ban assault weapons again!

And let's also come together on immigration—and make it a bipartisan issue like it was before. We now have a record number of personnel working to secure the border—arresting 8,000 human smugglers and seizing over 23,000 pounds of fentanyl in just the last several months.

Since we launched our new border plan last month—unlawful migration from Cuba—Haiti—Nicaragua—and Venezuela has come down 97 percent.

But America's border problems won't be fixed until Congress acts. If you won't pass my comprehensive immigration reform—at least pass my plan to provide the equipment and officers to secure the border. And a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers—those on temporary status—farm workers—and essential workers.

Here in the people's House—it's our duty to protect all the people's rights

and freedoms. Congress must restore the right the Supreme Court took away last year—and codify *Roe v. Wade* to protect every woman's constitutional right to choose.

The Vice President and I are doing everything we can to protect access to reproductive health care and safeguard patient privacy. But already—more than a dozen States are enforcing extreme abortion bans. Make no mistake. If Congress passes a national abortion ban—I will veto it!

Let's also pass the bipartisan Equality Act to ensure LGBTQ Americans—especially transgender young people—can live with safety and dignity.

Our strength is not just the example of our power—but the power of our example. Let's remember—the world is watching.

I spoke from this chamber 1 year ago—just days after Vladimir Putin unleashed his brutal war against Ukraine. A murderous assault—evoking images of the death and destruction Europe suffered in World War II. Putin's invasion has been a test for the ages. A test for America. A test for the world.

Would we stand for the most basic of principles? Would we stand for sovereignty? Would we stand for the right of people to live free from tyranny? Would we stand for the defense of democracy?

For such a defense matters to us—because it keeps the peace and prevents open season for would-be aggressors to threaten our security and prosperity.

One year later—we know the answer. Yes—we would. And yes—we did. Together—we did what America always does at our best. We led. We united NATO—and built a global coalition. We stood against Putin's aggression. We stood with the Ukrainian people.

Tonight—we are once again joined by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States. She represents not just her nation—but the courage of her people. Ambassador—America is united in our support for your country. We will stand with you—as long as it takes!!

Our Nation is working for more freedom—more dignity—and more peace—not just in Europe—but everywhere. Before I came to office—the story was about how the People's Republic of China was increasing its power—and America was falling in the world. Not anymore. I've made clear with President Xi that we seek competition—not conflict.

I will make no apologies that we are investing to make America strong. Investing in American innovation—in industries that will define the future—and that China's government is intent on dominating. Investing in our alliances and working with our allies to protect our advanced technologies—so they're not used against us. Modernizing our military to safeguard stability and deter aggression.

Today—we're in the strongest position in decades to compete with China—or anyone else in the world. I

am committed to work with China—where it can advance American interests and benefit the world.

But make no mistake. As we made clear last week—if China threatens our sovereignty—we will act to protect our country. And we did! And let's be clear. Winning the competition with China should unite all of us.

We face serious challenges across the world. But in the past 2 years—democracies have become stronger—not weaker. Autocracies have grown weaker—not stronger. America is rallying the world again to meet those challenges—from climate and global health to food insecurity—to terrorism and territorial aggression.

Allies are stepping up—spending more—and doing more. And bridges are forming between partners in the Pacific and those in the Atlantic. And those who bet against America are learning just how wrong they are. It's never a good bet—to bet against America.

When I came to office—most everyone assumed bipartisanship was impossible. But I never believed it. That's why a year ago—I offered a Unity Agenda for the Nation. We've made real progress.

Together—we passed a law making it easier for doctors to prescribe effective treatments for opioid addiction. Passed a gun safety law—making historic investments in mental health. Launched ARPA-H to drive breakthroughs in the fight against cancer—Alzheimer's—diabetes—and so much more.

We passed the Heath Robinson PACT Act—named for the late Iraq war veteran whose story about exposure to toxic burn pits I shared here last year.

But there is so much more to do. And we can do it together.

Joining us tonight is a father named Doug from Newton, New Hampshire. He wrote Jill and me a letter about his daughter Courtney. Contagious laugh. Her sister's best friend. He shared a story all too familiar to millions of Americans. Courtney discovered pills in high school—it spiraled into addiction—and eventually her death from a fentanyl overdose. She was 20 years old. Describing the last 8 years without her—Doug said—"There is no worse pain."

Yet—their family has turned pain into purpose—working to end stigma and change laws. He told us he wants to "start the journey towards America's recovery." Doug—we're with you.

Fentanyl is killing more than 70,000 Americans a year.

Let's launch a major surge to stop fentanyl production—sale—and trafficking. With more drug detection machines to inspect cargo and stop pills and powder at the border. Working with couriers like Fed Ex to inspect more packages for drugs. Strong penalties to crack down on fentanyl trafficking.

Second—let's do more on mental health—especially for our children. When millions of young people are

struggling with bullying—violence—trauma—we owe them greater access to mental health care at school.

We must finally hold social media companies accountable for the experiment they are running on our children for profit.

And it's time to pass bipartisan legislation to stop Big Tech from collecting personal data on kids and teenagers online—ban targeted advertising to children—and impose stricter limits on the personal data these companies collect on all of us.

Third—let's do more to keep our Nation's one truly sacred obligation—to equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home.

Job training and job placement for veterans and their spouses as they return to civilian life. Helping veterans afford their rent—because no one should be homeless in this country—especially not those who served it.

And we cannot go on losing 17 veterans a day to the silent scourge of suicide. The VA is doing everything it can—including expanding mental health screenings—and a proven program that recruits veterans to help other veterans understand what they're going through and get the help they need.

And fourth—last year Jill and I re-ignited the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead in our administration.

Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years. Turn more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases. And provide more support for patients and families.

It's personal for so many of us.

Joining us are Maurice and Kandice. An Irishman—and a daughter of immigrants from Panama. They met and fell in love in New York City—and got married in the same chapel as Jill and I did. Kindred spirits. He wrote us a letter about their little daughter Ava. She was just a year old when she was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer. 26 blood transfusions. 11 rounds of radiation. 8 rounds of chemo. 1 kidney removed. A 5 percent survival rate.

He wrote how in the darkest moments he thought—"if she goes, I can't stay." Jill and I understand—like so many of you. They read how Jill described our family's cancer journey—and how we tried to steal moments of joy where you can.

For them—that glimmer of joy was a half-smile from their baby girl. It meant everything. They never gave up hope. Ava never gave up hope. She turns 4 next month.

They just found out that Ava beat the odds—and is on her way to being cancer-free—and she's watching from the White House tonight.

For the lives we can save—and for the lives we have lost—let this be a truly American moment that rallies the country and the world together and proves that we can do big things.

Twenty years ago—under the leadership of President Bush and countless advocates and champions—we undertook a bipartisan effort through PEPFAR to transform the global fight against HIV/AIDS. It's been a huge success. I believe we can do the same with cancer. Let's end cancer as we know it—and cure some cancers once and for all.

There's one reason why we're able to do all of these things—our democracy itself. It's the most fundamental thing of all. With democracy—everything is possible. Without it—nothing is.

For the last few years—our democracy has been threatened—attacked—and put at risk. Put to the test here—in this very room—on January 6th.

And then—just a few months ago—unhinged by the Big Lie—an assailant unleashed political violence in the home of the then-Speaker of this House of Representatives. Using the very same language that insurrectionists who stalked these halls chanted on January 6th.

Here tonight—in this chamber—is the man who bears the scars of that brutal attack—but is as tough and strong and as resilient as they get. My friend—Paul Pelosi.

But such a heinous act never should have happened. We must all speak out—there is no place for political violence in America.

In America—we must protect the right to vote—not suppress that fundamental right. We honor the results of our elections—not subvert the will of the people. We must uphold the rule of the law and restore trust in our institutions of democracy.

And—we must give hate and extremism in any form no safe harbor. Democracy must not be a partisan issue. It must be an American issue.

Every generation of Americans has faced a moment where they have been called on to protect our democracy—to defend it—to stand up for it. And—this is our moment.

My fellow Americans—we meet tonight at an inflection point. One of those moments that only a few generations ever face—where the decisions we make now will decide the course of this Nation—and of the world—for decades to come.

We are not bystanders to history. We are not powerless before the forces that confront us. It is within our power—of We the People.

We are facing the test of our time—and the time for choosing is at hand. We must be the Nation we have always been at our best. Optimistic. Hopeful. Forward-looking.

A Nation that embraces light over darkness—hope over fear—unity over division. Stability over chaos.

We must see each other not as enemies but as fellow Americans. We are a good people—the only Nation in the world built on an idea.

That all of us—every one of us—is created equal in the image of God. A Nation that stands as a beacon to the

world. A Nation in a new age of possibilities.

So I have come here to fulfil my constitutional duty to report on the State of the Union.

And here is my report. Because the soul of this Nation is strong—because the backbone of this Nation is strong—because the people of this Nation are strong—The State of the Union is strong!

As I stand here tonight—I have never been more optimistic about the future of America. We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America—and there is nothing—nothing—beyond our capacity—if we do it together!

May God bless you all.

May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 7, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes.

H.R. 423. An act to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

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. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 259. A bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in

order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 299. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-371. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (Docket No. RM23-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-372. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Internal Network Security Monitoring for High and Medium Impact Bulk Electric System Cyber Systems" ((RIN1902-AF88) (Docket No. RM22-3-000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-373. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Warm Air Furnaces" (RIN1905-AE59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-374. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Refund of Alcohol Excise Tax" (RIN1515-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-375. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Service of Process and Updated Addresses for Certain Communications with the Agency" (RIN0960-AI78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-376. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Initial Guidance Regarding the Application of the Excise Tax on Repurchases of Corporate Stock under Section 4501 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2023-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-377. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Depart-

ment of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exception for Interests Held by Foreign Pension Funds" (RIN1545-BN89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-378. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exempt organization rulings and determination letters procedures" (Rev. Proc. 2023-5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-379. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement Providing Transitional Guidance Under Sections 6045 and 6045A for Brokers of Digital Assets" (Announcement 2023-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-380. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e) Notice" (Notice 2023-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-381. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TCJA Section 174 Changes in Method of Accounting" (Notice 2023-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-382. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Modifying and Superseding Rev Proc 2023-8 relating to Changes of Accounting for Specified Rese" (Notice 2023-11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-383. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Initial Guidance Regarding the Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax under Sections 55, 56A, and 59 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2023-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-384. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Manufacturers May Need Additional Guidance To Ensure Consistent Calculations of Average Sales Prices"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Unobligated Balances for Appropriations Relating to Quality Measurement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-386. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-3. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take specified actions to encourage the production of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and coal resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 259

Whereas, Crude oil, natural gas, and coal are vital components of our nation's economy, providing more than 11 million jobs throughout the United States, including 375,000 total jobs and \$58 billion in annual gross domestic income in Ohio alone; and

Whereas, Russian petroleum imports into the United States are approximately 670,000 barrels per day; and

Whereas, If constructed, the domestic Keystone XL Pipeline would have the capacity to supply 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil to American families and businesses; and

Whereas, The United States has large reserves of oil, natural gas, and coal for use in energy production and this abundance has provided security that has historically led to reliable and affordable energy for American consumers and our allies; and

Whereas, The world is looking to the United States for energy leadership and stability as current geopolitical events pose potential economic disruptions when inflation already affects households in the United States, across Europe, and the world; and

Whereas, Federal policies and the recently enacted tax increases on domestic oil and gas production that were included in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act inhibit production of these vital resources; and

Whereas, The United States has the ability and capacity to once again be a net exporter or energy resources, supplying our allies in Europe with energy; and

Whereas, The United States has established barriers and disincentives to coal use. These barriers and disincentives have caused the idling or premature retirement of coal plants; and

Whereas, Operation and expansion of a key component of the United States' energy success, our oil and natural gas pipelines, which provide the most efficient means of transporting those commodities, is being blocked by the federal government; and

Whereas, The Biden Administration continues to increase costs and delay efforts to develop oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands and waters despite the fact that the leasing program provides billions of dollars in revenue to federal, state, and local governments and supports conservation programs throughout the country; and

Whereas, Areas in which the United States conducts offshore production are some of the lowest carbon intensive energy producing regions in the world, and halting offshore leasing and development will shill production and capital investment overseas and undermine decades of environmental progress; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, strongly urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to do the following:

(1) Implement policies and enact legislation to ensure that the United States again becomes energy independent;

(2) Suspend and eliminate federal policies and the tax increases from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on domestic oil and gas production that cripple the production of these vital resources;

(4) Undertake measures and policies that ensure long-term American energy leadership, security, and progress, including those that result in the continued operation of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, the construction of new oil and gas pipelines, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, the resumption of consistent and credible federal lease sales, and the immediate preparation of a new five-year program to guide future offshore leasing;

(5) Enact measures that cease the import of Russian oil into the United States;

(6) Implement policies and enact legislation to promote clean, modern power plants utilizing coal as an energy resource; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. Res. 33. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging, without amendment:

S. Res. 34. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. Res. 37. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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. BOOKER:

S. 273. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 274. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave to Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 275. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 276. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the vetting and processing of illegal aliens apprehended along the southwest border and to ensure that all laws are being upheld; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 277. A bill to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 278. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 279. A bill to establish a moratorium on energy development in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 280. A bill to ensure that only licensed health care professionals furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 281. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to direct certain prosecutor's offices to annually report to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 282. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 283. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the crude oil not be exported to certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 284. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to include on the engravings on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in the District of Columbia the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., who carved the statue; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 285. A bill to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 286. A bill to make transitional compensation available to dependents of members of the Armed Forces convicted of dependent abuse in Federal or State court and dependents of members accused of dependent abuse who have forfeited all pay and allowances for an unrelated offense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 287. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 288. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 289. A bill to improve national security at the National Institutes of Health, to address national security issues in the licensure of biological products, to address national security considerations in research at the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 290. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 291. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KING, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 292. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to modify certain requirements for Regional Commissions, to reauthorize the Northern Border Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARASSO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 293. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount

window lending programs, and for other programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 294. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 295. A bill to grant certain authorities to the President to combat economic coercion by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 296. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 297. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KLINE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 298. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 299. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; read the first time.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 300. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for Federal student loan reform; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 301. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 302. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide colorectal cancer screening for members of the uniformed services who served in locations associated with toxic exposure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 303. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for travel by the President if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 304. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for the salaries or expenses of political employees if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida,

Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 305. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 306. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 307. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish certain rules relating to unmanned aircraft systems and operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. MULLIN):

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. VANCE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S.J. Res. 10. 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. CARPER:

S. Res. 33. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Res. 34. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging; from the Special Committee on Aging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 35. A resolution designating October 22 through October 28, 2023, as "Natural Product Industry Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 36. A resolution reinforcing the United States-Nigeria relationship and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Res. 37. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 24, a bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families.

S. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 68

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 68, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to

prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 78

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 79

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 79, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes.

S. 82

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 89

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 95

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 95, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 137

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 176

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from promoting, supporting, or contracting with abortion entities, or otherwise expanding access to abortions on Federal lands or in Federal facilities.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to eliminate the position of the Chief Diversity Officer of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to prohibit the disbursement of Federal funds to State and local governments that allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any Federal, State, or local election.

S. 196

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 196, a bill to prohibit the declaration of a Federal emergency relating to abortion.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 247

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 252

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting the marketing of firearms to minors, and for other purposes.

S. 259

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 259, a bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

S. CON. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 2, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 2, *supra*.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution of the United States, and recognizing the 237th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

S. RES. 19

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 19, a resolution recognizing the importance of establishing a national "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution".

S. RES. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 24, a resolution supporting the observation of "National Girls & Women in Sports Day" on February 1, 2023, to raise awareness of and celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 277. A bill to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act to place roughly 700 acres of sacred lands into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians. The lands in this bill, which are adjacent to the Tribe's existing reservation, include sacred sites, ancient rock art, and Tribal artifacts. Placing these lands into trust would protect the Pala

Band's sacred lands and allow them to safeguard their culture and traditions as their ancestors have done since time immemorial.

Our bill would place 721 acres of land in San Diego County, which the Tribe has already purchased, into trust for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Doing so would allow the Pala Band to preserve their traditions and better steward their sacred sites for generations to come.

Members of the Pala Band of Mission Indians descend from the Cupeño and Luiseño Tribes. The Cupeños lived in the valley of San Jose de Valle for generations until they were expelled from their ancestral homelands by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1901. The Tribe was forcibly relocated to Pala, CA, onto a Luiseño reservation. Over a century later, the Pala Band considers themselves one proud people with over 900 Tribal members.

In 2016, the Tribe purchased the lands covered by our bill in order to prevent the construction of a landfill on their sacred lands, known to the Tribe as "Chokla." This bill would enable the Federal Government to fulfill its trust obligation by providing permanent protection for the Pala Band's ancestral and cultural sites.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate and Congressman ISSA and Congressman VARGAS for leading this effort in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 306. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to reintroduce the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023. This legislation would finalize this multidecade effort by the Tule River Tribe to provide clean drinking water to their people and uphold the Federal Government's trust and treaty responsibilities.

The Tule River people are descendants of the Yokuts Indians, a large group of Native Americans who occupied what is now known as the San Joaquin Valley in California for thousands of years prior to contact with settlers.

In 1856, the Federal Government established their reservation in Tulare County, with the specific goal of providing the Tribe with arable farmland and the water resources necessary to establish self-sufficiency. However, their land was fraudulently stolen from them, and in 1873, President Grant issued an Executive order to create a new reservation for the Tribe. This land—which is the Tribe's current reservation—is comprised of mostly mountainous lands that do not provide

sufficient irrigation opportunities or water storage facilities. Today, the Tule River Tribe struggles to provide clean drinking water to their people, and Tule Tribal citizens suffer from a low standard of living as a result.

Since 1971, the Tribe has worked to establish its federally reserved water rights to create the viable homeland they were promised and to ensure that their citizens have enough water to meet their current and future water needs. For decades, the Tribe has worked with the Departments of the Interior and Justice as well as downstream water users to advance a settlement agreement, thereby avoiding costly litigation for both the tribe and the U.S. Government.

I am proud to introduce this legislation to quantify the Tribe's water right of 5,828 acre-feet per year of surface water and fund \$568 million towards the construction of a water storage project. Our legislation would also codify what is known as the "2007 Agreement" with downstream water users, who support this legislation. Finally, the legislation would transfer approximately 9,000 acres of Federal land currently in the Sequoia National Monument to allow the Tribe to protect the watershed headwaters and 800 acres of grazing land to the north and south of the reservation boundary.

It is long past time for the Federal Government to live up to its trust and treaty responsibilities to the Tule River Tribe. We must codify this water settlement and settle the Tule River Tribe's claims against the United States. Access to clean drinking water now and in the future is essential to the continued strength of Tribal nations and to ensuring the sustainability and viability of future generations.

Water is a sacred and necessary resource for Tribal nations and for all people. As California and the West continue to experience a historic megadrought, enactment of our legislation would provide water security to Tule River citizens now and into the future.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate. I would also like to thank the Tule River Tribe for their decades of hard work to finalize this settlement and the downstream water users, including the Tule River Association and the South Tule Independent Ditch Company, for working with the Tribe to settle this issue and avoid litigation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023 as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CARPER submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the

Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 33

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,911,674, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$4,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,705,702, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$8,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$2,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,794,044, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$3,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$834 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; from the Special Committee on Aging; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 34

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 104 of Senate Resolution 4 (95th Congress), agreed to February 4, 1977, and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Special Committee on Aging (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,060,695, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,532,620, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative

Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,471,925, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

SENATE RESOLUTION 35—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 22 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 2023, AS "NATURAL PRODUCT INDUSTRY WEEK"

Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 35

Whereas dietary supplements, such as multivitamins, minerals, herbs, and fish oils, are intended to add to or supplement an individual's diet and come in the form of pills, capsules, powders, gel capsules and tablets, extracts, or liquids;

Whereas natural products such as dietary supplements have contributed to the United States economy as well as the wellbeing of individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, 80 percent of individuals in the United States reported using dietary supplements, an increase of 9 percent since 2016;

Whereas, nationally, sales for the natural and organic products industry were \$259,000,000,000 in 2020, and are expected to surpass \$300,000,000,000 in 2023;

Whereas dietary supplements and dietary ingredients are currently regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-417; 108 Stat. 4325);

Whereas the natural products industry empowers individuals in the United States to pursue flexible work arrangements like direct selling;

Whereas demand for natural products in the United States has led to the establishment of numerous direct selling companies that produce and sell natural products, and 36 percent of direct sellers focus on wellness products, including natural products;

Whereas the increased consumption of dietary supplements has led to the creation of more than 754,000 domestic jobs and the generation of \$121,600,000,000 in total United States economic output, including \$38,400,000,000 in domestic wages;

Whereas many dietary supplements contain vitamins and minerals such as vitamin D, iron, zinc, and more, which have been shown to improve health;

Whereas 42 percent of supplement users cite overall health and wellness benefits as a reason they take supplements;

Whereas individuals in the United States have the right to make decisions about their health and should seek to make informed decisions based on careful research and the best scientific evidence;

Whereas studies have found among older individuals an association between increased use of dietary supplements and reporting more healthful lifestyles; and

Whereas the National Institutes of Health has found that some dietary supplements can improve overall health and manage some health conditions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 22 through October 28, 2023, as “Natural Products Industry Week”;

(2) supports individuals in the United States in their efforts to maintain or improve their health, including through the use of natural products;

(3) recognizes that dietary supplements have become a routine part of the lives of millions of individuals in the United States; and

(4) recognizes the contributions of the natural product industry to the workforce and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 36—REINFORCING THE UNITED STATES-NIGERIA RELATIONSHIP AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO CONDUCT FREE, FAIR, TRANSPARENT, AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 36

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous democracy in Africa;

Whereas Nigeria remains one of the United States closest partners in Africa, with billions of dollars of United States aid and investment per year going towards key areas of governance, health, education, energy, and finance, and democracy in Nigeria continues to be a strategic priority;

Whereas Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa and plays an essential role in the

economic growth and development of West Africa and continent-wide;

Whereas the United States-Nigeria trade relationship, supported by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) and foreign direct investment, further connects our two countries' economies;

Whereas Nigeria's leadership in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) underscores Nigeria's position on upholding democracy and adherence to transfer of power through constitutional means;

Whereas the 2023 electoral process in Nigeria is scheduled to include a presidential election, 28 governor elections, 469 Federal lawmaker elections, and 36 State House of Assembly elections that may test the very foundation of democracy in Nigeria;

Whereas the United States supports peaceful, credible elections in Nigeria in keeping with the democratic aspirations of the Nigerian people;

Whereas the United States, through key multilateral and nongovernmental international organizations, has provided support to increase voter participation, access, education, and safety in elections since Nigeria's transition to multi-party democracy in 1999;

Whereas the 2019 Nigerian presidential and state-level elections were marred by election-related violence, last-minute delays, widespread vote buying, and disinformation, and had the lowest voter turnout in a presidential election since the return to civilian rule in 1999;

Whereas, after the 2019 elections, Nigerian citizens made a resounding call for electoral reforms to address violence, corruption, and political party conduct within the country's political system;

Whereas, over numerous election cycles, Nigerian civil society has developed significant capacities to impartially observe elections, conduct civic and voter education programs, and hold government officials accountable to democratic values;

Whereas the 2019 international election observation report published by the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute noted that “political parties remain the weakest link among Nigeria's nascent democratic institutions,” a sentiment shared by other citizen and international election observation missions, and emphasized the need for political party reforms to promote stronger internal democracy mechanisms, the further inclusion of women and young people in the political process, and the adherence to election codes of conduct and the legal framework by political parties;

Whereas despite the low voter turnout in the 2019 elections, a 2022 Afrobarometer poll indicated that 70 percent of Nigerians favor democracy over any other kind of government;

Whereas, since 2019, Nigeria has taken integral steps to advance transparency and inclusion in elections, including through key provisions passed as part of the Electoral Act, 2022;

Whereas the Electoral Act, 2022 calls for, among other things, an earlier release of election funding for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the electronic transmission of results, and the enfranchisement of voters with physical and mental disabilities;

Whereas the people of Nigeria continue to advocate for stronger democratic values, governmental accountability, and the full implementation of the Electoral Act, 2022 in advance of presidential elections in 2023;

Whereas President Muhammadu Buhari has committed to a “peaceful transfer of

power to an elected democratic government” in 2023, and has pledged to ensure that “elections are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner”; and

Whereas Nigeria continues to suffer from a multitude of security issues, including banditry, terrorism, ethnic violence, religious intolerance, and a lack of accountability for human rights abuses attributed to state security forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates the United States commitment to democracy and good-governance in Nigeria and underscores the support of the United States for all people of Nigeria to be able to participate in free, inclusive, and fair elections;

(2) commends the Government of Nigeria on the passage of the Electoral Act, 2022, which signals the intent of the Government of Nigeria to strengthen its administration of elections, and emphasizes the need for fair and transparent electoral processes;

(3) applauds the work of the many Nigerian civil society organizations that continually work to advocate for and support the implementation of key election reforms, bolster civic education, demand accountability for actions of the government and security personnel, and embolden women and youth participation in politics;

(4) encourages all Nigerians to exercise their right to vote and to refrain from all acts of electoral violence, voter malfeasance, vote buying and selling, inflammatory speech and disinformation, and any other actions that undermine free and fair elections in Nigeria;

(5) condemns violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, ISWAP, and numerous other insurgent and bandit groups that has impacted millions of Nigerians and displaced hundreds of thousands in neighboring Chad, Niger, and Cameroon;

(6) calls on the Government of Nigeria to fully implement the various reforms included in the Electoral Act, 2022, and to—

(A) fund INEC to its fullest capacity to independently administer free, fair, and credible elections;

(B) ensure that Nigerian citizens can safely vote in elections, free of voter intimidation and violence perpetrated by security forces, bandits, paid political disruptors, and armed insurgents;

(C) remain independent from political interference by candidates, appointed or elected officials, political parties, and state security forces;

(D) work with INEC to ensure that elections are held as scheduled;

(E) partner with civil society organizations, the United States Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development on programs that promote and fund good-governance, civic education, and voter access;

(F) work meaningfully to reduce domestic tensions within Nigeria; and

(G) support effective sub-national elections through State Independent Electoral Commissions;

(7) urges INEC to—

(A) ensure equitable access for voter registration, the distribution of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and voter rolls, and ensure that the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) accurately allows for only one vote per person;

(B) maintain and publicly share accurate pre- and post-election voter turnout data;

(C) hold candidates, elected officials, and political parties accountable for electoral law violations, and take steps to prosecute all those who engage in voter intimidation, vote buying, and all other forms of electoral malfeasance;

(D) coordinate with civil society groups that help advance voter education, voter registration, and election observation;

(E) minimize bureaucratic hurdles for accreditation of citizen and international observers and ensure they have unfettered access to all aspects of the electoral process; and

(F) work with the United Nations and the international community to enfranchise millions of Nigerian citizens that have become internally displaced due to violent conflict;

(8) urges political parties in Nigeria to undertake reforms that reinforce democratic values and good-governance, including by—

(A) holding candidates, elected officials, and party operators accountable for efforts to interfere with elections, including vote buying, voter intimidation, and electoral violence;

(B) addressing financial and other barriers that routinely block women and young people from participating or running for elected office; and

(C) addressing electoral corruption, patronage, and clientelism;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and the international community to continue to invest in programs aimed at advancing voter education, electoral security, conflict mitigation, electoral dispute resolution, anti-corruption efforts, as well as the development of political parties in Nigeria, including—

(A) funding pre- and post-election data collection with the Government of Nigeria and INEC in accordance with the best election data maintenance and accessibility practices to ensure there is a free open source for post-election data that is transparent and permanently available to the public;

(B) supporting the right of Nigerian citizens to vote in elections that are free, fair, credible, and consistent with international democratic standards;

(C) promoting accountability for any individual that seeks to use violence, intimidation, or corrupt electoral practices to undermine peaceful credible elections in Nigeria, including through consideration of targeted financial and travel sanctions;

(D) enabling citizen and international observation initiatives unfettered access to observe and issue reports on the pre-election, election day, and post-election processes, including independent verification of election results to the greatest extent possible; and

(E) working alongside the Government of Nigeria to call out and address disinformation about the electoral process or from malign external actors;

(10) calls on candidates running for the office of the president, governor, and Federal and state elected offices to publicly commit to peace and to pursue the resolution of election disputes through peaceful means; and

(11) calls on the Secretary of State to pursue diplomatic engagement to encourage a peaceful and transparent electoral process in Nigeria in 2023, including by coordinating efforts among various United States Government agencies and departments to further good governance, strengthen democratic and electoral institutions in Nigeria, and prevent intercommunal violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 37—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 37

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,518,098, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,316,738, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,798,642, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 299

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for the first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 299) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

Mr. KAINE. 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 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:20 p.m. today and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11; that upon dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 9; that following the prayer and

pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Benjamin nomination; that at 11 a.m., all remaining postcloture time on the nomination be considered expired; that following disposition of the Benjamin nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Chung nomination; that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday'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.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, we will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:20

p.m. to proceed as a body to the House for the State of the Union.

RECESS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it recess under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 8:20 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., recessed until 8:20 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the President pro tempore.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Kelly Fado; the Secretary of the Senate, Ann Berry; and the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023, AT 10 A.M.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:41 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KEENAN DARNELL ANDERSON

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Keenan Darnell Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a father, a life partner to his fiancée, a teacher, and a proud Angeleno. Mr. Anderson was taken from us earlier this year by the brutality and violence of the LAPD. Today, we stand here to honor Mr. Anderson's life, legacy, and contributions to his family and his city.

Mr. Anderson grew up in Los Angeles and from a young age, demonstrated his commitment to his family across Southern California. He was known as the "life of the party," always livening up family cookouts and picnics. Mr. Anderson was a linchpin of his close-knit family. From the time that he was young, Mr. Anderson knew he wanted to dedicate his life to helping others. In college, he focused this dedication on a career in law enforcement, double majoring in criminal justice and sociology. Later, he translated this desire to do good for the world into educating, earning a graduate degree in education.

Mr. Anderson's passion for teaching led him to dedicate his career to educating his community's youth. As a teacher, he taught English to juniors and seniors in high school and even chaired the English department. Mr. Anderson was also invested in the creativity of his students, teaching drama classes that served as an introduction to the arts to many Angeleno youth. He was also a charismatic member of his church where he led family game nights and injected his infectious energy and enthusiasm.

At the time of his untimely death, Mr. Anderson had just moved to Washington, D.C. to teach at Digital Pioneers Academy. Washington D.C. will forever miss out on the contributions, energy, and inspiration he could have brought to the young people here.

Washington, D.C. students are not the only ones who will forever miss Mr. Anderson. He is survived by his fiancée, Domonique, to whom he was deeply devoted, and his 5 year-old son, Syncere. Mr. Anderson doted on his son, proud to be a father and proud to have his son by his side. Mr. Anderson's wrongful murder robbed Syncere of years with his father. Today, February 7, 2023, Domonique will join me as my guest at the State of the Union, where we will continue to highlight the unjust and tragic death of this doting and dedicated father, partner, friend, educator, and member of my community.

Today, we should be celebrating Mr. Anderson's great achievements as a father and a teacher, and the strength and resilience he imbued in his communities. Instead, we must confront the tragedy of his murder at the hands of the LAPD.

Mr. Speaker, this commemoration of the life of Keenan Anderson, a life gone too soon,

adds yet another name to America's tainted legacy of violence against the Black community at the hands of individuals charged with protecting and serving. I honor the memory of Mr. Anderson and further commit to working to eliminate the inhumane violence and brutality that took him from us too soon.

RECOGNIZING BOB AND TERRY WIDMER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob and Terry Widmer for receiving the honor of the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award. Terry has spent her life in North Texas. She grew up in Denton and has a nursing career that spans 20 years. In 2014, Terry oversaw the housing component of the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. Two years later, Terry became the charter appointee for the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team. She has been a long-time advocate for the homeless community in North Texas and has made a profound impact on improving the livelihoods of those citizens that have been affected. Both she and her husband, Bob, have been active members of the Denton Community for decades and they helped form vital nonprofits in Denton County such as The Daily Bread, which serves food to individuals in need. They have served on numerous boards of nonprofits. Bob is a board-certified tax attorney and currently serves as a professor at the University of North Texas. In 2016, he started the North Texas Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. This clinic allowed local graduate students to assist lower-income members of the community with specialized and qualified tax assistance. This provided a wonderful opportunity to members of the community and helped graduate students gain experience before applying to bigger employers. Bob has not only been a valuable part of educating the younger generation in North Texas, but he has been involved in serving local Veterans. Terry referred Veteran clients to Bob's clinic from the Veteran Community Navigator pilot program. When Bob learned from Terry that clients of the VCN program were working in crowded, unsuitable offices, he contacted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and mobilized a community effort with donations and volunteers to renovate office space into what is now known as the Denton County Veteran Center. This center provides critical and quality care to all Veterans who are in need. These actions are remarkable, yet Bob did not stop there. He went on to mobilize the community to help the United Way of Denton County create the Veterans Mental Health Annex, which expands access to mental health services for veterans. These incredible actions have not gone unnoticed. In November of 2022, they were recog-

nized by the Board Members of the United Way of Denton for their efforts and impact on helping those affected by homelessness and mental health challenges in their community, especially veterans. The Widmer's have invested their time and talent into serving their community, I am honored to recognize Bob and Terry's achievements today and I am humbled to share a home in North Texas with this couple of such high character. Bob and Terry's family, their community, their state, and their nation are made better by their selfless contributions and dedication to others. I thank Bob and Terry Widmer for their excellent work, and also thank the United Way of Denton County Board of Directors for recognizing them with the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award of 2023.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Southern Preparatory Academy.

The academy was founded by Dr. Lyman Ward in 1898 as a non-profit, non-denominational, coeducational institution for rural youth. Its initial purpose was to provide a secondary education for those who wanted to learn and to work hard.

In 1901, a charter was granted by the State of Alabama and the school was incorporated with the name "The Southern Industrial Institute, Inc." After Dr. Ward passed away, the military department was added and the school became "Lyman Ward Military Academy" in 1948. The school became an all-boys military school.

Today, much of the original philosophy remains, but precedence is given to the development of Christian ideals. The high standards set have helped students gain acceptance into outstanding universities across the country.

In 2019, the school was rebranded to Southern Preparatory Academy—a name that represents the values, but brings the Academy into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for Southern Preparatory Academy and wishing them a happy 125th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 107.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDWARD PANGELINAN

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Edward De Leon Guerrero Pangelinan, a founding father of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, who passed away on February 3.

Mr. Pangelinan was the very first Chamorro from the Northern Marianas to graduate from law school and, so, became the natural leader of our islands in seeking to end the post-World War II United Nations Trusteeship and to become part of the United States. As Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, Mr. Pangelinan with his fellow Commissioners successfully negotiated the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, which was approved by plebiscite in 1975 and codified in federal law the following year.

His work as reflected in the Covenant agreement then led to United States citizenship for the people of the Marianas during the Administration of President Ronald Reagan and, ultimately, to their representation here in the United States Congress.

Edward Pangelinan's work on behalf of the Marianas did not end with the Covenant. In 1978, he was elected to be our first Resident Representative to the United States, a position that advocated for and foreshadowed representation in Congress. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed Mr. Pangelinan to the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws, where he helped identify areas of the law that should be amended in light of the inclusion of the Marianas into the United States. Later he served as legal counsel and special advisor to Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta and then as advisor to Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio before retiring from public service in 2009.

Throughout his life, Edward Pangelinan worked tirelessly to bring respect and equity to the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian communities of the Marianas. In addition to the successes he achieved for his people, Mr. Pangelinan will also be remembered for his unfalteringly optimistic approach to public service. No matter how long the days, or difficult the fights, Mr. Pangelinan by his example will always remind us that change—slow or even impossible though it may seem—can and will happen through perseverance.

Few people use their lives to make as enduring and beneficial an impact on the lives of others as did the Honorable Edward De Leon Guerrero Pangelinan. Please join me in recognizing Mr. Pangelinan's outstanding contributions to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands as we honor his memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY
BOSWORTH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Bosworth in celebration of his extraordinary life and longstanding community involvement.

Born in Geyserville, California in 1938, Mr. Bosworth graduated from Geyserville High School in 1956. He enlisted in the United States Army and was trained in electronics. Following his service in the Army, Mr. Bosworth moved back to Geyserville, married his wife, Karen Bosworth, and opened a hardware store.

When his father passed away in the 1980s, Mr. Bosworth merged his hardware store with his parents' historic Bosworth and Son store, which was opened in 1911. Over the years, the store served many purposes and has become a local institution. Currently it provides hats, apparel and gifts, and appropriately, it houses the Geyserville Historical Society Museum.

Like the store and his family, Harry Bosworth became a fixture in the community, and Sonoma County has benefited greatly from his extensive community involvement. Mr. Bosworth, in fact, was often referred to as the "unofficial mayor" of Geyserville. He served on the Geyserville School Board, the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, the Odd Fellows, the Geyserville Community Foundation, the Geyserville Historical Society, and the board of the Geyserville Fire Protection District (now the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District).

Mr. Bosworth also served as President of Friends of Lake Sonoma from 2013 through 2015, where his extensive community relationships and passion for local advocacy were instrumental in the completion of an on-site fish weir. He is known locally by his friends and peers for his endless energy and passion for the community. He is survived by his wife, Karen, brother, Charles Beers, his 2 daughters, Rachel and Gretchen, and granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bosworth's enduring and positive impact throughout Sonoma County and decades of public service are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his legacy and express our deep condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

RECOGNIZING 115 YEARS OF THE
TIMES LEADER

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor The Times Leader, a 7 day newspaper covering Northeastern Pennsylvania, on its 115th anniversary. The flagship of the Times Leader Media group, it is a collection of print and digital mediums covering the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre metropolitan area.

In 1907, Fred C. Kirkendall of The Wilkes-Barre Times and Colonel Ernest G. Smith of The Times Leader combined their newspapers. This new paper operated as The Times Leader until a major strike in 1939 forced the paper to merge with the Wilkes-Barre Record and Evening News. Together, these 3 papers formed The Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company. Col. Smith, John A. Hourigan, Dr. Frederick Johnson and Harrison Smith all contributed to running the successful news company, producing 2 highly read, competing papers: the morning-circulated Wilkes-Barre Record and The Times Leader Evening News.

In 1972, as the region was recovering from the effects of the Agnes Flood, the newspapers faced yet another merger, forming a new publication under the name The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader/The Evening News/Wilkes-Barre Record. This long and cumbersome name only lasted until 1978 when Capital Cities Corporation purchased the paper, and once again, it was to be called The Times Leader.

The late 20th century saw significant growth and changes for The Times Leader. In 1987, they began circulating a highly successful Sunday edition, and in 1989, they acquired Greater Pittston's Sunday Dispatch. In 1997, the paper purchased a state-of-the-art printing press that offered the latest printing technologies. By the end of 2000, the Times Leader had also acquired The Dallas Post and The Abington Journal.

Today, The Times Leader, under the direction of publisher Kerry Miscavage and executive editor Joe Soprano, continues to uphold its impressive reputation as an award-winning source of local and regional news. Offering essential news coverage and thoughtful, incisive reporting, the paper has a robust and loyal readership in the region. I wish the entire team at The Times Leader all the best as they celebrate 115 years of outstanding journalism.

CELEBRATING GEORGE
HEKOWCZYK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of heroic American veteran, George Hekowczyk. On February 18th, Mr. Hekowczyk will turn 100 years old. It is my distinct privilege to wish him a happy 100th birthday, especially because it is rare that I find someone older than myself.

Mr. Hekowczyk served in the United States Navy as a Boatswain's Mate Second Class from 1942 through 1946. During his tenure, he served as a deep-sea diver. Mr. Hekowczyk would regularly disable torpedoes on the ocean floor that had failed to detonate. Mr. Hekowczyk's courageous service warrants tremendous praise and recognition; the entire Nation is indebted to him and his generation's commitment to freedom over tyranny.

Our Nation's men and women in uniform are America's greatest assets, and Mr. Hekowczyk's value to this Nation is priceless. That's why, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to recognize the

honor, courage, and sacrifice of Boatswain's Mate Second Class George Hekowczyk. I wish him the happiest of birthdays and thank him for his dedication and Service to this Nation.

HONORING JESSICA SHAPIRO FOR
EXEMPLARY WORK FOR THE
HOUSE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLA-
TIVE COUNSEL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the Honorable FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, to include in the RECORD a letter to recognize and express our sincere appreciation for Ms. Jessica Shapiro's nearly two decades of exemplary work for the House Office of the Legislative Counsel.

FEBRUARY 7, 2023.

JESSICA SHAPIRO,
Senior Counsel, House Office of the Legislative
Counsel, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. SHAPIRO: Over the last two decades, you have played a vital role drafting the words of thousands of health policies—many of which have become transformative laws—and you have done so with integrity, professionalism, and meticulousness.

When you began your career in the U.S. House of Representatives, America still had gaping holes in its health insurance system. The words you drafted as part of the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10), and No Surprises Act (P.L. 116-260)—just to name a few—have become the cornerstone for a more equitable health system that has guaranteed access to health services and provided a more robust safety net for millions of Americans. Most recently, the work you did on Medicare drug pricing reform, originally part of the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, formed a key component or President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169). Your equanimity, vast knowledge of the intricacies of the Social Security Act (P.L. 74-271), and methodical approach to drafting policy were vital to the success of that process, which required hundreds of hours of drafting, problem-solving, and redrafting. Nearly 70 million Americans will benefit from your unwavering commitment to this work.

Few realize the number of hours of refinement, modification, and revision that go into making a law operational, particularly in the health space. And for every high-profile public law, there are also countless bills and amendments that do not succeed. All of this work requires sacrifices—time away from family and friends as a result of weekend and after-hour intrusions—that often go unacknowledged.

The U.S. health system is in a better place today because of the sacrifices you made during your time at the House Office of the Legislative Counsel, and we thank you and your family for your dedication. Your commitment to public service will live on for decades in the words you have written in the U.S. Code.

Sincerely,

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES "CHUCK" POLAND, JR.

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr., who sadly passed away on January 29, 2013, at the age of 66 while performing a heroic act while driving his school bus in Midland City, Alabama.

On January 29, 2013, Charles selflessly defended the lives of the young children on board of his Dale County school bus. What began as a normal winter day in southeastern Alabama for Charles' afternoon route, quickly turned into a senseless attack resulting in the hostage situation and release of a then 5-year-old boy.

Mr. Poland was born July 16, 1946, in Payette, Idaho. As a resident of Newton, Alabama, his courage touched and influenced the lives of many, not only in Alabama's Second Congressional District, but across our great Nation. He was a selfless man whose life exemplified the Lord he served and made the ultimate sacrifice by saving the lives of the children he loved. On the 10th anniversary of his passing, may his sacrifice be remembered as a brave hero who did not flinch in the face of adversity.

In 2013, the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act was passed and signed into law. This important law gives appropriate consequences to unauthorized persons who trespass on an Alabama school bus and commit actions that compromise the safety of our Alabama students. Not only is his devotion and strength to our Nation remembered with his incredible service. He is known by protecting the lives of all Alabama students.

Charles dedicated his life to bringing joy to his friends, family, and everybody else around him. He was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary Janice Poland, 2 children, Lydia and Aaron, and extended members of family.

As we remember Charles, may we remember his kindness and selflessness. As he laid down his life to protect the children, may we recognize his sacrifice on the 10th anniversary and every moment forward.

Charles Poland was a joyous and loved resident of Alabama's Second Congressional District that has left lifelong impressions on many. He is deeply missed, but faithfully remembered by many friends, family members, and all those he made smile.

COMMEMORATING CONGENITAL
HEART DISEASE AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Hayden West, and his family. Hayden was prenatally diagnosed with congenital heart disease, which is the most prevalent birth defect in the United States, affecting one in every 100 births. In

honor of Hayden and the more than 40,000 babies born each year with congenital heart disease, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize February 7 through 14 as Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

Congenital heart disease, sometimes called congenital heart defects, broadly refers to problems with the heart's structure that are present from birth. Current estimates suggest that more than 1 million children and 1.4 million adults in the United States are living with congenital heart disease. There is no known cure for congenital heart disease, as it is a lifelong disease that requires ongoing specialized care, and can impact individuals in a variety of ways, including the development of additional health conditions, such as arrhythmia, pulmonary hypertension, and heart failure. Thanks to the advancement of science and medicine, 85 percent of individuals born with congenital heart disease now live past the age of 18.

It is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and all those in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart disease in the prenatal term. Continued medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart disease. Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week provides the opportunity for patients and families affected by congenital heart disease to share their experiences and knowledge so that the general public may be aware of how this defect affects our lives.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank the West family for bringing awareness to this condition and hope my fellow Americans will join me in recognizing Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF MATIN GORJI

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Iranian government to immediately release Matin Gorji. On January 8, 2023, Iranian authorities searched Mr. Gorji's home and arrested him simply because he is a member of the Baha'i faith. According to Mr. Gorji's family, the authorities who searched his home physically abused him and, upon arrest, refused to allow him to take his medication for his liver condition with him. His mother was told he faces a sentence of at least 2 years, yet the specific nature of his charges is unknown.

Sadly, Mr. Gorji is just one of many members of the Baha'i community subjected to harsh persecution in Iran. Since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, thousands more have been arrested and interrogated, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs. In its most recent report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported that Iran continues to persecute people of the Baha'i faith, closing their businesses, denying them access to an education, demolishing their

homes without warning, auctioning off their property, and blocking their access to bury their deceased in a place of their choosing, instead requiring them to use a mass grave site.

In its 2021 Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom, the United States Department of State reported that government officials continue to disseminate anti-Baha'i messaging using both traditional and social media. Further, the community is so stigmatized that private sector employers often refuse to hire those of the Baha'i or dismiss them from their jobs.

Today, I call on my House colleagues to stand with Martin Gorji and every member of the Baha'i community in Iran. I call on the Iranian government to immediately release not only Mr. Gorji, but every prisoner of conscience in Iran who is incarcerated simply for their beliefs. It is time to end this egregious repression of religious minorities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the United States Colored Troops Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the Union Army and 19,000 African American men served in the Union Navy. I am proud to present this overdue expression of our national appreciation for these remarkable individuals. Senator CORY BOOKER has introduced the companion bill.

Since the colonial era, African Americans have served the United States in times of war. While African American men served in the Navy since its establishment, there was resistance to enlisting them to take up arms for the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. It was not until January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, that the Union Army was ordered to receive African American men. On May 22, 1863, the United States War Department issued General Order Number 143, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops for the recruitment and organization of regiments of the Union Army composed of African American men, called the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Leaders such as Frederick Douglass encouraged African Americans to enlist to advance the cause of citizenship: "Once let the [B]lack man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.', let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on [E]arth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship," wrote Douglass.

African American sailors constituted a significant segment of the Union Navy, making up 20 percent of the Navy's total enlisted force. Although there were rank restrictions on African Americans in the Navy before the Civil War, this policy changed after the establishment of the USCT, when the Union Navy started to compete with the Union Army for

enlistment of African Americans. Yet, in practice, most African Americans could not advance beyond the lowest ranks of "boy" and "landsmen." In the Union Army, the USCT fought at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana; in Petersburg, Virginia; and in Nashville, Tennessee, among other sites. The USCT at first were paid less, were given used uniforms and poor equipment and could never become officers. Many USCT were assigned as guards on fortifications throughout the Union, including the Defenses of Washington, which, by 1865, was one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world. During the Civil War, African American women were not allowed to formally enlist as soldiers or sailors, though they served as nurses, cooks, spies and scouts for the Union Army and the Union Navy.

For generations after the Civil War, the contributions of the African Americans who served with Union forces were excluded from historical memory. Not until Public Law No. 102-412, which I sponsored and which authorized the establishment of a memorial on federal land to honor African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, were they officially commemorated. The African American Civil War Memorial, located in the District of Columbia, features a bronze statue of soldiers, an African American sailor and family, and is surrounded by The Wall of Freedom, which lists the names of the members of the USCT.

Patriots and heroes who rose in service to a nation that would not fully recognize them, the African Americans who served the Union during the Civil War deserve our recognition for their contributions to the grant of emancipation and citizenship for nearly 4 million enslaved people and to the preservation of the Union.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BANK OF ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th Anniversary of First Bank of Alabama.

The City of Talladega was incorporated in 1835 and as it began to grow and thrive, Major James Isbell opened a banking business in 1848. Through the Civil War and reconstruction, the bank stayed open and in 1893 applied for and received a National Bank Charter. The name of the bank was officially changed to The Isbell National Bank of Talladega.

In 1963, after almost 100 years in the "old bank" building, Isbell National Bank moved to a new location on North Street East.

In 1968, the Talladega Superspeedway officially opened. The following year, the bank opened a full service branch in Lincoln, Alabama. In 1988, another branch was opened in Munford, Alabama.

In 2015, The First National Bank of Talladega Board of Directors voted to make the bank a state-chartered bank and adopt the new name, First Bank of Alabama. In 2017, First Bank acquired Bank of Wedowee and ex-

panded their presence into Randolph County. The following year, First Bank opened their seventh office in Clay County and in 2020 an office in Calhoun County.

In 2021, SouthFirst acquisition was finalized, and the bank added 2 more offices in Sylacauga and expanded into Chilton County. In 2022, two offices were added in Cleburne County.

On February 14, 2023, the Annual Shareholder meeting will be held at the Talladega office to celebrate the anniversary of the bank. First Bank is Alabama's oldest, continuously operated bank in the State of Alabama, third oldest in the Southeast and 36th oldest in the country. The bank is led by Talladega native, J. Chad Jones, the bank's 13th President and CEO.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for my friends at First Bank of Alabama and wishing them a happy 175th anniversary.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 26 DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE REVISED CRIMINAL CODE ACT OF 2022

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 26 a resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

This resolution is not only a brazen and misguided measure seeking to uphold decades of racially systemic policies of criminal injustice, it is an insulting attempt to trample on the rights and the will of the people in the District of Columbia.

By subjecting thousands of Black residents of Washington D.C. to criminalization and incarceration, the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 was the first comprehensive revision of the D.C. code since the year 1901, something that should've been revised long before.

However, in contrast to the majority of other states, D.C. did not update its criminal statutes throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

As a result of the antiquated legislation, which had been in place for decades, the human rights and freedoms of Washingtonians has been compromised, resulting in D.C. having one of the highest imprisonment rates in the nation, whereby Black males account for more than 95 percent of those who are behind bars.

The 2022 revision was a necessary push forward, and for the Republicans within this congress to attempt to undo these revisions, shows the true opinion and intentions of the party.

The revisions helped to correct many of the faults that the District of Columbia continuously ran into with the district itself making the necessary corrections with the support of the public.

The D.C. Criminal Code Reform Commission was formed by the D.C. Council to revise the statutes to guarantee that the revisions of offenses and punishments are precise, consistent, reasonable, and constitutional.

The District of Columbia Public Defender Service, the District of Columbia Attorney General, legal professionals, and the general public were among the sources of input that the Commission consulted.

Members of Congress should not use their own policy judgment to replace that of the elected officials within D.C.

Prior to these revisions simple assault carried a sentence of less than six months in prison, while the threat of simple assault carried a 20-year sentence.

Possession of self-defense spray and possession of a fully automatic machine gun carried the same maximum penalty of one year.

Some offenses can be traced back to the District's Black Codes and Slave Codes and others that were introduced by segregationists from states outside D.C.

The almost 700,000 individuals who live in Washington, D.C., are capable of self-government and through the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, proved themselves as such.

Congress is not judge, jury, and executioner and should not overstep its place within Washington, D.C.

HONORING SHERIFF GARY DENNIS TINDEL

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life, career and the memory of former Yuba County Sheriff Gary Dennis Tindel. During his nearly 30-year career at the Yuba County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Tindel worked at all levels, starting in the County jail and working his way to be elected Sheriff. His moral character and strong work ethic set him apart from others. Most importantly, Sheriff Tindel was a family man; setting a great example for his children and grandchildren to follow. His public service commitment was to put community and service before self.

Gary was born on October 24, 1947, to parents Marvin and Antonette Tindel in Marysville, California. He was a loving brother to his two siblings, and in those early years he was often seen in his Dad's welding machine shop and neighborhood store, Tindel's Market. He also attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church. His early learning of faith, along with his parents' love and strong moral code, set him on his path of public service.

Gary graduated Marysville High School in 1965, attending college first at UC Davis for a short time, then transferring to CSU Chico where he graduated with a degree in Engineering. Upon graduation, Gary sought a public service career in law enforcement, joining the Yuba County Sheriff's Department in 1971. He also attended the Butte College Police Academy. Gary was introduced to Irene Chesini in 1973, and were married in 1975. By 1979, they had three children: Josh, Michelle, and Alice. Gary would also earn a master's degree in Criminal Justice from CSU Sacramento in 1980, while continuing to climb up the ranks in the Yuba County Sheriff's Office.

After many years of dedicated work, Gary was elected Sheriff in 1990 and would go on to serve two terms as Sheriff. Additionally, he

taught law enforcement classes at Butte College, and was active in both the California State Sheriffs' Association and California State Coroners Association. Gary would go on to work for the Marin County Coroner's office as the Assistant Coroner for about 10 years. During that time, he continued to stay involved with the California State Coroners Association, even serving as President for four years. Upon his retirement, he moved back to Yuba City to enjoy time being a grandparent.

Gary continued to serve his community, church, family, and friends in retirement. As an active member of the Kiwanis Club, he helped with local little leagues and Boy Scouts. He coordinated many fundraising dinners for many causes. He also enjoyed taking family vacations and spending time in Lake Tahoe with his family. Gary held another deep passion for fishing.

Gary will be missed by many friends and family. From his outstanding public service career to his volunteerism; Gary's influence will be felt for a very long time. Gary is survived by his wife Irene, his children Josh, Michelle, and Alicia, and his seven grandchildren. Sheriff Tindel was a true friend to many. I thank him for his service to the people of the North State. May he rest in eternal peace. God Bless.

H.R. 185—TO TERMINATE THE REQUIREMENT IMPOSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR FOREIGN TRAVELERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 185, to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers.

H.R. 185 is hasty attempt to reverse the order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention without any proper planning or preparation.

The Amended Order Implementing Presidential Proclamation on Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic was first published on April 7, 2022, and was implemented to save lives.

The CDS order imposes necessary restrictions on the entry of noncitizens into the United States by air travel unless they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or otherwise attest that they will take public health measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Similar restrictions have been implemented and enforced worldwide, and countries like Thailand have had to reimplement such restrictions after lifting them.

Now is not the time to roll back protections, only to be in a place where we will need to reimpose more onerous and unwanted lockdowns and shutdowns across the country.

Yet, H.R. 185 would nullify any successor or subsequent orders that require foreign persons traveling by air to show proof of a

COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of entry, as well as prohibit the use of federal funds to administer or enforce such a requirement.

Mr. Speaker, the wellbeing of the American People should hold the utmost importance and any act against their health and wellbeing should be strongly condemned.

Since March 2020, life in Houston—like most of the world—has been upended.

Houston, Texas is the 4th largest city in the country and is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse cities in the United States.

In addition to Houston being a culturally diverse city and home to international students, residents, and families from all over the world, Houston also serves as an international hub for millions of people all over the world who travel to my city every year for both leisure and business.

According to the Houston First Corporation, a record 22.3 million people from around the world visited Houston in 2018.

Notably, the 2023 Houston Rodeo season, scheduled for Feb. 28–March 19, is the largest rodeo in the world and contributes significantly to our city's economy. In 2022, this event attracted over 2.4 million international travelers from around the world.

Despite the senseless and disingenuous politicization of the COVID-19 vaccine, it has and continues to save countless lives—particularly in my home state and internationally rich travel hub of Houston, Texas.

In Houston, specifically Harris County, there have been 1,058,476 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 7,839 active cases, 1,041,939 recovered, and 8,589 deaths. Furthermore, Texas as a state has recorded 8.24 million cases and 93,366 deaths.

In the United States, there have been 102 million confirmed cases and 1.11 million deaths.

And across the globe, there have been 671 million confirmed cases and 6.83 million deaths.

These statistics serve as a harrowing reminder of the gravity of this epidemic and the caution we should be taking in ensuring preventative responses and remaining vigilant against the spread of COVID-19.

Rolling back critical vaccination policies put in place to protect Americans through hasty measures such as H.R. 185, undermines the national mission and unified efforts nationwide to prevent future cases infiltrating our communities.

While progress has certainly been made in protecting Americans from this deadly virus, we cannot stand for the erosion of such progress through ill-conceived and politicized measures.

As we continue to make strides to prevent and eradicate current and future variants plaguing our cities, states, nation, and world, let it be known that H.R. 185 would only serve to disregard the health and well-being of all Americans, foolishly jeopardizing our lives and the ongoing fight to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Instead of halting vital funding and vaccine policies for international travelers, without a plan or forethought of the disastrous impact that will inevitably result, it is imperative that we stand together in planning and preparing for smart policy shifts that will allow our country to effectively and safely ease back into some sense of normalcy.

Anything less is an abdication of our governmental duties and an insult and danger to the welfare of all those we are sworn to serve.

With strong opposition to this bill, I urge my Republican colleagues to step back and actually work with us to lay forward common sense implementations of care and safety for our fellow Americans.

OPPOSITION OF H.J. RES. 24—DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE LOCAL RESIDENT VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 24—Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

H.J. Res. 24 will overturn the Local Resident Voting Act of 2022, a measure passed by will of the people in the District of Columbia Council.

This overreaching resolution seeks to overturn the will of Washington DC people, who voted to support the rights of noncitizens who fulfill residency and other requirements to vote in district local elections under the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

Let the record be clear, Mr. Speaker, the United States Constitution does not forbid noncitizens from casting their vote in local, state, or federal elections.

At least 15 cities currently allow non-citizens to cast ballots in local elections.

While voting in federal elections was made illegal for noncitizens in 1996, the legal voting of noncitizens in American elections has a long history in this nation.

Noncitizens were occasionally permitted to cast ballots in local, state, and federal elections in 40 states from the time of the nation's inception until 1926.

During the early years, the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801 granted Congress sole power over the district's boundaries, depriving its citizens of the voting privileges they had previously enjoyed as residents of Maryland and Virginia.

Due to its treatment as a U.S. territory rather than a state, the District of Columbia has no voting representation in Congress and is certainly not given its fair amount of federal funding—despite the fact that Washington DC residents pay more federal taxes per person than citizens of any other state, and more than residents of 22 states combined.

It is no secret that when politicians seek to suppress voting rights, the feared component of increased racial political power rears its ugly head in driving and motivating shifts in laws that will eliminate or stunt the political growth of minority populations in America.

As we stand here today, marking the first week of Black History Month, we must acknowledge that we are standing in a building built by the hands of slaves, and we are standing in a city that is not only one of the most diverse cities in the country, but is also home to one of the largest Black populations—yes, Washington, DC—our nation's capital.

The underrepresentation of Blacks and minorities in our nation's capital and in our national democratic systems is a shameful stain on our morals and values as Americans.

We must put an end to current and historical voter suppression and we must stop pushing oppressive and systemically racist policies if we are ever to truly be a nation united by our democratic pillars and principles.

The nearly 700,000 D.C. residents, a majority of whom are Black and Brown, are worthy and capable of self-government.

And Congress, which is not accountable to D.C. residents, should not interfere with legislation duly enacted by the duly elected D.C. government.

Members of Congress should not substitute their policy judgment for the judgment of D.C.'s elected officials.

Quite simply, Congress should keep its hands off D.C.

The legislative history and merits of the two bills enacted by D.C. that are the subject of the disapproval resolutions—the Revised Criminal Code Act and the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act—should be irrelevant to the consideration of these disapproval resolutions, since there is never justification for Congress nullifying legislation enacted by D.C.

That being said, we need to set the record straight on these two bills enacted by D.C.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, which was passed by Congress, D.C.'s legislature, the 13-member D.C. Council, is required to pass legislation twice, with at least 13 intervening days between each vote, to enact legislation.

Legislation passed by the Council and signed by the D.C. mayor (or with a veto override or without the mayor's signature) is transmitted to Congress for a review period.

The legislation takes effect at the expiration of a review period, unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period.

And yet, the House did not hold a hearing or markup on either disapproval resolution.

This resolution cannot stand as a serious policy measure to be respected on the floors of this chamber, and must be opposed.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in Joint Session to receive a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S245–S271

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 273–307, S.J. Res. 8–10, and S. Res. 33–37. **Pages S264–65**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 33, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. Res. 34, authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

S. Res. 37, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Page S264

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on February 7, 2023; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–1)

Pages S257–62

Benjamin Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Pages S247–52

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 6), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S251–52

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 9, 2023, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture; that at 11 a.m., all remaining post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired; that following disposition of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Cindy K. Chung,

of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Tuesday, February 7, 2023, ripen at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Pages S270–71

Chung Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Page S251

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Page S251

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S251

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S251

Mendez-Miro Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Page S251

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Page S251

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S251

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

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Messages from the House:

Page S262

Measures Referred:	Page S262
Measures Placed on the Calendar:	Pages S262–63
Measures Read the First Time:	Pages S263, S270
Executive Communications:	Page S263
Petitions and Memorials:	Pages S263–64
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S265–67
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S267–70
Additional Statements:	Pages S256–57
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S270
Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—6)	Pages S251–52

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 10:41 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S270–71.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 118th Congress.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 856–865; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 29–31; H. Con. Res. 14; and H. Res. 98–101, were introduced. **Pages H737–38**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H739**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 97, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID–19 vaccination for foreign travelers, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 (H. Rept. 118–3). **Page H737**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:14 a.m. and reconvened at 10:17 a.m. **Page H714**

Reading of the Constitution: Pursuant to section 5(h) of H. Res. 5, the Chair recognized Representative Jordan for the reading of the Constitution. **Pages H714–720**

Recess: The House recessed at 11 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m. **Page H720**

Terminating the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention for proof of COVID–19 vaccination for foreign travelers, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022, and disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022—Rule for consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 97, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID–19 vaccination for foreign travelers; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, by a recorded vote of 217 ayes to 208 noes, Roll No. 109, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 108. **Pages H720–28**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:33 p.m. **Page H728**

State of the Union Address: President Joseph Biden delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Scalise, Emmer, Stefanik, Hudson, Palmer, Johnson (LA), Chavez-DeRemer, Kiggans, Jeffries,

Clark (MA), Aguilar, Lieu, DelBene, Clyburn, Neguse, and Chu, and Senators Schumer, Durbin, Murray, Stabenow, Klobuchar, Baldwin, McConnell, Thune, Barrasso, Capito, Ernst, and Daines. The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–1). **Pages H728–35**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H727–28 and H728.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE PRESSING THREAT OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Pressing Threat of the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Defense”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY, LOWERING ENERGY COSTS, AND STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials; and Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a joint hearing entitled “Unleashing American Energy, Lowering Energy Costs, and Strengthening Supply Chains”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a markup on H.R. 750, the “CAUTION Act of 2023”; H.R. 784, the “Internet Application I.D. Act”; H.R. 742, the “TELL Act”; H.R. 813, the “Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2023”; and H.R. 752, the “Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2023”. H.R. 750 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 784, H.R. 742, H.R. 813, and H.R. 752 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

COMBATTING THE ECONOMIC THREAT FROM CHINA

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Combatting the Economic Threat from China”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee Authorization

and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress. The Authorization and Oversight Plan was adopted, as amended.

ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BORDER CRISIS: A HEARING WITH CHIEF PATROL AGENTS

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “On the Front Lines of the Border Crisis: A Hearing with Chief Patrol Agents”. Testimony was heard from Gloria Chavez, Chief Patrol Agent, Rio Grande Valley Sector, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; and John Modlin, Chief Patrol Agent, Tucson Sector, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION: ENHANCING AMERICA'S GOLD STANDARD IN AVIATION SAFETY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Enhancing America's Gold Standard in Aviation Safety”. Testimony was heard from David Boulter, Acting Associate Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation; Jennifer Homendy, Chair, National Transportation Safety Board; and public witnesses.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its rules for the 118th Congress, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10:45 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “State of the Defense Industrial Base”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled “The Role of Special Operations Forces in Great Power Competition”, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “American Education in Crisis”, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled “The Federal Response to COVID-19”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Liftoff: Unleashing Innovation in Satellite Communications Technologies”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Sophistication or Discrimination: How the Accredited Investor Definition Unfairly Limits Investment Access for the Non-wealthy and the Need for Reform”, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Revamping and Revitalizing Banking in the 21st Century”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Empowering Entrepreneurs: Removing Barriers to Capital Access for Small Businesses”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 1:30 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing America’s Energy and Mineral Potential”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Protecting Speech from Government Interference and Social Media Bias, Part 1: Twitter’s Role in Suppressing the Biden Laptop Story”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 3:30 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Stakeholder Perspectives on the Impacts of the Biden Administration’s Water of the United States (WOTUS) Rule”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 1 p.m., 390 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Greatest Theft of Taxpayer Dollars: Unchecked Unemployment Fraud”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Following disposition of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: February 9, to hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on commodity programs, crop insurance, and credit, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: February 9, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the People’s Republic of China’s high altitude surveillance efforts against the United States, 10:15 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: February 9, business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, and the nominations of Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense, 11 a.m., SVC-208/209.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the state of housing in 2023, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine strengthening airline operations and consumer protections, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the state of the U.S. Territories, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: February 9, to hold hearings to examine U.S.-China policy in the era of strategic competition, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, 11 a.m., SD-342.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 8 through February 10, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Thursday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11 a.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs: February 9, organizational business meeting to consider the selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman, committee rules, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, 11 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 9, business meeting to consider committee rules, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress, S. 79, to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, S. 113, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, S. 142, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, S. 148, to enable to Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, S. 150, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and the nominations of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, Natasha C. Merle, and Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., each to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Jessica G. L. Clarke, Dale E. Ho, and Arun Subramanian, each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Todd E. Edelman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Gordon P. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Jonathan James Canada Grey, to be

United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Myong J. Joun, and Julia E. Kobick, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Kenly Kiya Kato, and Hernan D. Vera, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, Rita F. Lin, and P. Casey Pitts, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Andrew G. Schopler, and James Edward Simmons, Jr., both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Rosemarie Hidalgo, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Kate E. Brubacher, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, Ismail J. Ramsey, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, and Jill E. Steinberg, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 9, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 11:30 a.m., S-216, Capitol.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, February 9, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled “The Future of War: Is the Pentagon Prepared to Deter and Defeat America’s Adversaries?”, 8:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, February 9, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, February 9, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, February 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Looking Ahead Series: The Architect of the Capitol’s Strategic Plan for the 118th Congress”, 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 9, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”, 12 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, February 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Dependence on Foreign Adversaries: America’s Critical Minerals Crisis”, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, February 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 185—To terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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