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No. 37

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 27, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICK LALOTA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### HORRIFIC CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT CHILD LABOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the House floor to bring attention to the horrific conditions of migrant child labor happening right here in the United States of America and to urge my colleagues to stand with me and bring solutions to this appalling state of affairs. I represent west Michigan where many of these migrant children reside.

As an attorney who has spent my entire career fighting to make our immigration laws more just, more fair, more humane, and as a mother, I will not stand by as this tragedy continues. These are my constituents, these are my kids, and I will protect them with everything I have.

This weekend, The New York Times published a stunning expose shining a light on the scores of migrant children currently working on our farms, our factories, and at some of the most dangerous sites in our country. These children, some as young as 12, are working marathon shifts, often with dangerous machinery to package our foods, sew our clothes, and build our homes. The industries that employ them turn a blind eye to these children's suffering, and often seek out and willingly participate in this despicable practice.

In case I did not make myself clear, Mr. Speaker, these are children.

Stories of kids dropping out of school, collapsing from exhaustion, and even losing limbs to machinery are the things that one might expect to find in a Charles Dickens or Upton Sinclair novel, but not an account of everyday life in America in 2023; surely not here, in the land of the free, where child labor protections have been on the books for nearly a century; not in the country that holds itself up as the paragon of democracy, guaranteeing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

And yet right here, Mr. Speaker, we are exploiting minors from other countries, children in an already vulnerable situation, to do dangerous work for low pay that often results in life-changing injuries. Those allowing these practices to continue should be ashamed of themselves.

The company at the center of this article, Heartside Foods, which packages the breakfast cereals and snacks many of us have in our cupboards right now, proudly proclaims that 25 percent

of their employees have been with the company for over a decade. I wonder if they have similar statistics they could share with us about how many of their employees were even alive a decade ago.

Many of us in this room are parents. I have two young children of my own, the same age as some of these kids in these stories. My heart aches for these children. As a mother myself, rest assured, I am approaching this problem with the urgency and ferocity that it deserves. I wouldn't walk away from my own children in these factories, and I sure as hell am not going to walk away from someone else's children.

As soon as I read this story, I immediately picked up the phone and started demanding answers and action. I called the White House, HHS, and DOL. This is a multilevel, multisystem failure that created the shadows where these children can be exploited, and we need a multilevel, multisystem approach to fix it.

I have called on the administration to create an interagency task force to ensure—ensure that this kind of child exploitation cannot happen in the United States. We, as a Congress, must also act. That means, first and foremost, holding the companies accountable with every tool at our disposal. It also means conducting oversight of the agencies responsible for enforcing these laws and ensuring they have the resources to protect the kids. What could possibly be a higher priority?

At the heart of this matter, though, is that we need long-term solutions. We need comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the root cause of this problem. I know most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would agree that reform is long overdue.

We need reform that addresses the border security, provides sufficient pathways for individuals to come to the United States of America, and addresses the root cause of migration.

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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H879

A safe and effective immigration system is essential for the United States to lead in a 21st century economy. It is a critical national security component, essential for protecting human rights, and fundamental to our identity as a land of prosperity and opportunity.

I have worked on all aspects of immigration from enforcement to advocacy and across party lines. I believe we can have an immigration system that keeps our country safe and honors human dignity because I have done it. I have worked on it, and I know I have colleagues in both parties who agree with me. I have already spoken with many of you who have expressed the same ideas.

I know that my colleagues across the aisle care as deeply about children as I do. I know that as they have stood with righteous indignation to fight for the sanctity of life, I believe now they also have the courage and moral fortitude to stand and protect children from life-threatening harm and exploitive work.

Let's come together and get this done.

#### EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT DISASTER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a crisis that President Biden refuses to acknowledge: the derailment of a train in East Palestine, Ohio, that has left a community traumatized and families afraid to drink the water that comes through their faucets.

Instead of compassion, these families received nothing but a cold shoulder from President Biden. Instead of certainty, these families received a rushed process to test the water that they drink and the air that they breathe.

What we need is a full accounting of events.

As a doctor, I urge the EPA to continue to repeat their tests and to provide an accurate assessment of the risks posed to our communities' air and drinking water.

An administration that fails to provide for the safety of its people is a failed administration. I stand here to urge President Biden to visit East Palestine and finally support those Americans who are hurting.

We need transparency, we need accountability, and we need to address this head-on; not with shrugs and handwringing, that is what we have seen so far from President Biden.

We need to see compassion, we need to see thoroughness, and we need to see diligence in addressing this problem.

ORIGIN OF COVID 19

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, as a new and dangerous virus caused by the Chinese Communist Party began to spread, they shut down internal travel but allowed international flights to continue.

The Chinese Communist Party was attempting to stop COVID-19 from spreading within its own borders while allowing it to come to the shores of America.

This weekend, the Department of Energy finally confirmed what we have all along suspected: that this leak did not come from a wet market and that it escaped from a lab in central China.

This virus and the related government policies led to vaccine mandates, lost jobs, supply chain problems, and the isolation of our Nation's young people.

It is time today to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable. What we need now is to predict, prepare, and prevent another such disaster from occurring.

The American people want and deserve answers, and they deserve accountability for the hardships that this virus, unleashed by the Chinese Communist Party, has caused. Now we need to ensure that a crisis like this can never occur again.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the role of the National Park Service in the Virgin Islands of the United States. While the National Park Service plays a vital role in preserving the natural and cultural resources and facilitating outdoor recreation throughout the Nation, I must acknowledge that the relationship between the people of the Virgin Islands and the National Park Service has not always been and is not the best.

On St. Croix, the park sits on some of our most sacred ground, and it is incumbent on them to appreciate and preserve that, of course, which is important, but also to make it accessible to those of us who are living there. On St. John especially, St. Johnians are concerned and have a history in which Laurance Rockefeller was able to take so much land. There are questions even today about who owned what land, how was it taken, and how did it become part of the National Park Service.

I have continually expressed concern about the National Park Service's hiring and staffing practices in the Virgin Islands. I have encouraged the recruitment of native Virgin Islanders who understand the historical context of park spaces and possess a greater degree of cultural awareness. While there have been some hires, I have yet to see meaningful progress, and extended vacancies of National Park Service positions are a concern.

Additionally, for the past 3 years, I have suggested the formation of just a community garden within the Virgin Islands National Park Service boundaries. Such action is authorized by the

National Park Service management plan of 2006.

In fact, the Virgin Islands National Park Service general management plan of 1983 included the development of an approximately 2-acre garden plot.

The park comprises 7,259 acres, and to not have a plot for the people who live on that island to be able to garden, people who are locked around water, who have an inability to be able to get fresh fruit and vegetables to their families, it would also foster a better relationship between the community and the national park.

Last week, my office hosted a meeting to ensure that Virgin Islanders' voices—not just written comments—were received by the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the Government of the Virgin Islands about the proposed Government of the Virgin Islands National Park Service St. John land exchange for the construction of a K-12 school on St. John. During this meeting, my office learned of the barriers and difficulties to submit a written statement during the final comment period.

Thankfully, the park allowed us to extend this until March 15.

While my office can advocate for the people of the Virgin Islands—presently my office and Congress is not a party to the agreement—the land exchange between the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the National Park Service seems to be going through.

While I may not always agree with our Governor, in this instance I recognize that he is between a rock and a hard place presently as Virgin Islanders are quickly approaching their deadline for using Federal funding to rebuild the school. As we all know, the National Park Service process takes time.

Indeed, Senator ANGUS KING, who last Congress headed up the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate, was only able to get the National Park Service to donate land in Maine after 30 years of advocacy.

The children of the Virgin Islands do not have that time.

□ 1215

Additionally, we are approaching the end of the Caneel Bay Redevelopment and Management Environmental Assessment public comment period. The National Park Service owns 70 percent of the island of St. John, making it one of the most pristine islands not only in the Virgin Islands but in the Caribbean.

The path forward for a resort at Caneel Bay must consider the socioeconomic and environmental impact on the Virgin Islands. Caneel Bay contains some of the best beaches in the world, and to not utilize the property as a world-class, five-star resort would put the Virgin Islands at a disadvantage for tourism dollars.

The path forward for Caneel Bay impacts not just St. John but the entire territory. If Caneel Bay is relegated to

a third-rate facility, it will have a cataclysmic impact on the Virgin Islands economy. From reluctance to place plaques at sacred places to rangers stopping people in public parades, among other things, the National Park Service has to do better in terms of how it deals with native Virgin Islanders.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL PRESTAGE

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend of mine and so many others, William Harold Prestage, a true gentleman whom we all loved and knew as Bill.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marsha; his three sons, Scott, John, and Ron; and multiple grandchildren, who were his greatest joy and with whom he had his most cherished days.

I first met Bill Prestage when I was a staffer for U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. After that first encounter, I would see and talk with him many times over the years at more community, agriculture, and political events than one could ever imagine. He was always a delight. He would cut to the chase in a very charming and direct way, and there was never any question of what he liked or what he didn't like. You always knew right where he stood on a matter. He was a lion of a man with a heart of gold.

He was well known as a devout family man and an exceptional member of his community, one who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Starting from very humble beginnings in the 1960s and with no agriculture experience, Bill pioneered what is now one of the country's largest family-owned and family-operated animal protein production companies.

The foundation of this family enterprise was laid when Bill joined his good friend Otis Carroll, whom he met upon moving to North Carolina. These two great entrepreneurs joined together and helped transform pork and turkey production, bringing significant economic development to southeastern North Carolina.

In 1983, Bill, along with his wife, Marsha, and his sons, established what is known today as Prestage Farms. Today, with each generation of the family involved in the business, the Prestage Farms and Prestage Foods companies have five divisions across seven States, with three processing plants collectively employing more than 2,300 people and contracting with more than 450 farm families.

The company's multigenerational success is a true testament to Bill's entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic, as well as his devotion to his family and his employees. He was truly beloved by his family and friends, the agriculture

community, and the hardworking employees and growers who make up the Prestage family of companies.

His people were his passion, and they loved their leader tremendously. Those outside of the family business loved Bill, too. Though he was far too humble to think it, Bill was, in fact, a very well-known and very well-liked celebrity wherever he went, not just in Sampson County but throughout the State and country, particularly in agriculture, wildlife, and conservation circles.

Beyond Bill's impact on the agriculture community, he is well known for his love of nature and the outdoors. As a result, he was an avid conservationist. Upland bird hunting, boating, and fishing were among his greatest joys, especially when his family would join him.

There is no doubt that Bill not only made a name for himself as a pioneer in agriculture, but he also made our State and country a better place to live. He leaves behind a great legacy that will have an everlasting impact, as well as many great memories. Everyone who knew Bill loved Bill, and that, in and of itself, is arguably one of the greatest legacies one can have.

I know I speak for countless others when I say Bill is deeply missed. His was a life of a great American and patriot, well lived, and an example of the best of humanity.

#### CONGRATULATING NICOLA "NIKI" DENNIS UPON HER RETIREMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career of Niki Dennis, who recently retired as Bladen County Clerk of Superior Court following 43 years of distinguished public service.

Niki is a proud lifelong resident of Bladen County, and in 1979, she started her career at the Bladen County Courthouse, working as a deputy clerk.

Thanks to Niki's hard work, determination, professionalism, and kindness, she advanced quickly through the ranks and became an integral team member in the clerk's office. In 2006, Niki was elected high clerk and served in this capacity until her retirement recently.

Over the years, Niki has been a mentor and friend to so many. She managed multiple clerks while navigating the everyday challenges of the clerk's office with respect, grace, and professionalism, setting an example for public service that all should strive to emulate.

On behalf of the citizens of Bladen County and the entire Seventh Congressional District, I thank Niki for her many years of service to Bladen County. I wish her great health and joy as she embarks on this next chapter of life. May God continue to bless her path.

#### RECOGNIZING EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on Mental Health Monday to recognize Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This year's theme is "It's Time for Change," and indeed, it is.

After opioid use disorder, eating disorders are the second deadliest psychiatric illness, yet they remain widely misunderstood, so I would like to address some myths around them.

Myth number one: Eating disorders are a choice. An eating disorder is an illness often diagnosed with other mental illnesses. No one chooses to have an eating disorder.

Myth number two: Only females have eating disorders. Eating disorders actually hurt people of all genders, ages, races, religions, sexual orientations, and body shapes.

Myth number three: You can't recover from an eating disorder. This, perhaps, is the most important myth to dispel. Recovery and treatment are possible. The National Eating Disorders Association offers free helplines and more information on their website, [nationaleatingdisorders.org](http://nationaleatingdisorders.org).

Every 52 minutes, someone dies because of an eating disorder. It is time for change. Let's break the stigma. Let's invest in care. Let's send a message to all those struggling: You are not alone.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES T. BROYHILL

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a North Carolina legend, former U.S. Senator and Congressman James T. Broyhill, who passed away on February 18 at the age of 95.

Jim Broyhill will be remembered as one of the political giants in the history of North Carolina, especially for those of us from the western part of the State that he so ably, with distinction, represented for over two decades.

A native of Lenoir, Broyhill served in several executive capacities at his family's furniture business, Broyhill Industries, prior to entering public service.

He was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1962 as a long-shot candidate. Broyhill, a Republican, pulled off a narrow 1-point victory at a time when North Carolina politics were dominated by the Democratic Party. He quickly won the hearts of his constituents and served the people of western North Carolina in this House until 1986.

Broyhill liked to tell a story from his first election, an occurrence that had an impact on him and taught him an

important lesson in dealing with people.

Table Rock is a beautiful and distinct mountain in Burke County, North Carolina, one that I am proud to represent and one that Broyhill could see each day from his home in Lenoir. Out on the campaign trail one day, he drove around to the other side of the mountain and stopped at a small country store. He greeted the owner of that little store and said: "How are things on the back side of Table Rock today?" to which the owner replied, "Who says this is the back side?"

He said he learned that day the importance of meeting people where they are and that his perspective might not always be shared by someone else, a lesson all of us here in the House and Washington would be wise to hear and to learn.

Broyhill loved his constituents, and the feeling was mutual. He took a personal interest, acknowledging special events with a note or a phone call. He and his beloved wife, Louise, published "The Congressional Club Cook Book" with immensely popular recipes such as Capitol bean soup and heaven cake.

However, the real impact he made in Congress was as a landmark legislator. In the House, he sat on the Small Business Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and for many years, he was the ranking member of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, which we now call the Energy and Commerce Committee.

President Reagan credited Senator Broyhill as being a key force in the 1985 tax reform package. His 1978 legislation that allowed cable companies to connect to existing utility poles led to the explosive growth in cable television and communication. In the 10th Congressional District that I am proud to represent, it led to a boom in fiber optic manufacturing jobs that communities are still benefiting from today. It was then coaxial cable, fiber today.

He always prioritized constituent service at home and was truly a pioneer in that regard. At a time when district offices were deemed to be of lesser importance to many on the Hill, then-Congressman Broyhill kept his district offices fully staffed by trained professionals who were always ready to help with whatever issues his constituents had with Federal agencies.

That is something that I learned from him. His district became North Carolina's 10th Congressional District in 1969, and I am only the third Representative from that district since then. His successor, Cass Ballenger, learned the art of constituent service from the Broyhill staff. I, in turn, learned from Ballenger's staff, some of whom still work in my Hickory district office today.

Jim Broyhill moved on to the United States Senate in the summer of 1986, serving out the unexpired term of the late Senator John East. After his time in elective office ended, Broyhill continued to work on behalf of the people

of North Carolina. He put his extensive business experience to use by serving as North Carolina's secretary of commerce and the chairman of the North Carolina Economic Development Commission. The post office in his beloved hometown of Lenoir was named after him, a well-deserved recognition.

I could go on at length about his other accomplishments in public life and business and, certainly, his long record in philanthropy. Let me just say that he lived his life well, always in service to others, and our State and our Nation are much better for it.

On behalf of my constituents, the people of North Carolina, and a grateful Nation, I extend condolences to Senator Broyhill's family as they mourn.

#### WAGING WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 years, the Biden administration has consistently waged a war on American energy and our fuel sources.

This unscientific, ideologically driven assault has crippled American energy and hurt American families and our economy greatly. The American economy and our way of life are dependent on reasonable, reliable, and easy access to energy.

He has gone so far as to even deplete our Strategic Petroleum Reserve—as you see here, these numbers going down dramatically—in order to cover over this bad policy and make everybody think it is going to be okay.

Americans rely on access to low-cost, efficient energy from sources like natural gas to heat their homes, cook their meals, and keep their lights on. It is neither feasible nor desirable for most Americans to abruptly switch to green alternatives, such as wind and solar power, and have to change all of their appliances and yard tools out simply because of the whims of government and having too much time on their hands.

Many can't afford to do these changes, nor should they have to. The unreliability of green energy makes it a much less preferable alternative. Faced with a choice between these two, most Americans make the sensible decision to stick with low-cost, reliable natural gas over expensive, unreliable green energy.

In my home State of California, the electricity power grid in the summertime at any time could go down, yet they are trying to force people into electrifying just about everything—their cars, their stoves, their yard tools, even generators. Think about this for a minute. How do you have an electric generator when the power goes off from your electricity?

□ 1230

I guess this is supposed to mean we have a warehouse of batteries some-

where because, otherwise, I don't know how you do it.

Generators are supposed to be a backup plan. Frequently, hospitals have diesel generators. People have generators they own for camping as well as backup for their homes. But they just keep going on and on, making up regulations.

So faced with these choices, Americans would rather have their own choices. This administration has essentially tried to ban and regulate Americans off of fossil fuels, off of nuclear power, it seems, until recently when California—hallelujah—decided to expand the Diablo Canyon Power Plant an additional 5 years, which is 9 percent of the power grid of California—9 percent. Imagine if they took that offline like they were hell-bent on doing.

Keeping natural gas is part of the equation. We have so much natural gas reserved in this Nation now because of the miracle of hydraulic fracturing. It is amazing what that has caused for us.

Radical environmentalists, though, can't take no for an answer. They have done away with trying to argue for their ideas and simply use government fiat, a stroke of a pen, to try and take these things away, including the latest proposal by the Department of Energy to ban gas stoves, which has got everybody all in a twitter right now.

Is that what we really need to be focused on right now with the situation with the railroad in Ohio and whatever the mess is we are going to make out of Ukraine, our border, and so many other issues?

No, let's keep people distracted with this gas stove situation here.

So what we have is a proposal by the Department of Energy to do it by the stroke of a pen, by just making a regulation to ban the sale of stoves that don't meet what is called an EL2 standard. They are just going to block the sales of these stoves, which means about half of them that are currently on the market will no longer be available on the market. People will have less choices that may not fit their style of kitchen, the size of their family. It may not fit a restaurant. It may not fit what you need for a kitchen that helps aid people that are short of food, soup kitchens. They want to take all these options away simply by a stroke of a pen.

People are getting furious over this stuff. And for families that enjoy the use of that gas stove, they work nice. I have one. I saw First Lady Jill Biden, a picture of her cooking on one in the White House.

So where does the hypocrisy end on all this?

Evidently, it doesn't end at the White House. It ends at the choices that humans have in this country.

We need to block this EL2 regulation that the Department of Energy is putting out, yet another thing that is trying to distract us I think from other issues. It is an important one for people to have natural gas stoves and

other appliances that are available to them.

And so I sum up on that with the ideal being that the only reason we are really doing all this stuff, ostensibly, is because of CO<sub>2</sub>. You see right here, carbon dioxide represents 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, okay.

People think from all the hype over CO<sub>2</sub>: Oh my gosh, climate change, climate change. It is a religion being pounded away in our schools and in our society, in ESG, and these corporations all day long. It is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere.

So they would have us all live in caves eating crickets because of 0.01 percent and take away our stoves on top of that right now.

We have to fight back on the DOE regulation.

#### RECOGNIZING BEN KUETER OF IOWA CITY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Kueter of Iowa City who took down Hempstead's Joe Lewis in a technical fall to win his fourth State title in wrestling—only the 32nd time in the history of the Iowa State wrestling tournament.

He is also the seventh to complete an undefeated high school career, with an outstanding record of 111-0 with 105 career bonus point wins.

In addition to winning his fourth State title and shattering records in Iowa, Ben also holds a world title in wrestling. Just this summer, he represented Iowa on the world stage and won gold at the Junior Men's Freestyle World Championship.

An all-star athlete and senior at Iowa City High School, Ben excels in more than just wrestling. He has also been a star member of the football, baseball, and track teams.

Ben's proudest accomplishment, though, is being a good role model for future wrestlers. He always makes time to talk to and take pictures with younger wrestlers at tournaments and makes it a priority to keep things fun.

I am proud of Ben's accomplishments, and I join all of Iowa in being proud that he continues to represent our State at the highest levels.

I am also honored that he has chosen to continue his wrestling career in Iowa City at the University of Iowa.

Go Hawkeyes!

#### TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today is also TCU or Texas Christian University Day at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. As an alum of Harris College of Nursing at TCU, I welcome TCU to Washington, D.C.

As long as TCU is not playing an Iowa team, I can say, "Go Frogs!"

#### HEALTHY HEALTHCARE DEBATE AMONG PARTIES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, February 26, The Wall

Street Journal released another article about the origins of COVID-19. This time, the Department of Energy has acknowledged that most likely this was a lab leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

I remember having a hearing here in the Capitol with the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic at which we discussed the origins of COVID-19. We were derided and we were ridiculed, as were other Members of Congress.

I think it is important that we recognize there is such an importance for free speech, especially in healthcare and in medicine and science, that a debate is what needs to take place and that we should be careful in who we chastise simply because we don't like the political party that they represent.

It was no conspiracy to acknowledge that there was not furin cleavage sites normal, that there were doubling of amino acids, and that there was gain-of-function research that had been funded indirectly by the United States Government despite a prohibition on gain-of-function research.

To this day, there has not yet been an intermediate host for SARS-CoV-2, although there was very rapidly with both SARS and MERS.

My point is that we need to recognize that we can have differences of opinion and those should not be considered to be radical or conspiracy theories, despite what political party that emanates from.

#### CELEBRATING HUGH HIX STUBBLEFIELD

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate a U.S. Army veteran, a great Tennessean, teacher, and mentor to many.

Hugh Hix Stubblefield, also called Hix or Stub, passed away late last year after a long life of inspiring others.

Professor Stubblefield discovered his passion for the classroom in 1951 as a student at Texas Tech University. From there, he became an educator himself, teaching high school in Atlanta and Cincinnati.

He went on to earn a master's degree from George Peabody College and the University of Missouri. And then in 1962, while reporting for the local newspaper, he returned to Tennessee Tech to teach journalism until he retired in 1999. I had the pleasure of being one of his many students.

Another former student of his, Lindsay Pride, now the editor of the Herald-Citizen in the local paper in Cookeville, wrote, "Hugh didn't lecture students, he shared stories." I agree.

His experiences gave students real-world examples of the do's and don'ts of journalism, and those nuggets of wisdom could apply to any field. His advice was just flat-out helpful for an undergraduate student getting their start in life or a journalism student.

Perhaps one of the most important lessons he taught us was patience. He emphasized that it is better to be accurate than first. He stressed the importance of having multiple genuine sources. He spoke about the consequences of lacking accuracy and objectivity.

We are living through many of those consequences right now as a country. Now more than ever, we could all benefit from Professor Stubblefield's Introduction to Journalism class.

He fostered discipline in his students, discipline that came in handy in many professions and even everyday life, including independent thought, double-checking facts, and fairness.

He showed a genuine interest in the long-term success of his students and kept in touch with many of them as they maneuvered the professional world. That kind of attentiveness had an impact on countless alumni, including a writer for the Los Angeles Times, an editor for The New York Times, a novelist, and, yes, at least one United States Congressman.

Professor Stubblefield did more than teach. He served as adviser for the university yearbook and student newspaper for decades. In fact, he received several honors from the National Council on College Publication Advisors over his career.

For years, Professor Stubblefield was an active member of the community, serving on the Upper Cumberland chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association. He was also very involved with Park View Friendship United Methodist Church in Cookeville.

He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Ann Elizabeth Blair Stubblefield—also a teacher of mine—two children, Katie Elizabeth and Jon David; a granddaughter, and several great-grandchildren.

I know his kindness will continue to live on in them and his many former students.

#### TENNESSEE PILOTS REMEMBERED

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, for 136 years, the Tennessee National Guard has stood ready to respond to any State or Federal mission. That takes more than manpower or equipment. It takes training to ensure our soldiers and airmen are truly prepared for any emergency scenario or conflict. But even training comes with its share of hazards and sacrifice.

Our hearts are still broken after two Tennessee Army National Guard pilots lost their lives during some of that training in a helicopter crash in Huntsville, Alabama, 12 days ago.

Chief Warrant Officers Daniel Wadham and Danny Randolph had nearly 30 years of combined public service. They left behind a grateful State and Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my House colleagues to join me in praying for their families. Let us all do what we can to make sure their commitment to freedom is never forgotten.

HONORING JOSE “PEDO” TERLAJE

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to honor the late and great Jose “Pedo” Terlaje who left this world recently.

A proud son of Guam, Pedo was a husband, a father, and a grandfather. He was also an uncle, a nino, and a primo to many.

Pedo proudly served his Nation in uniform, protected his island as a police officer, and represented his community as the mayor of Yona.

I was honored to serve with him in the 35th and 36th Guam legislature where as a Senator he tirelessly advocated for the perpetuation of Guam’s culture, for veterans, for law enforcement officers, and most importantly, for the people of Guam.

I stand here today in the Halls of this historic building to not only recognize and commend Senator Jose “Pedo” Terlaje for his many contributions to the country and to our beautiful island of Guam, but also to express the Nation’s deepest condolences to his wife, Flo, and to his family.

Rest in peace, Primo, until we meet again.

#### YOUNG CHILDREN CROSSING THE BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would address the same article that one of my Democrat colleagues mentioned earlier today about an article that was published in The New York Times over the weekend addressing what is going on with a segment of some of the people who have come across the border inappropriately over the last few years.

Now, things have changed with the parole policy. We don’t know how that is going to shake out. We have multiplied by 11 or 12 times the number of people coming to this country illegally since President Biden took office. We have gone from about 20,000 people a month to just short of 240,000 people a month.

Mr. Speaker, I will address a subset of that population, and that is the young children. Approximately 9,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors are coming across our border every month without either parent.

What becomes of these 10,000 children every month who don’t have either parent with them?

Well, The New York Times found out what happens to some of them. They wind up working in very dangerous working conditions. That is what happens when you let people cross the border without their parents being able to look out for them.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 children left to cross the border unaccompanied.

Others, like the little girl referenced in the article in The New York Times, came here with a relative she didn’t even know before this—if he really was a relative. This is something that bothers the Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, I really wish some of the Democrats would come down to the border and find out what is really going on down there. The Border Patrol and Republicans have been complaining repeatedly about all these unaccompanied minors. In the past when we had to separate parents from their kids for 2 weeks, for a month—and I believe there was only a total of about 4,000 kids there—the Democrats were screaming bloody murder.

How dare you separate these people from their parents for even a couple weeks.

□ 1245

Now we have children, over 120,000 last year, separated from their parents, perhaps permanently, and that is at least 120,000.

The Border Patrol feels that sometimes when people are bringing children across the border, they are only pretending to be their parents.

Sometimes the Border Patrol does DNA checks, and they find still more children who are being separated from their parents.

We wish they had the time and the money to do DNA tests on all the parents because I am sure The New York Times number is actually greater than that.

Then they are spread around the country. We would not allow that for our children, right? If somebody from this country—and what they do, so you understand, is the children show up at the southern border with an address—maybe it is written on their shirt or something—I want to go to 123 Elm Street, Portland, Oregon. Our U.S. Government will deliver them to 123 Elm Street, Portland, Oregon, even though neither parent is there, even though we haven’t done thorough checks on the people who are there.

We have no idea—we do, we have some idea, but not enough of an idea, who these young kids are being told they have to live with.

Interestingly, The New York Times and my colleague on the other side of the aisle, they are concerned about the working conditions, but they mention nothing at all about the fact that these children are separated from their parents—neither parent. Isn’t that something that should be a concern?

I realize you are the party of Black Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter, we condemn the nuclear family, da, da, da, da.

I assure you: A child is better off with its parents, better off with both its parents, and this idea that apparently it is okay to let children cross the southern border if only they have a nice job when they are 16 years old is ridiculous. The United States ought not to be part of breaking up these families.

Now, the other thing I would like to point out that The New York Times doesn’t mention at all: A lot of times kids show up at the southern border with a single parent.

In this country, if there is a divorce, we do what we can to try to make sure the child has some experience or contact with both parents.

I am sure the Central American countries would like it. I am told by the Border Patrol the Central American countries do not like the Biden policy of having young people come here, because they feel they are losing their future. They don’t want to have all their young people come to this country.

I realize that Biden is all about, you know, changing America, getting apparently as many people here as quickly as possible, from far away as possible. We don’t care if the parents are separated.

Believe me—and just a little bit of racism here, maybe—in this country, we would not want one parent taking a child without the other parent signing off and moving to another country or moving to a different part of this country.

Apparently, when it comes to children from Latin America, the Biden administration and The New York Times is okay with that.

I intend to hold hearings in my subcommittee. Please look out for the children at the southern border.

#### RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN F. KING

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Major General John F. King from the Georgia National Guard.

Major General King has been a member of the Georgia National Guard for over 30 years. During his time with the guard, he has served abroad in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

While in Afghanistan, he served as the military adviser to the Deputy Minister of Interior for Security for Afghanistan who oversaw an agency of over 96,000 police officers.

Major General King has won many awards for military and public services, including the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, and a NATO award for his service in both Bosnia and Afghanistan, among many others.

For his entire career, Major General King has put his country and his State before himself. He is a true example of what it means to be a public servant.

I hope that he enjoys his retirement from the Georgia National Guard, and I look forward to seeing the great things he does as Georgia’s insurance commissioner.

#### RECOGNIZING MARSHES OF GLYNN LIBRARIES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marshes of

Glynn Libraries for being recognized as the Georgia Public Library of the Year.

The single-county library system serves a population of 85,000 in Glynn County, Georgia, through two branches: The Brunswick-Glynn County Library and the St. Simons Island Public Library.

This honor was given for the library's efforts to strengthen community partnerships, diversify its funding portfolio, and expand services to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of Glynn County residents.

Marshes of Glynn Libraries received nomination letters from local partners, business leaders, and patrons who each highlighted the impact the library has made in the community.

One of the library's many initiatives includes the Take 5 program, which is helping reestablish early literacy outreach following the impacts of COVID-19 on family engagement with schools and public libraries.

I congratulate and thank everyone at Marshes of Glynn Libraries for their incredible work to provide such a vital resource for our community.

#### OPERATION GHOST BUSTED

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of law enforcement officials who participated in Operation Ghost Busted.

Law enforcement officials planned for more than 2 years to bust the drug trafficking network. This multidepartment operation led to the indictment of 76 individuals who planned to move a large amount of illegal drugs into south Georgia.

The criminals planned to distribute methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and alprazolam. Law enforcement officials also seized 43 firearms and over \$53,000 in cash.

As we all know, the fentanyl crisis is devastating communities all across our country. Now more than ever, it is important for our law enforcement to get these dangerous narcotics off of our streets.

Luckily, because of the hard work of our law enforcement officials, south Georgians can sleep well at night. Thank you again to the work of all law enforcement personnel involved.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Holy God, turn our eyes so that they remain fixed only on You, for in You we behold all that is good and right and holy. How can we be inclined toward anything else?

So then may we cease to try to serve both You and the things around us. Keep us from becoming obsessed with the stuff of this world: money, power, and success, loving these things and failing to show our love for You through our generosity, humility, and compassion.

May we redirect our loyalty for one side or another, the rightness of our argument, our disparagement of those with whom we disagree, for such behavior fails to show our fealty to You but instead reflects our contempt for Your desires for faithfulness, reconciliation, and respect for Your presence in the people and purposes You set before us.

This day, in all that we do, all that we say, and all that we are, may we serve only You.

In Your merciful 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 the approval thereof.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

#### HONORING TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY UPON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Texas Christian University's 150th anniversary.

In 1873, the Randolph and Addison Clark brothers had a bold vision to create a university that would educate individuals to be leaders for the future with the highest levels of character and responsibility.

Over the years, TCU delivered on that mission and has been a beacon of strong educational values for the world to see. The staff and leaders throughout the years have been instrumental in building a brighter and better future for all Horned Frogs.

As a proud alumnus of the university, I can speak to how vital my experience at TCU was to the rest of my life. TCU may look different now than when I was there in the 1960s and 1970s, but the spirit of innovation, achievement, and a shared sense of purpose have remained the same.

TCU has always embraced our rich history while also looking to what is next. Whether it be campus transformation, expanding our excellent academic programs, or bringing our sports teams to new levels of victory, TCU has always embraced a bold vision for the future.

Today, TCU stands as a world-class university. As the student and alumni community come together to remember our special heritage, may we recommit ourselves to the original mission of TCU and continue to deliver on our success, guided by our faith and passion for the fighting TCU Horned Frogs.

I have no doubt TCU will continue to lead on for the next 150 years.

Riff, ram, bah, zoo. Go Frogs. In God we trust.

#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this week, millions of Americans will see their SNAP benefits drastically reduced when emergency allotments end. These supplemental benefits have been a lifeline for families, and I am deeply disappointed they are ending.

In Massachusetts, SNAP benefits will be reduced by \$100 per person per month. One family in western Massachusetts, for example, says the reduction will mean having to choose between healthy foods or therapies for their young son with Down syndrome. There are thousands of other heart-wrenching stories just like this.

Thankfully, our incredible Governor, Maura Healey, has a proposal to extend 3 months of State-level partial payments. I support the Massachusetts State legislature acting as quickly as possible on her proposal. I encourage other States to look for ways to help ease the cliff for SNAP recipients.

In the upcoming farm bill, Congress must thoroughly examine benefit adequacy. The average benefit of \$2 a meal

just is not enough. We can and must do more to end hunger now.

#### DEMOCRACY OR AUTHORITARIANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to serve as chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, also known as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Last week, in Vienna, all democracies of the 57-member Parliamentary Assembly unanimously supported Ukraine and condemnation of war criminal Putin.

The world understands there is competition between democracies with rule of law opposed by authoritarians with rule of gun. War criminal Putin is sacrificing young Russians for oil, money, and power for himself.

Ukraine represents peace through strength and must be victorious in this conflict to avoid the Chinese Communist Party invasion of Taiwan and to stop the Iranian regime as it develops intercontinental ballistic missiles to vaporize Israel and bring mass murder to America.

America is not alone in understanding freedom is not free. The European Union has provided \$54 billion to Ukraine, and recently, Norway authorized another \$7 billion and Japan another \$5 billion. Over 52 nations are promoting eventual peace through strength for Ukraine.

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

#### BRINGING CLEAN WATER TO EVERY COMMUNITY

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last year, on my birthday, I was really excited to see that I had a kayak expedition on my calendar. I love getting outdoors and especially on the open water, but because I represent a district that has some of the oldest infrastructure in the country, it turned out that my kayak tour was an inspection of combined stormwater and sewer outlets on the Schuylkill River.

That is why I am more excited today to highlight that \$2.4 billion from the bipartisan infrastructure law is being invested in communities nationwide to support necessary upgrades to our infrastructure to increase access to clean water.

I am thrilled to see yet another wave of clean water infrastructure funding, including \$92 million for Pennsylvania, being invested in the health and safety of our families. Nearly half that fund-

ing is available as grants and forgivable loans to ensure that our most underserved communities can access the investments.

As I noted, some of our greatest infrastructure and environmental challenges facing southeastern Pennsylvania involve the need to address critical water, wastewater, and stormwater projects.

This new funding will protect the health of Pennsylvania's children and families.

#### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOLDEN CORRAL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a spectacular company that is headquartered in North Carolina, Golden Corral.

This year, Golden Corral and its many dedicated employees are celebrating 50 years of providing Americans across the country with home-cooked classics at an affordable price.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this company truly exceptional is its unwavering commitment to serving the communities in which it operates. From its various fundraisers to support local initiatives to its longstanding partnership with a national nonprofit to support veterans and their families, it is abundantly clear that Golden Corral lives and breathes service.

Congratulations to Golden Corral and its many employees on reaching such a historic milestone. Here is to many more years of service to America's countless communities.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DRACO MILLER

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Draco Miller, a cherished member of the Brownwood community who sadly passed away on February 16, 2023.

Draco was a father, husband, son, businessowner, and public servant to the community of Brownwood as a city council member, mentor to our youth, and leader in numerous service-oriented boards and organizations.

In 2022, Draco was named Man of the Year by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce for his service to Brownwood. In his own words, he said: "This is my city, and I love my city. There is no place like home."

Although he loved and cherished Brownwood, his family was the most important facet of his life. He dedicated his life to passing along his long-held values of faith, family, and a strong work ethic.

He is remembered for his seemingly endless energy, optimism, and good will that carried him through decades of community involvement and community improvement projects.

Although we mourn his loss, I know his legacy will live on through his wife, Sonja; their children; many extended family members; and the entire Brownwood community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FALLON) at 5 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 132) responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 132

Whereas, on February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central-southern Türkiye, followed by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake later the same day, followed by over a thousand aftershocks in Türkiye and north-west Syria;

Whereas the earthquakes have caused massive death and destruction, killing more than 36,000 people and injuring tens of thousands more in Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development and other agencies mobilized Federal agencies and partners to provide life-saving assistance to the people of Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas dangerous freezing winter weather conditions negatively impacted rescue efforts and put earthquake survivors at further risk after thousands of buildings collapsed into rubble;

Whereas the Republic of Türkiye is a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally of the United States;

Whereas prior to the devastating earthquakes, millions of people in Syria were relying on humanitarian assistance, and Türkiye was hosting more than 3,500,000 Syrian refugees;

Whereas through 12 years of war in Syria, the Assad regime has impeded the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians, including those in areas now impacted by the February 6, 2023, earthquakes;

Whereas the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China have used their veto power at the United Nations Security Council to restrict the number of United Nations-authorized border crossings between Türkiye and Syria from four to just one—Bab al-Hawa;

Whereas although areas outside of the Assad regime's control have been the worst affected by the earthquake, Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad stated that any aid to victims must go through the Syrian Government in Damascus;

Whereas Department of State Spokesman Ned Price has stated it would be "ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people over the course of a dozen years now";

Whereas the Assad regime has shamefully used the earthquake to call for the lifting of United States sanctions, falsely claiming that such sanctions impede the aid response; and

Whereas the human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for countless families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the horrific loss of life in Türkiye and Syria caused by the earthquakes in Türkiye on February 6, 2023;

(2) expresses its deep condolences to the families of the many earthquake victims;

(3) applauds the heroic work of humanitarian aid and rescue workers on the ground to save lives and provide care for victims, including United States Agency for International Development Urban Search and Rescue teams, the Armed Forces of the United States, including members of such Armed Forces stationed at the Incirlik Air Force base in Türkiye, and the Syrian Civil Defense, otherwise known as the White Helmets;

(4) applauds the response to the earthquake tragedy by the United States Government, other governments, and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) applauds the civilians in Türkiye and Syria who have selflessly volunteered to assist with response to the devastating aftermath;

(6) urges the international community to support heroic disaster response efforts in Türkiye and Syria, including those by the Syrian Civil Defense, the White Helmets;

(7) condemns efforts by the Assad regime to cynically exploit the disaster to evade international pressure and accountability, including by preventing the United Nations from providing assistance through multiple border crossings between Türkiye and Syria;

(8) calls on the Biden administration to continue to use all diplomatic tools, including through the United Nations Security Council, to open all Türkiye-Syria border crossings for United Nations assistance;

(9) underscores the need for international assistance to reach northwest Syria to assist with disaster relief;

(10) calls for an increased oversight mechanism to ensure that United States-funded assistance is not diverted for the benefit of the Assad regime;

(11) urges the Biden administration to remain committed to the protection of the Syrian people including by implementing the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019; and

(12) welcomes the Republic of Türkiye's continuing support to Syrian refugees in Türkiye and in northwestern Syria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the

gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America and the world have been shocked by the deadly earthquake in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, which killed more than 50,000 people and injured more than 100,000 people.

Entire cities and towns near the epicenter in Türkiye have been wiped off the map. Five million people are homeless, and over 20 million are in need now. We are grateful to see such a generous and compassionate American response. Many brave men and women both inside Türkiye, Syria, and others from around the globe sprang into action to work relentlessly at search and rescue operations and providing relief to the people impacted on the ground.

At Incirlik Air Base, a very strategic American air base in Türkiye, 125 miles from the earthquake epicenter, the 728th Air Mobility Squadron and the 39th Operational Support Squadron have worked quickly to coordinate with the United States Agency for International Development to deliver aid to those impacted on the ground who are in need.

American families offer sincere sympathies to the families who are mourning loved ones and nursing others back to health. The Republic of Türkiye for over 70 years has been a valued NATO ally, and as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans, I am particularly supportive of their efforts to meet the needs of the impacted earthquake victims.

Entrepreneurial Turkish-American and Syrian-American communities have been mobilized to help, such as Vinnie and Nesli Senturk, owners of Hidden Valley Tavern in Sapphire, North Carolina, represented by Congressman CHUCK EDWARDS, who are raising funds to help the people in Türkiye.

Syria Civil Defence, better known as the White Helmets, have been instrumental in search and rescue efforts, in addition to clearing rubble and opening roads to facilitate the distribution of relief aid by local nongovernment organizations. Their efforts saved at least 3,000 lives, despite being left alone and receiving no material international support through the critical and crucial first days of the response.

Impressive assistance by Raed Al Saleh and all the other White Helmets,

which he leads, has been achieved to help the people who are so desperately needed to advocate and provide real assistance.

To make this devastating tragedy worse, Syria's brutal dictator Assad is stealing humanitarian aid, and even worse, has continued bombing the affected areas at least 10 times since the earthquake. There have already been videos of the Assad regime soldiers stealing aid that is attempting to reach Syrian communities in need.

The United Nations even refused to provide critical aid into northwest Syria because of war criminal Putin's veto on cross-border assistance in the United Nations Security Council after the Assad regime initially refused to permit humanitarian aid through northern points of entry that are controlled by opposition groups.

The United Nations should not politicize humanitarian assistance. Even further, the U.N. should circumvent the obstructions of Assad and war criminal Putin, which denies humanitarian aid to earthquake victims. It is significant this resolution calls on President Biden to use all diplomatic means to push the U.N. to get aid to those in need.

Natasha Hall from the Center for Strategic and International Studies said it clearly, "The Syrian Government has perfected the politicization and weaponization of humanitarian aid throughout the civil war—in some cases it's far more effective than a military offensive."

Yet, Assad, to add insult to injury, continues to lie and blame U.S. sanctions for causing delays in aid. This is simply not true. As this resolution makes clear, Mr. Speaker, sanctions on war criminals like Assad, which passed on a bipartisan basis, prevent the regime from obtaining the resources to further brutalize the people of Syria, and do not inhibit humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened that there has been a weakening of sanctions by the Biden administration on the Assad regime through permitting direct transactions with the Assad regime. This will do nothing to help with earthquake relief and will only endanger Syrian civilians by enriching the regime.

We are already seeing the result of Biden's weak policy this week with Arab countries beginning to normalize relations with the regime and ignoring the Caesar Act, which threatened dire consequences for normalization. Despite this, let it be known that Congress will continue to stand with the Caesar Act on a bipartisan basis and strengthen sanctions on Assad and those who engage this barbaric regime.

It is gruesomely clear that there is no solution to the problems in Syria so long as the brutal Assad regime remains in power. Terrorism, refugees, war crimes, Iranian influence, chemical weapons, narcotrafficking, genocide—Assad is the driver of all these. This earthquake proves the point yet

again, American families' prayers and sincere condolences go to the people of Türkiye and Syria.

To the brutal Assad regime and its backers, war criminal Putin, and the authoritarian Ayatollah in Iran, there will be a message: Your diversion of humanitarian aid during an earthquake is despicable. You are not fooling anyone with your lies about sanctions. The U.S. Congress stands united. We will never normalize with you. We will hold all those who attempt to normalize with you accountable. We will not stop supporting the people of Syria to have a government they deserve based on democracy with rule of law, not authoritarian with rule of gun. It is bipartisan in America to support freedom for the people of Syria and Iran and victory for the people of Ukraine seeking to defend their country from authoritarian governments.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers go to those affected by the earthquake. God bless the people of Türkiye, Syria, and the United States of America.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 132, related to the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, so that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 132 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House  
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing concerning H. Res. 132, Responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023. I agree that the Committee on Financial Services shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 132 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your Committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 132, related to the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, so that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 132 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor in support of my friend, Congressman JOE WILSON's resolution, H. Res. 132, responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023.

This timely and important resolution comes just weeks after multiple 7.5-plus magnitude earthquakes caused widespread devastation across central-southern Türkiye and northern Syria.

This natural disaster was so powerful that the shaking could be felt as far away as Egypt. The numbers are just staggering. Following the initial shaking, Türkiye and Syria have borne the brunt of over 1,000 aftershocks, furthering the massive death and destruction that has decimated infrastructure and communities across the region. Even today, Mr. Speaker, there was another aftershock with reported loss of death.

As of February 25, 2023, Reuters estimated that 160,000 buildings containing over half a million apartments have collapsed or were severely damaged. The earthquake has killed more than 48,000 people and injured 118,700 others in Türkiye and Syria combined. Today, the U.N. Development Programme estimates that 1.5 million people have been left homeless.

As ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and as an original cosponsor of this resolution, I want to express my deepest condolences to the people of Türkiye and Syria who have been so

deeply impacted by these earthquakes. Tens of thousands have lost their lives and even more have been left without a safe place to call home. As a result, once vibrant cities and communities across the entire region have been shattered and left in ruin.

In addition, I want to commend the efforts of thousands of international humanitarian aid and rescue workers, as well as national entities, local organizations, and individuals from across the region who have come together to provide lifesaving assistance to those impacted by this devastating earthquake.

During the past few weeks, these aid workers have provided lifesaving resources and support, all while working in freezing winter conditions, just to get help and relief for this enormous devastation and provide the greatest help to the people who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud those humanitarian and rescue workers from across the United States Government who have joined the international community in a global response. In total, as of February 19, 2023, the United States has allocated \$185 million in humanitarian assistance for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria.

As part of its coordinated response, USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance quickly deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team, also known as a DART, which is working in close coordination with government authorities and partners on the ground.

The DART included USAID-supported search and rescue units have drawn domestic voluntary help, as well. It is important to recognize Fairfax County, Virginia's, and Los Angeles County, California's, fire departments have come to aid and help these people in such great need. They provide heroic assistance in working with USAID. USAID has deployed a total of 160 urban search and rescue personnel to Türkiye who have now returned to the United States. We thank them for volunteering and their heroic acts.

Furthermore, through its implementing partner, the World Food Program, as of February 23, USAID had also supported the provision of food assistance to 660,000 individuals in Syria and 900,000 earthquake-affected people in Türkiye. In addition, 840 metric tons of USAID in-kind relief commodities, including water, hygiene materials, kitchen sets, and disaster relief materials were all delivered to support the earthquake survivors.

Finally, the Department of Defense, in coordination with USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, has airlifted 541,100 pounds of critical relief items, including blankets, emergency food commodities, generators, space heaters, tents, and winter clothing.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support those efforts and commend President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Administrator Power for their swift response to this disaster.

As the international community has responded, the Assad regime has made that effort far more difficult. For example, while the Department of the Treasury has taken important steps to clarify existing sanctions licenses required to ensure the transfer of vital humanitarian aid to the region, the exploitation of this disaster by the Assad regime is reprehensible and cynical.

I wholeheartedly condemn these efforts by the Assad regime, which have included preventing the United Nations from providing assistance through multiple border crossings between Türkiye and Syria. The people of Syria have suffered tremendously under the Assad regime, which since 2011 has used any means available, including the use of chemical weapons, to suppress the voice of the Syrian people.

(1715)

There is intense need for international assistance in Syria, and I support the call in this resolution for the Biden administration to continue to use all diplomatic tools, including through the U.N. Security Council, to open and keep open all Türkiye-Syria border crossings for United Nations assistance.

Despite barriers from the Assad regime, the United Nations has worked tirelessly in coordinating and facilitating life-saving humanitarian assistance efforts by providing hot meals, food, tents, clothing, medical supplies, and personnel to affected areas. Psychosocial support services are also being provided, as well. Child-friendly spaces and safe spaces for women to ensure those most vulnerable are cared for are also in motion there.

U.N. programs like the World Food Programme and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees have also crossed into Syria at the Bab al-Salam border crossing to ensure the people of Syria receive the vital aid that they need.

All together, the United Nations has sent health supplies to more than 400,000 people impacted by the earthquake and has released \$50 million from its Central Emergency Response fund to jump-start the response. The U.N. has also issued a flash appeal to raise all the necessary funds to help meet the needs of those affected by these earthquakes.

I, again, thank Congressman JOE WILSON for his efforts on this legislation as well as over 35 bipartisan cosponsors. This resolution sends a strong message of solidarity from the United States to the people of Türkiye and Syria as they begin to cope with the aftermath of these devastating earthquakes, and I am proud to join in supporting this effort.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It is really refreshing to see Republicans and Democrats come together as we assist the people of

Türkiye and Syria. The comments from BILL KEATING are inspiring. I am just so grateful that he is one of the first cosponsors of the legislation to show our appreciation of the people of Türkiye and Syria. It is particularly meaningful to me. The loss of life is inconceivable: 50,000 people dead, 100,000 people injured, and 5 million people homeless. Actually, in some ways I can identify. The largest earthquake ever recorded on the East Coast was in my birthplace of Charleston, South Carolina, on August 31, 1886. Growing up there in Charleston, when I was much younger, people had actually a memory of the earthquake. It is something that has been so horrifying, and indeed, we are with the people of Türkiye and Syria.

It is particularly significant to me where America has such a positive role, the thought that Incirlik Air Base is 125 miles from the epicenter—how close—and it is significant that the runways were not affected. So from that, the various American military units could work.

We want to give special credit to the 728th Air Mobility Squadron and the 39th Operational Support Squadron who have worked so closely with USAID to provide the massive amounts of aid for the 20 million people who are in need.

So it is refreshing to see Republicans and Democrats working together to see how important it is that the people of Türkiye understand as a NATO member how important they are to the American people.

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his strong bipartisan support in this gathering together of people on both sides of the aisle for America's interest. As he pointed out, we have an interest not only with our own defense facilities not far from that region and not only associating as he has his own experience the devastation of earthquakes, but also a stark contrast that occurs to the people of Syria when they find out the U.S. and other countries are coming together to their aid while the Syrian regime under Assad continues to wreak havoc and damage to the everyday lives of the people of Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), who is a new member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. We all look forward to working together with the gentlewoman.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KEATING for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important resolution responding to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Türkiye and Syria as a result of the devastating earthquakes on February 6 and the many, many aftershocks.

The death toll from this tragedy is approaching 50,000 men, women, and

children. Thousands more are injured, hundreds of thousands of buildings are destroyed, and millions of survivors have been displaced from their homes—many now residing in temporary shelters with inadequate food, heat, water, and medical care.

I commend the gentleman making this resolution. I commend the Biden administration for its swift response to this crisis. Through USAID and the State Department, the United States Government quickly mobilized search-and-rescue teams, allocated \$185 million in humanitarian assistance, and continues to deliver vital relief supplies to first responders.

Rebuilding from this disaster will not be easy, and the road ahead is long. We call upon the governments in this area to support the people, to support their recovery, and to support their rebuilding.

This resolution is a symbol of our commitment to ensuring we continue to deliver assistance to those so gravely impacted by this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WILSON, and I thank Congressman KEATING for his leadership in this important resolution.

God bless the people of Türkiye and Syria.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, again, it is so refreshing to see colleagues of both political parties across the country from South Carolina to Massachusetts to Pennsylvania. Actually, it is reflective of the deep affection that the people of America have as we appreciate, in particular, Türkiye, a NATO ally, that it is always to be cherished because when you visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial here on the mall in Washington, Mr. Speaker, you see the Allies who stood together to oppose the Communist aggression of June 1950, and the first country that is listed is Türkiye. It is an ever-present reminder of our appreciation and then our recognition of Kemal Ataturk and his success in creating a democracy in the Middle East.

Over and over again there is such a great affection, and the significance of the Turkish-American community and the Syrian-American community what they have meant as entrepreneurs across our country is so positive.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. Again, I thank Congressman JOE WILSON, the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia for his work on this resolution.

It is important to recognize that the U.S. is joining the whole international community, again, at a time of need. It is in our self-interest to move in this respect, too. There are countless aftereffects as well as aftershocks that will come about as a result of this

earthquake. We are going to see time and time again swift action and humanitarian action. Action for support will really come back in a very cost effective and humanitarian way to provide dividends moving forward in the future.

That being said, too, our NATO ally, Türkiye, is suffering a great deal. We want to demonstrate not just through NATO and other alliances that we are there for the Turkish people as well who have often come to our aid in areas of critical security needs.

The people of Türkiye and Syria have suffered tremendously as a result of these earthquakes and thousands of the aftershocks.

I support this resolution to signal globally that the United States stands with the people of Türkiye and Syria and the United States will continue to support any and all humanitarian efforts to bring aid and assistance to the victims of these disasters. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that all our colleagues join together in this bipartisan effort to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the broad coalition of Members on both sides of the aisle with the leadership of Congressman Bill Keating who have come together to support this critical resolution.

I especially want to thank Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and Leader STEVE SCALISE for their accelerating the scheduling of this for today. It is so important for the people of Türkiye and Syria to know of our affection for them.

The people of the United States stand with the suffering people of Türkiye and Syria who have been so impacted by this terrible natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 132 is an important statement of human solidarity. It deserves our unanimous support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 132.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### EXTENSION OF FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1108) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1108

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

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY.

Section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)) is amended by striking “March 9, 2023” and inserting “May 19, 2023”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is important today that we consider H.R. 1108. This bill would extend the Federal Communications Commission's general authority to auction spectrum and provide licenses and construction permits for the use of radio spectrum.

This piece of legislation is sponsored by the gentlewoman from Washington who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and also by the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey.

Without congressional action, the FCC's authority to issue spectrum licenses expires on March 9. Auction authority is a key tool for making frequencies available for commercial uses that enable U.S. technological leadership.

This bill will also ensure that FCC has the authority it needs to continue issuing licenses for a spectrum band that will be used to provide better coverage and wireless speeds across the United States.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to auction commercial spectrum.

Our Nation's airwaves are one of our country's most important natural resources. Indeed, radio waves are a critical component in building next-gen-

eration wireless networks and delivering high-speed services to American consumers. As such, radio waves and the networks they support can make a meaningful difference in Americans' lives by expanding the reach of telehealth services, extending learning beyond the classroom, and providing critical communications for public safety activities. To achieve these notable goals, we must continue to expand the ability of commercial users to access our airwaves.

H.R. 1108 provides a short-term extension of the Federal Communications Commission's auction authority for roughly 2 months from its expiration date this coming March.

It is essential that we extend this authority. Congress has never allowed this spectrum authority to lapse, and to maintain our Nation's global leadership in wireless innovation, we must ensure that consistent management and oversight of spectrum remains intact, which includes spectrum auctions. For years these auctions have efficiently made our airwaves available for commercial use.

Importantly, though, even with the passage of this legislation, our work will not be done. We must spend these next 2 months working with our Senate colleagues to pass a bipartisan spectrum agreement that can get to the President's desk before the FCC's auction authority expires again.

□ 1730

The Energy and Commerce Committee has traditionally worked in a bipartisan fashion on key telecommunication matters, and I commend Chairwoman RODGERS for continuing this tradition with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this timely bill in a bipartisan manner, and I hope the Senate will soon follow. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Mrs. RODGERS), the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, legislation I introduced with Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE to extend the Federal Communications Commission's general auction authority.

For the last year, I have worked with Energy and Commerce Committee leaders and the Senate to develop sound spectrum policy that promotes economic growth and promotes our national security. In order for the U.S. to maintain its global competitive edge, we must get spectrum policy right and not cede our leadership to adversaries like China.

Without congressional action, the FCC's authority to issue spectrum licenses expires on March 9. This bill will also ensure the FCC has the authority it needs to continue issuing licenses for a spectrum band that will be

used to provide better coverage and wireless speeds across the United States.

This short-term extension will also give us enough time to work out a broader deal on spectrum policy to ensure the United States continues to lead the world in 5G and technological innovation and beats China.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate on a long-term spectrum auction extension, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN).

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1108, a bill to extend the FCC spectrum auction authority through May 19, 2023.

From internet connectivity to telephone services, spectrum auctions are essential to the inner workings of the technologies that we use daily in our lives.

The FCC's authority to use competitive bidding augments American competitiveness by enabling our commercial providers to access the spectrum they need to continue operating and innovating.

In less than 2 weeks, the FCC's spectrum auction authority is set to expire. It is the duty of Congress to extend this authority, which has never been allowed to expire to date. The expiration of FCC auction authority would put U.S. wireless providers at a global competitive disadvantage, leaving users across the United States in dire straits.

This bipartisan legislation provides a solution that works for everyone, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1108.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation to extend this spectrum auction authority. I urge all of my colleagues to support it in a bipartisan manner, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support of H.R. 1108. In the report that just came out from the Congressional Budget Office this past week for the budget outlook for 2023 to 2033, it is important to note that, on page 13, it cites that the FCC conducted several auctions in 2021 and 2022, which boosted net receipts in 2022 to \$104 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely essential that this piece of legislation is passed, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1108.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1108.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### INFORMING CONSUMERS ABOUT SMART DEVICES ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 538) to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 538

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act".

#### SEC. 2. REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF A CAMERA OR RECORDING CAPABILITY IN CERTAIN INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICES.

Each manufacturer of a covered device shall disclose whether the covered device manufactured by the manufacturer contains a camera or microphone as a component of the covered device.

#### SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of section 2 shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(b) ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(2) PENALTIES AND PRIVILEGES.—Any person who violates this Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(c) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, through outreach to relevant private entities, shall issue guidance to assist manufacturers in complying with the requirements of this Act, including guidance about best practices for making the disclosure required by section 2 as clear and conspicuous as practicable.

(d) TAILORED GUIDANCE.—A manufacturer of a covered device may petition the Commission, in a manner consistent with the rules of the Commission, for tailored guidance as to how to meet the requirements of section 2.

(e) LIMITATION ON COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this Act shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this Act, the Commission shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this Act. The Commission may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidelines, unless the Commission determines such practices expressly violate section 2.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF COVERED DEVICE.

As used in this Act, the term "covered device"—

(1) means a consumer product, as defined by section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)) that is capable of connecting to the internet, a component of which is a camera or microphone; and

(2) does not include—

(A) a telephone (including a mobile phone), a laptop, tablet, or any device that a consumer would reasonably expect to have a microphone or camera;

(B) any device that is specifically marketed as a camera, telecommunications device, or microphone; or

(C) any device or apparatus described in sections 255, 716, and 718, and subsections (aa) and (bb) of section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 255; 617; 619; and 303(aa) and (bb)), and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

#### SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall apply to all covered devices manufactured after the date that is 180 days after the date on which guidance is issued by the Commission under section 3(c), and shall not apply to covered devices manufactured or sold before such date, or otherwise introduced into interstate commerce before such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 538, the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act.

This is a relatively straightforward bill. It requires the manufacturers of covered devices to clearly disclose if a device contains a camera or microphone.

Internet connected devices are becoming increasingly present in our lives, and it is important for people to understand what they are buying.

This legislation would allow the FTC to go after bad actors and provide compliance guidance to manufacturers of covered devices.

Not being recorded or monitored without permission is a basic tenet of privacy that we all have come to expect. Again, we have to get notification.

Given Senate Commerce Committee leadership has followed suit with a companion bill, I am hopeful this whets the appetite for bipartisan, bicameral action on comprehensive privacy protections for all Americans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 538, the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act.

The Internet of Things revolution has ushered in a new age of convenience and efficiency for the American public. Smart thermostats can save consumers money by tracking and reporting home energy use and making recommendations about adjusting temperatures to meet consumers' needs. Smart refrigerators can provide recipe suggestions based on the contents of the refrigerator. Smart ovens can scan food to automatically optimize the cooking process. Smart coffee makers can brew a fresh pot of coffee just as you are getting out of bed.

The American consumer is embracing these technologies. Today, the average American home has 11 Internet of Things, or IOT, devices. Over a quarter of consumers have at least one home automation device. These are technologies that allow consumers to interconnect and control their various IOT devices from one platform.

Congress should also embrace these technologies, but we must ensure that the IOT revolution does not come at the expense of consumers' privacy. Troubling reports have uncovered that some IOT devices may record images or audio without the user's awareness. Researchers have revealed that some IOT devices may accidentally record users as many as 19 times a day, collecting as much as 43 seconds of audio each time. Robot vacuums have taken intimate images of unsuspecting consumers which eventually ended up online.

Mr. Speaker, we must take action to combat these threats to people's right to privacy. That is why I am proud to support the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act. This legislation will require manufacturers of IOT devices to alert consumers that a device includes a camera or microphone if a consumer would not reasonably expect the device to contain such features.

Last Congress, this bill was unanimously reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and passed the House with broad bipartisan support.

I thank Representative SETH MOULTON for his leadership on this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

While this bill addresses significant privacy concerns, it is also important that I note that we have to recommit to adopting a comprehensive privacy framework that protects all Americans and provides heightened protections for our children nationwide.

The American Data Privacy and Protection Act, which I authored last Congress with Chairwoman RODGERS, would do just that. It would ensure that consumers, wherever they reside in this country, will have meaningful control over their personal information and that children will have heightened privacy protections. It also provides clear and consistent rules of the road on privacy and data security to innovators, entrepreneurs, and small tech companies.

I appreciate that we are advancing today's legislation on a bipartisan basis. I know this legislation is important, but I also look forward to working with Chairwoman RODGERS to pass the American Data Privacy and Protection Act on a bipartisan basis in this Congress, as well.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), a great member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my bill before us on the floor, the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act.

This commonsense and bipartisan bill would require the creation of reasonable disclosure guidelines for products that have audio or visual recording components that are not clearly obvious to a reasonable person, such as household appliances.

This emerging smart technology will provide unknown benefits and conveniences to modern life, but along with this new technology, we need to update transparency for consumers. My bill balances protecting American consumers with continuing to foster innovation.

By working with a broad range of stakeholders, my legislation will ensure consumers are aware of the capabilities of items they are putting in their homes without hamstringing the technology pioneers in places like Silicon Slopes in my district who are developing smart technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative MOULTON, Senator CANTWELL, and Senator CRUZ, for their bipartisan and bicameral support of this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the Democratic sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, our lives are dominated by smart devices, not just smart cars, smartphones, and smartwatches, but dryers, refrigerators, and even toasters. These technologies make our lives easier, but most Americans don't know that their refrigerator has the ability to listen or to watch.

Despite the fact that well over 60 million homes are actively using smart home devices, our laws regulating this technology have lagged. Big Tech has been able to move the privacy goalposts with impunity, so it is past time for a new generation of digital privacy laws.

That is why I put forward the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act along with my colleagues, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

This bill would require the Federal Trade Commission to establish guide-

lines for properly disclosing the audio or visual recording capabilities of smart devices. There is widespread support for this legislation, from consumer advocacy groups to the tech companies themselves.

Americans deserve the chance to make informed decisions about the electronic eavesdroppers we allow into our homes. Let's pass this bill so that our consumers know when Big Tech is listening.

□ 1745

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I will just close by saying I do think this is an important bill for consumers, and I thank the sponsors.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, again, this is a commonsense bill, a necessary bill. It impacts our constituents. They need full disclosure. That is not too much to ask for.

Again, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this for the second year in a row. Let's get it across the finish line, get it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 538.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SECURING AND ENABLING COMMERCE USING REMOTE AND ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1059) to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1059

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act of 2023” or the “SECURE Notarization Act of 2023”.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “communication technology”, with respect to a notarization, means an electronic device or process that allows the notary public performing the notarization, a remotely located individual, and (if applicable) a credible witness to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound during the notarization.

(2) **ELECTRONIC; ELECTRONIC RECORD; ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE; INFORMATION; PERSON; RECORD.**—The terms “electronic”, “electronic record”, “electronic signature”, “information”, “person”, and “record” have the meanings given those terms in section 106 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7006).

(3) **LAW.**—The term “law” includes any statute, regulation, rule, or rule of law.

(4) **NOTARIAL OFFICER.**—The term “notarial officer” means—

(A) a notary public; or

(B) any other individual authorized to perform a notarization under the laws of a State without a commission or appointment as a notary public.

(5) **NOTARIAL OFFICER’S STATE; NOTARY PUBLIC’S STATE.**—The term “notarial officer’s State” or “notary public’s State” means the State in which a notarial officer, or a notary public, as applicable, is authorized to perform a notarization.

(6) **NOTARIZATION.**—The term “notarization” —

(A) means any act that a notarial officer may perform under—

(i) Federal law, including this Act; or

(ii) the laws of the notarial officer’s State; and

(B) includes any act described in subparagraph (A) and performed by a notarial officer—

(i) with respect to—

(I) a tangible record; or

(II) an electronic record; and

(ii) for—

(I) an individual in the physical presence of the notarial officer; or

(II) a remotely located individual.

(7) **NOTARY PUBLIC.**—The term “notary public” means an individual commissioned or appointed as a notary public to perform a notarization under the laws of a State.

(8) **PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.**—The term “personal knowledge”, with respect to the identity of an individual, means knowledge of the identity of the individual through dealings sufficient to provide reasonable certainty that the individual has the identity claimed.

(9) **REMOTELY LOCATED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “remotely located individual”, with respect to a notarization, means an individual who is not in the physical presence of the notarial officer performing the notarization.

(10) **REQUIREMENT.**—The term “requirement” includes a duty, a standard of care, and a prohibition.

(11) **SIGNATURE.**—The term “signature” means—

(A) an electronic signature; or

(B) a tangible symbol executed or adopted by a person and evidencing the present intent to authenticate or adopt a record.

(12) **SIMULTANEOUSLY.**—The term “simultaneously”, with respect to a communication between parties—

(A) means that each party communicates substantially simultaneously and without unreasonable interruption or disconnection; and

(B) includes any reasonably short delay that is inherent in, or common with respect to, the method used for the communication.

(13) **STATE.**—The term “State”—

(A) means—

(i) any State of the United States;

(ii) the District of Columbia;

(iii) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(iv) any territory or possession of the United States; and

(v) any federally recognized Indian Tribe; and

(B) includes any executive, legislative, or judicial agency, court, department, board, office, clerk, recorder, register, registrar, commission, authority, institution, instrumentality, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of an entity described in any of clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A).

**SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Unless prohibited under section 10, and subject to subsection (b), a notary public may perform a notarization that occurs in or affects interstate commerce with respect to an electronic record.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION.**—If a notary public performs a notarization under subsection (a), the following requirements shall apply with respect to the notarization:

(1) The electronic signature of the notary public, and all other information required to be included under other applicable law, shall be attached to or logically associated with the electronic record.

(2) The electronic signature and other information described in paragraph (1) shall be bound to the electronic record in a manner that renders any subsequent change or modification to the electronic record evident.

**SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR REMOTE NOTARIZATION.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Unless prohibited under section 10, and subject to subsection (b), a notary public may perform a notarization that occurs in or affects interstate commerce for a remotely located individual.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS OF REMOTE NOTARIZATION.**—If a notary public performs a notarization under subsection (a), the following requirements shall apply with respect to the notarization:

(1) The remotely located individual shall appear personally before the notary public at the time of the notarization by using communication technology.

(2) The notary public shall—

(A) reasonably identify the remotely located individual—

(i) through personal knowledge of the identity of the remotely located individual; or

(ii) by obtaining satisfactory evidence of the identity of the remotely located individual by—

(I) using not fewer than 2 distinct types of processes or services through which a third person provides a means to verify the identity of the remotely located individual through a review of public or private data sources; or

(II) oath or affirmation of a credible witness who—

(aa)(AA) is in the physical presence of the notary public or the remotely located individual; or

(BB) appears personally before the notary public and the remotely located individual by using communication technology;

(bb) has personal knowledge of the identity of the remotely located individual; and

(cc) has been identified by the notary public in the same manner as specified for identification of a remotely located individual under clause (i) or subclause (I) of this clause;

(B) either directly or through an agent—

(i) create an audio and visual recording of the performance of the notarization; and

(ii) notwithstanding any resignation from, or revocation, suspension, or termination of, the notary public’s commission or appointment, retain the recording created under clause (i) as a notarial record—

(I) for a period of not less than—

(aa) if an applicable law of the notary public’s State specifies a period of retention, the greater of—

(AA) that specified period; or

(BB) 5 years after the date on which the recording is created; or

(bb) if no applicable law of the notary public’s State specifies a period of retention, 10 years after the date on which the recording is created; and

(II) if any applicable law of the notary public’s State governs the content, manner or place of retention, security, use, effect, or disclosure of the recording or any information contained in the recording, in accordance with that law; and

(C) if the notarization is performed with respect to a tangible or electronic record, take reasonable steps to confirm that the record before the notary public is the same record with respect to which the remotely located individual made a statement or on which the individual executed a signature.

(3) If a guardian, conservator, executor, personal representative, administrator, or similar fiduciary or successor is appointed for or on behalf of a notary public or a deceased notary public under applicable law, that person shall retain the recording under paragraph (2)(B)(ii), unless—

(A) another person is obligated to retain the recording under applicable law of the notary public’s State; or

(B)(i) under applicable law of the notary public’s State, that person may transmit the recording to an office, archive, or repository approved or designated by the State; and

(ii) that person transmits the recording to the office, archive, or repository described in clause (i) in accordance with applicable law of the notary public’s State.

(4) If the remotely located individual is physically located outside the geographic boundaries of a State, or is otherwise physically located in a location that is not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, at the time of the notarization—

(A) the record shall—

(i) be intended for filing with, or relate to a matter before, a court, governmental entity, public official, or other entity that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

(ii) involve property located in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States or a transaction substantially connected to the United States; and

(B) the act of making the statement or signing the record may not be prohibited by a law of the jurisdiction in which the individual is physically located.

(c) **PERSONAL APPEARANCE SATISFIED.**—If a State or Federal law requires an individual to appear personally before or be in the physical presence of a notary public at the time of a notarization, that requirement shall be considered to be satisfied if—

(1) the individual—

(A) is a remotely located individual; and

(B) appears personally before the notary public at the time of the notarization by using communication technology; and

(2)(A) the notarization was performed under or relates to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notary public's State; or

(B) the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce.

**SEC. 5. RECOGNITION OF NOTARIZATIONS IN FEDERAL COURT.**

(a) **RECOGNITION OF VALIDITY.**—Each court of the United States shall recognize as valid under the State or Federal law applicable in a judicial proceeding before the court any notarization performed by a notarial officer of any State if the notarization is valid under the laws of the notarial officer's State or under this Act.

(b) **LEGAL EFFECT OF RECOGNIZED NOTARIZATION.**—A notarization recognized under subsection (a) shall have the same effect under the State or Federal law applicable in the applicable judicial proceeding as if that notarization was validly performed—

(1)(A) by a notarial officer of the State, the law of which is applicable in the proceeding; or

(B) under this Act or other Federal law; and

(2) without regard to whether the notarization was performed—

- (A) with respect to—
  - (i) a tangible record; or
  - (ii) an electronic record; or
- (B) for—

(i) an individual in the physical presence of the notarial officer; or

(ii) a remotely located individual.

(c) **PRESUMPTION OF GENUINENESS.**—In a determination of the validity of a notarization for the purposes of subsection (a), the signature and title of an individual performing the notarization shall be prima facie evidence in any court of the United States that the signature of the individual is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

(d) **CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF AUTHORITY.**—In a determination of the validity of a notarization for the purposes of subsection (a), the signature and title of the following notarial officers of a State shall conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarization:

(1) A notary public of that State.

(2) A judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court of that State.

**SEC. 6. RECOGNITION BY STATE OF NOTARIZATIONS PERFORMED UNDER AUTHORITY OF ANOTHER STATE.**

(a) **RECOGNITION OF VALIDITY.**—Each State shall recognize as valid under the laws of that State any notarization performed by a notarial officer of any other State if—

(1) the notarization is valid under the laws of the notarial officer's State or under this Act; and

(2)(A) the notarization was performed under or relates to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State; or

(B) the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce.

(b) **LEGAL EFFECT OF RECOGNIZED NOTARIZATION.**—A notarization recognized under subsection (a) shall have the same effect under the laws of the recognizing State as if that notarization was validly performed by a notarial officer of the recognizing State, without regard to whether the notarization was performed—

- (1) with respect to—
  - (A) a tangible record; or
  - (B) an electronic record; or
- (2) for—

(A) an individual in the physical presence of the notarial officer; or

(B) a remotely located individual.

(c) **PRESUMPTION OF GENUINENESS.**—In a determination of the validity of a notarization

for the purposes of subsection (a), the signature and title of an individual performing a notarization shall be prima facie evidence in any State court or judicial proceeding that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

(d) **CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF AUTHORITY.**—In a determination of the validity of a notarization for the purposes of subsection (a), the signature and title of the following notarial officers of a State shall conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarization:

(1) A notary public of that State.

(2) A judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court of that State.

**SEC. 7. ELECTRONIC AND REMOTE NOTARIZATION NOT REQUIRED.**

Nothing in this Act may be construed to require a notary public to perform a notarization—

- (1) with respect to an electronic record;
- (2) for a remotely located individual; or
- (3) using a technology that the notary public has not selected.

**SEC. 8. VALIDITY OF NOTARIZATIONS; RIGHTS OF AGGRIEVED PERSONS NOT AFFECTED; STATE LAWS ON THE PRACTICE OF LAW NOT AFFECTED.**

(a) **VALIDITY NOT AFFECTED.**—The failure of a notary public to meet a requirement under section 3 or 4 in the performance of a notarization, or the failure of a notarization to conform to a requirement under section 3 or 4, shall not invalidate or impair the validity or recognition of the notarization.

(b) **RIGHTS OF AGGRIEVED PERSONS.**—The validity and recognition of a notarization under this Act may not be construed to prevent an aggrieved person from seeking to invalidate a record or transaction that is the subject of a notarization or from seeking other remedies based on State or Federal law other than this Act for any reason not specified in this Act, including on the basis—

(1) that a person did not, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record, execute a signature on the record;

(2) that an individual was incompetent, lacked authority or capacity to authenticate or adopt a record, or did not knowingly and voluntarily authenticate or adopt a record; or

(3) of fraud, forgery, mistake, misrepresentation, impersonation, duress, undue influence, or other invalidating cause.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to affect a State law governing, authorizing, or prohibiting the practice of law.

**SEC. 9. EXCEPTION TO PREEMPTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A State law may modify, limit, or supersede the provisions of section 3, or subsection (a) or (b) of section 4, with respect to State law only if that State law—

(1) either—

(A) constitutes an enactment or adoption of the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, as approved and recommended for enactment in all the States by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2018 or the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, as approved and recommended for enactment in all the States by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 2021, except that a modification to such Law enacted or adopted by a State shall be preempted to the extent such modification—

(i) is inconsistent with a provision of section 3 or subsection (a) or (b) of section 4, as applicable; or

(ii) would not be permitted under subparagraph (B); or

(B) specifies additional or alternative procedures or requirements for the performance of notarizations with respect to electronic

records or for remotely located individuals, if those additional or alternative procedures or requirements—

(i) are consistent with section 3 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 4; and

(ii) do not accord greater legal effect to the implementation or application of a specific technology or technical specification for performing those notarizations; and

(2) requires the retention of an audio and visual recording of the performance of a notarization for a remotely located individual for a period of not less than 5 years after the recording is created.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in section 5 or 6 may be construed to preclude the recognition of a notarization under applicable State law, regardless of whether such State law is consistent with section 5 or 6.

**SEC. 10. STANDARD OF CARE; SPECIAL NOTARIAL COMMISSIONS.**

(a) **STATE STANDARDS OF CARE; AUTHORITY OF STATE REGULATORY OFFICIALS.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to prevent a State, or a notarial regulatory official of a State, from—

(1) adopting a requirement in this Act as a duty or standard of care under the laws of that State or sanctioning a notary public for breach of such a duty or standard of care;

(2) establishing requirements and qualifications for, or denying, refusing to renew, revoking, suspending, or imposing a condition on, a commission or appointment as a notary public;

(3) creating or designating a class or type of commission or appointment, or requiring an endorsement or other authorization to be received by a notary public, as a condition on the authority to perform notarizations with respect to electronic records or for remotely located individuals; or

(4) prohibiting a notary public from performing a notarization under section 3 or 4 as a sanction for a breach of duty or standard of care or for official misconduct.

(b) **SPECIAL COMMISSIONS OR AUTHORIZATIONS CREATED BY A STATE; SANCTION FOR BREACH OR OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT.**—A notary public may not perform a notarization under section 3 or 4 if—

(1)(A) the notary public's State has enacted a law that creates or designates a class or type of commission or appointment, or requires an endorsement or other authorization to be received by a notary public, as a condition on the authority to perform notarizations with respect to electronic records or for remotely located individuals; and

(B) the commission or appointment of the notary public is not of the class or type or the notary public has not received the endorsement or other authorization; or

(2) the notarial regulatory official of the notary public's State has prohibited the notary public from performing the notarization as a sanction for a breach of duty or standard of care or for official misconduct.

**SEC. 11. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and the application of the provisions thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by that holding.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. **BILIRAKIS**) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. **PALLONE**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, H.R. 1059. The SECURE Notarization Act would provide a national standard for notarizing documents when the signing parties are not physically present.

The process of remote notarization improves the security of notarizations through the use of multifactor verification of identification, audiovisual recording of the event, and tamper-detection technology.

Mr. Speaker, it is actually safer. I did a lot of this work in my other life when I was in the private sector.

By recording the notarization as it happens, remote notarizations can provide law enforcement with evidence if a fraud is determined to have occurred.

This is much more secure, as I said before, than a traditional paper-only notarization where once the transaction has occurred, there is very little evidence left behind.

Preventing fraud and abuse is critical to a well-functioning legal system. And let's face it, it is more practical.

This legislation passed the House last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation once again.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1059, the SECURE Notarization Act.

Today, thanks to modern technology, we can oftentimes cash a check, book a flight, and lock and unlock our doors all from the convenience of our smartphone. But that same convenience does not exist for getting something notarized in many States.

People are often required to go through the notary process, the process of authenticating the signatory to a document for wills, mortgages, and purchasing or transferring valuable assets. Today, many States will require a person to physically appear before a notary public in order to complete this process.

Now, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person notarizations were not only inconvenient, but they also posed a health risk. In-person notarization requirements forced far too many consumers to choose between potentially exposing themselves to COVID-19 and purchasing a house or updating their wills.

To protect consumers and commerce, dozens of States enacted laws or took emergency actions to permit electronic and remote online notarizations. These

notarizations allowed the consumer and the notary to execute notarizations through secure audiovisual communications.

As our lives have returned to a new normal, it has become apparent that electronic and remote online notarizations are a valuable tool for facilitating commerce and making these services more accessible.

Such tools are particularly important for vulnerable populations like the elderly, underserved communities, and others with mobility issues or lacking access to reliable and inexpensive transportation. But State action alone cannot assure universal access to electronic and remote online notarizations that meet robust security standards and consumer protections.

Our Nation lacks the universal standard for electronic and remote online notarizations. As a result, there is no standard that permits nationwide use of electronic and remote online notarizations. There is no standard that creates robust security requirements and there is no standard that ensures electronic and remote online notarizations are valid nationwide.

That is why I am proud to support the SECURE Notarization Act. This legislation will transition notarizations to the 21st century without sacrificing security, making the process more convenient and safer for the American public.

Last Congress, this bill was unanimously reported out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and passed the House with broad bipartisan support. I commend Representative DEAN for her leadership on this bipartisan legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), the vice chairman of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1059, the SECURE Notarization Act is a bipartisan bill that would authorize the nationwide use of remote online notarizations performed in interstate commerce. This is simply an electronic notarization where the party and the notary are in different locations.

Society has widely adopted remote meetings, events, and even social activities. Requirements for a signer to be physically present before a notary are often impractical and sometimes impossible, such as with military deployment or travel limitations.

Remote online notarization increases the use of notarization and allows individuals to conduct crucial business, particularly if both parties are unable to be physically present with a notary.

This bill would provide businesses and individuals with the ability to execute documents using two-way audiovisual communications while protecting consumers with a multifactor

authentication and the use of tamper-evident technology.

The bill would not replace the State laws governing the authorization and regulation of notaries public, nor would the bill alter State control over the practice of law or commonly notarized legal papers, like estate documents.

This bill is limited only to remote online notaries performed in interstate commerce. It does not alter the regulation of notaries, nor does it require the use of remote online notaries.

It would simply provide for the recognition of remote notarization performed in interstate commerce. It would also ensure that the Federal and State courts recognize such remote notarizations.

This is similar to the Full Faith and Credit Clause implementing statutes that ensure the recognition of official activities or judicial proceedings conducted in another State.

In the 117th Congress, this bill passed the House by voice vote after earning 123 cosponsors and passing the Committee on Energy and Commerce with a 56-0 vote. It also has the support of 20 organizations, like the American Land Title Association, the National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions, and Mortgage Action Alliance. All of these groups supporting the bill utilize notaries public on a daily basis.

I say a special thank you to my friend, Representative MADELEINE DEAN, for working on this important legislation over the last two Congresses.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), the Democratic sponsor of this bill.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1059, the SECURE Notarization Act, which I have had the pleasure to work on with Representative ARMSTRONG from North Dakota.

The SECURE Notarization Act would authorize nationwide use of remote online notarization and would include key consumer protections such as multifactor authentication and the use of tamper-evident technology. The bill would also ensure interstate recognition of remote online notarization.

Importantly, the SECURE Notarization Act sets a floor for the use of remote online notarization and States will be able to regulate further protections as they decide.

The pandemic taught us both the necessity and the benefits of new technologies used to streamline services for consumers across industries.

Remote online notarization has been and should continue to be a time-saving, convenient, and safe way for consumers to execute important documents.

Notarizations are used extensively, as we all know, in real estate transactions and other key areas, including

affidavits, powers of attorney, and living trusts. Remote online notarizations allow the consumer, the notary, and other parties to a transaction to be in different locations using two-way, audiovisual communication to securely notarize documents.

This process provides consumers and businesses with much-needed flexibility. This is the key.

Remote online notarization allows flexibility for people who are chronically ill or immobile, for parents who can't get away from work or taking care of children, for servicemembers abroad seeking to buy a home or correct their wills.

I know well the impact this bill could have for notaries public across the country. When I served as a State representative, most members of our team were notaries and our office served as a notary hub for the local community. We learned firsthand how many people struggled to find time for appointments often because of childcare, transportation, or because of poor health.

Remote online notarization would have allowed us to streamline our performance and better provide service to our community.

Last Congress, as has been stated, this bill was cosponsored by more than 120 Members and passed the House by a vote of 336-90. It is supported by a coalition of 20 industry partners. Simply, it is a commonsense piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair MCMORRIS RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE for their support for this bill and for bringing it to the floor.

Finally, I thank the lead on this legislation, Congressman KELLY ARMSTRONG, for all his hard work and good humor as we work to get this bill across the finish line, as well as the work of his staff in helping make this a strong piece of bipartisan legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge support for this bill. Once again, it did pass the last time in Congress. We hope we can get it to the Senate. It is important to have a nationwide standard for notarization.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, again, this is commonsense legislation.

I have some experience in this area, as does Mr. ARMSTRONG and Ms. DEAN, as well. It is efficient and safe for the public, and we need a national standard.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1059.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FALLON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

H. Res. 132;

H.R. 538; and,

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKES IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 132) responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 2, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 120]  
YEAS—414

Adams	Auchincloss	Bean (FL)	Bishop (GA)	Fletcher	Lawler
Aderholt	Babin	Beatty	Bishop (NC)	Flood	Lee (CA)
Aguilar	Bacon	Bentz	Blumenauer	Foster	Lee (FL)
Alford	Baird	Bera	Blunt Rochester	Foushee	Lee (NV)
Allen	Balderson	Bergman	Boebert	Fox	Lee (PA)
Allred	Balint	Beyer	Bonamici	Frankel, Lois	Leger Fernandez
Amodei	Banks	Bice	Bost	Franklin, C.	Lesko
Armstrong	Barr	Biggs	Bowman	Scott	Letlow
Arrington	Barragán	Bilirakis	Boyle (PA)	Frost	Levin
			Brecheen	Fry	Lieu
			Brown	Fulcher	Loudermilk
			Brownley	Gaetz	Lucas
			Buchanan	Gallagher	Luetkemeyer
			Buck	Gallego	Luna
			Bucshon	Garamendi	Luttrell
			Budzinski	Garbarino	Lynch
			Burchett	Garcia (TX)	Mace
			Burgess	Garcia, Mike	Magaziner
			Burlison	Garcia, Robert	Malliotakis
			Bush	Gimenez	Mann
			Calvert	Golden (ME)	Manning
			Cammack	Goldman (NY)	Mast
			Caraveo	Gomez	Matsui
			Carbajal	Gonzales, Tony	McBath
			Cárdenas	Good (VA)	McCaul
			Carey	Gooden (TX)	McClain
			Carl	Gosar	McClintock
			Carson	Gottheimer	McCormack
			Carter (GA)	Granger	McCormick
			Carter (LA)	Graves (LA)	McGarvey
			Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	McGovern
			Cartwright	Green (TN)	McHenry
			Casar	Green, Al (TX)	Meeks
			Case	Grothman	Menendez
			Casten	Guest	Meng
			Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Meuser
			Chavez-DeRemer	Hageman	Mfume
			Cherfilus-	Harder (CA)	Miller (IL)
			McCormick	Harris	Miller (OH)
			Chu	Harshbarger	Miller (WV)
			Cicilline	Hayes	Miller-Meeks
			Ciscomani	Hern	Mills
			Clark (MA)	Higgins (LA)	Molinaro
			Clarke (NY)	Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar
			Cline	Hill	Mooney
			Cloud	Himes	Moore (AL)
			Clyburn	Hinson	Moore (UT)
			Clyde	Horsford	Moore (WI)
			Cohen	Houchin	Moran
			Cole	Houlihan	Moskowitz
			Collins	Hoyer	Moulton
			Comer	Hoyle (OR)	Mrvan
			Connolly	Hudson	Mullin
			Correa	Huffman	Murphy
			Costa	Huizenga	Nadler
			Courtney	Hunt	Napolitano
			Craig	Issa	Neal
			Crane	Ivey	Neguse
			Crawford	Jackson (IL)	Nehls
			Crenshaw	Jackson (NC)	Newhouse
			Crockett	Jackson (TX)	Nickel
			Crow	Jackson Lee	Norcross
			Cuellar	Jacobs	Norman
			Curtis	James	Nunn (IA)
			D'Esposito	Jayapal	Oberholte
			Davidson	Jeffries	Ocasio-Cortez
			Davis (NC)	Johnson (GA)	Ogles
			De La Cruz	Johnson (LA)	Omar
			Dean (PA)	Johnson (OH)	Owens
			DeGette	Johnson (SD)	Pallone
			DeLauro	Jordan	Palmer
			DelBene	Joyce (PA)	Panetta
			Deluzio	Kamlager-Dove	Pappas
			DeSaulnier	Kaptur	Pascrell
			DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)	Payne
			Diaz-Balart	Keating	Pelosi
			Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Peltola
			Doggett	Kelly (MS)	Perez
			Donalds	Kelly (PA)	Perry
			Duarte	Khanna	Peters
			Duncan	Kiggans (VA)	Pettersen
			Dunn (FL)	Kildee	Pfleger
			Edwards	Kiley	Phillips
			Ellzey	Kilmer	Pingree
			Emmer	Kim (CA)	Pocan
			Escobar	Kim (NJ)	Porter
			Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi	Posey
			Espallat	Kuster	Pressley
			Estes	Kustoff	Quigley
			Evans	LaHood	Ramirez
			Ezell	LaLota	Raskin
			Fallon	LaMalfa	Reschenthaler
			Feenstra	Lamborn	Rodgers (WA)
			Ferguson	Landsman	Rogers (AL)
			Finstad	Langworthy	Rogers (KY)
			Fischbach	Larsen (WA)	Rose
			Fitzgerald	Larson (CT)	Rosendale
			Fitzpatrick	Latta	Ross
			Fleischmann	LaTurner	Rouzer

Roy	Sorenson	Turner	Bonomici	Fry	Letlow	Schiff	Steil	Van Orden
Ruiz	Soto	Underwood	Bost	Fulcher	Levin	Schneider	Stevens	Vargas
Ruppersberger	Spanberger	Valadao	Bowman	Gaetz	Lieu	Scholten	Stewart	Vasquez
Rutherford	Spartz	Van Drew	Boyle (PA)	Gallagher	Loudermilk	Schrier	Strickland	Veasey
Ryan	Stansbury	Van Dwyne	Brown	Gallego	Lucas	Schweikert	Strong	Velázquez
Salazar	Stanton	Van Orden	Brownley	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Scott (VA)	Swalwell	Wagner
Salinas	Stauber	Vargas	Buchanan	Garbarino	Luna	Scott, Austin	Sykes	Walberg
Sánchez	Steel	Vasquez	Buck	Garcia (TX)	Luttrell	Scott, David	Takano	Waltz
Santos	Stefanik	Veasey	Bucshon	Garcia, Mike	Lynch	Self	Tenney	Wasserman
Scalise	Steil	Velázquez	Budzinski	Garcia, Robert	Mace	Sessions	Thandesar	Schultz
Scanlon	Stevens	Wagner	Burchett	Gimenez	Magaziner	Sewell	Thompson (CA)	Walters
Schakowsky	Stewart	Walberg	Burgess	Golden (ME)	Malliotakis	Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Watson Coleman
Schiff	Strickland	Waltz	Bush	Goldman (NY)	Mann	Sherrill	Thompson (PA)	Weber (TX)
Schneider	Strong	Wasserman	Calvert	Gomez	Manning	Slotkin	Tiffany	Webster (FL)
Scholten	Swalwell	Schultz	Cammack	Gonzales, Tony	Mast	Smith (MO)	Timmons	Westerman
Schrier	Sykes	Waters	Caraveo	Good (VA)	Matsui	Smith (NE)	Titus	Wenstrup
Schweikert	Takano	Watson Coleman	Carballo	Gooden (TX)	McBath	Smith (NJ)	Tlaib	Westerman
Scott (VA)	Tenney	Weber (TX)	Cárdenas	Gosar	McCaul	Smith (WA)	Tokuda	Wexton
Scott, Austin	Thandesar	Webster (FL)	Carey	Gottheimer	McClain	Smucker	Tonko	Williams (GA)
Scott, David	Thompson (CA)	Wenstrup	Carl	Granger	McClintock	Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Williams (NY)
Self	Thompson (MS)	Westerman	Carson	Graves (LA)	McCollum	Soto	Torres (NY)	Williams (TX)
Sessions	Thompson (PA)	Wexton	Carter (GA)	Graves (MO)	McGarvey	Spanberger	Trahan	Wilson (FL)
Sewell	Tiffany	Williams (GA)	Carter (LA)	Green (TN)	McGovern	Spartz	Trone	Wilson (SC)
Sherman	Timmons	Williams (NY)	Carter (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McHenry	Stansbury	Turner	Wittman
Sherrill	Titus	Williams (TX)	Cartwright	Greene (GA)	Meeks	Stanton	Underwood	Womack
Slotkin	Tlaib	Wilson (FL)	Case	Griffith	Menendez	Stauber	Valadao	Yakym
Smith (MO)	Tokuda	Wilson (SC)	Case	Griffith	Meng	Steel	Van Drew	Zinke
Smith (NE)	Tonko	Wittman	Casten	Guest	Meuser	Stefanik	Van Dwyne	
Smith (NJ)	Torres (CA)	Womack	Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Mfume			
Smith (WA)	Torres (NY)	Yakym	Chavez-DeRemer	Hageman	Miller (IL)			
Smucker	Trahan	Zinke	Cherfilus-	Harder (CA)	Miller (OH)			
			McCormick	Harris	Miller (WV)			

NAYS—2

Greene (GA)

Massie

NOT VOTING—17

Castro (TX)  
Cleaver  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Garcia (IL)  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente

Griffith  
Grijalva  
Joyce (OH)  
Lofgren  
Morelle  
Pence  
Sarbanes

Simpson  
Steube  
Trone  
Wild

□ 1854

Ms. CARAVEO changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INFORMING CONSUMERS ABOUT SMART DEVICES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 538) to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 12, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

YEAS—406

Adams	Babin	Bentz
Aderholt	Bacon	Bera
Aguilar	Baird	Bergman
Alford	Balderson	Beyer
Allen	Balint	Bice
Allred	Banks	Bilirakis
Amodei	Barr	Bishop (GA)
Armstrong	Barragán	Blumenauer
Arrington	Bean (FL)	Blunt Rochester
Auchincloss	Beatty	Boebert

Bonamici	Brownley	Bucshon	Burgess	Calvert	Carroll	Carson	Carter (GA)	Carter (LA)	Carter (TX)	Cartwright	Case	Casten	Castor (FL)	Chavez-DeRemer	Cherfilus-	McCormick	Chu	Cicilline	Ciscomani	Clark (MA)	Clarke (NY)	Cline	Cloud	Clyburn	Cohen	Cole	Collins	Comer	Connolly	Correa	Costa	Courtney	Craig	Crawford	Crenshaw	Crockett	Crow	Cuellar	Curtis	D'Esposito	Davidson	Davis (NC)	De La Cruz	Dean (PA)	DeGette	DeLauro	DelBene	Deluzio	DeSaulnier	DesJarlais	Diaz-Balart	Dingell	Doggett	Donalds	Duarte	Duncan	Dunn (FL)	Edwards	Ellzey	Emmer	Escobar	Eshoo	Espallat	Estes	Evans	Ezell	Fallon	Feenstra	Ferguson	Finstad	Fischbach	Fitzgerald	Fitzpatrick	Fleischmann	Fletcher	Flood	Foster	Foushee	Fox	Frankel, Lois	Franklin, C.	Scott	Frost
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Fry	Fulcher	Gaetz	Gallagher	Gallego	Garamendi	Garbarino	Garcia (TX)	Garcia, Mike	Garcia, Robert	Gimenez	Golden (ME)	Goldman (NY)	Gomez	Gonzales, Tony	Good (VA)	Gooden (TX)	Gosar	Gottheimer	Granger	Graves (LA)	Graves (MO)	Green (TN)	Green, Al (TX)	Greene (GA)	Griffith	Griffith	Grothman	Guest	Guthrie	Hageman	Harder (CA)	Harris	Harsbharger	Hayes	Hern	Higgins (LA)	Higgins (NY)	Hill	Himes	Hinson	Horsford	Houchin	Houlahan	Hoyer	Hoyle (OR)	Hudson	Huffman	Huizenga	Hunt	Issa	Ivey	Jackson (IL)	Jackson (NC)	Jackson (TX)	Jackson Lee	Jacobs	James	Jayapal	Jeffries	Johnson (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Johnson (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Jordan	Joyce (PA)	Kamlager-Dove	Kaptur	Kean (NJ)	Keating	Kelly (IL)	Kelly (MS)	Kelly (PA)	Khanna	Kiggans (VA)	Kildee	Kiley	Kilmer	Kim (CA)	Kim (NJ)	Krishnamoorthi	Kuster	Kustoff	LaHood	LaLota	LaMalfa	Lamborn	Landsman	Langworthy	Larsen (WA)	Larsen (CT)	Latta	LaTurner	Lawler	Lee (CA)	Lee (FL)	Lee (NV)	Lee (PA)	Leger Fernandez	Lesko
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Schiff	Schneider	Scholten	Schrier	Schweikert	Scott (VA)	Scott, Austin	Scott, David	Self	Sessions	Sewell	Sherman	Sherrill	Slotkin	Smith (MO)	Smith (NE)	Smith (NJ)	Smith (WA)	Smucker	Sorensen	Soto	Spanberger	Spartz	Stansbury	Stanton	Stauber	Steel	Stefanik	Biggs	Bishop (NC)	Brecheen	Burlison	Castro (TX)	Cleaver	Davids (KS)	Davis (IL)	Garcia (IL)	Gonzalez, Vicente
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Steil	Stevens	Stewart	Strickland	Strong	Swalwell	Sykes	Takano	Tenney	Thandesar	Thompson (CA)	Thompson (MS)	Thompson (PA)	Tiffany	Timmons	Titus	Tlaib	Tokuda	Torres (CA)	Torres (NY)	Trahan	Trone	Turner	Underwood	Valadao	Van Drew	Van Dwyne	Clyde	Crane	Massie	McCormick	Gonzalez, Vicente	Grijalva	Joyce (OH)	Lofgren	Morelle
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NAYS—12

Biggs  
Bishop (NC)  
Brecheen  
Burlison

Clyde  
Crane  
Massie  
McCormick

Norman  
Perry  
Rosendale  
Roy

NOT VOTING—15

Castro (TX)  
Cleaver  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Garcia (IL)

Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Grijalva  
Joyce (OH)  
Lofgren  
Morelle

Pence  
Sarbanes  
Simpson  
Steube  
Wild

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, due to testing positive for COVID-19 and following recommended isolation protocols, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 120 and “yea” on rollcall No. 121.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SHOOTING

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Michigan State University, as tonight marks 2 weeks since a horrific shooting took the lives of three innocent students and injured five others.

On February 13, 2023, Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser, and Alexandria

Verner were taken from us far too soon. Four students are still in Sparrow Hospital. One, thankfully, has been released and is at home.

In the days since, we have all spent many hours in East Lansing talking to MSU current Spartans and alumni. The strength and resilience I have witnessed has been both inspiring and moving.

I have attended vigils where thousands have shown up to honor the victims and talk to students who are too scared to leave their dorm rooms.

We have seen demonstrations where brave young students have made clear that they want action, not just thoughts and prayers.

I have also met with many of the 25 different law enforcement and first responder organizations that ran toward the danger that night. I commend the 911 dispatchers who guided agencies calmly during the response for both the shootings and the manhunt, as well as thank staff at Sparrow Hospital for saving students who were transported with gunshot wounds.

Our community is Spartan strong, but the grief remains palpable—even on my own team, my staff who is here—among current MSU and alumni.

Almost 15 months ago, this same group of Michigan lawmakers with our friends and allies stood up here to mourn the loss of life at Oxford High School. It seems beyond belief that I am a Member of Congress who has now overseen two school shootings in her district in 15 months—yet another horrific tragedy that has forever changed the families of the victims, their classmates, professors, and the entire community.

We cannot be desensitized to this senseless violence.

As the Representative of the university, I have heard from people across the State who love MSU and want to protect our children. All anyone wants is to protect our kids in a place that should be their sanctuary. Gun violence is the number one killer of children under 21, and I will work with anyone who is willing to recognize that and decide that we are not going to accept it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues for a moment of silence for Arielle, for Brian, for Alexandria, and for the families and our State who grieve this immeasurable loss.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, February 22, 2023.*  
The Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR HONORABLE MCCARTHY: I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Sincerely,

MIKIE SHERRILL,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, February 24, 2023.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter serves as my intent to resign from the House Committee on Natural Resources, effective today.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: Following my appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 118th Congress, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Agriculture for the 118th Congress, effective today.

Sincerely,

STACEY E. PLASKETT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: Following my appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I hereby resign

from the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, effective today. It is my intent to return to this Committee at the next opportunity.

Sincerely,

AMI BERA, M.D.,  
*Member of Congress, CA-06.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Armed Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.*  
Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: This letter serves as my intent to resign from the House Armed Services Committee.

Sincerely,

JASON CROW,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

□ 1915

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 164

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Ms. Pingree, Mr. Carbajal, Ms. Craig, Mr. Soto.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Veasey.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Espaillat.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mrs. Lee of Nevada.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Tonko.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1139

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1139.

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

## WELCOMING J.W. DUNCAN

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, at 5:19 this afternoon, I became a grandfather. My middle son, J.P. Duncan, had our first grandchild, John Waylon, J.W. Duncan, 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and you can tell this Congressman is excited.

## KAVYA JAKASANIA WINS COUNTY SPELLING BEE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a great speller in my district, Kavya Jakasania. The seventh grade student at Frank R. Conwell, Middle School 4, in Jersey City won the 2023 Hudson County Spelling Bee recently.

Kavya bested a field of 62 of my district's top spellers to take the crown. It was a tough battle to the end, but after 12 rounds, Kavya spelled the word "internecine" correctly to win the spelling bee.

For my edification and for my colleagues who are curious about "internecine," it means deadly or marked by great slaughter.

With her victory, Kavya advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 30 through June 1. I know she will do a great job.

She has already made me, her school, and her family very proud of her success.

## HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARK LETT

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Senior Master Sergeant Mark Lett, an American hero who retired after 26 faithful years of service from the United States Air Force in 2011.

Senior Master Sergeant Lett was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and attended Carter High School. He joined the Air Force in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Lett served as an in-flight refueling specialist on a KC-135 aircraft in addition to serving as a flight instructor and flight engineer.

During his long career, he was stationed in five States across the United States. While serving as a flight engineer, he deployed to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He received numerous awards during his Air Force career, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and many more.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2011, he returned to Knoxville. In July

2014, I was pleased to note that he joined the Knox County Veterans Services as the deputy veterans service officer.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize American hero Senior Master Sergeant Lett as Tennessee Second District's Veteran of the Month.

## PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats are putting people over politics by lowering kitchen-table costs, creating better-paying jobs, cutting costs for healthcare coverage, and capping out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors.

However, extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that would do just the opposite. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are set to advance a new 30 percent national sales tax. This will increase the average family's costs for groceries and essentials by hundreds of dollars each and every month.

Some MAGA Republicans say they want to cut Social Security and Medicare, and working families will lose their hard-earned benefits. They are putting special interests of the few over the working-class majority.

House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. We will always put people over politics and seniors over party, and we will always, always put people first.

## PETE BUTTIGIEG SHOULD RESIGN

(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 call on the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, to resign immediately.

The Secretary's priorities don't line up with what the American people expect from him. Buttigieg has failed to execute DOT's mission, which is to improve the quality and safety of our Nation's transportation system.

Instead, he is laser-focused on wokeness at the agency and in our culture. Think about it. He took 10 days to even acknowledge the devastating train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

During those 10 days, as Ohioans fled from their homes and feared for their health, he did find time to say that there are too many White people in the construction industry. I don't know about you, but when I see the men and women who build the structures that house us and the roads that connect us, I am not thinking about their race. I just appreciate that they are doing the hard work that is necessary for our society to thrive.

It is time for Pete to go back to Indiana so someone serious about building

infrastructure and transportation systems that are safe and effective can start getting the job done.

## OUR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE WILL NOT WAVER

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the free and independent nation of Ukraine.

It has been over a year since Vladimir Putin ordered his tanks and troops into Ukraine. In the past year, the United States has led an extraordinary coalition of global partners to stand against Russia's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Ukraine with then-Vice President Al Gore in the 1990s as a staffer, and it fills my heart with pride to know that Kyiv still stands strong. Ukraine is still free, and democracy still prevails. Our support for Ukraine will not waver.

I wish we didn't have to spend any money in Ukraine, but if Putin wins, we will spend a thousand times more trying to contain an emboldened and aggressive Russia.

We must continue to stand with Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy.

## CONGRATULATING ARMSTRONG-INDIANA-CLARION DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission on winning the 2022 John W. Britt Community Service Award.

The John W. Britt Community Service Award is given to a non-law enforcement agency or entity that makes a significant contribution to the efforts of liquor and/or tobacco enforcement and demonstrates program effectiveness through underlying efforts and practices.

Mr. Speaker, the Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission provides alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and problem gambling prevention services within the three-county region to schools, universities, businesses, organizations, and other entities.

In 2021-2022, AICDAC partnered with Pennsylvania's Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement on several underage drinking prevention activities, a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder campaign, awareness presentations around prom season, and small games of chance trainings.

The AICDAC is a model example of programming and partnerships that have made and continue to make contributions to enhance the efforts of liquor enforcement and raise awareness in

the prevention of underage drinking through environmental strategies.

Congratulations to the AICDAC on this recognition.

#### LOS ANGELES URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE AID TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 132 to respond to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Three weeks ago, the world watched in horror as one of the deadliest earthquakes of the century hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria, causing destruction of epic proportions. The damage affected 20 million people in Türkiye and 8 million in Syria.

Amidst the tragedy, I recognize the heroism and courage of the nearly 240,000 rescue and aid workers who have responded to this disaster. I am deeply proud that an urban search and rescue team from my district in Los Angeles was deployed to Türkiye to assist in USAID's relief efforts just 18 hours after the earthquake first hit. Eighty personnel from the L.A. County Fire Department and eight members of the L.A. Sheriff's Department led the search for survivors and assessed over 6,000 buildings to determine their safety for residents.

As is always the case when disaster strikes, those who suffer most are the vulnerable and marginalized among us: civilians in rebel-led Syria who have endured the horror of Russian airstrikes and Assad's weaponization of aid; Syrian refugees seeking safety in Türkiye; and pregnant women, children, the elderly, and disabled people.

#### QUESTIONING SAFETY OF COVID-19 VACCINES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, many Americans have raised concerns over the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.

We were told these shots were safe and effective. Now, we have information that raises serious doubts.

One pharmaceutical company asked that its research and safety data be hidden from the public for 75 years. What is to hide if these shots are safe and effective?

The Twitter files have shown that pharma companies and government agencies encouraged that social media giant to censor that information that raised doubts over the shots.

The vaccine information report that lists the potential side effects of the shot has been censored and left blank. This is what comes with the vials—censored, intentionally left blank. Amazing.

One company's representative even admitted they had no idea if their injections even worked before introducing them to the market. Several of these shots have already been pulled from the market, and others have had warning labels attached for young children and pregnant women, who were pushed into taking these injections.

Americans deserve the truth. Given the number of deaths from COVID-19 among vaccinated people, it is very questionable and worth asking these questions. Are they effective? The next question is, are they even safe?

□ 1930

#### CELEBRATING JOE JUAREZ'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 100th birthday of my constituent, World War II veteran, Joe Juarez, a member of the Greatest Generation.

Joe was born in Fullerton, California. While growing up, his favorite sport was baseball.

In 1942, Joe and his high school baseball team were on their way to the CIF championship game, but they never made it because Joe and his teammates were drafted and served in World War II.

As a private first class, Joe fought in the Pacific and was awarded the Asia-Pacific Campaign Medal and a World War II Victory Medal. Joe spent 2½ years in the Pacific before returning home. Several of his teammates, including one of his brothers, never made it back.

Joe and his wife, Novel, were married for 68 years and raised three children.

Throughout his life, Joe has never forgotten his Band of Brothers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

Happy birthday, Joe. Happy birthday. You are a true American hero.

#### ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY ATTACK ON UKRAINE

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength of the Ukrainian people after enduring 1 year of merciless attacks by Russian forces.

The following is from a record entry on Friday that marked the 1-year anniversary:

When Putin ordered his tanks and forces into regions like Mariupol and Kharkiv, he thought Ukraine would fall in a matter of days. Instead of an easy victory, Putin's war of aggression has been a dismal failure.

The people of Ukraine refused to be forced into an authoritarian state where any opposition is met with jail, torture, or murder. They are prepared

to pay the ultimate price for their freedom.

NATO is now more unified than ever in providing military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine's right to sovereignty.

Since the invasion, the United States has provided unprecedented support and coordination, which has helped the Ukrainian military make exponential gains.

Picatinny Arsenal in my congressional district has been integral to Ukraine's military success. They have developed the primary cannon being used by the Ukrainian army and continue to be responsible for every piece of ammunition being sent by the United States to Ukraine. I remain committed to protecting the fundamental values of peace, prosperity, and stability across the globe and in Ukraine.

#### REMEMBERING ARIELLE DIAMOND ANDERSON, BRIAN FRASER, AND ALEXANDRIA VERNER

(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, today I stand before this body to remind Congress of the following names:

Arielle Diamond Anderson, Brian Fraser, Alexandria Verner.

The lives of these three students were brutally taken from us this month on the campus of Michigan State University. Arielle Anderson and Brian Fraser were students at schools in my district.

Although this tragedy has personal significance for me today, it is a sad truth that until our country recognizes the sickness of gun violence, we will continue to have tragedies like this. These incidents are all too common in this country. We as a Congress must ensure and demand that these atrocities never happen again.

It is past due that we pass sensible gun laws that expand safe storage regulations, reform red flag laws, and improve access to mental health care.

Mr. Speaker, we can't keep living like this. We must act now.

#### ECSU AND NCWU CHAMPIONSHIP WINS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Elizabeth City State University women's basketball team and North Carolina Wesleyan University men's basketball team for their remarkable championship wins this past weekend.

For Elizabeth City State University, this impressive achievement is the first CIAA championship win in the institution's 132-year history. The Lady Vikings showed everyone in the arena that teamwork brings home triumph.

In their championship game, North Carolina Wesleyan University defeated second seed William Peace to claim the program's fifth USA South title.

On behalf of North Carolina's First Congressional District, I applaud Elizabeth City State University coach, Tynesha Lewis, and North Carolina Wesleyan University coach, John Thompson, for building their respective programs.

I thank the student athletes for their determination and for showing the entire country the best of eastern North Carolina.

Elizabeth City State University:

Student Athletes: Jessica Adams, Dy'Jhanik Armfield, Isa Banks, NyAsia Blango, Asaya Bulgin, Asia Cochran, Sierra Davenport, Makayla Everette, Jamia Guilford, Maryam Hashim, Zyaire Hayes, Alanis Hill, Jasmine Holmes, Akyia King, Ceanna Kinney, Naomi Lockamy, Jada Nowlin, Kamille Pickens, Sireann Pitts, and Elizabeth Sherrill

Coaches: Tynesha Lewis and Ron Woodard  
North Carolina Wesleyan University:

Student Athletes: DeeJay Cox, Jalen Matlocks, Wy'Kise Allen, Brayden Dixon, Omari Bolden, Marquis Eskew, Khalid Chavis-Hinds Jr., RJ Bailey, Justin Burden, Jeremy Aldrich, Austin Manley, Isaiah Lewis, Tyler Spence, James Jones, Sal-Bey Young, Kyron Kelly, John Jackson, Jackson Thompson

Coaches: John Thompson, Cornelius Snow, and Donte Samuels

#### RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CALVIN D. HAWKINS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and recognize the Honorable Calvin D. Hawkins, who is a Lake County Superior Court judge in northwest Indiana and a champion for equality and civil rights.

While still in his teens, Judge Hawkins participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963, and then embarked on his distinguished legal career where he has faithfully served with purpose, integrity, and respect.

Outside of the courts, he also has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for the youth of northwest Indiana, launching a stay-in-school initiative, and has also served as president of the board of directors for Indiana Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Black History Month and recognizing the dedication of Judge Hawkins and all individuals who have fought and continue to fight for civil rights and justice.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIBUTES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, every February, Black History Month affords us the opportunity to learn about, celebrate, and honor Black leaders and to shine a light on the often-neglected contributions of African Americans in every area of our history.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to 10 remarkable individuals from Michigan's Seventh Congressional District—some of them famous names, others with buried histories that deserve to be shared.

Their stories span the geographical breadth of the district as well as the depths of our Nation's history: from the Civil War heroes of escaped slaves to modern singers and scholars.

All of them should be celebrated, and all of them called Michigan home.

Before I share their stories, though, I must also share the story of our great State.

While many know Michigan for the Motor City or for Motown, what you might not know is the critical role our State played in the Underground Railroad.

There are endless accounts of our State's importance to the secret network that aided thousands of people on their journey to freedom. Conductors hid freedom seekers in their homes and barns during the day. At night, freedom seekers would go to a depot in the next town.

For many, Detroit, code name "Midnight," was the last stop before making their way to a free life in Canada, but a number stayed in Michigan and started their new lives.

I am so proud of the role our State played in securing freedom, and it is my honor to highlight these stories of Black Michiganders who have been shaping our State since day one.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LOSFORD

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Abraham Losford, the first Black resident of Howell, Michigan; a brave man who escaped slavery and used the trade he learned while captive to build a life of freedom for his family and for generations to come.

It was 1849 when Abraham Losford fled north with nothing but his clippers from Kentucky where he had been enslaved and served as a plantation barber. He was captured, escaped again, and after emancipation, returned to free his children, Benjamin and Sally.

The plan was to travel to Lansing, Michigan, via the Old Plank Road and open a barbershop, but when Losford stopped in Howell to change stagecoaches, he was convinced to stay in the small town.

The people of Howell promised to keep him safe if he would stay and open a barbershop, which they sorely

needed. It was a deal both sides would forever uphold.

Losford and his barber business thrived in Howell and he became a successful, respected businessman in the predominantly White community—no small feat for a former slave in the years following the end of the Civil War.

Newspaper ads from the time boast of his salon offering, "Shaving, Shampooing, and Hairdressing" for both men and women, and it was noted in the local press that when Losford fell ill, a band of 60 kids and adults joined together to bring him gifts and money in a show of support and affection for their beloved town barber.

Abraham passed the trade to his son, who went on to open a barbershop of his own in the town of Edmore, Michigan. Today, Ben's story, and that of his father, are immortalized in the children's book "Benjamin Losford and His Handy Dandy Clippers."

It is the story of how skill equals freedom and a potent reminder that we must all make the most of the tools we have been fortunate enough to receive.

Abraham Losford died in 1897 and was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in downtown Howell, Michigan. His obituary states that, "His presence, as well as his open, manly character, was a living reminder of the sin of slavery. Many winters will come and go before the name of Old Uncle Abe is forgotten in this community."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that his name and his accomplishments live forever in our hearts and minds as well as here in the permanent Record of the people's House.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER JOHNSON

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a man who should have been hailed as a hero, but for too long his story was lost in history.

Alexander Johnson was a Black Civil War veteran who lived and worked in Owosso, Michigan, in the late 1800s. When a group of White residents chased most Black folks out of town, Johnson and two others refused to go.

Born in Tennessee in 1833, Johnson fled slavery and made his way to Michigan before enlisting in a Union regiment of African Americans in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to fight in the Civil War, then moving to Canada at the war's end, and later returning to Michigan to settle in Owosso with his wife.

No one knows for sure why he chose Owosso. Some historians believe Johnson's wife may have had family nearby. Others surmise he might have had connections to a home in Owosso rumored to be a part of the Underground Railroad, and still others say that at the time, the growing community was a place where people of all races moved to explore economic opportunity.

Whatever the reason, Owosso is where Alexander Johnson chose to put down his roots, opening up a downtown barbershop and was, by all accounts, a well-liked businessman and respected member of the community.

Unfortunately, the good times did not last long as racial tensions grew and the Ku Klux Klan became active in the county. The tensions culminated in 1871 when 40 White vigilantes gathered together and attempted to drive the Black residents out of town.

There is little we know about this dark moment in Owosso's history, but we do know that Alexander Johnson was a light that would not be extinguished. Johnson stayed on in Owosso, along with two other Black men, until he died.

In 1907, Johnson received a military burial at Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, and his story was buried with him for more than 100 years.

There are those who seek to ignore or even wipe away those painful pieces of our history, and there are those who understand that we cannot ever be great without acknowledging our failures, learning from them, and moving forward with a commitment to grow.

The Owosso Rotary Club falls into that latter category, as they were the ones not just to uncover Johnson's story, but to acknowledge and honor it as a piece of Owosso's history.

Alexander Johnson was formally recognized by the Owosso Rotary on Veterans Day 2021 with a solemn ceremony at his grave site.

It is only fitting that I, too, join in paying tribute to this great man whose convictions led him first out of slavery and then to fight for a country he believed in to establish the life he wanted and to stay in the community that he loved.

May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to all of us and may his story forever rest here in the permanent RECORD of the people's House.

#### TRIBUTE TO HIRAM ARCHER

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of the first African-American college athletes and scholars who paved the way for students of color across the State of Michigan and this Nation.

Hiram Archer was the first student of color to be officially documented as a graduate of Olivet College located in Eaton County in Michigan's Seventh District, a historic place in and of itself.

He attended Olivet from 1888 to 1904, and played on the school's varsity baseball team, making him one of the first ten Black athletes in the Nation to play intercollegiate sports.

While a student at Olivet, Archer was active in music and other creative endeavors. A gifted public speaker, Archer won several oratory and debate contests, and spoke at prominent events, including the inauguration of college president, William G. Sperry, in 1893.

The school considers him to be a model representative of both the history and the future goals of students of color at Olivet.

Archer remained at Olivet to complete his master's degree in science and went on to earn a doctorate. He went

on to serve in leadership positions at several academic institutions, at the college in Normal, Alabama, which today is known as Alabama A&M University.

He finished his career with the Smithsonian Institution here in D.C., as a nationally recognized scientist. Archer passed away in 1945, having made Olivet and the State of Michigan proud. His alma mater says Archer's life's work is a testament to Olivet College's academic vision: "Education for Individual and Social Responsibility."

According to Olivet's current president, Dr. Steven Corey, Archer's successes were extraordinary for anyone, but for an African American in the late 1800s, they were truly groundbreaking and added much to the rich, Black history that has shaped this college and our country.

Today, his legacy lives on at Olivet with the Hiram Archer Student Success Academy, a mentorship and support group for students of color on campus.

It shall live on here in the people's House where I ask that he be forever remembered for his pioneering contributions to the great State of Michigan.

□ 1945

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. EVA EVANS

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of Lansing, Michigan, whose tireless advocacy on behalf of effective education for students of color changed the trajectory of hundreds of young lives in mid-Michigan.

Dr. Eva Evans was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and grew up in Detroit where she attended Northern High School in the early 1950s.

Former teachers and fellow students remember her as one of the most willing, giving, and compassionate people they have ever met, traits that would ultimately define her life of service.

She went on to earn a bachelor of science from Wayne State and both a master's and doctorate from Michigan State University.

Dr. Evans served in a number of administrative positions in the Lansing School District, from director of elementary education to deputy superintendent, the first female ever to hold that position.

As a leader in the school system, she developed and implemented innovative programs such as schools of choice and a district-wide talent fair for students and staff.

She connected the school district with Lansing Community College and Michigan State for the 2+2+2 Program, which channels minority students right into Michigan State's College of Engineering.

While she had a particular passion for math and science, she also created "Be a Star" performing arts programs.

These programs and partnerships have endured over the years, benefiting countless individuals and shaping prac-

tice and policy in education, healthcare, social services, and beyond. Outside the school buildings, Dr. Evans tirelessly devoted herself to dozens of causes, giving of herself in leadership roles.

She was the 24th international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha, AKA, and chair of LCC, the Lansing Community College Foundation, president of the Lansing Woman's Club, and grand marshal of the African American Parade and Family Picnic in Lansing.

Evans was also appointed by the governor to serve on the Michigan Council for the Humanities and was chairwoman for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

She championed causes with the American Red Cross and created programs to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS.

I like to think of her as a great connector—connecting underprivileged students to education beyond high school, connecting communities in need of programs that had the capacity to help, and simply connecting people to each other.

Dr. Evans passed away in 2020, receiving numerous honors in her adopted hometown of Lansing, including the YMCA's Diana Award for Excellence in Education, the NAACP's Educator of the Year, the Lansing Chamber of Commerce's Athena Award, the Crystal Apple Award for Education from Michigan State University, and the Applause Award from the Lansing Center of the Arts.

But I believe the greatest honor and the most profound title she ever received was to be called a teacher.

I ask that the permanent RECORD of this Chamber reflect her enduring lessons and legacy and that her service be forever remembered here in the United States House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLIFTON WHARTON, JR.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who has spent his entire life and career breaking racial barriers and paving the way for future generations of Black scholars and leaders.

The name Clifton Wharton, Jr., is known by many in the Michigan State University community thanks to the predominant campus landmark: The Wharton Center for the Performing Arts.

But in addition to his name, I want them to know his story as it features a persistent rise against the odds, a tale worthy of being staged inside the building that is now bearing his name.

By the time Clifton Wharton, Jr., became the president of Michigan State University, the first African American to head a major, predominantly White university in the United States, he was no stranger to being first.

Wharton, who grew up in Boston, entered Harvard University at age 16. There he became the first Black announcer at the campus radio station and the first Black Secretary of the National Student Association, a lobbying group that he founded.

Later, he was the first African American admitted to Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago.

He worked for about a decade with the Agriculture Development Council, a nongovernmental agency, before he returned to the academic world.

When the MSU trustees appointed him the university's 14th president in 1969, it was a time of tremendous change and cultural upheaval in the country, with college campuses taking center stage in the civil rights movement and protests over the Vietnam war.

Against that tumultuous backdrop, Wharton set another first: Unlike any other major university president of the time, he supported students who demanded that their concerns be heard, even offering to personally take student petitions against the war to Michigan's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Wharton's 8-year tenure at MSU's helm was marked by his successful efforts to maintain the quality of the university's academic programs in the face of major budget cuts, his commitment to serving underprivileged students, and the integration of the College of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools.

In 1978, Wharton achieved another first when he stepped down from MSU to become the chancellor of the State University of New York system, making him the first African-American leader there of the Nation's largest university system.

But he wasn't done breaking barriers. In 1987, he was named the president and CEO of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund, making him the first Black CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

He held that role until 1993, when he became the Deputy Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton, not surprisingly, the first Black American to ever hold the second-highest foreign policy post.

I salute Dr. Wharton for his groundbreaking career and the path of excellence he has blazed, and I am humbled to be the first to ask that his accomplishments be forever enshrined in the official RECORD of the people's House, the House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY CARTER

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to communicate to you the profound influence and legacy of a man who was the ultimate communicator.

Larry Carter dedicated his life to informing and uplifting Lansing, Michigan's, Black community, first through the radio, and later through a newspaper he founded with his wife, Carolyn, that continues in publication today under his daughter's hand.

Carter, also known as Jay Price, was born in Mississippi but grew up in the Midwest, graduating from John Marshall High School in Chicago in 1967.

He met his future wife, Carolyn Hill, at the age of 12, and married her shortly after graduating from Columbia College with a degree in broadcast journalism. Together, they raised three beautiful children.

Larry spent the early years of his career in positions spanning several media markets across the Midwest and southern regions.

In 1984, an industry colleague convinced him to move to Lansing, Michigan, where he accepted a position in local radio.

There, he quickly talked the station owner into changing the format to adult contemporary, with Larry as the morning host.

He was an instant on-air success, and also worked behind the scenes as sales manager to produce commercials.

Despite what he achieved in radio, Carter was itching to explore other avenues. In 1986, he launched a print publication initially called "The Capital Chronicle" and later renamed "The Chronicle News."

The focus was simple: Fill the void Larry saw in local news coverage by spotlighting and enhancing awareness of issues in the Black community.

It was a family affair from the start: Larry handled advertising sales, Carolyn learned how to design and lay out the stories, and the kids enlisted their friends to deliver the paper door to door.

Today, Larry and Carolyn have both passed, but their legacy remains. The Chronicle newspaper is published twice monthly by their daughter.

The free publication is distributed throughout mid-Michigan and can be found in municipal buildings, schools, local businesses, churches, and community centers.

They also leave behind the legacy of family, including their three children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Larry was devoted to lifting up the stories of his community, and today, it is my great honor to lift up his story and inscribe it in the official RECORD of the United States House of Representatives with profound gratitude for his devotion to creating a platform for the Black community to be seen, heard, and understood.

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA LEWIS

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of R&B sound who hails not from a musical capital like Detroit, Chicago, or New York, but from a small town in Michigan's Seventh District, South Lyon.

Barbara Lewis was born into a powerful legacy as the great-granddaughter of Civil War veteran John W. Lewis.

She was also born with a musical heritage, as her bandleader father played trumpet, her mother and uncle played sax, and her aunt was a music teacher.

Surrounded by the symphony of sound, it was no surprise that Barbara began playing piano, guitar, and har-

monica at an early age, writing songs at the age of 9, and singing lead vocals at family jam sessions in her teens.

While Barbara told her friends and family that she had no intention of pursuing music as a career, a meeting with Ollie McLaughlin, an Ann Arbor deejay-turned-producer and manager, changed all that and changed the course of her life.

Impressed by her talent and her original songs, he signed Barbara on the spot. In 1962, she recorded her first two singles, one of them a peppy, upbeat piece called "My Heart Went Do Dat Da," and was, according to Barbara, written on her upright piano while she was babysitting one night while still attending South Lyon High School.

Lewis holds the distinction of being the first Michigan artist to record for Atlantic Records. In the span of her career, she went on to record three Top Ten R&B hits for McLaughlin's record label, including the number one smash, "Hello Stranger."

She also had ten songs on Billboard's Hot 100 during the 1960s, ranking her second only to Aretha Franklin, also of Michigan, in terms of chart success for female solo artists from the State.

Barbara recorded songs at the legendary Motown Studios in Detroit and performed with some of the greatest R&B artists of her time.

Many of her songs have been remade and remastered and live on today, including by Queen Latifah, with others featured on hit movie soundtracks, including "The Bridges of Madison County."

Barbara returned to Michigan in 1971, following stints in New York and Chicago, and lived many years in her home State before relocating to Florida.

She received the Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1999, and in 2016, Barbara Lewis was inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame.

While health issues forced her to retire in 2017, I ask that her legendary sound and contributions to the arts be forever recorded in our hearts and here in the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARRIE OWENS

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an extraordinary educator who shaped the lives of thousands of mid-Michigan students during her groundbreaking career.

Carrie Owens grew up in Florida during the time of segregation and high racial tensions, and she knew from an early age she wanted to work toward dismantling the systems she saw all around her.

Though her parents had no formal education, they pushed their kids to have what they did not have, and a young Carrie thrived in school.

She eventually became a teacher and was hired at Okemos Public Schools in 1964, becoming the first Black teacher in the district.

It is said that when Mrs. Owens first interviewed for a job at Cornell Elementary in Okemos, she vowed to help

each student individually because she recognized what many even in education circles did not yet grasp—that all students learn at different paces and in different ways.

Just as she thrived in school, Owens did everything to ensure her students did the same, and she was put in charge of a transitional class of elementary school students who, up until that point, had had limited success in school.

Owens made sure that each of her students progressed to grade level and empowered them to understand how they learned.

Word of her tireless dedication to student success and her innovative teaching philosophy spread quickly, and many families moved to Okemos just so their children could be in her class.

By the time she retired from teaching in 2001, she had touched thousands of young lives and helped change the face of education in our community.

Not only did her hiring pave the way for other teachers of color, but by the end of her career, Okemos had its first Black superintendent, and the district was overall a more diverse, inclusive community.

As we mark Black History Month, I salute Carrie Owens, who is Black history in Okemos. This trailblazing teacher has left her mark on the hearts and minds of the entire community, and we are so much better for her service.

May her lessons live on in the students she touched, in all the lives that she changed, and here in the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

□ 2000

TRIBUTE TO EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest basketball players of all time, a man who brought so much magic to the game it quite literally became part of his name. It all began in Michigan's capital city of Lansing, his hometown.

To say that Earvin "Magic" Johnson came from humble roots is an understatement. His mother was a school janitor, and his father worked at General Motors on the assembly line by day and collected garbage in the evenings.

Johnson would often help his father on the garbage route, earning his nickname "Garbage Man" with the neighborhood kids.

All that teasing ended when he hit the basketball court. Johnson started playing as a youngster. By the time he graduated from Lansing Everett High School, where he had led his team to a State championship and was dubbed "Magic," he was already considered the greatest high school basketball player to ever come out of Michigan.

He moved just down the road to East Lansing, attending Michigan State University, where he became a two-time All-American, leading the Spar-

tans to the 1979 National Championship while being voted the Most Outstanding Player of the Year in that year's Final Four.

He was the number one overall selection for the 1979 NBA draft, chosen by the L.A. Lakers, where he would go on to play his entire professional career.

The stats are dazzling. In his 13 seasons with the Lakers, Johnson was a key member of five NBA championships, as well as being a 12-time All-Star, three-time NBA Finals MVP, and three-time league MVP. During his NBA career, Johnson averaged 19.5 points per game, 7.2 rebounds per game, and 11 assists per game.

He was a member of the original NBA Dream Team, winning a Gold Medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Both his Spartan jersey and his Lakers jersey were retired, and Magic Johnson has been inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnson stunned the world in 1991 with the announcement that he had tested positive for HIV. It was a seismic moment in our culture, as an athlete of Johnson's stature vowed in public to raise awareness about a virus that was shrouded in stigma.

In the decades since that pivotal moment, his advocacy off the court has been as impressive as his skills on the court, and he has not been limited to that one topic.

He has used his platform to support so many causes, from HIV and AIDS to mental health, COVID vaccines, and the transformational power of wealth-building for Black families.

Johnson has said about his legacy: "Now these kids dream that they can become not only a basketball player or a football player, but they can become a businessman. So that is what is important, that we have power and that we have a seat at the table."

With gratitude for his enduring contributions, I submit to the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives that Earvin "Magic" Johnson not only provided a seat at the table but helped construct it, a table formed in the heart of East Lansing, shaped by a fierce work ethic and raw talent and sprinkled with magic.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH NICOLE BROWN

Ms. SLOTKIN. Finally, Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a visionary social justice innovator and academic who is making space for African-American women and girls to celebrate who they are and what they bring to the world, and bringing new and critical opportunities to students at Michigan State University.

Ruth Nicole Brown is the inaugural chairperson of and professor in the Department of African American and African Studies at MSU.

Dr. Brown, an internationally recognized leader in Black girlhood, joined MSU on July 1, 2020, and quickly got to

work creating and advancing the mission of this new degree-granting department at the university. Thanks to her efforts, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, MSU students were, for the first time, able to declare a major in African American and American studies, and many have jumped at the opportunity.

In addition to her academic and administrative accomplishments, Dr. Brown is the founder of Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths, a creative space that brings young African-American girls together to celebrate Black girlhood.

She also started Black Girl Genius Week, a city and university-wide social media takeover and awareness campaign focusing on rising Black women. She has written several books on the topic and is a highly sought-after speaker.

It is this combination of scholarly work and public engagement that makes Dr. Brown such an innovator. One day she is coediting educational research and anthologies and articles about racial equality and feminism, and the next day she is performing powerful pieces combining music, images, and words.

Dr. Brown is the master of seeing a void and stepping up to fill it.

The performance community she has created responds to a need for spaces where Black girls and women are seen and valued. The department she chairs allows students, for the first time, to center their studies on Black history, including a critical exploration of the role of feminism and gender.

Today, I salute Dr. Brown for the many ways she is changing the game—through art, through music, and through education.

I am so grateful that, along with her many distinguished titles, we are able to call her a Michigan State University Spartan.

May her successes and contributions continue to enrich the MSU community and be acknowledged here, in the permanent record of the United States House of Representatives.

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

CELEBRATING TEXAS  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate in advance Texas Independence Day on March 2, 1836.

They say everything is better in Texas. Let me just tell you, I am here to confirm that that rumor is true. More correctly, it is no longer a rumor.

We have a saying in Texas, and that goes like this: It ain't bragging if it's facts, and that's the facts about Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my good Texas friends from both sides of the aisle to celebrate Texas Independence Day.

On March 2, 1836, that was the day the Republic of Texas was born. During the Texas Revolution, a convention of 59 Texans met at Washington-on-the-Brazos and declared our independence of Texas from Mexico. The declaration decried the arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny from the Mexican Government under the dictator General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

In particular, it noted that the government had "ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people from whom its legitimate powers are derived."

The Texans signing that declaration sought to protect our rights of free speech, our rights to keep and bear arms—sounds familiar—and our rights of freedom of religion.

I am proud to report these same freedoms still hold true in Texas today.

March 2 is a day that all Texans come together and celebrate the calls of "Come and Take It" and "Remember the Alamo." We remember and honor the pioneering, independent, trail-blazing spirit of the great State of Texas.

Independence has flowed through the veins of Texans ever since. May our thirst for freedom never die, and may we and our offspring always remember that freedom is worth fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, just like those iconic frontier days, we are still at work using what my grandfather—who came over on a boat from Germany, by the way, in 1903—what my grandfather called good old-fashioned Texas horse sense to get the job done. You tell kids that today, "good old-fashioned horse sense," and they look at you funny. They call it common sense. The sad fact of the matter is that common sense isn't very common these days, but in Texas, it is still alive and doing quite well.

Before turning it over to my fellow Texans here tonight, I would like to share two of my favorite quotes from Davy Crockett, who was a Member of Congress from Tennessee. His first quote is: "I must say as to what I have seen of Texas, it is the garden spot of the world, the best land and best prospects for health I ever saw, and I do so believe it is a fortune to any man to come here."

Of course, when Crockett ran for reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives, he got defeated. Then he uttered his second, probably more famous quote. He said to the people who voted him out: Of course, I may not know what you all want to do. I am going to Texas. Y'all can all go to hell.

I am just quoting Davy Crockett, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Texan and even prouder to represent the great people of Texas here in Washington. As the song says, "God Bless Texas."

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who is also my good friend.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate my very good friend and fellow Texan, Representative WEBER, for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most important days in the history of this world, and that is Texas Independence Day. March 2 marks the day that 59 heroic Texians gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos to ratify the Texas Declaration of Independence.

We know that this freedom didn't come without great bloodshed at sites like Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, and San Jacinto. There is a painting of the Alamo right there.

The fortitude of these men and the countless others who gave their lives is why the Lone Star State exists today, 187 years later. As a lifelong student of history and a former member of the Texas Historical Commission, I am incredibly proud to represent the San Jacinto Battleground here in my district, in the 36th District of Texas, where a Texian army, under General Sam Houston, officially secured independence following a defining battle at San Jacinto that lasted a mere 18 minutes amid cries of "Remember the Alamo."

The Republic of Texas reigned as an independent nation for 9 years before being admitted into the United States as the 28th State of the Union. Since its addition, Texas has flourished as one of the most prominent States in the country, emerging as a leader in many vital sectors, including agriculture, space exploration, military readiness, technology, tourism, and much more.

Our State is also home to many of the Nation's top medical centers. I went to school at one, Texas Medical Center.

Texas leads in energy production. In fact, it creates twice as much energy as the next highest State in the Union. In fact, as its own country today, Texas would be among the top 10 largest economies in the entire world.

It is simply remarkable and no wonder why Texans have so much pride. After all, everything in Texas is bigger and better.

We Texans don't like to brag. We just tell the truth; it just sounds like we are bragging.

I believe that those who envisioned what Texas could be so long ago would be absolutely and mightily pleased to see how far we have come.

To all of my fellow Texans, I say happy Independence Day. May God continue to bless our beloved Lone Star State.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct honor to have one of

our newest stars from Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, come share with us.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor our heroes of the Texas Revolution.

On February 24, 1836, over 187 years ago, a group of Texians and Tejanos were surrounded by General Santa Anna in a little mission known around the world as the Alamo.

It is my high honor to read Lieutenant Colonel William Travis' stirring words.

"Commandancy of the Alamo Bejar, February 24, 1836. To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World—Fellow Citizens and Compatriots: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

"The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3,000 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

"Victory or death. William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

"P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves. Travis."

We know that the Texans lost this battle, but they did not lose the war. Cries of "Remember the Alamo" swept across the land, and from these ashes arose a nation, a land built on faith, family, and freedom.

□ 2015

I stand here in Congress as a proud Tejana and encourage my fellow Texans to remember the fearless men and women who built this land, our land, known worldwide as Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), another rising star in the Texas delegation.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the drafters and signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Collin McKinney.

I was privileged to serve as the county judge in the County of Collin, in the county seat of McKinney, obviously named for this Texas hero.

Recently, we erected a larger-than-life statue of Collin McKinney in his hometown of Anna, Texas. I rise to recognize this larger-than-life hero in the State of Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize another fellow Texan who has been very instrumental in this Congress.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, we join Texans back home in a day of celebration for the State of Texas. The State of Texas, as you have heard, began its formation not just at the Alamo but as people came to Texas with the understanding that we wanted the freedom of our own country.

That is when, on February the 24th, the day after the siege of the Alamo began, heroism and opportunity filled the Alamo with ideas not only that they wanted to have their own country, but about a land, a land of people, a land of freedom, and a land that would be full of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we still stand for in Texas, a State that has distinguished itself not only in honor and in principle but in the opportunity to be a part of the United States of America, one Nation under God, the opportunity to serve in war after war with the United States military, the armed forces of this country. Texas has produced for years, not just heroes like Davy Crockett and Colonel William Barret Travis, but produced in every single war in this country those men and women who would stand for the opportunity to make this country stronger and better.

Tonight, as we begin the celebration of Texas Independence Day, it should be remembered that here in Washington, D.C., this delegation is proud of not only who we are and what we stand for, but we are proud to be the 28th State in the United States of America.

In 1845, we left Texas being a country to join the United States of America. The heroism, the pride of authorship, and the love which we have for the State of Texas we also share for our country, the United States of America.

I thank the gentleman for leading the Texas delegation tonight as we stand on the floor to give thanks.

"Texas, our Texas. All hail the mighty State."

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), a good friend of ours.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I might be an oddity here. Why is a guy from California standing here tonight?

First of all, as a friend to my great Texas colleagues and neighbors, so to speak.

Congratulations to the State of Texas, the people of Texas, on their anniversary, and also all that goes with that independence, that spirit that I admire of the people of Texas and its long, great history.

I think we need a lot more of that across the whole country, because you can always, I think, trust a Texan to stand up for this country.

So as a Californian, we used to have a lot of that same spirit, as pioneers of

the West, going back to the gold rush, and we have, indeed, a lot of great things to point toward in my home State. But we are on harder times, self-inflicted.

I think the spirit of patriotism, of America first that is exhibited by Texans, is indeed one the whole country can use.

It was interesting when we were talking about annexation a little bit earlier here, where Texas might look like it might take over the world sometimes. I wouldn't doubt it; it is possible. But in my home State of California, there is kind of a mass exodus from my State to others, escaping the cost of living, the regulations, some of the other crazy things that are going on in my home State. Indeed, the recipient of a lot of those good folks that are leaving is the State of Texas. So I am not sure if California is trying to annex Texas or if Texas is annexing California a little bit here. But I hope at least it is to the benefit of Texas as we try and sort through our issues and getting back on track, such as growing so much of the Nation's food supply that comes from my State and conserving the water to do so. But I am getting off on a tangent here.

Indeed, there is much to admire. Every chance I get to be in the State, it feels like an extension of home to me. I come from a very rural part of northern California, and we listen to a lot of the same music and eat similar food and farm and ranch maybe in a similar way.

So hats off, literally, to the people of Texas. The only thing I can't get along with, as a 49ers fan, is the Dallas Cowboys. That is about the only thing, but we will leave that aside.

I am indeed glad to stand here with you tonight and wish the best and a happy anniversary of Texas independence.

Please keep leading the way. You are going to lead our Nation through difficult times with your spirit.

God bless Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, a little historic perspective of what Congressman LAMALFA was saying. When you think about how Texas came into the Union, he called it annexation, but the truth of the matter is, Texas came into the Union unlike any other State in the history of the world, really. All the other States were annexed. Texas was a republic, so we came in by treaty. Of course we did. We had to do it our own way.

If you think back to that time, Mr. Speaker, things were happening really fast. After America won its independence in 1781, the battle of Yorktown, some 30 years later, I guess, or 40 years later, Mexico, in 1821, won its independence from Spain. A scant 15 years later, the Texicans, as we were called, won our independence from Mexico.

Now, when Congressman LAMALFA was talking about annexation, how annexation was happening fast—of

course, PETE SESSIONS was right. Texas entered the Union as the 28th State on December 29, 1845. I think about that, Mr. Speaker, from time to time.

What was the legislature of Texas thinking back then when we had a chance to annex the rest of the United States? What were they thinking?

But nonetheless, that is what they did.

It is my distinct pleasure now to bring up another rising star in the Texas delegation, NATHANIEL MORAN.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. WEBER, for gathering us all here today in commemoration of one of my favorite holidays, Texas Independence Day. It is a great day to celebrate.

On March 2, 1836, a group of brave Texans adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence to create the Republic of Texas.

This occurred in the midst of one of the greatest sacrificial stands for liberty in American history, the battle of the Alamo, that famously lasted 13 days and cost the lives of all combatants who were inside those walls.

"Remember the Alamo" was the cry that day that went out that inspired our Texans to victory and propelled us to liberty in this great State.

The story of freedom for Texas mirrors the story of freedom for the United States. It was borne out of selfless sacrifice by so many looking for a better life, looking to carve out a better life for their families, a life that they could make with their own hands, with their decisions, with government out of the way.

Freedom will always find a way, and there are always those who will rise to the occasion when the time comes. I am certain of that. We see many of those here today that are rising to the occasion to speak for liberty and to speak for freedom, just as those Texans did a long time ago.

With gratitude to so many from outside Texas who made that dream a reality, especially those who volunteered from Kentucky and from Tennessee, we celebrate the day Texas declared its independence. We share it with those who gratefully gave and graciously gave to Texas during that time. We honor their sacrifices and those of so many more who made it possible in the generations afterward.

Texans are tough-minded, kind-hearted, and hardworking. They have a deep love for our Lord, service to one another, and working to better their community.

These are the values of Texas. They are the values I was raised with and the values I am proud to pass down to my four children.

I am extremely proud to represent the First District of Texas, the only State in the Union to have been its own republic.

So happy Independence Day, Texas, and God bless you in the years to come.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will say all of our speakers today laid out an exact reason why Texans love freedom and why they are willing to fight for freedom at any cost.

We need to be teaching our children that freedom isn't free. I hope we are. Texans get it. Freedom isn't free.

I want to end by saying: May all the United States join us in reclaiming what the song says so eloquently: "God blessed Texas." I say amen and amen.

Congratulations, Texas.

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

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN SHOULD NOT APPOINT JULIE SU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh has announced his intention to leave the Biden administration, and reports suggest Deputy Secretary Julie Su is the leading candidate to replace him. As chair of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I am urging President Biden, in the strongest terms, not to appoint Julie Su to this important cabinet post.

Prior to joining the Biden Labor Department, Su was California's Secretary of Labor under Governor Gavin Newsom. To say she failed the people of California in that role would be an extreme understatement. I was serving in the State assembly during her tenure. I witnessed firsthand failures on a scale that no State in this country has ever experienced.

I have already sent a coalition letter from Members of the California Congressional delegation to President Biden urging him to nominate someone, anyone, other than Su. Today, I will expand on the points we raised in that letter.

The amount of suffering Su's labor department inflicted on my constituents and millions of Californians needs to be understood by the President and by every Senator who would be voting on her nomination.

□ 2030

Specifically, I will be discussing three main failures in her tenure in California, each of which is independently disqualifying.

First, under her supervision, California's unemployment office, known as the EDD, failed to deliver benefits to millions of Californians.

Second, at the same time, thanks to Su's gross negligence, the EDD allowed the largest fraud of taxpayer dollars in history.

Third, Su helped destroy the careers of thousands of California freelancers as an architect of a labor law that effectively bans independent work.

Let's start first by looking at the EDD's staggering failures under Su's

watch to perform its basic function of delivering benefits to the unemployed.

California had the highest or second-highest unemployment rate in the entire country through most of the COVID-19 era. This in itself could be seen as a significant failing of the State's secretary of labor. What was even worse is that those people who lost their paychecks on the government's orders, millions of Californians, had to wait weeks, months, or in some cases indefinitely for the unemployment benefits they were entitled to by law.

Now, in fairness, the COVID shutdown presented unemployment departments with unprecedented demands, and a number of States struggled to keep up. What happened in California under Su's management is simply without comparison.

An estimated 5 million claims were delayed, many for months on end. An estimated 1 million people were wrongfully denied benefits. As a result, many of my constituents were left helpless with no income, no ability to provide for their families. Many became dependent on food banks and had to cut back on basic necessities. They had to dip into their lifesavings or take on debt.

For example, in late April 2020, my office received a call from a woman named Emily, who was inconsolable, saying she was on the brink of giving up hope. She was out of work and her EDD claim had been pending for a month. She had no money, no way to pay her bills or put food on the table. I just can't do this anymore, she said, adding that she couldn't hang on the Governor's promises anymore. We later learned the agency had made a basic processing error, denying her claim and not even telling her.

I could provide hundreds of other stories just like this. At times, during 2020, my office would open dozens of new cases every day from constituents who could not get their benefits. We heard from folks who would call the EDD hundreds of times with no answer, who received notices with someone else's Social Security number, someone else's employer, someone else's earnings, who would wait weeks, months, or forever for their benefits.

The level of service was worse than anything I had ever seen in government, eclipsing the very worst horror stories of bureaucratic ineptitude. By one estimate, only one in a thousand people would reach a live person when they tried to call the EDD.

Sometimes, after finally getting through, the caller would be abruptly hung up on. The callback option routinely failed with people requesting a call back and then not getting one.

Often, no reason was given for benefit denials, and when one was given, it often didn't make sense. One claimant had an electronic application denied as illegible—an electronic application.

San Francisco Assemblyman David Chiu, a Democrat, started a hashtag

featuring the worst of these incidents. He called it #EDDfailoftheday.

Months went by with no progress made. You don't need to take my word for it. In July 2020, 61 of the 80 members of the California Assembly, mostly Democrats, wrote as follows:

"In our fifth month of the pandemic, with so many constituents yet to receive a single unemployment payment, it is clear that EDD is failing California. Millions of our constituents have had no income for months. As Californians wait for answers from EDD, they have depleted their lifesavings, have gone into extreme debt, and are in deep panic as they figure out how to put food on the table and a roof over their heads."

The lawmakers went on to explain how the EDD, time and again, failed to take responsibility and failed to correct its mistakes. They wrote that they had been met with longwinded excuses, fumbling non-answers, or unclear and inconsistent data, along with a "lack of transparency and accountability," even "obfuscation and dishonesty" in their dealings with the agency.

We have exhausted all avenues at our disposal, they said, as the agency had addressed only a few of the many issues we have highlighted for months and was only scratching the surface of the disaster that is the EDD.

Those are the words of the Democrat supermajority in the legislature: the disaster that is the EDD. The legislators lamented "how little has improved at EDD over the course of the pandemic."

Independent reports would soon confirm the extent of the agency's mismanagement and deception. While the EDD had said in July 2020 that its claims backlog would be cleared by September, a report found 1.5 million claims remained unresolved and the backlog was increasing by 10,000 each week.

The independent Legislative Analyst's Office found the EDD mischaracterized the crisis repeatedly to the legislature. For instance, the EDD claimed that 705,000 claims were denied when the real number was 3.4 million.

Under Julie Su, California's unemployment office became the national poster child for government failure. Su failed to prevent avoidable problems, failed to address the crisis as it spiraled out of control, and failed to honestly acknowledge problems after the fact.

Millions of Californians paid the price. It bears emphasizing that these were people who had lost their jobs on the government's orders and had been paying into the very system that was now failing them.

Even allies of the Governor and Secretary Su concluded that she was responsible. Democrat Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, who is chairwoman of the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee, said that Su has not done a

good job at running the Employment Development Department, saying that Su's mismanagement caused heartache for millions of Californians.

That is the first reason, that heartbreak for millions, why President Biden should not even consider elevating Deputy Secretary Su. The second independent basis for disqualification is the historic fraud of taxpayer dollars that occurred on her watch.

As so many hardworking citizens waited in vain for the checks that they were owed by the EDD, there was one group of claimants for whom the delivery of benefits was swift and seamless: prisoners and fraudsters who were not entitled to them.

In the largest fraud of taxpayer dollars in history, an estimated \$32 billion was wrongfully paid out from the EDD to State prison inmates and international crime syndicates. Payments were made to murderers, rapists, and child molesters, and 133 death row inmates collected over \$400,000. These hardened criminals didn't have to try hard. They used names like DIANNE FEINSTEIN and John Doe without raising an eyebrow. The district attorney of Sacramento County called the scheme "relatively easy."

The scale of this fraud boggles the mind. It equates to over \$800 per person in California. The amount of money wasted was enough to pay the annual salary of 330,000 teachers in California. You could end world hunger with this kind of money.

Where did the money go? It went to the worst of the worst, funding organized crime both domestically and internationally. This \$32 billion was used not to help citizens who had lost their jobs or to pay teachers or to end hunger but to fund further criminal activities.

It was easily preventable. Nothing even close to this happened in any other State. The reason it happened in California was Secretary Julie Su. She made the inexplicable decision to forgo a basic fraud prevention system. She ignored the Federal Government's guidance that claims be crosschecked against the prison rolls, which was standard practice in other States. The agency sent hundreds of benefit cards to the same address, sent cards directly to correctional facilities, and issued benefits to infants and centenarians.

The district attorney of Sacramento County called the EDD's response to the fraud "slow and nonexistent" and advised to look to other States for solutions.

Fresno County's district attorney said the administration did nothing until the elected district attorneys brought it to the media, adding that she did not think the State "has a handle on it." Riverside County's district attorney said: "I don't know who was at the wheel."

The chairwoman of the State Assembly committee responsible for overseeing the EDD, a Democrat, decried the failure to follow "simple and obvi-

ous steps that are implemented across the country." She added: "It is absurd. This is outrageous."

Perhaps most outrageous of all, as the district attorneys who uncovered the fraud put it: "Fraudulent unemployment claims deny those who have lost their employment, many due to COVID-19, who are legally eligible for benefits and are truly in need from getting the financial assistance they need."

Assemblyman David Chiu, a Democrat from San Francisco, summed it up this way: "It is egregious that my constituents make a single typo that holds up their EDD benefits for months while an inmate on death row can use a fake name and still get benefits paid out."

As if these first two reasons were not enough—the heartbreak for millions and the waste of billions—Deputy Secretary Su should not be elevated to the Biden cabinet for a third independent reason. As California's secretary of labor, she championed and ruthlessly enforced a labor law that has been called one of the most destructive pieces of legislation in the past 20 years.

It wasn't me that called it that. This quote came from Gavin Newsom's own former deputy chief of staff, Yashar Ali, who added: "It is truly horrific how many people have been negatively impacted by the law."

That law, AB5, effectively bans independent work of any kind. While it was promoted as a way to convert rideshare drivers to the status of W-2 employees, the law has ensnared hundreds of professions: videographers and caricaturists, transcriptionists and interpreters, technicians and engineers, analysts and consultants, musicians and conductors, artists and dancers, writers and editors, coaches and trainers, teachers and tutors, nurses and doulas. Hardly an industry or trade is unscathed.

It is a law so bad that affected industries have had to lobby the legislature for exceptions, over 100 of which have been granted, but only to those with enough influence. Countless other Californians, spanning hundreds of professions, remain subject to the law and have lost their ability to earn a living in our State or had their professional options severely restricted.

In fact, many national companies now explicitly disclaim on their applications that they can no longer work with California freelancers. In many professions, independent contracting is the only viable business model. In others, it is much preferred, thanks to the flexibility and freedom it affords. Regardless, the blunt instrument of AB5 forbids it.

Most devastated by this law are the most vulnerable: seniors, caregivers, students, reformed convicts, single mothers, people with disabilities or health issues or mental health needs, all of whom rely on independent contracting to balance work with their personal life circumstances.

Consider just a few testimonials of Californians whose lives have been upended by the law.

A woman named Jodie said: "I worked years to gain my skill as an American Sign Language interpreter. It was my goal since I was 9 years old. After AB5, I lost all three of my agencies. The dream I worked for is lost. I can't provide for my family and thousands of California's deaf won't be serviced."

Andy said: "I work with underserved artists of color. None of my career as an artist, technician, designer, and producer would have been possible under AB5. Artists of color will be less able to create their own work."

Megan said: "I am a nurse practitioner. AB5 is widening the gap in healthcare as small rural practices that can only be staffed with contractors shut their doors. Setting my own schedule has allowed me to spend time with my children that I will no longer be able to."

Daniel said: "I am a chiropractor in California. I was just terminated from my wonderful independent contract, 10 hours per week job. The company cited AB5. I have had this job for 10 years. The job allowed me flexibility to take care of my three special needs kids. Now it is gone."

Jared said: "AB5 forced me to shut down my business. I went from making \$80,000 per year in home services to a minimum wage employee. My family trade is gone. I have gone from working 4 days a week to spend time with my kids to not knowing if I can make ends meet working 7 days."

Kathi said: "I am a 71-year-old transcriber. I raised six kids and went to work in my forties, but I had to retire at 62 due to health issues. I depend on my at-home transcription pay to survive and pay my bills. For 8 years I did okay, until AB5."

□ 2045

Barbara said: "I am a proofreader. Competition is fierce, and it is hard to get clients, but I did it. I was thrilled to choose jobs I was best suited for and to work when I wanted. After AB 5, Californians need not apply."

Julie Su has been called an "architect" of this law. After its enactment, she used her position as California Secretary of Labor to ruthlessly enforce it.

Here is what Su said in her own words: "The way to enforce AB 5 is just doing investigations and audits. That will be on both wages and tax. So we will be doing investigations and audits so that those who want to comply with the need to reclassify can do so, and those who don't will understand that is not the kind of economy we want in California."

Think about how callous those words are, Mr. Speaker.

Just wiping out hundreds of professions of countless people, "that is not the kind of economy we want in California," she said.

She went on to say: “So we can issue citations and demand both wages and taxes and other kinds of penalties.”

Su shamelessly kicked this harassment strategy into high gear after the COVID shutdowns began. She even defied the will of Congress in the process. It was one of the most disgraceful episodes of the COVID era in California. Congress had provided benefits to independent contractors through the CARES Act and put States in charge of distributing those benefits. Yet under Julie Su, the EDD wrongfully withheld those benefits as she aimed to exploit this sudden need that independent contractors had to interface with her department.

A website called *The People v. AB 5*, run by four self-described “Democrats who support unions” but were opponents of the law, explained Su’s scheme. They wrote that EDD “attempted to weaponize the COVID-19 crisis by leading out-of-work Californians into a trap.”

Instead of giving them access to the benefits Congress had included for independent contractors in the CARES Act, the EDD tried to shoehorn them into the regular unemployment system where they would then have to name the names of their business partners. Then, once it had that list, EDD would pounce, launching audits of the named businesses for allegedly violating AB 5 and hitting them with fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per “misclassification.” This would be applied retroactively to before the law even existed.

The website gave an example of a small “princess for your little girl’s birthday party,” business whose owner was audited and fined \$60,000 dating back several years.

Incredibly, as small businesses were on their last legs, the EDD plowed ahead with these harassing audits using personnel that could have been processing unemployment claims or detecting fraud. The worst consequence of all this was that countless freelancers who were forced out of work by AB 5, COVID, or some combination of the two, had to wait weeks or months for benefits as Su’s department played its political games.

You don’t need to take my word for this, Mr. Speaker. California Congressman ADAM SCHIFF wrote a letter to Secretary Su in April of 2020 rebuking her for failing to release the benefits independent contractors were owed under the CARES Act.

Schiff wrote as follows:

I represent thousands of independent, freelance contract, and gig workers, including many in the entertainment industry, who often do not qualify for standard unemployment benefits. The CARES Act, which was signed into law 2 weeks ago, dramatically expands unemployment coverage, and I led an effort in the House to extend this coverage to nontraditional and independent workers.

As States are now working to implement these expanded benefits, I am hearing from many of my newly eligible constituents who are concerned because they are not yet able

to apply and are increasingly worried as their financial responsibilities continue to mount without anticipated income.

It is little wonder that the coalition behind AB 5 has issued a letter endorsing Su to be President Biden’s new Secretary of Labor. The letter signed by the California Labor Federation, SEIU California, and the California Teachers Association, among others, begins: “There is no one more qualified to help lead.”

They know exactly where she would lead the country: down the same disastrous path as California—something her former boss, Gavin Newsom, has explicitly called for, saying that California is a model for the Nation and promising to highlight California’s “policy innovations” so they can be scaled up nationally.

Given Julie Su’s role as an architect and enforcer of AB 5, there is no doubt that as U.S. Secretary of Labor she would do everything in her power—and likely things not properly in her power—to nationalize the law and its destructive consequences.

In fact, there are already two vehicles for doing so. The PRO Act, which passed the House last year would cost at least 350,000 freelance workers their ability to earn a living, and at this moment, the Department of Labor has a proposed rule that would similarly threaten the livelihoods of independent contractors nationwide.

This is not a trivial matter. Fifty-seven million Americans engage in freelance work. They deserve a Secretary of Labor who defends their freedom to work and respects them as professionals. Julie Su’s track record suggests she would be a Secretary who does just the opposite.

President Biden faces a very clear choice: Does he want a Secretary of Labor who will fight for workers, taxpayers, and citizens, or does he want the hand-selected rubberstamp of special interest groups?

This is a moment of vital importance for the American workforce. We are coming out of an era of unprecedented upheaval and heading toward an era of unpredictable transformation.

The position of Secretary of Labor cannot be treated as a gift to special interests. It cannot be occupied by someone who has harmed so many workers in so many ways. It cannot be consumed by the incompetence and corruption that Californians are all too familiar with.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Biden to cease consideration of Julie Su for Labor Secretary and to appoint a new Secretary who is competent and qualified, who is pro-worker and pro-small businesses, who will work with Democrats and Republicans alike, who will unleash our economic potential rather than suppress it, and who understands that it is ingenuity and hard work—not the heavy hand of government—that has made the American workforce the greatest engine for progress the world has ever known.

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

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,

Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.

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

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: Please find attached a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Financial Services for submission into the Congressional Record. Pursuant to clause 2 of Rule XI of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopted the Rules of the Committee on February 1, 2023.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.*

### RULE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Financial Services (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the “Committee”) and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are privileged motions in the Committee and shall be considered without debate. A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day).

(b) Each subcommittee is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

(c) The provisions of clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House are incorporated by reference as the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

### RULE 2—MEETINGS

#### *Calling of Meetings*

(a)(1) The Committee shall regularly meet on the first Tuesday of each month when the House is in session.

(2) A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair of the Committee, there is no need for the meeting.

(3) Additional regular meetings and hearings of the Committee may be called by the Chair, in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(4) Special meetings shall be called and convened by the Chair as provided in clause 2(c)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

#### *Notice for Meetings.*

(b)(1) The Chair shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular meeting of the Committee at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) before the time of the meeting.

(2) The Chair shall provide to each member of the Committee, at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) before the time of each regular meeting for each measure or matter on the agenda a copy of—

(A) the measure or materials relating to the matter in question; and

(B) an explanation of the measure or matter to be considered, which, in the case of an explanation of a bill, resolution, or similar

measure, shall include a summary of the major provisions of the legislation, an explanation of the relationship of the measure to present law, and a summary of the need for the legislation.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, the Chair shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(4) The provisions of this subsection may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the Committee or by the Chair with the concurrence of the ranking minority member.

#### RULE 3—MEETING AND HEARING PROCEDURES

##### *In General*

(a)(1) Meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.

(2) Meetings and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(3) Any meeting or hearing of the Committee that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House (which are incorporated by reference as part of these rules). Operation and use of any Committee operated broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

(4) To the extent feasible, members and witnesses may use the Committee equipment for the purpose of presenting static exhibits electronically during a meeting or hearing, provided the information is transmitted to the appropriate Committee staff in an appropriate electronic format at least one business day before the meeting or hearing so as to ensure display capacity and quality. The content of all materials must relate to the pending business of the Committee and conform to the rules of the House. The confidentiality of the material will be maintained by the technical staff until its official presentation to the Committee members. For the purposes of maintaining the official records of the Committee, printed copies of exhibits presented, to the extent practicable, must accompany the presentations.

(5) No person, other than a Member of Congress, Committee staff, or an employee of a Member when that Member has an amendment under consideration, may stand in or be seated at the rostrum area of the Committee rooms unless the Chair determines otherwise.

##### *Quorum*

(b)(1) For the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of reporting any measure or matter, of authorizing a subpoena (other than a subpoena authorized and issued by the Chair pursuant to subsection (e)(1)), of closing a meeting or hearing pursuant to clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House (except as provided in clause 2(g)(2)(A) and (B)) of releasing executive session material pursuant to clause 2(k)(7) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(3) For the purpose of taking any action other than those specified in paragraph (2) one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

##### *Voting*

(c)(1) No vote may be conducted on any measure or matter pending before the Com-

mittee unless the requisite number of members of the Committee is actually present for such purpose.

(2) A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of one-fifth of the members present.

(3) No vote by any member of the Committee on any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(4) In addition to any other requirement of these rules or the Rules of the House, including clause 2(e)(1)(B) of rule XI, the Chair shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded publicly available in electronic form on the Committee's Web site not later than 24 hours after such vote is taken. Such record shall include in electronic form the text of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting. With respect to any record vote on any motion to report or record vote on any amendment, a record of such votes shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those members of the committee present but not voting.

(5) **POSTPONED RECORD VOTES.**—(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time, but no later than the next meeting day.

(B) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (A), the Chair shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any-postponed record vote.

(C) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(D) The Chair's authority to postpone recorded votes will not be used to prejudice a member with regard to the offering of another amendment. In the application of this rule, the Chair will consult regularly with the ranking minority member regarding the scheduling of the resumption of postponed votes.

(6) It shall not be in order to consider a bill or an amendment thereto if the stated provisions of such measure—

(A) are known to have the net effect of increasing mandatory spending for the period of either

(i) the current year, the budget year, and the four fiscal years following that budget year; or

(ii) the current year, the budget year, and the nine fiscal years following that budget year, or

(B) authorize an increase in authorizations, appropriations, or direct spending in any given year, unless fully offset by at least an equal reduction in current spending; or

(C) authorize discretionary appropriations using terms such as "such sums as may be necessary" or similar language that fails to specify the actual amount of funding being authorized by the bill or amendment; or

(D) authorize appropriations without including a sunset provision.

##### *Hearing Procedures*

(d)(1)(A) The Chair shall notice the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing, unless the Chair,

with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner; in which case the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(B) Not less than three calendar days before the commencement of a hearing (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) announced under this paragraph, the Chair shall provide to the members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject of the hearing, or, in the case of a hearing on a measure or matter, a copy of the measure or materials relating to the matter in question and a concise explanation of the measure or matter to be considered. At the same time the Chair provides the information required by the preceding sentence, the Chair shall also provide to the members of the Committee a list of the witnesses expected to appear before the Committee at that hearing. The witness list may not be modified within 24 hours of a hearing, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause for such modification.

(2) To the greatest extent practicable—

(A) each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the Committee 48 hours in advance of the appearance sufficient copies (including a copy in electronic form), as determined by the Chair, of a written statement of proposed testimony and shall limit the oral presentation to the Committee to a brief summary thereof; and

(B) each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae, a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or sub grant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years, and a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity, that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing. Such disclosure statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(3) The requirements of paragraph (2)(A) may be modified or waived by the Chair when the Chair determines it to be in the best interest of the Committee.

(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the five-minute rule shall be observed in the questioning of witnesses before the Committee or any of its subcommittees until each present member thereof has had an opportunity to question the witnesses. The Chair shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of the majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. The Chair shall, so far as practicable, defer to the ranking member with respect to the order of recognition for minority Members. No member shall be recognized for a second period of five minutes to question witnesses until each present member of the Committee or such subcommittee has been recognized once for that purpose.

(B) The Chair may permit a specified number of members to question one or more witnesses for a specified period of time not to exceed 60 minutes in the aggregate, equally divided between and controlled by the Chair and the ranking minority member.

(5) Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter,

the minority party members of the Committee shall be entitled, upon the request of a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon. The Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, will determine the date, time, and place of such hearing.

(6) At any hearing of the Committee, opening statements by members of the Committee shall be limited to 10 minutes in the aggregate. The Chair shall control five minutes and recognize members in the Chair's sole discretion. The ranking minority member shall control five minutes; the Chair shall recognize members for such time according to the direction of the ranking minority member as communicated to the Chair.

(7) Notwithstanding any member's oral delivery of an opening statement, written opening statements by any member of the Committee submitted to the Chair within 5 legislative days after the adjournment of a hearing shall be made a part of the official hearing record thereof.

#### *Subpoenas and Oaths*

(e)(1) The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair. Unless there are exigent circumstances, the Chair will provide written notice to the ranking minority member at least 48 hours in advance of the authorization and issuance of a subpoena, and such notice shall include a full copy of the proposed subpoena, including any proposed document schedule.

(2) Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member. The Chair or any person designated by the Chair to serve a subpoena will copy the ranking minority member or designated minority staff when a subpoena is issued and served electronically.

(3) The Chair, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

#### *Depositions*

(f) The Regulations for the Use of Deposition Authority as passed by the Committee on Rules pursuant to H. Res. 5 titled—Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, and for other purposes—are incorporated by reference and shall be considered the rules of the Committee.

#### RULE 4—PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

(a) No measure or matter shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

(b) The Chair of the Committee shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and take necessary steps to bring a matter to a vote.

(c) The report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure pursuant to the provisions of clause 2(b)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) All reports printed by the Committee pursuant to a legislative study or investigation and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of such report: "This report has not been officially adopted by the

Committee on Financial Services and may not necessarily reflect the views of its Members."

(e) The Chair is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

#### *Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Views*

(f) If at the time of approval of a measure or matter by the Committee, a member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional or dissenting views for inclusion in the report to the House thereon, Members shall not have less than two additional calendar days after the day notice has been given (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) to file such written and signed views with the clerk of the Committee.

#### RULE 5—SUBCOMMITTEES

##### *Establishment and Responsibilities of Subcommittees*

(a)(1) There shall be six subcommittees of the Committee as follows:

(A) SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets includes—

(i) securities, including retirement savings plans and products, exchanges, and finance;

(ii) capital markets activities, including securitization, business capital formation, securities lending, and repurchase agreements;

(iii) investment companies, investment advisers, and advisers to private funds;

(iv) activities involving accounting and auditing;

(v) activities involving futures, forwards, options, and other types of derivative instruments;

(vi) the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(vii) the Financial Accounting Standards Board;

(viii) the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board;

(ix) the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board;

(x) the Securities Investor Protection Corporation;

(xi) self-regulatory organizations registered with the Securities Exchange Commission; and

(xii) initiatives to protect investor interest and to promote investor confidence in market integrity.

(B) SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS and MONETARY POLICY.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy includes—

(i) all agencies, including the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve System, and the National Credit Union Administration, which directly or indirectly exercise supervisory or regulatory authority in connection with, or provide deposit insurance for, financial institutions, and the establishment of interest rate ceilings on deposits;

(ii) matters related to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;

(iii) the chartering, branching, merger, acquisition, consolidation, or conversion of financial institutions;

(iv) consumer credit, including the provision of consumer credit by insurance companies, and further including those matters in the Consumer Credit Protection Act dealing with truth in lending, extortionate credit transactions, restrictions on garnishments, fair credit reporting and the use of credit information by credit bureaus and credit pro-

viders, equal credit opportunity, debt collection practices, and electronic funds transfers;

(v) creditor remedies and debtor defenses, Federal aspects of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code, credit and debit cards, and the preemption of State usury laws;

(vi) consumer access to financial services, including the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act;

(vii) the terms and rules of disclosure of financial services, including the advertisement, promotion and pricing of financial services, and availability of government check cashing services;

(viii) deposit insurance;

(ix) consumer access to savings accounts and checking accounts in financial institutions, including lifeline banking and other consumer accounts;

(x) financial stability and systemic risk, including matters relating to the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research;

(xi) financial aid to all sectors and elements within the economy;

(xii) economic growth and stabilization; and

(xiii) domestic monetary policy, and agencies which directly or indirectly affect domestic monetary policy, including the effect of such policy and other financial actions on interest rates, the allocation of credit, and the structure and functioning of domestic financial institutions.

(C) SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND INSURANCE.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance includes—

(i) insurance generally, including but not limited to, terrorism risk insurance, private mortgage insurance, government sponsored insurance programs, including those offering protection against crime, fire, flood (and related land use controls), earthquake and other natural hazards, and the Federal Insurance Office;

(ii) housing (except programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs), including mortgage and loan insurance pursuant to the National Housing Act; rural housing; housing and homeless assistance programs; all activities of the Government National Mortgage Association; secondary market organizations for home mortgages, including the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation; the Federal Housing Finance Agency; the Federal Home Loan Banks; housing construction and design and safety standards; housing-related energy conservation; housing research and demonstration programs; financial and technical assistance for nonprofit housing sponsors; housing counseling and technical assistance; regulation of the housing industry (including landlord/tenant relations); and real estate lending including regulation of settlement procedures;

(iii) community development and community and neighborhood planning, training and research; national urban growth policies; urban/rural research and technologies; and regulation of interstate land sales; and

(iv) the qualifications for and designation of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (other than matters relating to tax benefits).

(D) SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions includes—

(i) financial support networks of national security threats, including matters related to terrorist financing, money laundering,

drug sale proceeds, and alternative remittance systems;

(ii) methods to detect and inhibit terrorism and illicit finance, including matters related to anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) standards, asset forfeiture, and financial sanctions, as well as programs related to such matters administered by agencies or subunits thereof, including activities of the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network;

(iii) inter-governmental initiatives to detect and inhibit terrorism and illicit finance, including the Financial Action Task Force;

(iv) multilateral development lending institutions, including activities of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies as related thereto, and monetary and financial developments as they relate to the activities and objectives of such institutions;

(v) international trade, including but not limited to the activities of the Export-Import Bank;

(vi) the International Monetary Fund, its permanent and temporary agencies, and all matters related thereto;

(vii) international investment policies, both as they relate to United States investments for trade purposes by citizens of the United States and investments made by all foreign entities in the United States;

(ix) defense production matters as contained in the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended; and

(xiii) coins, coinage, currency, and medals, including commemorative coins and medals, proof and mint sets and other special coins, the Coinage Act of 1965, gold and silver, including the coinage thereof (but not the par value of gold), gold medals, counterfeiting, currency denominations and design, the distribution of coins, and the operations of the Bureau of the Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

(E) SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL ASSETS, FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY AND INCLUSION.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion includes—

(i) digital assets, including but not limited to cryptocurrencies, stablecoins, and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs);

(ii) development of new or alternative forms of currency;

(iii) activities of digital asset issuers, trading and lending platforms, custody providers, and other intermediaries;

(iv) all matters and activities related to innovative financial products, including consumer transactions using mobile devices, and services offered by non-bank firms, including matters related to regulatory technology, (RegTech);

(v) agencies, including the Department of Treasury, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve System, and the National Credit Union Administration, to the extent they directly or indirectly exercise supervisory or regulatory authority over (1) innovative products and services offered by nonbanks; (2) nonbank entities; (3) digital assets; and (4) digital asset intermediaries;

(vi) matters related to financial technology (Fintech) firms promoting greater financial inclusion and providing consumer protection under the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and

(vii) matters related to technologies of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

(F) SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The jurisdiction

of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations includes—

(i) overseeing all agencies, departments, operations, programs, matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee;

(ii) overseeing agency, department, and operational adherence to statutory authority, including promulgating regulations;

(iii) conducting investigations within agencies, departments, and programs; and

(iv) conducting research and analysis regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(2) In addition, each such subcommittee shall have specific responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chair refers to it.

(3) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its general responsibility. This may include but is not limited to reviewing waste, fraud and abuse; environmental, social, and governance policies; diversity and inclusion policies; the impact of regulatory overreach; and adherence to the Administrative Procedure Act and congressional intent with respect to such laws. This may also include a description of the conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity of or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; as well as its formulation, consideration and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary and appropriate.

*Referral of Measures and Matters to Subcommittees*

(b)(1) The Chair may regularly refer to one or more subcommittees such measures and matters as the Chair deems appropriate given its jurisdiction and responsibilities. In making such a referral, the Chair may designate a subcommittee of primary jurisdiction and subcommittees of additional or sequential jurisdiction.

(2) All measures or matters shall be subject to consideration by the full Committee.

(3) In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.

(4) The Chair, in his or her sole discretion, may discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred to a subcommittee of the Committee.

*Composition of Subcommittees*

(c)(1) Members shall be elected to each subcommittee and to the positions of chair and ranking minority member thereof, in accordance with the rules of the respective party caucuses. The Chair of the Committee shall designate a member of the majority party on each subcommittee as its vice chair. The Chair may designate one member of the Committee of the majority party who previously has served as the chair of the Committee as the Chair Emeritus.

(2) The Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee shall be ex officio members with voting privileges of each subcommittee of which they are not assigned as members and may be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum in such subcommittees. The Chair Emeritus shall be an ex officio member without voting privileges of each subcommittee to which he or she is not assigned and shall not count for purposes of establishing a quorum in such subcommittees.

(3) The subcommittees shall be comprised as follows:

(A) The Subcommittee on Capital Markets, shall be comprised of 23 members, 13 elected

by the majority caucus and 10 elected by the minority caucus.

(B) The Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy shall be comprised of 23 members, 13 elected by the majority caucus and 10 elected by the minority caucus.

(C) The Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance shall be comprised of 19 members, 10 elected by the majority caucus and 9 elected by the minority caucus.

(D) The Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions shall be comprised of 16 members, 9 elected by the majority caucus and 7 elected by the minority caucus.

(E) The Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion shall be comprised of 18 members, 10 elected by the majority caucus and 8 elected by the minority caucus.

(F) The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall be comprised of 12 members, 7 elected by the majority caucus and 5 elected by the minority caucus.

*Subcommittee Meetings and Hearings*

(d)(1) Each subcommittee of the Committee may be authorized at the sole direction of the Chair to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on any measure or matter referred to it, consistent with subsection (a).

(2) No subcommittee of the Committee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(3) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chair with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

*Effect of a Vacancy*

(e) Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the subcommittee as long as the required quorum is present.

*Records*

(f) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall provide the full Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chair deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 6—STAFF

*In General*

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the professional and other staff of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed by the Chair, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(2) All professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(3) It is intended that the skills and experience of all members of the Committee staff be available to all members of the Committee.

*Subcommittee Staff*

(b) From funds made available for the appointment of staff, the Chair of the Committee shall, pursuant to clause 6(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House, ensure that sufficient staff is made available so that each subcommittee can carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee and

that the minority party is treated fairly in the appointment of such staff.

#### Compensation of Staff

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Chair shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff of the Committee.

(2) The ranking minority member shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee.

#### RULE 7—BUDGET AND TRAVEL

##### Budget

(a)(1) The Chair, in consultation with other members of the Committee, shall prepare for each Congress a budget providing amounts for staff, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, the Chair, after consultation with the ranking minority member, shall designate an amount to be under the direction of the ranking minority member for the compensation of the minority staff, travel expenses of minority members and staff, and minority office expenses. All expenses of minority members and staff shall be paid for out of the amount so set aside.

##### Travel

(b)(1) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

(A) The purpose of the travel.

(B) The dates during which the travel is to occur.

(C) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.

(D) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(2) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(3) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

#### RULE 8—COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

##### Records

(a)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the Committee, and the transcript may be printed if the Chair decides it is appropriate or if a majority of the members of the Committee requests such printing. Any such transcripts shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require that all such transcripts be subject to correction and publication.

(2) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House and shall be available in electronic form and for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(3) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and

distinct from the congressional office records of the Chair, shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto as provided in clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(4) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

##### Committee Publications on the Internet

(b) The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of carrying out the official responsibilities of the Committee, including communicating information about the Committee's activities. The ranking minority member may maintain an official website. To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form on the official Committee website maintained by the Chair.

##### Audio and Video Coverage of Committee Hearings and Meetings

(c)(1) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings; and,

(2) maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 28, 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-473. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2204 Olightok Point High and R-2204 Olightok Point Low; AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0307; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-78] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-474. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0932; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AEA-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-475. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fertile, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0352; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-476. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Mesquite and Dallas-Fort Worth, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1556; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ASW-25] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-477. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Alton/St. Louis, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1466; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-36] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-478. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Austin, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1464; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-34] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-479. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Minocqua-Woodruff, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1465; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-35] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-480. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Topeka, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1557; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-481. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Alaskan Federal Airway V-531 Near Point Hope, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0540; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-49] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-482. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of V-181 and T-400, and Revocation of V-250 and the Yankton, SD, Low Altitude Reporting Point in the Vicinity of Yankton, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1115; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-483. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Alaskan Airway V-621 Near Atkasuk, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0541; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-48] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-484. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Marshalltown, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1224; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-485. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Multiple Missouri Towns [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1317; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-486. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-465; Northcentral United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1260; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## 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 Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 1198. A bill to require a standard financial aid offer form, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mrs. MILLER-MBEKS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 1199. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equitable payment for, and preserve Medicare beneficiary access to, diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MANN, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. EZELL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr.

LATURNER, Mr. COMER, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. MACE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. OGLEs, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. FRY):

H.R. 1200. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. WILD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 1201. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid Program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 1202. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1203. A bill to withhold Federal financial assistance from each country that denies or unreasonably delays the acceptance of nationals of such country who have been ordered removed from the United States and to prohibit the issuance of visas to nationals of such country; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 1204. A bill to amend the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 to limit attorney fees available under the Federal cause of action relating to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 1205. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLEs, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 1206. A bill to establish the Federal Agency Sunset Commission; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. BROWN):

H.R. 1207. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve diversity in accelerated student learning programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr.

GALLEGO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. LAGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. CARL):

H.R. 1208. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COMER (for himself, Ms. FOX, Ms. MACE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARL, Mr. HERN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. TIMMONS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. FRY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BARR, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. OGLEs, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GUEST, Mr. EZELL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 1209. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Ms. MACE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FRY, Mr. MANN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 1210. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to suspend the right to introduce certain persons or property into the United States in the interest of the public health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 1211. A bill to prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1212. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for punishment for the knowing distribution of fentanyl, if death results, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined

by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 1213. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 by repealing certain provisions relating to North Atlantic right whales; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 1214. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 1215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable healthcare worker tax credit with semi-annual advance payment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 1216. A bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 1217. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 with respect to certain regulatory actions related to hydraulic fracturing within the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Potomac River basins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 1218. A bill to require the Secretary of the Air Force to provide training to members of the air force of Israel on the operation of KC-46 aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CURTIS, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 1219. A bill to establish a food and agriculture cybersecurity clearinghouse in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSE (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 1220. A bill to make reforms to the Bank Secrecy Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1221. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 1222. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to our Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in ad-

dition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 1223. A bill to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service and redirect them to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. EVANS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 1224. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national public awareness campaign to inform health care professionals and health care professional students on how to help patients navigate the legal landscape in the United States with respect to abortion and other reproductive health care services following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 1225. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the establishment or maintenance of a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at an educational institution owned, operated, or controlled by the Chinese Communist Party; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEIL:

H. Res. 162. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on House Administration in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H. Res. 163. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Budget in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 164. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SELF, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 165. A resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the Texas Ranger Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, the oldest State law enforcement agency in North America, and honoring the men and women, past and present, of the Texas Rangers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLE (for himself and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 167. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Rules in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H. Res. 168. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H. Res. 169. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred

Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H. Res. 170. A resolution recognizing it is the congressional intent of the Affordable Care Act that enhanced Federal medical assistance percentage funds are to be directly shared with the counties in States with a Medicaid local share requirement; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Ms. MACE, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H. Res. 171. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 2023 as "National Youth Leadership Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 172. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 3, 2023, as "National Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CROW, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. PETERSEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. HIMES, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BALINT, Ms. WILD, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. ROSS, Ms. CHU, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SORENSON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BERA, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H. Res. 173. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of February 27 through March 3, 2023, as "Public Schools Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H. Res. 174. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H. Res. 175. A resolution recognizing the rise of cardiovascular disease as the world's leading cause of preventable death and disability and as the global public health crisis of this generation and supporting the recognition of February 2023 as "American Heart Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SOTO:

H. Res. 176. A resolution recognizing the historical significance of Lawrence Silas; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H. Res. 177. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XIII 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. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 1174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Necessary and Proper Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is to award Dr. Norman C. Francis with a Congressional Medal.

By Mrs. KIM of California:

H.R. 1198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide transparency and financial clarity to college students.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 1199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Medicare reimbursement for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 1200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Erase automatic-dues clauses in federal statute

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:

H.R. 1201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Behavioral Health

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill allows borrowers in medical or dental internships or residency programs to defer student loan payments until after the completion of their programs.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To withhold Federal financial assistance from each country that denies or unreasonably delays the acceptance of nationals of such country who have been ordered removed from the United States and to prohibit the issuance of visas to nationals of such country.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 to limit attorney fees available under the Federal cause of action relating to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 1205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill streamlines the oil and gas permitting process and recognizes fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 1206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Government Reform

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 1208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill authorizes the Department of the Interior to take land into trust for all federally recognized Indian tribes.

By Mr. COMER:

H.R. 1209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal procurement policy.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 1210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to restrict migration and imports from foreign countries to prevent the introduction of illicit drugs into the United States.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 1211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Stopping the fentanyl crisis

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale Protection

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 1214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This is a single issue.

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 1215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide a refundable healthcare worker tax credit with semiannual advance payment.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 1216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation that would require Institutes of Higher Education to counsel students before any federal student loans are disbursed.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Delaware River Basin Commission, or Interstate Commission on the Potomac River from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing regulations relating to hydraulic fracturing.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 1218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Directing the Department of Defense to open training slots for Israeli Air Force pilots, aircrew, and maintainers and forward deploying a KC-46 to CENTCOM.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 1219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To keep America's farmers and ranchers safe from cybersecurity threats.

By Mr. ROSE:

H.R. 1220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is reforming the Bank Secrecy Act

By Ms. STANSBURY:  
H.R. 1221.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:  
H.R. 1222.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Honoring the first all-Black regiments in the U.S. Army through legislation.

By Ms. TENNEY:  
H.R. 1223.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Redirecting IRS enforcement funds to the crisis on our Southern Border

By Mrs. TRAHAN:  
H.R. 1224.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Healthcare

By Mr. WALTZ:  
H.R. 1225.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 “to provide for the common Defence”, “to raise and support Armies”, “to provide and maintain a Navy” and “to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces”  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
JROTC Funding

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HILL, Ms. VAN DUYN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 24: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 32: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 40: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. SARBANES.  
H.R. 41: Mr. MCCORMICK and Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 45: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 79: Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 140: Mr. BIGGS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. MACE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FRY, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
H.R. 163: Mr. MOYLAN, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. FERGUSON.  
H.R. 188: Mr. ISSA.  
H.R. 239: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 243: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 268: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 292: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mrs. TORRES of California.  
H.R. 309: Mr. CASAR and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 310: Mr. SELF.  
H.R. 343: Mr. TIFFANY.  
H.R. 345: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 347: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
H.R. 354: Ms. TENNEY.  
H.R. 355: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 358: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 398: Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 406: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 451: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 467: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.  
H.R. 491: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 494: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H.R. 496: Ms. TENNEY.  
H.R. 506: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 510: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 529: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 539: Mr. SELF and Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 554: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 592: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 594: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 603: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.  
H.R. 618: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 620: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 621: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 645: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 648: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H.R. 655: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
H.R. 660: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 668: Ms. PORTER and Mr. BOWMAN.  
H.R. 670: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mrs. HOUSHIN, and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 676: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 683: Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 697: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 709: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
H.R. 732: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 734: Mr. SANTOS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. MOONEY.  
H.R. 737: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 764: Ms. HAGEMAN and Mr. BENTZ.  
H.R. 765: Mr. CASE, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 767: Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 770: Ms. PORTER and Ms. SEWELL.  
H.R. 782: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 795: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 797: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 807: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
H.R. 811: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 828: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 838: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.  
H.R. 856: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 863: Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 865: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SEWELL.  
H.R. 870: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
H.R. 871: Ms. ROSS and Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 890: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. BURLISON.  
H.R. 892: Mrs. CAMMACK.  
H.R. 917: Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 923: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 934: Mr. DUARTE.  
H.R. 944: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H.R. 964: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 972: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 974: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 977: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 982: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 1002: Ms. WEXTON.  
H.R. 1014: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 1016: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 1025: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H.R. 1046: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. SCANLON.  
H.R. 1058: Mr. WALBERG.  
H.R. 1059: Mr. MFUME, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1067: Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CLINE, Mr. ROY, and Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 1068: Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 1073: Ms. ROSS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 1074: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 1085: Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 1088: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 1093: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 1095: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1100: Mrs. LESKO.  
H.R. 1102: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 1107: Mr. MAST and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H.R. 1130: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.  
H.R. 1140: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. LATTA.  
H.R. 1147: Mr. ALFORD.  
H.R. 1156: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1158: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 1159: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 1160: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 1162: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 1163: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 1166: Mr. HILL.  
H.J. Res. 8: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.J. Res. 11: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.J. Res. 13: Ms. MANNING, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.J. Res. 22: Ms. TENNEY.  
H.J. Res. 25: Ms. PELOSI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CASE, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. TONKO.  
H. J. Res. 30: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HUNT, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. KILEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. GOSAR.  
H.J. Res. 33: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BALDERSON.  
H. Res. 35: Ms. PORTER.  
H. Res. 39: Mr. NORMAN.  
H. Res. 52: Mr. SELF.  
H. Res. 77: Mr. NEAL.  
H. Res. 82: Mr. LATURNER.  
H. Res. 90: Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H. Res. 100: Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H. Res. 109: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MOLINARO.  
H. Res. 132: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mrs. SPARTZ.  
H. Res. 150: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. KILMER.  
H. Res. 154: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H. Res. 158: Mr. HUNT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. MILLS.

**CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS**

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

**OFFERED BY MR. COMER**

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability in H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

**DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1139: Mr. HERN.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

No. 37

## Senate

The Senate met at 3:04 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for the opportunity to serve You and country. May we refuse to boast about tomorrow, as we trust You completely to guide our steps.

Today, sustain our Senators in their legislative work of sowing and reaping. May they faithfully plant and water the seeds of truth, justice, and peace. Lord, give them the wisdom to cultivate the soil of debate with kindness and civility. Whatever they do, in word or deed, may they do all in and for Your honor.

And, Lord, we thank You for the legacy of our first President, George Washington. We pray in Your mighty 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 27, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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.

### READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of January 21, 2023, the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. LANKFORD, will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. LANKFORD. In 1781, the Revolution had actually ended. The war had stopped. George Washington, then as the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, continued to be able to stay on to be able to lead the Army until 1783, until the new government could be formed. In 1783, he came to Annapolis, MD, and Commander in Chief George Washington resigned his commission of the military.

Now, we don't see that as a significant event, but it is one of the most significant events at the beginning of our Nation because, in the past, if you led the Army and you won the war, you would become the leader based on the fact that the Army is behind you. That is the way it had always been in every place, in every country. If you had the Army, you have the power.

George Washington approached the civilian government in the beginnings of a new Republic, resigned his commission, and stepped back to being a private citizen. That event is so significant, John Trumbull, his painting

hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol right now. That painting has been hanging there since 1824. In fact, the painting of George Washington resigning his commission is actually older than the dome that it is under.

We don't think about a military leader taking over the United States. That is unthinkable for us because of the path that George Washington laid down behind us.

He did a lot of firsts in a lot of his leadership. He was our first President. He was a civilian leader. After one term, he wanted to be able to step down. In fact, he and Madison actually wrote together a letter to be able to go out to the American people after his first Presidency, but so many people came to him and encouraged him to be able to run again that he relented and ran again. But at the end of his second term, he would not relent and had determined he was not a King, he was not the only person who could lead these new United States, but it was time, after 45 years, for him to step aside.

And this time, with the help of another gentleman whom he had worked with for a long time named Alexander Hamilton—they had served together, even since the Continental Army. He and Alexander Hamilton wrote an address to the American people. This was to be the end of his Presidency and of his public service. It was actually—interestingly enough, it is referred to as “George Washington's Farewell Address,” but he never actually spoke it. They wrote it, and then they published it together.

Many people don't know that George Washington didn't like speaking in public and wasn't akin to coming to make big public speeches. So they published it, and it became a signature.

This speech begins with a farewell to the Nation, saying: I am stepping aside as President of these United States. Then he goes on to be able to challenge the Nation in multiple areas, beginning with being careful in the days ahead.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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He saw the seeds of factions and of political parties beginning to rise, and he challenged the Nation. He challenged the Nation to be able to hold fast to its faith and to be able to live the principles of its faith.

He challenged the Nation on the issue of debt and to be able to say don't be a nation that carries a lot of debt. You will have times of war when you will have to carry it, but pay it off as quickly as possible.

He challenged the Nation in the issue of foreign entanglements and foreign alliances, and he challenged the Nation to forgive him of any mistakes that he might have made while he was leading the Nation.

This nonspeech speech that he presented to the Nation has become a signature for now more than two centuries. It wasn't set aside. In fact, during the Civil War, for the first time, Members of Congress gathered on the other side of the building in the brandnew House Chamber in 1862, where House and Senate, with all the military leadership, gathered together in one room and read it out loud as a reminder to the Nation of our beginnings and as an encouragement to all the legislators during the Civil War.

It was set aside again until 1893 when the Senate picked it back up again and a Senator was chosen to be able to read it out loud to the Senate. It was done in 1893 and 1894 and then stopped in 1895 but then picked up again in 1896 and has been read every single year since 1896, in this Chamber, right around George Washington's birthday—a fitting tribute to a President who did much to be able to establish who we are as a country.

I am honored today to be the one selected to be able to speak this speech. I am also honored to be able to note that I am the first Oklahoman in the history of the Senate to actually read this speech out loud in the Senate.

Now, we are a young State. We have only been a State since 1907, but we have only been reading it out loud since 1893. So we have been there for most of the time. So I am honored to be able to give to you "George Washington's Farewell Address" and his look to the future of our Nation to say: These are the things I would request that you do not forget.

Mr. LANKFORD at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:  
*To the people of the United States*

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself, and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence

enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals that, under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this

truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies

requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—northern and southern—Atlantic and western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of

local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have seen in the negotiation by the executive—and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate—of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of government better calculated than your former for an intimate Union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction; to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the Constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions, that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country, that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable; liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of

them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming it should consume.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration to con-

fine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation *desert* the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling

occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions, by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country without odium, sometimes even with popularity, gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and

odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it, for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectably defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed—in order to give to trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants,

and to enable the government to support them—conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take—and was bound in duty and interest to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance, and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.  
UNITED STATES, 19th September 1796.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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#### 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, like a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle, I spent the first part of last week meeting with our NATO allies and our European partners in Munich.

In Munich, we met an array of world leaders, including a bipartisan meeting with German Chancellor Scholz. It is clear from our meetings in Munich that Europe is moving in the right direction, but more must be done across the alliance to rebuild our defense capacity and to give Ukraine the weapons they need to defeat Russia's aggression.

After the Munich Security Conference, Senators TILLIS, ERNST, BUDD, BRITT, RICKETTS, and I continued on to meet with more American partners in both Europe and the Middle East, where we met up with Senator MULLIN as well. We met with both President Herzog and Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel, with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, with the President of the UAE, as well as the President of Finland.

We had the pleasure of meeting some of our own American diplomats and civilian personnel who were on the ground advancing our Nation's interests in each of these places. I was especially happy to meet some of the men and women serving in our Armed Forces who are onsite at installations in these countries or stationed protecting our Embassies. It was a great honor to run into some fellow Kentuckians serving in the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE.

Here in Washington, you hear American leadership in the world discussed and debated like it is some fuzzy concept or abstract principle, but let me tell you, when you travel to Europe, when you travel to the Middle East, when you meet with the civilian and military leadership in those nations that are America's friends and wish us well—well, there is nothing unclear about the importance of America's leading role in the world. Our friends in Europe know beyond any doubt that peace and prosperity depend on a strong and involved America. Our partners in the Middle East know without a doubt that security and stability rely on a strong and involved America.

We are the indispensable Nation. Our superpower status is paramount—not just for these other countries but even more importantly, for our own interests here at home. Putting up our drawbridge and pretending we can go it alone as “Fortress America” will not cut it—will not cut it—in the 21st century. It would put the future of our economic security, energy security, and national security at enormous risk.

The need for American leadership is palpable. My colleagues and I will have much more to say on this subject in the coming days.

## EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

Madam President, on another matter, the attention and prayers of the entire Nation have been fixed for the past several weeks on the town of East Palestine and the surrounding area in Northeast Ohio. The derailment of the Norfolk Southern train led to a disastrous chemical release, forcing many from their homes and leaving a community vulnerable. The people of East Palestine are understandably anxious and upset, and of course they deserve answers.

Our colleague the junior Senator from Ohio has been all over this issue. We will continue to work with him to ensure the people of Ohio are appropriately informed and supported in the months to come. We also thank Ohio Governor Mike DeWine for his leadership on the ground.

Unfortunately, this leadership has cut a sharp contrast with the Biden administration's Secretary of Transportation. Even amidst a catalog of crises on his watch, from this and other recent train derailments to the meltdown in air travel back during the holiday season, Secretary Buttigieg has seemed more interested in pursuing press coverage for woke initiatives and climate nonsense than in attending to the basic elements of his day job.

Understandably, there were some initial concerns in my home State of Kentucky about possible impacts since we are downriver, but the good news is that even after careful monitoring by local experts, there is no reason to believe that Kentuckians have anything to worry about. Local water authorities are monitoring the Ohio River's downstream water quality very closely, and thus far they have seen no cause for alarm whatsoever. Every indication is that the situation for Kentuckians is 100 percent normal. Even so, my staff and I remain in close communication with all the relevant utilities and local authorities.

## INFLATION

Madam President, now on one final matter, January was the 21st month in a row with year-on-year inflation of at least 5 percent. The U.S. economy has seen prices rising at an annual rate of 5 percent or more every single month following President Biden's first 100 days. Democrats' reckless spending has made soaring costs a fixture of everyday life for families all across our country. Real-wage declines have become a tragic reality for workers in every single State.

Last week, new data proved yet again that persistent inflation has become actually embedded in our economy. One key measure of consumer behavior, the personal consumption expenditure index, grew at triple the monthly rate from December and at its fastest pace since June of last year. Inflation in the services sector in particular is 5.7 percent higher than it was a year ago.

The Democrats' inflation is not just driving up the prices for groceries and

essentials that families pay themselves at the checkout counter; it is also baked into the costs families pay indirectly through service providers, from plumbers to contractors to medical providers and beyond. In every corner of the economy, workers and businesses are still having to hunker down against the ongoing consequences of Democrats' reckless mistakes.

What an odd time, then, for the Biden administration to declare victory over a problem it helped actually create. The White House Press Secretary declared earlier this month that "the President's economic plan is indeed working." Well, today, 57 percent of Americans say they have less money in their pocket than they did a year ago. Nearly two-thirds say they are living paycheck to paycheck. The White House calls this mission accomplished. The American people call it a nightmare for 2 years and counting.

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. Madam 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

## EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first responders at the State, local, and Federal level continue working around-the-clock helping the people of East Palestine recover from one of the worst train derailments in decades.

The scene in East Palestine over the last month has been the stuff of nightmares: a 38-car derailment; an entire town forced to evacuate; the stench of industrial chemicals and soot hovering in the air; parents scared of their kids' drinking water; and kids anxious about life returning to normal. No community deserves this.

While a full investigation of the derailment has yet to be completed, the Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board said this accident was "100 percent preventable." Again, the NTSB Safety Board Chair said the accident was "100 percent preventable."

The fault of this disaster lies first and foremost with Norfolk Southern. Norfolk Southern's CEO, Alan Shaw, needs to come before the Senate, answer questions under oath, and explain to the American people exactly what went wrong and how they will prevent accidents like this from happening. He should not duck. He should be there. He should come before the Senate, and we are asking Mr. Shaw to do just that.

The American people should hear from Norfolk Southern's CEO precisely why they thought it was a good idea to spend years—years—lobbying to loosen regulations designed to prevent accidents like this. And I especially want to hear why Norfolk Southern, after

seeing a record \$3.3 billion in profits last year, prioritized billions—billions—in stock buybacks instead of putting that money toward safety and toward their workers.

Over the past few weeks, there has been no shortage of opportunists racing to blame the administration for the train derailment. Former President Trump himself showed up in East Palestine and blamed everyone but himself for the tragic accident. But President Trump, as usual, omits a crucial truth: The Trump administration spent years working to loosen safety regulations intended to make these types of accidents less likely.

They are in the best of the big rail companies. When President Trump entered office, rail companies spent millions to push for repeals on all sorts of safety regulations, from inspection requirements, mandates for newer brakes, and rules governing the number of employees required to operate a train. In one instance, the Trump administration repealed requirements for an electronic braking system because, according to them, the safety benefits were simply not worth the costs.

Let me say that again.

In 2017, the Trump administration decided to repeal the requirements for brake upgrades because they didn't think the safety benefits were worth the cost. I think the people of East Palestine now know that that analysis was wrong and that they are suffering the consequences of rail companies putting profits over people.

Now, I want to be clear: A full investigation is still needed to determine which, if any, safety regulations might have prevented the accident in East Palestine, but you don't need to be an expert to see that, when companies prioritize profits over safety—when they loosen safety rules, lay off thousands of workers, and spend more money on stock buybacks than on preventing accidents—you are flirting with disaster.

It is so typical of Donald Trump. He does the bidding of corporate special interests and it leads to serious harm to the American people. And when he gets caught, he turns around and blames someone else. It just doesn't wash, and the American people see through it. Disasters like the one in East Palestine are precisely what can happen when safety takes a backseat to maximizing profits and when self-aggrandizing politicians like Donald Trump allow and encourage it to happen.

I particularly want to thank my colleagues from Ohio and Pennsylvania for being vigilant in responding to this disaster and working in a bipartisan way to solve it.

I also, of course, want to thank all of the first responders at every level of government for working without rest to keep people safe.

The Senate is going to look into precisely what went wrong in East Palestine. A good first step will be in hearing directly from Norfolk Southern's

CEO. I hope he will work with us in good faith and come before the Senate as soon as possible.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Madam President, last week, I joined with a number of Senate colleagues in leading my first congressional delegation as majority leader. We went to Germany, India, Pakistan, and Israel. I have only been on one other codel in all of my years as a Senator—back in 2011 with Harry Reid to China.

I thank all of my colleagues for making this trip a success. There were nine of us. Now that we are back, I want to share a few takeaways from our trip that implicate America's national security and our economic future.

First, we relayed a very important message during our meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi: India and America are going to need each other to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party.

India is precisely the kind of partner that the United States needs to provide a check against the hostile tactics of the CCP. They are the world's largest democracy—still young compared to its peers—and primed for tremendous growth in the decades to come.

I told the Prime Minister that, if our democracies are to prosper in this century, we are going to have to work together not only to boost our common defense but to promote our mutual prosperity. That means working together to strengthen our economic ties, deepen trade, and make it easier to recruit talented workers from abroad to work in our country.

It also means we must collaborate to establish the norms for the technologies of the future. Right now, the world's democracies are competing with the Chinese Communist Party to dominate the technologies that will rule this century, like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, clean energy, advanced semiconductor manufacturing, and more.

India, the United States, and all of the world's democracies—we are the largest two—must make sure these technologies become vectors of prosperity, not the weapons of autocratic regimes. We have already seen how the Chinese Communist Party uses AI to eavesdrop on its people and prevent them from getting full knowledge or just propaganda. I think the Prime Minister appreciated the point we were making about the need for India and the United States—the two largest democracies—to work together against the CCP hegemony.

India is an amazing country. I was enthralled by it. Incredible. It has a thriving diaspora, many of whom live in New York, here in the United States. Our partnership has a huge potential for growth in the 21st century.

On a second point about our codel, during the codel, we also met with leaders in Pakistan, Germany, and Israel. Much of our discussion with them, as well as with Prime Minister Modi of India, stressed the importance

of standing with Ukraine in its struggle against Russia. We asked each of these leaders to do more. It has been more than a year now since Vladimir Putin began his illegal invasion, and I made it clear to leaders abroad that the worst thing we could do right now is to waver in our support of the Ukrainian people. I warned them that a Russian victory in Ukraine would not mean an end to Putin's escapades and expansionist proclivities so much as it would mean an escalation of his viciousness and desire for more territory.

Success in Ukraine will only embolden Putin if he sees the free nations of the world turn a blind eye to his aggressions. Should Putin win in Ukraine, it would endanger the security of democracies and burgeoning democracies across the world, and I think the leaders I spoke with—the leaders all nine of us spoke with—got that message.

Finally, on a more personal note, I was deeply moved to join with my colleagues to lay wreaths at both the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. As the highest ranking elected Jewish leader in U.S. history and the first Jewish majority leader, I used these visits as a chance to reaffirm the Senate's commitment to never forget this dark chapter in human history. At a time when public understanding of the Holocaust is waning, as the next generation is further removed from the horrors—the just sheer horrors—of the past, and as anti-Semitism makes its resurgence at home and around the globe, now more than ever, we must commit to that sacred obligation to never forget.

Elie Wiesel said:

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

We must never remain silent. We must never allow anti-Semitism and bigotry to fester and flourish. We must recommit to never, never again.

I want to thank my colleagues who joined with me at both Dachau and Yad Vashem, and I thank everyone—Members and staff alike—for the incredible job they did and for their excellent work in making our trip fruitful and productive.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Madam President, finally, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo—a great leader, in my opinion—announced recently that, starting tomorrow, the Commerce Department will launch their first application for CHIPS funding, with a focus on chip fab manufacturing facilities.

I will have more to say in the morning, but I just want to reaffirm that, 6 months after CHIPS and Science was passed into law, the benefits are clear and unmistakable: Over \$200 billion in private investment has been announced across 16 States. That includes \$100 billion proposed by Micron to manufacture advanced memory chips in my home State of New York, an investment that will translate into tens of thousands of good, high-paying jobs

and transform Upstate New York, once the manufacturing powerhouse of America. Of course, so many of those jobs went overseas, but CHIPS and Science, high-tech, gives us a great chance to revive that area. This story is being replicated not only in Upstate New York but in many parts of the country that similarly lost jobs over the last decades.

I applaud Secretary Raimondo for rolling out the CHIPS funding—standing up a brandnew, major program—so quickly and efficiently. As you know, the CHIPS and Science bill was a pet of mine, and we worked for 2½ years to get it done.

I also applaud my colleagues from both sides who spent years pushing this bill over the finish line.

This is about laying a crucial foundation to make the United States a global leader in chip production once again, which is critical to our national security and competitiveness, and starting tomorrow, applications will be open to begin to make these significant investments in U.S. industry and in U.S. workers.

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. CORNYN. Madam 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.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week, Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine hit the 1-year mark—1 year of death and destruction across Ukraine, 1 year of lives and gaslighting from the Russian Government and its paid-off cronies, 1 year of atrocious war crimes committed against innocent people. It has been an unimaginable year of hardship for the Ukrainian people, and it has ushered in a period of global unity not seen in a generation.

One year ago, democracies around the world united in support of the Ukrainian people. The United States and our allies condemned President Putin's unwarranted invasion and took decisive action to help the Ukrainians shape the outcome of this war: sanctions against Russia, military aid for Ukraine, humanitarian assistance for the innocent people who are bearing the true cost of Russia's brutality. It has been a difficult year fueled by both victories and setbacks, but I remain confident and inspired by the courage and the capabilities of the Ukrainian people.

At the start of this war, no one expected Ukraine to keep up the fight as long as it has lasted. They were outmanned, outgunned; and it seemed like a matter of when Ukraine would be defeated, not if.

Over the last 12 months, though, we have witnessed heroic strength and fortitude by the Ukrainian forces and civilians. We have seen a series of setbacks by the Russian Army which was once thought to be among the most capable in the world.

As we marked the 1-year anniversary of this war, the big question in everyone's mind is, What comes next? GEN David Petraeus once said the most important question to ask in any conflict is: How does this end? And in this case, we don't have a clear answer. There is no resolution on the horizon, which has caused many people to doubt America's involvement.

Over the last year, our country has made serious investments in a Ukrainian victory in the form of weapons, equipment, training, and humanitarian aid. These contributions have been integral to Ukraine's success so far, but they have not come without cost. There is the financial cost, which is always a big concern—particularly with a \$30-trillion debt—as well as the prospect of a recession as a result of the Federal Reserve's tightening interest rates in order to stave off the impact of inflation.

There is also the impact on our own military readiness. Our weapons stockpiles have dwindled, and the timeline for replenishment is far too lengthy.

I have heard from my constituents back home in Texas who are deeply concerned about what these costs will mean here at home, and I understand exactly where they are coming from.

This is a tough time for American families due to the ravages of inflation and the uncertainty about their economic future. Our own interests must always come first.

The point that keeps getting lost in this war is that a Ukrainian victory is in our national interest. It is important to our security here at home. America's assistance is not a handout. It is not a charity project. And as much as we want to see Ukraine prevail in this war, our financial support is not entirely altruistic.

The United States isn't just investing in Ukrainian victory, we are also putting our resources toward the defeat of Russian aggression. If history has taught us anything, it has taught us that power-hungry dictators do not accept small gains and call it a day. They just keep on pushing. You don't have to go back very far in our history books to find a good example.

In 2005, President Vladimir Putin said that the collapse of the Soviet Empire "was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." Clearly, he is doing everything he can to try to reconstitute the former Soviet Union.

President Putin has used his time in power to rebuild Russia's military and try to redraw the map of Europe. In 2008, Russia invaded the Nation of Georgia. In 2014, it invaded Ukraine for the first time since the end of the Cold War, taking the Crimea region. Of course, true to form, Putin's appetite

for conquest is not satisfied. If anything, it made him more hungry for power. And the message that we sent by doing nothing in 2005 and 2014 was he could take all he wanted and there would be no consequence. This time, we can't make the same mistake. Putin must understand that Russian aggression will not be tolerated.

The outcome of this war will determine how Putin's quest proceeds in the future. Will he continue to intimidate neighbors in Europe and invade sovereign nations, or will he crawl back to Moscow, tailed tucked between his legs?

The answer to those questions are very important. Despite the fact that American troops are not engaged in this war, that could change in an instant.

If the next chapter of Putin's war includes the invasion of a NATO partner, the United States and our allies will no longer be on the sidelines; we will be part of the starting lineup. Collective defense is at the heart of NATO's founding. Article 5 of that founding treaty makes clear that an attack against one member nation is an attack against all. Suffice it to say, I hope and pray we will never reach the point where the collective defense clause is invoked.

The most effective way to keep American troops out of the line of fire is to help the Ukrainians stop Putin now before his conquest moves even further west.

As though the stakes weren't high enough already, we know it is not just the scope of Putin's power that is at stake here. The rest of the world is watching as well to see how the United States and our NATO allies respond to this power-hungry dictator. If we fail to support the Ukrainians in this pivotal moment, other authoritarian governments will take note. Today, the problem is Russia. Tomorrow, the problem could be the People's Republic of China.

President Xi Jinping has made no secret of his desire to capture Taiwan. He has called it "unification," and he has even offered details about what sort of timeline we might expect. Of course, we found, as with Mr. Putin, when one person is making that decision, that person can make a decision to go at any time. But President Xi says he wants to be ready to unify the People's Republic of China with Taiwan by 2027, just 4 years from now.

There is no question that President Xi is paying close attention to the world's response to Russian aggression. If the United States and its allies respond with passivity, the Chinese Communist Party will expect to be met with the same level of weakness. As a matter of fact, I believe that President Putin was shocked to see the Ukrainians demonstrate their will to resist Russian aggression and that the other democracies in the world have come to its aid, particularly after the embarrassing precipitous withdrawal from

Afghanistan by the Biden administration without even notifying our NATO allies. Of course, we know what happened—the leadership of the Afghan Government was spirited off in an airplane to another country, and the Taliban walked in without a shot being fired. I think after Mr. Putin saw that in Afghanistan, he thought: Well, maybe I could do the same thing in Ukraine.

Well, a passive response to this sort of aggression would risk further instability and hurt the cause of peace, to say the least. And it would inevitably diminish America's leadership position in the global order. That is why the tyrants and the madmen of the world must see the United States and our allies respond with strength. That is the only way to ensure long-term security and stability.

Last spring, like many of our colleagues, I had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine. This time, last May, was with Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader; Senator COLLINS; and Senator BARRASSO. We had the pleasure of meeting with President Zelenskyy and affirming America's commitment to a Ukrainian victory.

One year into this war, my resolve has not softened. Our resolve cannot soften either. The United States and our allies must remain steadfast in our support of the Ukrainian people, not just for their sake but for our sake as well.

Through strategic investments, with ample oversight and accountability—those were important—we will continue to shape the outcome of this war by giving the Ukrainian people everything they need in order to prevail. In doing so, we will send a clear message to Russia and China and any other authoritarian dictator that aggression against the sovereign nation will not be ignored.

Again, it is our own national interest that is at stake here. This war cannot end with a Russian victory.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me first thank my colleague from Texas. We disagree from time to time, but when we agree, I feel good about it. And today, we do agree, certainly, on the Ukrainian war and the role and responsibility of the United States.

MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

Madam President, the Senator from Texas was in Munich at the security conference. It was such an inspiring get-together. Leaders from all over Europe and from many parts of the world all came together and were virtually unanimous in their opinion that this aggression by Vladimir Putin needed to be stopped and we needed to do everything in our power, either through NATO or other alliances and friendships, to show our solidarity.

I thank the Senator from Texas for his statements.

What a sharp contrast in leadership last week. First, Presidents Biden and

Zelenskyy, together in Kyiv, standing resolutely in the face of Russian aggression.

President Biden went to neighboring Poland, where he told an enthusiastic crowd of thousands:

One year ago, the world was bracing for the fall of Kyiv. . . . I can report: Kyiv stands strong. Kyiv stands proud. It stands tall, and most important, it stands free.

That was a statement by President Biden visiting Poland. He vowed the United States and its allies will never waiver in their support of Ukraine and that NATO will not be divided, and we will not tire. I couldn't agree more with President Biden.

The same sentiments were on display at this Munich security summit that I referenced. Nearly 30 of my Senate colleagues joined us in this international conference. It was a bipartisan show of unity and resolve, with both Senator SCHUMER—the Democrat leader of the Senate—and Senator MCCONNELL—the Republican leader of the Senate—urging sustained determined support for Ukraine against Russian tyranny.

Compare these messages of transatlantic and bipartisan unity to the rambling set of manufactured grievances delivered at nearly the same time by the Russian war criminal, Vladimir Putin. The contrast could not have been starker.

Many Russian officials in attendance at Putin's speech sat stone-faced. Some even dozed off. They may have wondered what kind of nightmare had befallen the Russian people in the pursuit of one man's murderous folly.

Following the Munich Security Conference, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, of New Hampshire, and I had the opportunity to visit the former Soviet-dominated countries of Georgia and Romania. Both nations remember Russian tyranny all too well and have spent their decades of independence working to be part of the transatlantic community of democracies.

Georgia suffered most recently at the hands of Russian imperialism when Putin militarily seized 20 percent of the land mass of Georgia, territory still occupied illegally by the Russians today.

Georgia has so much talent and so much potential. The overwhelming majority of the people in that country see their future in Europe and the West. The Georgia military has worked closely with the United States, and we have strong cooperative relations on a wide range of issues.

It is my hope that Georgia will continue its path toward the European Union and eventual NATO membership. That is for the Georgians to decide, but I believe they would be valuable allies of the NATO alliance.

It has some serious issues to resolve, incidentally. Georgia is still facing some political questions, which the world is watching closely, and a few potentially self-inflicted setbacks to avoid, such as the proposed law on disclosure by nongovernmental organiza-

tions—a step, I am afraid, that is backward for a nation aspiring to freedom. But with the right political will and vision, these issues can be overcome in a way that ensures a better and more secure future for the Georgian people.

In the same Black Sea region, Senator SHAHEEN and I visited Romania—my first time—the Eastern European nation already firmly in the EU and NATO. What a NATO ally it is. We stopped at MK Air Base in eastern Romania, where thousands of U.S. soldiers from the legendary 101st Airborne are stationed. They are the U.S. military forces closest to the fight in Ukraine.

Nearby, we could see rows of grain ships departing Ukraine and occupied Crimea only a short distance away. That vital commerce in such a strategic area is a reminder of the importance of advancing Senators SHAHEEN and ROMNEY's bipartisan legislation to establish a U.S.-Black Sea regional strategy, legislation which I have co-sponsored.

Senator SHAHEEN and I had a chance to speak to the brave Americans serving in Romania in defense of NATO. I am proud to say—and I hope my colleague hears this too, and I am sure she will—from the home State of Illinois, we had soldiers from Danville, Forest Park, Chicago Ridge, and even Red Bud, IL—downstate—and many more. But we got to meet and have lunch with those soldiers.

We also had the chance to speak with Romanian Prime Minister Ciuca, who was clear-eyed both on the threat of Russian aggression and Romania's proud role in the larger battle. He also understood the threat Russia poses to the neighboring democracy of Moldova, where Russia already occupies some of their territory. Because of this, President Biden also met with Moldovan President Sandu while in Poland and reaffirmed strong U.S. support for her country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which I also want to reiterate here on the Senate floor.

Many of my colleagues here today know that my mother left as a little girl from Russian-occupied Lithuania many years ago. She barely would recognize today's vibrant and free member of the EU and NATO from the country she left behind. Later this year, Lithuania will host a historic NATO summit, by which time I hope we have added Finland and Sweden to the alliance.

That thriving, peaceful, democratic future is what the Ukrainian people are still fighting for and what we must continue to support to make sure that Ukraine is secure in the future.

#### MOBILITY LEGISLATION

Madam President, I would like to start today by sharing a story about the value of U.S. foreign assistance.

As my colleagues in the Senate know, U.S. foreign assistance makes up less than 1 percent of the Federal budget. And yet, it can yield millions in returns—both financially and in lives

saved—by making our world safer, healthier, and more stable. It also reflects our values as Americans. Just look at the immediate offer of assistance to Turkey following its recent catastrophic earthquake. That was the right thing to do.

Sometimes, even the simplest of tools can make all the difference: mosquito nets, paste made from peanuts, and even bicycles. One NGO based in Chicago, IL, World Bicycle Relief, has distributed more than 600,000 bicycles around the world as of last year. These bicycles have helped girls in Malawi get to and from school safely, aid workers in Colombia distribute food and clean water during the COVID-19 pandemic, and farmers in Zambia make milk deliveries.

Stories like these are common around the world, showing the value of a simple, relatively inexpensive, "green," and easy-to-repair means of mobility that helps meet important development objectives. I have seen myself how a bicycle ambulance in rural Tanzania can change lives, and not long ago my staff saw World Bicycle Relief's efforts in Kenya, where nearly 50,000 sustainable rugged bicycles have been provided. These bikes are uniquely designed for their local environments. Community members are trained to maintain them with minimal and locally sourced parts, keeping them sustainable and creating jobs.

Since 2019, I have worked through the Appropriations Committee to push USAID to invest in bicycles and study how to make the programs locally sustainable. USAID has used these lessons and opportunities with increasing success, thanks to the work of so many dedicated groups around the world, including World Bicycle Relief.

This month, I introduced legislation with Representative BLUMENAUER in the House that will codify these important efforts and formalize the creation of a mobility program within USAID's Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. I look forward to seeing this bill enacted one day, to help lock in the incredible progress that can be made with even small investments and the simplest of tools, such as a bicycle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Illinois.

#### REMEMBERING JOSEPH LEMENS II

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I come to the floor today to honor my friend CWO5 Joseph Lemens II, who we lost suddenly in November.

Joe worked as hard as he laughed. He was full of energy and empty of ego. In many ways, he was the epitome of what a "Soldier," with a capital "S," should be.

He was dedicated to service—service to his most beloved and to those with whom he was barely acquainted, service to his dearest neighbors in Illinois and to total strangers throughout his four deployments to the Middle East.

Joe first enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves when he was just 17 years old

and then served continually for the next 42 years until his retirement last March. His work ethic was tireless, and sacrifices he made for his Nation were immeasurable. He was selfless and giving. He would be the first one to offer to lend a hand, and then would refuse to accept payment for his good deed.

He seemed quiet until you got to know him. Then his laugh made you laugh so hard that, eventually, you forgot why you were both laughing at all.

As a fellow pilot, I especially appreciated the way he gravitated toward machines, the way he loved having the power of an engine, whether it be a snowmobile or a Black Hawk helicopter, at his fingertips. As his commanding officer for my years as a Mad Dog, I couldn't have asked for a better maintenance test pilot, although I always questioned the sanity of anyone who would fly broken helicopters on purpose.

I considered myself lucky that Joe was a member of our battalion when we were in Iraq. Maintenance officers, you see, and especially those like Joe, are a rare commodity, and Joe was one of the best.

When we got back to U.S. soil, after I was wounded and could no longer get from point A to point B like I used to, I was even luckier to have Joe show up at my house one day with his toolbox in tow, ready to remodel my home to make it completely wheelchair accessible.

He combined the grit of a midwesterner with the grace of faith. He combined the resilience of a soldier with the brilliance of an engineer. I know he will be dearly missed. He already is. My thoughts are with his wife Kathryn and his children and his newborn grandson Joe Lemens IV, whom he was able to see. I thank them for sharing Joe with us for all those years and for their own service to our great Nation.

We will all miss Joe, but we will forever catch an echo of his larger-than-life laugh whenever we hear his favorite sound: the smooth rumble of a well-cared-for engine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, last week, like many of us in here—many of my colleagues—I spent time meeting with a lot of great folks back in my home State of Alabama. It was great to be home. It was great to be able to share the progress my office has made in the first 2 years, as well as my vision and priorities for the 118th Congress.

I visited Huntsville, AL, and had the opportunity to meet with some of the leaders in defense, education, and business. This included stops at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center; Alabama A&M University, one of the top HBCUs in the country; and other important sites, including businesses in Madison County, AL.

But I would like to take some time today to speak specifically about one stop on my trip that opened my eyes to a subject we should talk about more often in this Chamber. The National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville is a global leader in services, investigations, and counseling for children who suffer physical and sexual abuse. The center's work is important, and I am proud to share that work today.

I think we can all agree that we want our kids to have access to all the opportunities that this great country provides. Unfortunately, many children in Alabama and across the country are robbed of the opportunity to thrive and pursue their dreams because of abuse and neglect.

During my visit, the center's executive director, Chris Newlin, shared that 1 in 10 American children today will be victims of abuse before the age of 18. This is horrific, it is unacceptable, and it is embarrassing to our country. These kids don't know what it is like to have a carefree childhood or loving families who support their goals. They aren't able to devote energy to school, join in team sports, or have fun because their only goal in life is just to survive. Not only are they robbed of their childhood, but many times they are robbed of their adulthood as well.

Studies show that there are several long-term effects of child abuse. These include delayed brain development, lower educational success, and limited career opportunities. Victims are also more likely to suffer from future abuse, drug usage, and medical complications. Additionally, they are less likely to own cars, buy homes, or engage in business, making them less likely to be able to support a family in the future.

Nearly 600,000 kids in the United States were abused in 2021. To repeat that, 600,000 kids in the greatest country on the face of the Earth were abused in 2021, with the most common form of abuse being neglect.

Child abuse cases in Alabama have increased throughout the years, with more than 12,000 victims reported in 2018, costing the State of Alabama \$3.7 billion. Now, that is up \$1.5 billion from just 3 years earlier. The cost is outrageous. And while we are still collecting data from the past few years of COVID—and we know how bad that was—we all know that those numbers are going to be outrageous.

We cannot allow this to continue in the United States of America. Fortunately, we have people in our State of Alabama who have made it their mission to help victims of child abuse.

Founded in 1985, the National Children's Advocacy Center, also called the NCAC, is stepping up to save lives and offer hope to thousands and thousands of young people. The NCAC in Huntsville has established more than 1,000 children's advocacy centers in the United States and in 41 countries around the world.

Their work serves thousands and thousands of kids every year, like 7-year-old Benji, who was found unconscious by his grandmother and rushed to the hospital. There, it was discovered he had broken fingers, a broken rib, countless bruises, and old bones that had been broken but never fixed. Doctors determined Benji was also sexually abused.

That night, Benji left the hospital with Julie, who would eventually become his new foster mom, and arrived at the NCAC the very next morning for evaluation. Thanks to the work of the dedicated and selfless professionals in Huntsville, Benji now has a safe and loving home. He has made tremendous strides in playing with other children and bonding with family members and their new family kitten, and trusting his adoptive mother was a huge benefit.

Benji's therapists say he continues to show more confidence and will likely graduate from therapy in just a few months. There is no telling how many Benjis there are out there in our world today.

The center's reach does not end in Alabama. It has expanded around the country and across the world. In 2021, over 30,000 child abuse professionals from 50 States and 17 countries received NCAC training, and more than 400,000 children were served. That is just in 2021. Alabama's network of children's advocacy centers now includes 47 different locations that have conducted tens of thousands of counseling sessions each year. And, thanks to their work, more abusers have been brought to justice. Communities with children's advocacy centers have seen a 196-percent increase in felony prosecutions of child sexual abuse.

I am confident their work will continue to make tremendous impacts in our local communities in Alabama and around the world.

So we all have a duty to stand up for our kids. That is our responsibility. Children are our No. 1 commodity in this country. They will become the next generation of educators, nurses, doctors, lawyers, engineers—even Senators, and maybe even President.

And if we are going to have a strong future, we must make sure we protect and empower this next generation. I commend the team of the National Children's Advocacy Center for their commitment to giving kids a fighting chance—a fighting chance—to overcome unthinkable hardships that most of us never had to realize.

By stepping up to help those who have been left behind, the Center gives kids the opportunity to dream and pursue better lives. I hope we all join this group in doing our part to rescue child abuse victims. I will continue to fight for kids in Alabama and all across our great country, because they deserve it.

And I want to thank the National Children's Advocacy Center for reminding me that we all have a part to play in protecting and serving those who need it most.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today in support of Mr. Jamar Walker, whom President Biden has nominated to serve as a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Jamar is a fellow Virginian and outstanding public servant. For the last decade, he has been an invaluable asset to Virginia's legal community, bringing both his zeal for public service and his personal life story.

Jamar is a Virginia native, originally from our Eastern Shore. If you ever look at a map of Virginia, you see this strip that may not be completely connected. It literally goes from Virginia to Maryland and Delaware. It is a strip of land that is very rural. Jamar is from that part of our Commonwealth.

He is a two-time graduate of the University of Virginia. Following his time at both UVA as an undergrad and UVA Law, Jamar began his career in public service clerking for the Honorable Raymond Jackson in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, whose same seat he has actually—if we approve him tonight—been nominated to fill.

And for the past 7 years, Jamar has dedicated his professional career in the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia, where he currently serves as the Acting Chief of the Financial Crime and Public Corruption Unit.

A testament to his ability to try complex cases, Jamar has received five service awards from the FBI for his excellent work in public correction, wire fraud, and bank fraud cases. His commitment to the Commonwealth spans far beyond his day job. Jamar has volunteered for countless collegiate mock trial tournaments and returned to his alma mater time and again to speak out on guest panels.

Once sworn in, Jamar will also be the first openly gay Federal district judge in Virginia. Jamar's community-oriented mindset, career qualifications, and numerous accolades make him an exceptional nominee for the Eastern District of Virginia, a district that is known as the "rocket docket" in terms of moving cases quickly through. His experience, particularly in the U.S. Attorney's office, is well-suited to deal with the "rocket docket."

I know he will serve with distinction and make both our country and our Commonwealth proud. I urge my colleagues, when this vote starts in about 10 minutes, to support his nomination. He came out in a bipartisan vote from the Judiciary Committee. He is an exceptional young man, and I know will do a great job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 24, Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 35.

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 Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 35, Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 39.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 39, James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Mazie K.

Hirono, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 40, Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 27, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise in support of Jamar Walker, who has been nominated as U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division. We will be voting in a few minutes on Mr. Walker's nomination. He is an assistant U.S. attorney for the EDVA, where he currently serves as the Acting Chief for the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit.

Mr. Walker was raised by a single mother on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where he attended public schools, graduating from Nandua High School in Accomack County, VA. He is a double graduate of the University of

Virginia and clerked for Judge Raymond Jackson, whose seat he has been nominated to fill in a particularly nice turn of events. Mr. Walker counts Judge Jackson as among his mentors who inspired in him not just a life of service but also a deep commitment to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

Following his clerkship, Mr. Walker worked first as an associate at Covington & Burling, where he actually was an associate for one of my best friends, the head of the litigation section there, John Hall, who speaks very highly of Jamar Walker. Then he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Given his deep history with the EDVA, it will come as no surprise that Mr. Walker has broad support in this very important court, starting with Judge Jackson. In his letter of support, Judge Jackson observes that Mr. Walker "has the intellectual prowess, integrity, and temperament that is fundamental in the position of a Federal judge." Former U.S. attorneys in the Eastern District Dana Boente and Zach Terwilliger note that Mr. Walker "is a person of unimpeachable character who is known by the bench and bar for his keen intellect, decency, sober judgment, and humility."

As you can see, Mr. Walker would be serving the same community that raised him, where he has deep ties and is widely respected. For these reasons, Jamar Walker received a "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

His nomination is also historic in that, once confirmed and sworn in, Mr. Walker will be the first openly LGBTQ Federal district judge in Virginia.

I practiced in this court for 17 years. It is justifiably called the rocket docket because it has one of the fastest times from filing a case to trial of any district in the United States—6 months from filing a case to trial. Such speed is tough on the judges, and it is tough on the lawyers, but the EDVA does it because, for the litigants, the ability to know that they will have their claim heard within 6 months is a wonderful, wonderful thing.

The EDVA is also a little bit unique because its proximity to the Pentagon and the CIA and Federal Government Agencies gives it a docket that has a high percentage of national security cases. Mr. Walker's experience in and knowledge of the EDVA and his work on cases of that kind will be very critical to his success once he is confirmed.

In short, this is an exceptional nominee and historymaker who is well qualified to serve on a most unique court. He received a strongly bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of his nomination.

I yield the floor.

### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 16, Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

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 Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

## NAYS—39

Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

## NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso	Feinstein	Risch
Budd	Fetterman	Sanders
Crapo	Merkley	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 39, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.  
The Senator from Minnesota.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. 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.

## 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. 23-18, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$506 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public

of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER

(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-18

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: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$302 million.

Other \$204 million.

Total \$506 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Up to sixty-three (63) Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles-Extended Range (AARGM-ERs).

Up to twenty (20) AARGM-ER Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs).

Non-MDE: Also included are AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile-Extended Range Dummy Air Training Missiles (AARGM-ER DATMs), containers, component parts and support equipment; Repair of Repairables; software (Classified and Unclassified); publications (Classified and Unclassified); training (Classified and Unclassified); transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering support; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-ASA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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 27, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

## POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles-Extended Range (AARGM-ER)

The Government of Australia has requested to buy up to sixty-three (63) Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles-Extended Range (AARGM-ERs); and up to twenty (20) AARGM-ER Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs). Also included are AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile-Extended Range Dummy Air Training Missiles (AARGM-ER DATMs), containers, component parts and support equipment; Repair of Repairables; software (Classified and Unclassified); publications (Classified and Unclassified); training (Classified and Unclassified); transportation; U.S. Government and Contractor engineering support; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$506 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats by suppressing and destroying land or sea-based radar emitters associated with enemy air defenses. This capability denies

the adversary the use of its air defense systems, thereby improving the survivability of Australia's tactical aircraft. Australia 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 prime U.S. contractor will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL and Raytheon Missiles and Defense in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government personnel and U.S. Contractor representatives to visit Australia on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-18

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 AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile-Extended Range (AARGM-ER) weapon system is an air-to-ground missile intended for Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) and Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses (DEAD) missions. The AARGM-ER provides suppression or destruction of enemy RADAR and denies the enemy the use of air defense systems, thereby improving the survivability of our tactical aircraft. The AGM-88G AARGM-ER Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) is used by pilots when training for SEAD/DEAD missions.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. 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.

4. A determination has been made that Australia can 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.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Australia.

## 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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0E. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-77 of February 5, 2018.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER  
(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0E

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Finland.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-77; Date: February 5, 2018; Military Department: Navy.

(iii) Description: On February 5, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 17-77 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of sixty-eight (68) Evolved SEASPARROW Missiles (ESSM) and one (1) ESSM inert operational missile. Also included were seventeen (17) MK25 quad pack canisters, eight (8) MK783 shipping containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, training, U.S. Government/Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services and technical assistance, and other related elements of logistical support. The estimated total cost was \$112.7 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$92.6 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: eighty-four (84) RIM-162J Evolved SEASPARROW Missiles (ESSM), Block 2; to replace the previously notified sixty-eight (68) ESSMs. Also included are MK25 quad pack canisters and MK852 shipping containers. The addition of these items will result in a net increase in MDE value of \$81.4 million, resulting in a revised MDE value of \$174 million. The non-MDE estimated value will increase from \$20.1 million to \$28.9 million. The total estimated case value will increase by \$90.2 million to \$202.9 million.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over the Block 1 ESSMs previously notified. Finland intends to use the missiles on its new Squadron 2020 class Corvette ships. The missiles will provide enhanced capabilities in effective defense of critical sea lanes and improve Finland's capability to meet current and future enemy anti-ship weapon threats. Finland previously requested ESSM Block 1s, but cancelled the procurement to await the Block 2s.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a trusted partner which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the

U.S. national interest to assist Finland in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The RIM-162J ESSM Block 2 is an upgrade to the Block 1, which is a kinematic upgrade to the RIM-7P SEASPARROW Missile that leverages U.S. guidance technology. ESSM Block 1 is a medium-range, semi-active homing missile that makes flight corrections via radar and midcourse data uplinks. The guidance system is semi-active on continuous wave or interrupted continuous wave illumination. The missile provides reliable ship self-defense capability against agile, high-speed, low-altitude anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs) and low velocity air threats (LVATs) such as helicopters and high-speed, maneuverable surface threats. The ESSM Block 2 utilizes the same propulsion section and increases the diameter of the guidance section to 10-inches. The new guidance section utilizes a dual seeker head that employs semi-active and active guidance.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 27, 2023.

#### 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)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0A-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-30 of March 16, 2021.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER  
(For James A. Hursch, Director).  
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0A-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Norway.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-30; Date: March 16, 2021; Military Department: Army.

(iii) Description: On March 16, 2021, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 21-30, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred twenty (120) Javelin FGM-148 Missiles; and two (2) Javelin FGM-148 Missiles Fly-to-Buy. Also included were twenty-four (24) Javelin Block 1 Command Launch Units (CLUs) retrofit kits; spare parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$36 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$30 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: forty (40) Javelin FGM-148 missiles; and two (2) Javelin FGM-148 Fly-to-Buy missiles. The estimated total value of the added items is \$8 million. The total estimated MDE value will increase by \$8 million to \$38 million, resulting in an estimated total case value of \$44 million.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale will support both Norway's defensive operations as well as NATO-led operations. The anti-tank defense capability is critical for Norway's national security and for its role in securing NATO's northern flank. The Norwegian Armed Forces intends to use the requested armaments to upgrade and increase its current inventory of anti-tank missiles.

(v) Justification: 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 an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 27, 2023.

#### 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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as

amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22-0W. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1). AECA certification 18-19 of June 26, 2018.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER

(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-0W

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Spain.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-19; Date: June 26, 2018; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On June 26, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 18-19, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of five (5) AEGIS Weapons Systems (AWS) MK7, six (6) shipsets Digital Signal Processing, five (5) shipsets AWS Computing Infrastructure MARK 1 MOD 0, five (5) shipsets Operational Readiness Test Systems (ORTS), five (5) shipsets MK 99 MOD 14 Fire Control System, five (5) shipsets MK 41 Baseline VII Vertical Launching Systems (VLS), two (2) All-Up-Round MK 54 Mod 0 lightweight torpedoes, twenty (20) Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) Block IIIB missiles and MK 13 canisters with AN/DKT-71 warhead compatible telemeter. Also included was one (1) S4 AWS computer program, five (5) shipsets Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Satellite Communications (SATCOM), five (5) shipsets AN/SRQ-4 radio terminal sets, five (5) shipsets ordnance handling equipment, five (5) shipsets Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM), five (5) shipsets aviation handling and support equipment, five (5) shipsets AN/SLQ-24E Torpedo countermeasures systems, five (5) shipsets LM04 Thru-Hull XBT Launcher and test canisters, one (1) shipset MK 36 MOD 6 Decoy Launching System, five (5) shipsets Link Level COMSEC (LLC) 7M for LINK 22, five (5) shipsets Maintenance Assist Module (MAM) cabinets, five (5) shipsets technical documentation, five (5) shipsets installation support material, special purpose test equipment, system engineering, technical services, on-site vendor assistance, spare parts, systems training, foreign liaison office and staging services necessary to support ship construction and delivery, spare and repair parts, tools and test equipment, support equipment, repair and return support, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistic and program support. The estimated total cost was \$860.4 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$324.4 million of this total.

On June 15, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20-0G of an additional MDE sale of thirty (30) All-Up-Round MK 54 Lightweight Torpedoes (LWT). The following non-MDE items were also included: MK 54 LWT expendables; MK 54 turnaround kits; MK 54 canisters; one (1) MK-695 Torpedo Systems Test Set (TSTS); support equipment including fire control modification platforms and spare parts; torpedo spare parts; training; publications; software; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in MDE cost of \$45 million, resulting in a revised MDE cost of \$369.4 million. The total estimated case value increased to \$940.4 million.

On June 8, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 22-0G of the MDE replacement of the previously-notified two (2) All Up Round MK 54 Mod 0 LWTs with two (2) Exercise MK 54 Mod 0 LWTs. Also included was additional Engineering Technical Assistance for redesign of Radar Signal Processing Group configuration and updates to International Aegis Fire Control Loop design; shipsets of SAASM units and associated spares; COMSEC equipment for use between test sites; and removal of one (1) shipset MK 36 Mod 6 Decoy Launching System. The MDE total value remained \$369.4 million; however, the non-MDE estimated value increased from \$571 million to \$810.6 million. The total estimated case value increased to \$1.18 billion.

This transmittal notifies the MDE inclusion of up to an additional sixty-two (62) SM-2 Block IIIB missiles in tactical and telemetered configurations. Also included are MK 13 canisters; spare parts and associated containers; personal training and training equipment; publications and technical data; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of these items will result in a net increase in MDE value of \$260 million, resulting in a revised MDE value of \$629.4 million. The non-MDE estimated value will increase from \$810.6 million to \$850.6 million. The total estimated case value will increase by \$300 million to \$1.48 billion.

(iv) Significance: The proposed articles and services will support Spain's capability to commission its new F-110 frigates with the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS).

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Spain in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 27, 2023.

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SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EMERGING THREATS AND  
SPENDING OVERSIGHT RULES OF  
PROCEDURE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 21, 2023, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

118TH CONGRESS RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

(February 21, 2023)

1. Subcommittee rules. The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Quorums.

A. Transaction of routine business. One-third of the membership of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Member of the Minority is present. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "routine business" includes the convening of a meeting and the consideration of any business of the Subcommittee other than reporting to the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs any measures, matters, or recommendations.

B. Taking testimony. One Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking sworn or unsworn testimony.

C. Proxies prohibited in establishment of quorum. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

3. Subcommittee subpoenas. The Chair of the Subcommittee, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing, provided that the Chair may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by the Chair of disapproval of the subpoena within 2 calendar days, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and legal holidays in which the Senate is not in session, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

Immediately upon authorization of the issuance of a subpoena under these rules, a written notice of intent to issue the subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member for the full Committee, by the Subcommittee Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 2 calendar days, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs waive the 2-calendar day waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chair certifies in writing to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee that, in the opinion of the Chair, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

When the Subcommittee or its Chair authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chair or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chair.

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SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each

committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 22, 2023, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

118TH CONGRESS RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

(February 22, 2023)

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE RULES. The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) QUORUMS. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter. One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that one Member of the minority is present. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

(3) TAKING TESTIMONY. In any hearings conducted by the Subcommittee, the Chair or the Chair's designee may swear in each witness prior to their testimony.

(4) SUBCOMMITTEE SUBPEONAS. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chair, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by him or her, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, provided that the Chair may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chair or a staff officer designated by him or her has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by him or her of disapproval of the subpoena within two calendar days excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If the subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by a vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chair, or a staff officer designated by him or her, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least two calendar days, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs waive the two-calendar day waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chair certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minor-

ity Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue the subpoena immediately.

SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 23, 2023, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

118TH CONGRESS RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

(February 23, 2023)

1. No public hearing connected with an investigation may be held without the approval of either the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or a Majority of the Members of the Subcommittee. In all cases, notification to all Subcommittee Members of the intent to hold hearings must be given at least 7 days in advance to the date of the hearing. The Ranking Minority Member should be kept fully apprised of preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings. Preliminary inquiries may be initiated by the Subcommittee Majority staff upon the approval of the Chair and notice of such approval to the Ranking Minority Member, Minority Staff Director, or the Minority Chief Counsel. Preliminary inquiries may be undertaken by the Minority staff upon the approval of the Ranking Minority Member and notice of such approval to the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel. Investigations may be undertaken upon the approval of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member with notice of such approval to all Members of the Subcommittee.

No public hearing shall be held if the Minority Members of the Subcommittee unanimously object, unless the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (the "Committee") approves of such public hearing by a majority vote.

Senate Rules will govern all closed sessions convened by the Subcommittee (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate).

2. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chair, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chair, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at

least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Chair certifies in writing to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in the Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

3. The Chair shall have the authority to call meetings of the Subcommittee. This authority may be delegated by the Chair to any other Member of the Subcommittee when necessary.

4. If at least three Members of the Subcommittee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file, in the office of the Subcommittee, a written request therefor, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee Members may file in the office of the Subcommittee their written notice that a special Subcommittee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Subcommittee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Subcommittee clerk shall notify all Subcommittee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

5. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter.

One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Subcommittee business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that at least one member of the minority is present.

6. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

7. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, witness counsel, or any spectator conducts themselves in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chair or presiding Member of the Subcommittee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, a representative of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

8. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing and to advise such witness while the witness is testifying of the witness's legal 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 Chair may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association, or by counsel representing another witness, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by Subcommittee staff or during testimony before the Subcommittee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association, or by personal counsel not representing another witness. This rule shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event witness counsel is ejected for conduct preventing, impeding,

disrupting, obstructing, or interfering with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this rule be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

#### 9. Depositions.

9.1 Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Subcommittee shall be authorized and issued by the Chair. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee shall be kept fully apprised of the authorization for the taking of depositions. Such notices shall specify a time and place of examination, and the name of the Subcommittee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. The deposition shall be in private. The Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee subpoena.

9.2 Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 8.

9.3 Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Subcommittee Members or staff. Objections by the witness as to the form of questions shall be noted for the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Subcommittee Members or 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 the Chair or such Subcommittee Member as designated by the Chair. If the Chair or designated Member overrules the objection, these Members may refer the matter to the Subcommittee or may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after being ordered and directed to answer by the Chair or designated Member.

9.4 Filing. The Subcommittee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded. If it is transcribed, the witness shall be furnished with a copy for review pursuant to the provisions of Rule 12. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in the individual's presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the Subcommittee clerk. Subcommittee staff may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from the obligation to testify truthfully.

10. Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel 48 hours in advance of the hearings at which the statement is to be presented unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement. The Subcommittee shall determine whether such statement may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

11. A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during testimony, television, motion picture, and other cameras and lights, shall not be directed at the

witness. Such requests shall be ruled on by the Subcommittee Members present at the hearing.

12. An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of a witness's own testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or witness counsel under Subcommittee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness at the witness's expense if requested.

13. Interrogation of witnesses at Subcommittee hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Subcommittee by Subcommittee Members and authorized Subcommittee staff personnel only.

14. Any person who is the subject of an investigation in public hearings may submit to the Chair questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Subcommittee. With the consent of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee present and voting, these questions, or paraphrased versions of them, shall be put to the witness by the Chair, by a Member of the Subcommittee, or by counsel of the Subcommittee.

15. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified, and who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or comment made by a Subcommittee Member or counsel, tends to defame the person or otherwise adversely affect the person's reputation, may (a) request to appear personally before the Subcommittee to testify, or, in the alternative, (b) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or comment complained of. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration and action.

If a person requests to appear personally before the Subcommittee pursuant to alternative (a) referred to herein, said request shall be considered untimely if it is not received by the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel in writing on or before thirty (30) days subsequent to the day on which said person's name was mentioned or otherwise specifically identified during a public hearing held before the Subcommittee, unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement.

If a person requests to file a sworn statement pursuant to alternative (b) referred to herein, the Subcommittee may condition the filing of said sworn statement upon said person agreeing to appear personally before the Subcommittee and to testify concerning the matters contained in the person's sworn statement, as well as any other matters related to the subject of the investigation before the Subcommittee.

16. All testimony taken in executive session shall be kept secret and will not be released for public information without the approval of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee.

17. No Subcommittee report shall be released to the public unless approved by a majority of the Subcommittee and after no less than 10 days' notice and opportunity for comment by the Members of the Subcommittee unless the need for such notice and opportunity to comment has been waived in writing by a majority of the Minority Members of the Subcommittee.

18. The Ranking Minority Member may select for appointment to the Subcommittee staff a Chief Counsel for the Minority and such other professional staff and clerical as-

sistants as the Ranking Minority Member deems advisable. The total compensation allocated to such Minority staff shall be not less than one-third the total amount allocated for all Subcommittee staff salaries during any given year. The Minority staff shall work under the direction and supervision of the Ranking Minority Member. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Chief Counsel shall be kept fully informed as to preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings, and shall have access to all material in the files of the Subcommittee.

19. When it is determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, or by a majority of the Subcommittee, that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law may have occurred, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member by letter, or the Subcommittee by resolution, are authorized to report such violation to the proper State, local and/or Federal authorities. Such letter or report may recite the basis for the determination of reasonable cause. This rule is not authority for release of documents or testimony.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO KIM GREENWOOD

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, each spring, women from across the Volunteer State gather to vie for the title of Miss Tennessee USA. Those who shine brightest earn the privilege of competing for Miss USA's coveted crown; but more importantly, they set an example for young women in their own communities.

For 30 years, my friend and fellow Tennessean Kim Greenwood has mentored scores of dreamers seeking their place in this family of civic leaders. As executive director of the Miss Tennessee USA and Miss Tennessee Teen USA State Pageants, Kim has transformed these competitions into opportunities for growth and self-discovery. A former Tennessee Junior Miss and Miss Tennessee USA herself, she knows better than most how to empower ambitious young women to become positive examples of service and success that will transform the lives of little girls back home.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to thank Kim for helping so many young women harness their potential and build for themselves the beautiful and fulfilling lives they have always dreamed of. ●

### TRIBUTE TO FREDRICK D. SCHAUFELD

● Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend, Fredrick D. Schaufeld, for receiving the 2023 Horatio Alger Award. Fred has spent decades giving back to his community by creating job opportunities and a path to prosperity for so many, while at the same time contributing significantly to philanthropic efforts. No one is more deserving of this honor than Fred Schaufeld.

The Horatio Alger Award symbolizes the values of personal initiative and perseverance, leadership, and commitment to excellence, belief in the free-

enterprise system and the importance of higher education, community service, and the vision and determination to achieve a better future. These are the ideals that serve as Fred's North Star.

Throughout his career, Fred has exemplified the best of American exceptionalism. In addition to his time in the private sector, Fred has spent decades giving back to his community, whether through his time as the chairman of the Inova Health System Foundation or through his participation on the board of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Additionally, and one of my personal favorites, Fred is a recipient of the Loudoun Laurels award and the Loudoun County Boy Scouts' Good Scout award.

I would also like to congratulate his wife Karen for her contributions to these causes over the decades. I know firsthand how important a supportive partner like Karen can be, and I am so pleased that you both are recognized in such an appropriate manner for your efforts.

Congratulations.●

#### RECOGNIZING SER FAMILIA

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend and celebrate Ser Familia, an organization in Atlanta focused on helping Georgia's Latino families gain the tools and resources to solve challenges and flourish in their communities.

Natives of Puerto Rico, Belisa and Miguel Urbina cofounded Ser Familia in 2001. For more than 20 years, Ser Familia's vision to assist Latino families reach their full potential and become contributing members of their communities has changed the lives of hundreds of families across Georgia. From teaching youth character building and leadership skills to offering counseling services on behavioral and mental health, Ser Familia continues to expand its positive impact on the Latino community by developing programs that are tailored to address the greatest needs of youth, couples, parents, and families.

As I have said before, the State of Georgia is home to a vibrant and diverse Latino community, and I am grateful for the extraordinary contributions of people like Belisa and Miguel Urbina who work tirelessly every single day to guarantee that all members of the Latino community have access to opportunities that help them thrive. I have enjoyed working closely with Belisa and Miguel to deliver the resources to help Ser Familia open a family resource center in Clayton County, helping expand their comprehensive services to the community.

I join with our Latino community to commemorate the remarkable work and contributions of Ser Familia to the Atlanta community, the State of Georgia, and the United States. Their leadership is a reminder of the outstanding contributions of Latino Americans who

are committed to moving Georgia and our country forward.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to recognize and commend Belisa and Miguel Urbina for their service on behalf of Georgia's Latino families and congratulate them on Ser Familia's success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. EVANS P. WHITAKER

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor Dr. Evans P. Whitaker, who has dedicated his life and career to our State and the advancement of Anderson University. In November of 2002, Dr. Whitaker assumed the presidency of Anderson University following nearly two decades in higher education leadership, where he served at Gardner-Webb University, Wingate University, and Belmont University. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 20 years of outstanding service from Dr. Whitaker and Anderson's first lady, Diane Whitaker.

Under his leadership, Anderson University has evolved into the largest private university in the State. Dr. Whitaker also led the efforts to create the South Carolina School of Arts, a premier arts conservatory, to establish the school of nursing and to form the college of engineering. In addition to new degree programs, Anderson has experienced consistent growth in enrollment, freshman retention, and campus acreage. His visionary leadership has allowed innovation to enhance education and the quality of life in our State.

Anderson University's beautiful campus is a resource to the upstate and our State. Home to the Rocky River Conservancy, Anderson promotes conservation, outdoor recreation, and educational opportunities for the community. Clearly bearing the personal touch of Dr. and Mrs. Whitaker are the beautiful buildings, picturesque Alumni Lawn and enhancements across campus that Anderson students and residents alike enjoy.

For 20 years, Dr. and Mrs. Whitaker have helped Anderson University reach new heights of success through increased academic offerings, higher rankings, and solid institutional ratings. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Whitaker has been recognized in Anderson and across South Carolina for his leadership, unwavering service, and vast contributions to our great State. Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Whitaker on this distinction and for reaching this significant milestone. Thank you for your excellent stewardship of Anderson University.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members to the House Communications Standards Commission: Mr. CAREY of Ohio, Mr. LATTA of Ohio, and Mrs. CAMMACK of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. MAST of Florida, Mrs. STEEL of California, Mr. ZINKE of Montana, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama, Mr. HUDSON of North Carolina, Mrs. SPARTZ of Indiana, and Mr. LAWLER of New York.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 532. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

#### 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-495. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural eConnectivity Program" (RIN0572-AC62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-496. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updates to Servicing Requirements for Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans" (RIN0570-AB08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-497. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 306C Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) Loans and Grants" (RLN0572-AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-498. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluopyram; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10566-01-OC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-499. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Decrease in Assessment Rate and Importer Assessments" (Docket No. AMS-LP-22-0032) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-500. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Peptide Derived from Harpin Protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10572-01-OC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-501. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan that was declared in Executive Order 14064 of February 11, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-502. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of 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; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-503. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-504. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-505. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-506. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-507. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-508. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-509. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13288 with respect to Zimbabwe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-510. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments" (12 CFR Part 1083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-511. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-512. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview (FY 2023)"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 527. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 528. A bill to require a standard financial aid offer form, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 529. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the impaneling of a new jury if a jury fails to recommend by unanimous vote a sentence for conviction of a crime punishable by death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 530. A bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 531. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 532. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities; read the first time.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 533. A bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support people with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 534. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 535. A bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 536. A bill to authorize the confiscation of assets of the Russian Federation and the use of such assets to offset costs to the United States of assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 537. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 538. A bill to prohibit the removal of Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism until Cuba satisfies certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. Res. 79. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 26, 2023, to March 4, 2023, as “National Fentanyl Awareness Week” and raising awareness of the negative impacts of fentanyl in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 27, a bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from requiring contractors to provide information relating to greenhouse gas emissions.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer’s Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) 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. 176

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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. 298

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 319

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to place limitations on excepting positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America’s public safety officers.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services for eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 501

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 26, 2023, TO MARCH 4, 2023, AS “NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS WEEK” AND RAISING AWARENESS OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF FENTANYL IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 79

Whereas, as of August 2022, drug overdoses during the previous 12 months claimed a reported 101,552 lives in the United States;

Whereas countless families in the United States are now facing the unimaginable pain

of losing a child, mother, father, sibling, or loved one taken by deadly, illegal fentanyl;

Whereas the life expectancy in the United States has dropped to its lowest point in 2 decades, in part because of street drugs like fentanyl;

Whereas fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and is considered the deadliest drug threat in the United States;

Whereas drug traffickers use illicit fentanyl to produce fake and counterfeit pills;

Whereas drug traffickers are using fentanyl-laced fake and counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis in the United States;

Whereas those illicit drugs are primarily made in secret factories in Mexico with chemicals mostly from China;

Whereas, without laboratory testing, there is no safe way to know how much fentanyl is concentrated in a pill or powder;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency has issued warnings about brightly-colored fentanyl-laced pills being used to target young individuals in the United States;

Whereas less than 2 milligrams is considered a deadly dose of fentanyl;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency announced that in 2022 alone, the Drug Enforcement Agency seized over 379,000,000 doses of potentially deadly fentanyl, enough to kill every individual in the United States, which included—

(1) more than 50,600,000 fentanyl-laced pills; and

(2) 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than 17,000 pounds of fentanyl in fiscal year 2022;

Whereas fentanyl has also been found in street drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine; and

Whereas, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl-related poisonings are currently the leading cause of death for individuals in the United States ages 18 to 49: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for their work in combating the fentanyl crisis;

(2) applauds the work of treatment and recovery organizations that help individuals with substance use disorder;

(3) encourages all individuals to only use medication prescribed by their physician;

(4) encourages individuals suffering from substance use disorder to seek assistance; and

(5) designates February 26, 2023, through March 4, 2023, as “National Fentanyl Awareness Week”.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Kimberly T. Glas, of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST  
TIME—S. 532

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 532) to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

Ms. SMITH. 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 receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following

the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Walker nomination, postcloture; that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate vote on confirmation of the Walker nomination and that following the cloture vote on the Whitehead nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked on the Whitehead nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Martinez-Olguin nomination, the vote on confirmation be at 4:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VERNELLE TRIM FITZPATRICK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GABONESE REPUBLIC.

WILLIAM W. POPP, OF MISSOURI, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

THE JUDICIARY

S. KATO CREWS, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE RAYMOND P. MOORE, RETIRING.

MOLLY R. SILFEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE SUSAN G. BRADEN, TERM EXPIRED.

JABARI BROOKS WAMBLE, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS, VICE JULIE A. ROBINSON, RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS W. HARRELL  
BRIG. GEN. JEANNINE M. RYDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

MAXIMILIAN S. LEE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

JUSTIN J. REEB

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MUSICAL BARBARA LEWIS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of R&B sound who hails not from a musical capital like Detroit, Chicago, or New York, but from a small town in Michigan's 7th district: South Lyon.

Barbara Lewis was born into a powerful legacy, as the great-granddaughter of Civil War veteran, John W. Lewis. She was also born with a musical heritage, as her bandleader father played trumpet, her mother and uncle played saxophone, and her aunt was a music teacher. Surrounded by this symphony of sound, it's no surprise that Barbara began playing piano, guitar, and harmonica at an early age, writing songs at age nine, and singing lead vocals at family jam sessions in her teens. While Barbara told her friends and family she had no intention of pursuing music as a career, a meeting with Ollie McLaughlin, an Ann Arbor DJ-turned-producer and manager changed all that, and changed the course of her life.

Impressed by her talent and her original songs, McLaughlin signed Barbara on the spot. In 1962, she recorded her first two singles. One of them, a peppy, upbeat piece called "My Heart Went Do Oat Da" was, according to Barbara, written on her upright piano while she was babysitting one night while still attending South Lyon High School.

Lewis holds the distinction of being the first Michigan artist to record for Atlantic Records, and in the span of her career, she went on to record three Top Ten R&B hits for McLaughlin's record label, including the number one smash, "Hello Stranger." She also had 10 songs on Billboard's Hot 100 during the 1960s, ranking her second to only Aretha Franklin in terms of chart success for female solo artists from the state of Michigan.

Barbara recorded songs at the legendary Motown studios in Detroit and performed with some of the greatest R&B artists of her time. Many of her songs have been remade and remastered and live on today, including by Queen Latifah, with others featured on hit movie soundtracks including "The Bridges of Madison County."

Barbara returned to Michigan in 1971, following stints in New York and Chicago, and lived many years in her home state before relocating to Florida. She received the Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1999, and in 2016, Barbara Lewis was inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame. While health issues forced her to retire from singing in 2017, I ask that her legendary sound and contributions to the arts be forever recorded in our hearts.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JACQUELINE DELORISE SMITH

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an inspiring woman of God, a loving wife, dedicated, doting grandmother, pace setting trailblazer, and friend to humankind, Reverend Jacqueline Delorise Smith. A retirement reception attended by her family, many friends and well-wishers was held on February 18, 2023, at 3:00 pm in Columbus, Georgia.

Reverend Smith's remarkable life began in Grady County, Georgia. She was educated in the Grady County School System at Washington Consolidated High School. She obtained her post-secondary education degrees in Sociology from both Thomas University and Bainbridge University.

Her professional pursuits took her to be the lead Psychiatric Assistant at Southwestern State Hospital and a Social Worker at Georgia Pine for the State of Georgia, serving for a period of 31 years. A multi-talented individual, she also trained as a Practical Nurse and worked as a CPR Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician and Home Health Technician.

Reverend's Smith's life was changed forever when she answered the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of her commitment to the Gospel and to God's people she was ordained as a Deacon in 1990 and in 1992 was elected to be an Itinerant Elder. She presented her first trial sermon in September of 1987.

Her pastoral care has taken her to many churches, often serving as the first female Pastor in these houses of God. She has served at the following churches during her powerful ministry to include Bryant Chapel in Reno, Georgia, Rock Hill in Beachton, Georgia, Saint John AME Church, Cedar Springs AME in Whigham, Georgia, she was the second female Pastor in Bainbridge, Georgia. This was followed by service at the St. Peter AME Church in Camilla, Georgia and the Bethel AME Church (Circuit) in Attapulgus, Georgia.

In 2004, her historical accomplishments on behalf of the Kingdom continued when she was appointed the first female Presiding Elder in the South Georgia Conference by Bishop Frank C. Cummings. She continued to pastor churches while serving as the presiding Elder to include Mount Olive in Ocilla, Georgia, Bethel AME in Alaptha, Georgia, St. Pete AMEA in Valdosta, Georgia, St. Paul AME in Valdosta, Georgia, Peyton AME in Claytonville/Valdosta, Georgia, Francis Lake in Lake Park, Georgia Bethel AME in Fitzgerald, Georgia and ATOC AME in Dawson, Georgia.

Her life is an example of how one person can make a difference when carrying out God's will for their lives. Presiding Elder Smith has served her God and she has served him well.

Presiding Elder has accomplished much in her life but none of her successes would have been possible without the Love of God and support of her husband, Charles Dewey Smith who serves as an area consultant of the Southwest Georgia District, their three children and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District and my colleagues extend their congratulations to Presiding Elder in honor of her distinguished career in service to God and humankind. May the next phase of her life be filled with happiness and a continued servant's heart.

RECOGNIZING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, February 26 marks the 31st anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan. Khojaly, which is in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were entirely killed.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can come together and find peace. Escalation of conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is not in the interest of the South Caucasus. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation would greatly benefit the region and the world.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included sending significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine during the ongoing war with Russia; playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

• 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 CIVIL WAR VETERAN ALEX-  
ANDER JOHNSON

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who should have been hailed as a hero, but for too long his story was lost in history. Alexander Johnson was a Black Civil War Veteran who lived and worked in Owosso in the late 1800s, and when a group of white residents chased most Black folks out of town, Johnson and two other Black men refused to go.

Born in Tennessee in 1833, Johnson fled slavery and made his way to Michigan before enlisting in a Union regiment of African Americans in Kalamazoo to fight in the Civil War, then moving to Canada at the war's end, and later returning to Michigan to settle in Owosso with his wife.

No one knows for sure why he chose Owosso. Some historians believe Johnson's wife may have had family nearby. Others surmise he might have had connections to a home in Owosso rumored to be part of the Underground Railroad, and still others say that at the time, the growing community was a place where people of all races moved to explore economic opportunity. Whatever the reason, Owosso is where Alexander Johnson chose to put down roots, opening up a downtown barbershop and was, by all accounts, a well-liked businessman and respected member of the community.

Unfortunately, the good times did not last long, as racial tensions grew and the Ku Klux Klan became active in the county. The tensions culminated in 1871 when 40 white vigilantes gathered together and attempted to drive all the Black residents out of town. There is little we know about this dark moment in Owosso's history, but we do know that Alexander Johnson was a light that would not be extinguished. Johnson stayed in Owosso, along with two other Black men, until he died. In 1907 Johnson received a military burial at Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, and his story was buried with him for more than 100 years.

There are those who seek to ignore or even wipe away the more painful pieces of our history, and there are those who understand that we cannot ever be great without acknowledging our failures, learning from our mistakes, and moving forward with a commitment to grow. The Owosso Rotary Club falls into the latter category, as they were the ones not just to uncover Johnson's story, but to acknowledge it and honor it as a piece of Owosso's history.

Alexander Johnson was formally recognized by the Owosso Rotary on Veterans Day 2021 with a solemn ceremony at his gravesite. It is only fitting that I, too, join in paying tribute to this brave man whose convictions led him first out of slavery, then to fight for a country he believed in, to establish the life he wanted, and to stay in the community that he loved. May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING JAYNE HARPER  
PLANK

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, with Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the remarkable life of my constituent, Jayne Harper Plank, who passed away on February 23, 2023. Jayne dedicated her life to civic service, philanthropy, and historic preservation, and she will be greatly missed by her beloved family, her many friends, and our entire community.

Jayne grew up in Washington, D.C. and graduated from George Washington University. She served on the Kensington Town Council for 7 years and in 1974 became the first woman elected mayor of Kensington, ultimately serving 4 terms.

In honor of her extraordinary civic service to the town, the renovated Kensington Cabin, originally built in 1934, was renamed the Mayor Jayne H. Plank Kensington Cabin.

In 1982, President Reagan appointed Jayne as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the State Department, a position she held for 5 years. Jayne served as a liaison to governors, mayors, county officials and state legislators on the administration's policies. She also worked as a cryptologic linguist for the National Security Agency.

Jayne was active in historic preservation, philanthropic and civic organizations. She was the first woman elected President of the Maryland Municipal League and the first woman to serve as the State of Maryland's representative to the National League of Cities.

Jayne was also appointed to the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission and served on the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Board of Trustees of Tudor House in Georgetown, and the Maryland Historical Society. She was active with the Women's Leadership Group of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and the Citizen's Association of Georgetown. In 2016, Sister Cities International recognized Jayne for her work building strong international relationships.

Jayne was the beloved wife of the late William H. Plank, Sr. She is survived by her loving family, including her sons William Plank, Stuart Plank, John Scott Plank, Colin Harper Plank and Kevin Audette Plank; her grandchildren, Jack, Casey, Eve, Jesse, Campbell, Talya, Aitan, James and Katherine; and sisters Peggy Defranceaux and Donna Miller.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life and legacy of my trailblazing constituent, Jayne Harper Plank.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN  
WARS DEPARTMENT OF VIR-  
GINIA

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the centennial of the Veterans

of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia (Virginia VFW). For the last 100 years and counting, the Virginia VFW has provided critical services and support to Virginia's veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters formally chartered the Virginia VFW in February 1923. The Virginia VFW's members then formally organized in March 1923 in Norfolk, Virginia. Its founding members included veterans from the Spanish-American War and World War I. Membership in the Virginia VFW has grown substantially since its founding in 1923: it originally had 13 Posts and 663 members; now, it has 128 Posts and over 40,000 members. The Virginia VFW's membership includes members from all branches of the military and represents conflicts over the past 100 years.

The Virginia VFW's mission is: "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and their families. To advocate on behalf of all veterans."

The Virginia VFW advocated for the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for the passage of the Montgomery GI Bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and the PACT Act. These are just a few of the many pieces of legislation they successfully supported that have helped countless veterans.

Additionally, the Virginia VFW's Service Claims Agents ensured that Virginia veterans received over \$13 million in earned benefits that otherwise may have been lost. Furthermore, Virginia VFW members avidly support their local communities. In the last five years, the Virginia VFW's members volunteered for 1,233,783 hours and donated \$9,155,822—of which the combined value is \$41,840,483. I have no doubt that the Virginia VFW will continue to fulfill its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in celebration and honor of the centennial of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia. May God bless the Virginia VFW and its members as they continue to serve veterans, veterans' families, and their communities.

RECOGNIZING MR. GERALD MIXON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mr. Gerald Mixon, on his retirement as the Planning Director of the Middle Flint Area Planning and Development Corporation and the River Valley Regional Commission after 47 years of service. His retirement celebration was held on February 17, 2023 at the River Valley Regional Commission in Americus, Georgia.

For nearly five decades, Gerald has been a dedicated leader in the Middle and Southwest Georgia community, helping to bring much-needed resources and development opportunities to multiple counties in Georgia's Second District, including Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, and Webster counties. During his tenure, he has successfully applied

for countless federal programs to spur community development projects in his community, and he has been instrumental in working with local government and the various federal departments and agencies to improve the quality of life for Georgians.

As the Planning Director for the Middle Flint Area Planning and Development Corporation and the River Valley Regional Commission, Gerald Mixon has become a vital resource to the dozens of local government officials and non-profit institutions that fall within his reach. His deep knowledge and experience of the grant-writing process and bottom-up community development has positioned him to serve as an essential lifeline for these community leaders who often seek technical assistance and sound advice as they work to improve their communities and neighborhoods. His service in this regard served the community tremendously as local officials are often tasked with working together to implement region-wide projects under the Community Development Block Grant, including in transportation and infrastructure, housing, and anti-poverty programs.

Gerald has built an impressive career in his lifetime, planning and overseeing the successful completion of countless community development projects, including leading the efforts to implement numerous comprehensive plans for efficient and sustainable solid waste management in the Middle Flint and River Valley Regions. Amid frequent destructive tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe weather-related incidents, Gerald authored eight pre-disaster plans for counties and cities across the region to help mitigate damage and the need for costly repairs following disasters. And he modernized his region's public safety apparatus by conceptualizing and organizing a seven-county Enhanced 911 center covering the largest service area in Georgia that went on to become the Middle Flint E-911 system, which is still in operation today.

Gerald has accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Diane, and his three children, Heather, Stuart and David.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." The Middle and Southwest Georgia region is a better place today because Gerald Mixon gave so much to so many for so long to make our communities stronger, better place to live. As a man of tremendous work ethic, organizational talent, vision, and tact, his life's work has helped create prosperity and opportunities in Georgia that many may have once not thought possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Gerald Mixon upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career of service to his beloved community.

HONORING THE GROUNDBREAKING  
CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
CARRIE OWENS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an extraordinary educator who shaped the lives of thousands of mid-Michigan students during her groundbreaking career.

Carrie Owens grew up in Florida during the time of segregation and high racial tensions, and she knew from an early age she wanted to work toward dismantling the systems she saw all around her. Though her parents had no formal education, they pushed their kids to have what they had not, and a young Carrie thrived in school. She eventually became a teacher and was hired by Okemos Public Schools in 1964, becoming the first Black teacher in the district.

It's said that when Mrs. Owens first interviewed for a job at Cornell Elementary School in Okemos, she vowed to help each student individually, because she recognized what many even in education circles did not yet grasp—that all students learn at different paces and in different ways. Just as she thrived in school, Owens did everything to ensure her students did the same, and she was put in charge of a transitional class of elementary students, who up until that point had had limited success in school. Owens made sure each of her students progressed to grade level, and empowered them to understand how they learned.

Word of her tireless dedication to student success and her innovative teaching philosophy spread quickly, and many families moved to Okemos just so their children could be in her class.

By the time she retired from teaching in 2001, she had touched thousands of young lives and helped change the face of education in the community. Not only did her hiring pave the way for other teachers of color, by the end of career Okemos had its first Black superintendent, and the district was overall a more diverse, inclusive community.

As we mark Black History Month, I salute Carrie Owens, who is Black history in Okemos. This trailblazing teacher has left her mark on the hearts and minds of the entire community, and we are so much better for her service. May her lessons live on in all the students she touched, and in all the lives she changed.

HONORING YING LEE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of my dear friend and first legislative director, Ying Lee, and her incredible contributions to her community and our country. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Ying's children, Sarah and Max, her grandchildren, Max Jr. Kelley, and Olivia, and Ying's entire extended family. They are all in my prayers during this difficult time.

Ms. Lee's story is one of tremendous perseverance, resilience, and fortitude in the face of struggle. Born in China, Ms. Lee arrived in the United States as a refugee from Shanghai during World War II. Her life before immigrating was marked with hardship, as Ms. Lee faced firsthand the brutal realities that stem from war and militarization. By the young age of 13, Ms. Lee had survived more than most people do in a lifetime, witnessing poverty, famine, and sickness, all brought on by devastating warfare. Her experiences in childhood were fundamental in shaping Ms. Lee's identity as an activist, educator, city councilmember, and anti-war movement icon.

Her family's escape from an invading Japanese army brought Ms. Lee to the Bay Area. Settling in Berkeley, Ms. Lee spent most of her fighting for progress, peace, and equity, as a councilmember and as my legislative director. Her journey in political activism began in the halls of UC Berkeley, where Ms. Lee studied political science, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees. There, she became involved in the civil rights movement, fighting for racial justice; and the anti-war movement, calling for an end to the Vietnam war.

Ms. Lee's commitment to serving the greater good began with her career as a teacher at Berkeley High School, where she spent years educating young minds. In 1973, Ms. Lee made history as Berkeley's first Asian American council member and helped shape the city's ongoing legacy as a haven for progressive politics. She continued her journey in public service as a Congressional aide for Congressman Ron Dellums and, later, for myself, as my first Legislative Director when I came to Congress. Here in D.C., Ms. Lee spent years by my side advocating for equity, global peace, and legislative change. Together, we worked to advance global peace and security on many fronts, including our visit to Japan to discuss the consequences of war in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Ms. Lee's work to advance equity measures included her contributions to the Living Wage, Jobs For All Act, which sought to codify basic economic rights for all Americans and improve the quality of life.

Ying Lee was a tireless warrior, as her activism never ceased. In 2020, Ms. Lee joined historic crowds of people to fight for Black Lives, marching in the streets of Berkeley with her "Black Lives Matter" sign. At 83, she protested the closure of Berkeley's post office, handing out pamphlets and participating in rallies. Ms. Lee exemplified a true public servant, an advocate, and fierce warrior for justice.

I spoke with Ying two weeks before her passing. She sounded strong and energetic. As always, she encouraged me to keep fighting the good fight. While I will always remember our last conversation with a heavy heart, I will meet our challenges head on with Ying's fervor and passion, in her honor.

While we mourn her loss, we celebrate her remarkable life, which will be remembered as one of love, passion, compassion, dedication, and brilliance. Her legacy will provide us guidance in rising to the occasion as we continue her fight for peace and justice. I loved Ying and will miss her tremendously. May she Rest in Peace and Power.

HONORING DORIS “JILL” CARSON

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Doris “Jill” Carson, of Pennington Gap, Virginia. A native Bostonian, Mrs. Carson was a beloved figure in the Pennington Gap community since moving to the town in 1986.

An active member of her Pennington Gap community, Mrs. Carson served as a Member of the Town Council since 2014, the first African American woman to hold the office, and as Vice Mayor since 2019. Shortly before her passing, she was elected as the President of the Virginia Municipal League. She spent many years volunteering for the Lee High School guidance department, assisting students with college applications. She also served as a member of the Wells Chapel Church choir.

Known for her skilled community organizing and engagement work, Mrs. Carson dedicated her life to raising the voices of the unheard. As a community organizer, she was involved in several matters, including the reformation of the jury selection process in Lee County, the restoration of voting rights to nonviolent felons in Virginia, and the reopening of Lee County’s only hospital.

She, along with her husband Ron, co-founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in Pennington Gap, to highlight the experiences and history of African Americans in Lee County. They collected oral histories from Black residents in rural Appalachia, while also hosting seminars on racism and oppression.

Mrs. Carson is survived by her husband of 45 years, Ron Carson, and two children Kevin and wife Jacintha Carson (Alexandria, VA) and Alexis and husband Mark Perkins (Bristol, VA). Additionally, two precious granddaughters Zara and Mya Carson, sister Jackie Barrows and husband Anthony, special niece and nephew Tracey Stanley and Troy Johnson, mother-in-law Shirley Taylor, uncle Roy Carson and cousin April Matthews. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

She leaves behind a lasting legacy in Southwest Virginia and, her presence and friendship will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL MOORE FOR HER RETIREMENT FROM A CAREER OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheryl Moore, a true servant-leader who is retiring this month after forty years of service to the residents and communities across Central Florida and Florida’s Space Coast.

For the last 13 years Cheryl has been a cherished member of my staff, serving as Director of Community Relations covering North Brevard and Orange County and assisting constituents all over the District resolve com-

plex cases involving federal agencies like the IRS, OPM, Postal Service, veterans’ benefits, and Medicare to name a few.

Cheryl began her public service career in 1984 as a member of the Orange County Code Enforcement Board, a position she held for eight years. Cheryl would go on to make significant contributions to the state legislature, serving as Chief Legislative Aide to State Representative Tom Feeney and later State Senator John Ostalkiewicz. Cheryl even worked as a staff member in the State Redistricting Office, helping oversee the operation to draw new State Legislature and Congressional Districts. In 2000, she returned to the Florida House as top aide to then-Florida House Speaker Feeney, and upon his successful election to Congress, served as his District Director from 2002 to 2008. Before joining the 8th Congressional District staff, Cheryl served in the same role for Congresswoman Sandy Adams.

Cheryl is known as a trailblazer for women and a legend in her industry, often setting the standard for professional and effective public service. Throughout her career Cheryl was recognized with the President’s Award from the Orange County Sheriffs Office, the Seminole County Sheriffs Office Legislative Award and the Orange County Sheriffs Award for “Exceptional Leadership” for restoring the special risk assessment for law enforcement to 3 percent. However, what Cheryl is truly known for is her caring servant’s heart and the difference she has made in the lives of so many.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cheryl Moore on her long and distinguished service and wishing her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING HIRAM ARCHER, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE OF OLIVET COLLEGE

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the first African American college athletes and scholars who paved the way for students of color across the state of Michigan and this Nation.

Hiram Archer was the first student of color to be officially documented as a graduate of Olivet College, located in Eaton County, in Michigan’s 7th Congressional District. He attended Olivet from 1888 through 1904, and played on the school’s varsity baseball team, making him one of the first ten Black athletes in the nation to play intercollegiate sports. While a student at Olivet, Archer was active in music and other creative endeavors. A gifted public speaker, Archer won several oratory and debate contests, and spoke at prominent events including the inauguration of College President William G. Sperry in 1893. The school considers him to be a model representative of both the history and the future goals for students of color at Olivet College.

Archer remained at Olivet to complete his Master’s degree in science, and went on to earn a doctorate. He went on to serve in leadership positions at several academic institutions, including Director of Science and Assist-

ant Principal in the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Normal, Alabama, which is today known as Alabama A & M University. He finished his career with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as a nationally-recognized scientist. Archer passed away in 1945 having made Olivet College and the state of Michigan proud. His alma mater says Archer’s life’s work is a testament to Olivet College’ academic vision: Education for Individual and Social Responsibility.

According to Olivet’s current President, Dr. Steven M. Corey, Archer’s successes were extraordinary for anyone, but for an African American in the late 1800s, they were truly groundbreaking and added much to the rich Black history that has shaped the college and this country. Dr. Corey says he is proud that Hiram Archer is an Olivet College alumnus and left such an incredible legacy.

Today, his legacy lives on at Olivet College, with the Hiram Archer Student Success Academy, a mentorship and support group for students of color on campus. I ask that he be forever remembered for his pioneering contributions to the great state of Michigan.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN DARR

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, dedicated father, seasoned law enforcement executive, dear friend of longstanding to my wife Vivian and me, Lieutenant Colonel John Darr. An event celebrating his remarkable career in law enforcement was held on Thursday, February 23 at the Saint Luke Ministry Center in Columbus, Georgia.

The journey of Lieutenant Colonel Darr began in Fort Benning, Georgia. He attended Hardaway High School and Columbus State University.

Lieutenant Colonel Darr began his career with Muscogee County Sheriffs Office in 1988 serving in a variety of bureaus to include The Fugitive Apprehension Bureau, The Jail Bureau, Patrol Bureau, Court Bureau, and Investigative Bureau.

Because of his vast experience and his penchant for service, Lieutenant Colonel Darr ran for and was elected Sheriff of Muscogee County in 2008. He was subsequently re-elected in 2012. During his tenure as Sheriff, Lieutenant Colonel Darr was a visionary leader who organized various community outreach programs. One of the first programs that he initiated was a program called project lifesaver. This program was the first of its kind in Muscogee County.

The program provided tracking bands to families of program individuals with cognitive disabilities to Autism and Alzheimer’s. A compassionate community servant, Lt. Col. Darr helped to secure funding for bands for families that could not afford them as well as provided training for his deputies to be able to locate these individuals if they were in distress. He also found resources to promote these two programs by having an Autism Patrol Car and the All Cancer Support Vehicle.

Lt. Col Darr was also committed to reducing the recidivism rate at the Muscogee County Jail.

Always the visionary, he began several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for inmates while housed at the jail. These initiatives include the Veterans Dorm, the Fatherhood Dorm, and the GED Dorm.

The Veterans Dorm was the first such initiative in the country and provided vast resources for those Veterans who were incarcerated. It helped them to deal with the ever-present issues of PTSD and substance abuse. In short, this initiative helped to prepare these Veterans for life after incarceration.

The Fatherhood Dorm initiative focused on inmates being able to be present fathers after their release from incarceration. This initiative focused on improving the literacy of fathers so that after their release they would have the literacy skills to better themselves and to be able to read to their children. Finally, the GED Dorm helped incarcerated individuals to obtain their GED's.

Because of these initiatives and his focus of Mental Health, Lt. Col Darr was responsible for the removal of a Federal Consent Decree that the jail had operated under since 1999.

Lt. Col Darr's remarkable service as Sheriff ended in 2016. He always looked for ways to help himself and his community. He came back at the Lt. Col for jail operations under current Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman.

John Darr has held many titles in his life, but the most befitting is that of Servant. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." John Darr has paid his rent and he has paid it well.

Lt. Col Darr has accomplished much in this life, but none of it would have been possible with the love and support of his wife Linda and their four children: Rachael, Michelle, Courtney and Troy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Lt. Col John Darr on the occasion of his retirement from the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office and remarkable career in Law Enforcement. To God be the Glory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAL PECK

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all South Carolinians, I am grateful to wish World War II veteran, Mr. Harold (Hal) Peck, a happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Hal Peck, was born on February 22, 1923 in Shelbyville, Indiana. In the spring of 1943, he was drafted and made his way across the Atlantic, arriving in Normandy on June 17th, eleven days after D-Day, with the area having been secured. As a member of the 226th Signal Corps, he was a "climber," responsible for going up and down telephone poles to help keep the lines of communication intact. He did not carry a rifle while on pole duty, as he could not be perceived as a threat. The only shots he's taken, says Mr. Peck, deal with basketball.

After his wartime experience, he was recruited by one of his former high school bas-

ketball coaches to play for Tulane University, in New Orleans. At 5-foot-eight, he excelled in college basketball, and was asked by the National Basketball League Commissioner, Dovie Moore, to play on one of the National League teams. He declined the offer and instead decided to coach basketball in a little town in northern Indiana, Kewanna. After 5 years of coaching, he went on to become a successful businessman as an insurance salesman and executive.

In 1949, Mr. Hal Peck, married his Tulane sweetheart, the former Gwen Bailie. They had a happy marriage of 60 years, filled with adventure, having traveled to almost every country, with Goshen, Indiana as their home base. In 1992, they retired to Aiken, South Carolina. Hal and Gwen had 2 sons, Rich and Josh Peck, who we join in celebrating their father's birthday.

I also join the family and friends of Mr. Peck in congratulating him for the French Legion of Honor which he was awarded by the French government in October of 2022 for his service during the war. It is the highest distinction, rewarding eminent military and civil merits, that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.

Today, I honor Mr. Hal Peck for his service to the American people and wish him a happy 100th birthday and the best in his future endeavors.

### HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLIFTON WHARTON, JR.

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who has spent his entire life and career breaking racial barriers and paving the way for future generations of Black scholars and leaders. The name Clifton Wharton Jr. is known by many in the Michigan State University community thanks to a prominent campus landmark: the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. But in addition to his name, I want them to know his story, as it features a persistent rise against the odds, a tale worthy of being staged inside the building that now bears his name.

By the time Clifton Wharton Jr. became president of Michigan State University—the first African-American to head a major, predominantly white university in the United States—he was no stranger to being first. Wharton, who grew up in Boston, entered Harvard University at age 16. There he became the first Black announcer at the campus radio station and the first Black secretary of the National Student Association, a lobbying group he founded. Later, he was the first African-American admitted to Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. He worked for about a decade with the Agriculture Development Council, a non-governmental agency, before returning to the academic world.

When the MSU trustees appointed him the University's 14th president in 1969, it was a time of tremendous change and cultural up-

heaval for the country, with college campuses taking center stage in the civil rights movement and protests over the Vietnam War. Against that tumultuous backdrop, Wharton set another first: unlike any other major university president of the time, he supported students who demanded that their concerns be heard, even offering to personally take student petitions against the war to Michigan's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Wharton's eight-year tenure at MSU's helm was marked by his successful efforts to maintain the quality of the University's academic programs in the face of major budget cuts, his commitment to serving underprivileged students, and the integration of the College of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. In 1978, Wharton achieved another first when he stepped down from MSU to become the chancellor for the State University of New York system, making him the first African American leader of the nation's largest university system.

But he wasn't done breaking barriers. In 1987, he was named the president and CEO of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund, making him the first Black CEO of a Fortune 500 company. He held that role until 1993, when he became Deputy Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton, not surprisingly, the first African American to ever hold this second highest foreign policy post.

I salute Dr. Wharton for his groundbreaking career and the path of excellence he has blazed.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF ANTHONY RAMOS

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the many contributions of Anthony Ramos, a long-time community leader and resident of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District, as we mourn his loss.

Anthony was a beloved community youth basketball coach and co-founder of the Dearborn Basketball Association, where he also served as vice president. He saw the community's need for affordable sports programming for young people and was moved to act. Anthony's love for the game inspired enthusiasm in the young people he coached. He instilled the values of good sportsmanship and importance of teamwork while teaching the fundamentals.

Please join me in honoring the life of Mr. Anthony Ramos and extending condolences to the Ramos family as the 12th Congressional District honors his life and legacy.

### HONORING LEGENDARY EDUCATOR DR. EVA EVANS

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of Lansing, Michigan whose

tireless advocacy on behalf of effective education for students of color changed the trajectory of hundreds of young lives in mid-Michigan.

Dr. Eva Evans was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and grew up in Detroit, Michigan, where she attended Northern High School in the early 1950s. Former teachers and fellow students remember her as one of the most willing, giving and compassionate people they'd ever met, traits that would ultimately define her entire life of service. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University and both Master's and Doctorate degrees from Michigan State University.

Dr. Evans served in a number of administrative positions in the Lansing School District, from Director of Elementary Education to Deputy Superintendent of Schools—the first female to ever hold that position. As a leader in the school system, she developed and implemented innovative programs, such as schools of choice and a district-wide talent fair for students and staff. She connected the school district with Lansing Community College and Michigan State University for the 2+2+2 Program, which channels minority students into MSU's College of Engineering. While she had a particular passion for math and science, she also created the "Be a Star" performing arts program. These programs and partnerships have endured over the years, benefiting countless individuals and shaping practice and policy in education, health care, social services and beyond.

Outside the school buildings, Dr. Eva Evans tirelessly devoted herself to dozens of causes, giving of herself in leadership roles. She was the 24th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the chair of the Lansing Community College Foundation, President of the Lansing Woman's Club, and Grand Marshall of the African American Parade and Family Picnic in Lansing. Evans was also appointed by the governor to serve on the Michigan Council for the Humanities and was Chairman of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. She championed causes with the American Red Cross and created programs to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS. I like to think of her as the great connector—connecting underprivileged students to education beyond high school, connecting communities in need to programs that had the capacity to help, and simply connecting people to one another.

Dr. Evans, who passed away in 2020, received numerous honors in her adopted hometown of Lansing, including the YWCA's Diana Award for Excellence in Education; the NAACP's Educator of the Year; the Lansing Chamber of Commerce's Athena Award; the Crystal Apple Award for Education from Michigan State University, and the Applause Award from the Lansing Center for the Arts. But I believe the greatest honor and the most profound title she ever received was to be called a teacher.

COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS  
OF THE SUMGAIT POGROM

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the po-

grom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. Beginning on February 27, 1988, and over the course of three days, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left dozens of Armenian civilians dead and hundreds injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive after being tortured and beaten. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belongings. Armenian homes and businesses were left to be looted and destroyed.

The pogroms came about as the result of years of hateful, racist anti-Armenian propaganda woven into the very fabric of Azerbaijani society by Azerbaijani leaders, who made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait and denying the government's role in instigating the killings. This unprovoked violence against Armenians was a precursor to subsequent attacks on ethnic Armenians, including the pogroms in Kirovabad, Baku, and the Maragha Massacre.

Time has not healed the wounds of those victimized in the pogroms or their families because three decades later, Azerbaijan's aggression against the people of Armenia and Artsakh continues.

Beginning on September 27, 2020, and over 44 days, Azerbaijani forces once again targeted and murdered innocent Armenians in Artsakh and displaced tens of thousands more. Azerbaijan's violence again escalated in September of 2022, when Azeri forces shelled homes in the villages of Karmir Shuka and Taghavard in Artsakh and launched an unprovoked assault on sovereign Armenian territory.

Today, Azerbaijan continues to terrorize the people of Artsakh by blocking the Lachin Corridor—the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia. Since the blockade on December 12, 2022, the humanitarian crisis in Artsakh has grown more dire by the day, with widespread shortages of food, medicine and other necessities and rolling blackouts amid freezing temperatures. The effect has been devastating to the 120,000 individuals living in Artsakh, including children and the elderly.

These are the horrific consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked and when Aliyev's hostility is met with deafening silence, emboldening him to continue, and expand, his unprovoked attacks on the Armenian people, knowing there will be no repercussions. This is why Azerbaijan considers it acceptable to annihilate Armenians in their historical homeland. We cannot allow violence and crimes against humanity to go unanswered.

The United States must immediately and permanently stop all U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan and impose sanctions. It must also direct U.S. humanitarian assistance to Artsakh, call for the safe and unconditional release of the remaining Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians, hold Azerbaijan accountable for the destruction of religious and cultural sites, and support democracy in Armenia and a free, independent Artsakh.

On this tragic anniversary, as we pause to remember the innocent victims of the pogroms, we are also reminded that despite the trials the Armenian people have faced, it has not broken their faith, determination, and their will to survive in the face of constant threats from Azerbaijan. Today, let us recommit our-

selves to doing everything we can to bring liberation to our Armenian brothers and sisters abroad, once and for all.

COMMENDING NICHOLAS AYERS  
ON HIS WORK FOR ALABAMA  
DISTRICT ONE

**HON. JERRY L. CARL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Ayers for his service to Alabama's First Congressional District. A Virginia native, Nicholas graduated from George Mason University, where he also received his Master of Public Administration. Nicholas has been on the Hill for nearly six years and has dedicated his time serving for the U.S. House of Representatives. Starting off as a Legislative Intern, Nicholas researched information about legislation and issues which affected that district. He was then promoted to Staff Assistant, Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Aid, and then I hired him on as my Legislative Assistant. His extensive knowledge of health care made him an asset to my office, and I know wherever he goes next, he will continue to be a leader. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF LANSING'S OWN EARVIN  
"MAGIC" JOHNSON

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest basketball players of all time, a man who brought so much magic to the game it quite literally became part of his name. And it all began in Michigan's capital city of Lansing—his hometown.

To say that Earvin "Magic" Johnson came from humble roots is an understatement. His mother was a school janitor and his father worked the General Motors assembly line by day, and collected garbage in the evenings. Johnson would often help his father on the garbage route, earning him the nickname "Garbage Man" with the neighborhood kids. But all the teasing ended when he hit the basketball court. Johnson started playing as a youngster, and by the time he graduated from Lansing Everett High School—where he led his team to a state championship and was dubbed "Magic"—he was already considered the greatest high school basketball player to ever come out of Michigan. He moved just down the road to East Lansing, attending Michigan State University where he became a two-time All-American, leading the Spartans to the 1979 National Championship while being voted the Most Outstanding Player of that year's Final Four. He was the number one overall selection of the 1979 NBA draft, chosen by the Los Angeles Lakers where he would go on to play for his entire professional career.

The stats are dazzling: in his 13 seasons with the Lakers, Johnson was a key member

of five NBA Championships, as well as being a 12-time All-Star, three-time NBA Finals MVP and three-time league MVP. During his NBA career, Johnson averaged 19.5 points per game, 7.2 rebounds per game and 11.2 assists per game. He was a member of the original NBA Dream Team, winning a Gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Both his Spartan jersey and his Lakers jersey were retired, and Magic Johnson has been inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnson stunned the world in 1991 with the announcement that he had tested positive for HIV. It was a seismic moment, as an athlete of Johnson's stature vowed in public to raise awareness about a virus that was shrouded in stigma. In the decades since that pivotal moment, his advocacy off the court has been as impressive as his skills on the court, and has not been limited to one topic. He's used his platform to support so many causes, from HIV and AIDS to mental health to COVID vaccines and the transformational power of wealth-building for Black families.

Johnson has said this about his legacy: "Now these kids dream that they can become not only a basketball player or a football player, but they can become a businessman. So that's what's important, that we have power and that we have a seat at the table."

With gratitude for his enduring contributions, Earvin Johnson not only provided a seat at the table, he helped construct it. A table, formed in the heart of Lansing, Michigan, shaped by a fierce work ethic and raw talent, and sprinkled with Magic.

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HONORING DR. CHARLES MAGEE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, accomplished professor, stellar researcher, and admiring trailblazer, Dr. Charles Magee. Dr. Magee was honored on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at an African American History Program at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo, Georgia.

The genesis of Dr. Magee's began in Prentis, Mississippi. He is a proud graduate of Johnson High School. Dr. Magee's higher education journey began at Alcorn State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science in 1970. He went on to receive a master's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Minnesota at St. Paul in 1973. Finally, he received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University in 1980.

Excellence has defined his extraordinary professional life. His professional career has taken him to some of the finest universities in the world to include the University of Minnesota at St. Paul, North Carolina A and T, Cornell University; the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Fort Valley State University, and Florida A and M University.

Throughout his career he has been a trailblazing professor and scholar. He was the first African American to earn a master's degree

from the University of Minnesota; the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Agricultural and biological engineering from Cornell University; the first African American graduate of a historically black college or university (Alcorn State University) to earn a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering; and the first African American assistant professor in the college of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. He developed the first patent in the history of Fort Valley State University and the Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) program at FAMU. He is a founding and charter member of the National Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences and the first African American Engineer to be elected in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2020. Although he has been a trailblazer, his life has not been without his share of difficulties and obstacles. He has persevered and our Nation and world are better for it. Sometimes he had to stand alone, but he stood tall.

A selfless servant, Dr. Magee has always had at the forefront of his mind the fact that he must address the issue of underrepresented populations in STEM careers. Dr. Magee has meant the world to his students through his mentorship, some have even followed in his enormous footsteps. His influence has been paramount in their lives.

Dr. Magee is a creative genius who has had eight U.S. patents that have been approved and eight that are pending. His life is an example of how one person can make a difference when carrying out God's plan for their life.

The great Agricultural Chemist, George Washington Carver once said, "It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success." Charles Magee is truly a servant.

Dr. Magee has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Audrey and his children, Candace and Darian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest gratitude to Dr. Charles Magee for his service to God, humankind, and our world. To God be the Glory.

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RECOGNIZING BOB SAVAKINUS,  
ANTHRACITE CULTURAL PERSON  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Bob Savakinus who was named the 2023 Anthracite Cultural Person of the Year by the 250th Anthracite Commemorative Board. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have promoted Anthracite heritage for more than 20 years through special projects. Bob will be honored on February 19, 2023.

An avid history buff, Bob had dedicated much of his time to uplifting Northeastern Pennsylvania's cultural contributions and bringing attention to the rich history of our region. With his film company, Cannon Fire Productions, he has produced many documentaries on the subject, including *The Rocky Glen Movie*, *Return to Rocky Glen Movie*, *A Token to the Past: The Story of the Electric City*, *Full Steam Ahead: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Steamtown NHS*, *The Confederation of Union Generals*, *Hanson's Amusement Park*, *Agnes*, and *Scranton's Championship Season*. Each of these films has been a thoughtful, well-researched and dynamic look into institutions that have defined Northeastern Pennsylvania's history and identity.

Following the success of these documentaries, Bob has turned his attention to full length feature films, and he has been advocating for bringing both national and international filmmakers to the Anthracite region.

In addition to championing Northeastern Pennsylvania's past, he also volunteers his time to work for a brighter future by serving on the boards of many local organizations. He is a board member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Special Education Advisory Panel, United Nations Association of NEPA, Lackawanna Valley Conservation Association, the Lackawanna County Industrial Development Authority, among others.

When not focusing on his filmmaking endeavors and board memberships, he works as a transition education specialist for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 and produces and hosts *In a Nutshell* on Comcast Channel 19 to further explore Northeastern Pennsylvania history. Bob has also been a driving force behind the annual Santa Train stop in Scranton, and he is a founder of the Arts on Fire festival in Scranton.

It is an honor to recognize Bob as a titan of historical preservation of the Anthracite region. I deeply admire his unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting our history and culture and wish him all the best for many productive years to come.

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HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. RUTH NICOLE BROWN

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a visionary social justice innovator and academic who is making space for African American women and girls to celebrate who they are and what they bring to the world, and bringing new and critical opportunities to students at Michigan State University.

Ruth Nicole Brown is the Inaugural Chairperson of and Professor in the Department of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. Dr. Brown, an internationally recognized leader in Black Girlhood, joined MSU on July 1, 2020, and quickly got to work creating and advancing the mission of this new degree-granting department of the university. Thanks to her efforts, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, MSU students were able for the first time to declare a major in African American and American Studies, and many have jumped at the opportunity.

In addition to her academic and administrative accomplishments, Dr. Brown is the founder of Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths, a creative space that brings young African American girls together to celebrate Black girlhood. She also started BlackGirl Genius Week, a city/university wide social media takeover and awareness campaign focusing on rising Black women. She has written several books on the topic, and is a highly sought after speaker.

It's this combination of scholarly work and public engagement that makes Dr. Brown such an innovator. One day she is co-editing educational research anthologies and articles about racial equality and feminism, and the next day she is performing in powerful pieces combining music, images, and words.

Dr. Brown is the master of seeing a void and stepping up to fill it. The performance community she has created responds to a need for spaces where Black girls and women are seen and valued. And the department she chairs allows students for the first time to center their studies on Black history, including a critical exploration of the role of feminism and gender.

Today I salute Dr. Brown for the many ways she is changing the game: through art, through music, and through education. I am so grateful that along with her many distinguished titles we are able to call her a Michigan State University Spartan. May her successes and contributions continue to enrich the MSU community.

#### HONORING SCOTT CELLEY

### HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a member of our Arizona family who represented the best of our great State. A man of deep faith and an unfailing commitment to his family and his country, Scott Celley distinguished himself in a life of public and private service.

Moving from Oregon to serve two Senators and a Governor from Arizona, Scott loved politics. A skillful campaigner and a tireless political operator who made a formidable opponent, Scott may not have won every campaign he led as a strategist or communicator, but he was never out-worked or out-hustled.

As good as Scott was at politics, he always approached power with respect and humility for what it could do to help people. He received the most joy and fulfillment from being able to support those who needed a hand up, especially in rural Arizona.

Scott had an unfailing moral compass and a sense of right and wrong that could not be questioned. He did the right thing always—full stop. As importantly, he expected the same from those around him and had that special ability to make everyone rise to his level of integrity. No corners were cut and no facts were unchecked when you worked with Scott Celley. Especially in today's political environment, that insistence on personal integrity stands out.

Driven by a deep respect for the men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces, Scott championed several organizations to support and celebrate veterans, particularly those wounded in combat.

Scott also was a committed mentor and a loyal friend, always offering to help with a call or a connection or just a word of encouragement.

But everyone who knew Scott would volunteer that his greatest passion without a doubt was saved for his beloved wife Pam, his devoted daughters Madeline and Caroline and their husbands, and their thriving families. In return, their love for him is unmatched. This is the one true test of a life well-lived.

The thoughts and prayers of our State were with Scott and his family as he confronted an unfair illness. We pray for Scott and his family, we celebrate the man so many of us knew and loved, and we pay tribute to his example.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBIN JULIANO ON HER DEPARTURE

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise as Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Robin Juliano as she departs the House of Representatives following 17 years of service in the House, Senate, and White House.

Robin is a first-generation college student and Pell Grant recipient who graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in U.S. history and from the University of Maryland with a master's degree in education policy. She brings with her a sense of service and commitment to advocating and fighting for those most in need that has made her a unique asset to every team she has served with.

Originally from Oxford, Maryland, Robin's distinguished career in federal service began as Legislative Assistant for her state's Senator, Barbara Mikulski. She later served as an Education Policy Adviser on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee under Chairmen Edward M. Kennedy and Tom Harkin and as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee also under Chairman Tom Harkin. Following her years in the Senate, Robin's extensive knowledge of America's economic policy earned her a position on the White House National Economic Council under President Barack Obama as a Senior Policy Adviser.

Equipped with unmatched experience and knowledge, Robin then came home to the House Appropriations Committee where we are so grateful, she has served ever since. She was first a Professional Staff Member and then Clerk of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee leading the Committee's education and labor work. As Clerk, she provided me expert counsel and skillfully managed and negotiated many vital aspects of the Subcommittee's jurisdiction. In the 116th Congress alone, she played a central role in the Committee's successful passage of two omnibus appropriations packages and five supplemental appropriations bills to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robin's wealth of knowledge of the issues under the Committee's jurisdiction, exceptional

leadership skills, and work ethic made it clear that there was no one better to step into the role of Staff Director of the full Committee once I became Chair in the 117th Congress. Over the past two years as Staff Director, Robin has led with unparalleled grace and integrity. Her counsel, wisdom, experience, and knowledge of both legislative issues and political dynamics were integral to the Committee's success last Congress.

With her leadership, we brought back the widely successful Community Project Funding for the first time in more than 10 years, passed two omnibus appropriations packages in nine months, hosted over 200 hearings in two years, and passed several supplemental appropriations bills to respond to pressing issues as our Nation recovered from the pandemic, the January 6th insurrection, and numerous other disasters, and as we fought to protect global democracy and support the Ukrainian people against Russia's aggression.

Our Nation is safer, healthier, and more equitable because of Robin's leadership over the past 17 years. She leaves an invaluable mark on government programs that children, their parents, the middle class, and working families rely on. I have no doubt that our Nation's families are better off because of Robin's sacrifice and her tireless efforts to help communities across the country.

While we will miss Robin dearly and will feel her absence deeply, she is forever part of the Appropriations family—a family you can never leave. We are excited for her as she embarks on a new journey and look forward to seeing what new and exciting challenges she takes on. I extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of our Members and staff to Robin's whole family for sharing her with us for so long and wish Robin, her husband Ben, and their children Oliver and Elise all the best.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE LOYD LEWIS

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, dedicated father, community activist, dedicated public official, and dear friend of long standing, The Honorable Loyd Lewis.

Sadly, Mr. Lewis passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. A celebration of his remarkable life was held on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 3:00 pm in the gymnasium of Quitman County High School in Georgetown, Georgia.

The genesis of Loyd Lewis's story began on March 30, 1935, when he was born to the union of the late Lexton Lewis and Willie Mae Griffin Lewis in Georgetown, Georgia. He was educated in the Quitman County, Georgia school system and graduated from the Kaigler Training School.

Mr. Lewis graduated from Fort Valley State College with a bachelor's degree in Social Studies and he obtained his certification in Guidance and Counseling from Tennessee State University, in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Lewis began his teaching career at his alma mater, the Kaigler Training School in 1958.

On August 16, 1965, Mr. Lewis's life would change forever when he married the love of

his life, Katherine Louise Mauldin of Fort Gaines, Georgia. To this blessed union a son, Carvel, was born.

Loyd used his life's work to affect the lives of young people in a monumental way. He was a teacher, guidance counselor, and school bus driver. Mr. Lewis served as the Director of the Neighborhood Youth Corporation in Columbus, Georgia from 1966 to 1976. From 1976 until 1984, Loyd served as the Operations Manager for the Columbus Employment and Training Administration in Columbus, Georgia under Mayors Jack Mickle and Harry Jackson.

Because of the profound impact of assisting his wife with her parent's funeral arrangements in Asheville, NC, Mr. Lewis was inspired to go into funeral service and in 1969, he and his beloved wife opened Lewis Mortuary in Fort Gaines, Georgia. For over 53 years, this business has brought comfort to families in Southeast Alabama and Southwest Georgia.

Loyd was always involved in things that were for the betterment of his community. He was truly a humble and benevolent servant. For many years, the city of Georgetown was without an AME Church until Loyd Lewis stepped in with a group of ladies to reopen St. Stephens AME church. He and Katherine put their dreams of building a home on hold for this project. The church reopened in 1976 and is still going strong today.

He continued to offer himself for service by serving on the Quitman County School Board. Loyd would serve as its Chairman for over 15 years. Because of his efforts, the school system would build a new elementary school, high school, and gym that would pave the way for the return of students from Stewart County.

Loyd loved his God and served as a church Steward and Trustee as well as church school Superintendent at St. Stephens AME church. He served his God by serving the community as a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Cross Road Masonic Lodge No. 190, The State School Board Association and The Georgia High School Association.

Mother Teresa, said "A life not lived for others is not a life." I can say without a shadow of doubt that the Honorable Loyd Lewis lived his life for others.

He accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the love and support of his late wife, Katherine, his son Commissioner Carvel Lewis and his grandson, Tristan.

On a personal note, Loyd was my friend and supporter. He never told me what he thought I wanted to hear but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will miss his wise advice and sage counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District in commending the great service to humanity of the Honorable Loyd Lewis and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family. May their faith and the Holy Spirit console and comfort them in the days, weeks, and months to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LARRY "JAY PRICE" CARTER

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to communicate to you the profound influence and legacy of a man who was the ultimate communicator. Larry Carter dedicated his life to informing and uplifting Lansing, Michigan's Black community, first through the radio, and later through a newspaper he founded with his wife, Carolyn, that continues in publication today under his daughter's hand.

Carter, also known as Jay Price, was born in Mississippi but grew up in the Midwest, graduating from John Marshall High School in Chicago in 1967. He met his future wife, Carolyn Hill, at the age of 12, and married her shortly after graduating from Columbia College with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. Together they raised three children: Anastacio; William; and Yanice.

Larry spent the early years of his career in positions spanning several media markets across the Midwest and Southern regions. In 1984, an industry colleague convinced him to move to Lansing, Michigan, where he accepted a position in local radio. There, he quickly talked the station owner into changing the format to adult contemporary, with Larry as the morning host. He was an instant on-air success, and also worked behind the scenes as sales manager to produce commercials.

Despite the success he achieved in radio, Carter was itching to explore other avenues. In 1986, he launched a print publication initially called "The Capital Chronicle" and later renamed "The Chronicle News." The focus was simple: fill the void Larry saw in local news coverage by spotlighting and enhancing awareness of issues in the Black community. It was a family affair from the start: Larry handled advertising sales; Carolyn learned how to design and layout the stories; and the kids enlisted their friends to deliver the paper door-to-door.

Today, Larry and Carolyn have both passed on but their legacy remains. The Chronicle Newspaper is published twice monthly, by their daughter Yanice. The free publication is distributed throughout Mid-Michigan and can be found in municipal buildings, schools, local businesses, churches, and community centers. They also leave behind the legacy of family, including their three children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Larry was devoted to lifting up the stories of his community, and today, it is my great honor to lift up his story, with profound gratitude for his devotion to creating a platform for the Black community to be seen, heard, and understood.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock, Virginia.

In the early 20th century, secondary school options for young women in the rural south were limited. To meet the educational needs of young women in the Tappahannock area, the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia established St. Margaret's School in 1921. In the 100 years since then, St. Margaret's School has educated young women and prepared them for life. The dedicated school heads, faculty, and staff encourage and develop students' passions—in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the theater stage, and on the Rappahannock River. St. Margaret's School's culture of inclusivity is grounded in its Episcopal roots, and challenges students to develop confidence, resilience, and strength of character. The school's motto, "as we grow in age, may we grow in grace," guides students and graduates through their entire lives. St. Margaret's School left an indelible mark on generations of young women and the Tappahannock area—and will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to rise with me today to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Margaret's School. May God bless St. Margaret's School as it enters its second century of educating young women.

HONORING MR. PETE ESCOVEDO

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the musical legacy of Pete "Pops" Escovedo and his tremendous contributions as a truly remarkable artist here in the Bay Area. I want to congratulate Mr. Escovedo on his retirement and on fifty incredible years in the music industry. His passion for Afro-Caribbean music has left a lasting impact on the music culture in our community.

Born in Pittsburg, California, Mr. Escovedo found his passion for music from a young age when he learned to play bongos in Junior High School. His dedication to honing his musical abilities was evident from the beginning, as Mr. Escovedo built his own bongo set out of coffee cans and tape. He went on to pursue a career in music as a percussionist, forming a jazz band, Escovedo Brothers Latin Sextet, with his brothers Coke and Phil Escovedo. The band's success led them to Carlos Santana, and his Latin band Santana, with whom Mr. Escovedo performed for three years. Santana went on to become one of the best-selling groups of all time. In 1972, Mr. Escovedo debuted his independent band Azteca, along with his brother, defying traditional norms for Latin music. Azteca was the first band to incorporate an orchestra, horns, woodwind instruments, keyboards, vocalists, and percussionists all under the genre of Latin rock.

Mr. Escovedo's professional legacy includes being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Latin Grammys, performing with industry notables Herbie Hancock, Bill Summers, Tito Puente, and penning his own book, "My Life in the Key of E."

Mr. Escovedo's list of accomplishments extends beyond his professional pursuits, as a devoted husband to his wife, Juanita Gardere, and father to 4 kids, Sheila, Juan, Peter, and Zina. His children inherited Mr. Escovedo's love and talent for music, and together, they are lovingly accepted as the Bay Area's First Family of Latin and Contemporary Jazz. Furthermore, Mr. Escovedo's legacy is carried on by his daughter Sheila, who has become an industry titan herself, earning the moniker the "Queen of Percussion."

It has been a fantastic journey watching Mr. Escovedo play and create beautiful music over the years. His passion and skill have inspired generations of musicians and will continue to do so. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to the music industry.

As he embarks on his Retirement Tour, starting in Oakland, I want to wish Mr. Escovedo the best of luck. On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of California, I am proud to honor Peter Escovedo for his tremendous achievements. Congratulations again.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF HOWELL'S FIRST BLACK  
RESIDENT, ABRAHAM LOSFORD

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Abraham Losford, the first Black resident of Howell, Michigan—a brave man who escaped slavery and used the trade he learned while captive to build a life of freedom for his family and for generations to come.

It was 1849 when Abraham Losford fled north with nothing but his clippers from Kentucky where he had been enslaved and served as a plantation barber. He was captured, escaped again, and after Emancipation, returned to free his children, Benjamin and Sally. The plan was to travel to Lansing, Michigan, via the Old Plank Road and open a barber shop, but when Losford stopped in Howell to change stagecoaches, he was convinced to stay in the small town. The people of Howell promised to keep him safe if he would stay and open up a barber shop, which they sorely needed. It was a deal both sides would forever uphold.

Losford and his barber business both thrived in Howell, and he became a successful, respected businessman in the predominantly white community—no small feat for a former slave in the years following the end of the Civil War. Newspaper ads from the time boast of his salon offering "Shaving, Shampooing, and Hairdressing" for both men and women, and it was noted in the local press that when Losford fell ill, a band of 60 kids and adults joined together to bring him gifts and money in a show of support and affection for the beloved town barber.

Abraham passed the trade to his son, who went on to open a barber shop of his own in the Town of Edmore, Michigan. Today, Ben's

story—and that of his father—are immortalized in the children's book "Benjamin Losford and his Handy, Dandy Clippers." It is the story of how skill equals freedom, and a potent reminder that we must all make the most of the tools we have been fortunate enough to receive.

Abraham Losford died in 1897 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in downtown Howell. His obituary states that quote, "His presence, as well as his open, manly character, was a living reminder of the sin of slavery. Many winters will come and go before the name of 'Old Uncle Abe' is forgotten in the community." Mr. Speaker, I ask that his name and his accomplishments live forever in our hearts and minds.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE  
HONORABLE MARY JANE GALER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a devoted wife, loving mother, doting grandmother, noted historian, professional librarian, distinguished author, thoughtful teacher, dedicated public servant and dear friend of longstanding, The Honorable Mary Jane Perkins Galer. Sadly, Representative Galer transitioned this life on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. A celebration of her remarkable life was held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at The First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, GA attended by a host of friends, family, and admirers.

The genesis of Mary Jane Galers journey began with her birth in Port Arthur, Texas in 1924. Always seeking to quench her thirst for knowledge, she attended and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1945 with a B.A. in Education. This led to the commencement of her professional career as a teacher and librarian. She went on to earn a Master's degree in Library Science from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1947.

Mary Jane was able to merge her love of travel and serving others when she became an Army Special Services Librarian. This responsibility involved setting up libraries for soldiers at bases around the world, helping these soldiers increase their love of knowledge and learning. In 1951, during one of these assignments, she met and married her husband of 66 years, the late U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Robert Fulton Galer. The Galer Family moved to Columbus, Georgia in 1960, when her husband became Fort Benning's Inspector General and Mary Jane assumed the position of Post Librarian. In 1967, Mary Jane joined the staff of Columbus College, now Columbus State University, as a Librarian and Associate Professor.

Because of her love of public service, in 1976 she interrupted her pursuit of an advanced degree in Political Science to run for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. She and I were both elected during that election, and we became not only colleagues but dear friends. We frequently traveled to and from Atlanta together and often shuttled packages to her daughter Robin, who was a student at Georgia Tech. She used her time as

a legislator to champion the rights of women and children. Her legislative achievements include helping Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to agree on a water sharing plan, revising guardianship laws for incapacitated adults, removing the collaboration requirements in rape cases and strengthening child support laws to comply with Federal guidelines. Furthermore, she was a strong advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and equal opportunity for all. She served in the Georgia General Assembly through 1988. As a result of her stellar public service, she received numerous public awards to include Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Public Service, Soroptimist Award and the Maxine Shapiro Goldenstein Freedom Award.

Mary Jane Galer accomplished much in her life but little of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her husband, the late U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Robert Fulton Galer and her three children—Frank Fulton Galer, Robin R. Galer, and Barbara J. Neufeld. Her life was certainly made complete with the love of her grandchildren Jeni Neufeld and Katie Benner, as well as her three great grandchildren.

George Washington Carver once said that "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mary Jane, throughout her life exemplified these words. She was a lady of principle, character, dignity, grace, and grit. Our city, state, nation, and the world are better for her 98 years of life. To God be the Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, in honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Mary Jane Galer and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones during this time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING 18 INCREDIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL LAWLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2023*

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize 18 incredible individuals from my community in honor of Black History Month.

The 17th Congressional District and New York State are home to much of this rich history. The Hudson River was once one of the main arteries of the Underground Railroad, illuminating a pathway to freedom for enslaved people. In Hillburn, we saw the precursor to one of the Supreme Court's landmark cases, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which paved the way for the fall of segregation and a full bill of civil rights to be passed at the federal level.

Last week, I held a ceremony to honor Vedeta Hanley, Jennifer Ogilvie, Pastor Jean Claude Dorceley, Roxanne Watson, Joyce

Sharrock Cole, Cassandra Dobson, Virginia Norfleet, Sonia Tracey, Pastor Greg Merriweather, Quacy Evelyn, Pastor Everett Newton, Alice Roker, Dr. Edmund Gordon, Jacqueline Baker, Dr. Winsome Downie, Dr. Philip Ozuah, Mel Johnson, and Nzhingha Milanes, who are continuing the history of black excellence in the Hudson Valley.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 1

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on conservation and forestry programs. SR-328A
- Committee on the Budget  
To hold hearings to examine climate change and the economic risks to coastal communities. SD-608
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Phillip A. Washington, of Illi-

nois, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

- SR-253  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

- SD-406  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

- SH-216  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations.

- SD-G50  
2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, Pamela M. Tremont, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Richard Mills, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

- SD-419  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

MARCH 2

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To receive a closed briefing on munitions to include requirements development, Ukraine support, and replenishment management. SVC-217
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine community health centers. SD-430

- Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Charnelle Bjelkengren, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Matthew P. Brookman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Michael Farbiarz, and Robert Kirsch, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Orelia Eleta Merchant, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and Stephen K. Eberle, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Roy W. Minter, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia, both of the Department of Justice.

SH-216

MARCH 8

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and multiple veterans service organizations.

CHOB-390

- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

MARCH 15

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, focusing on perspectives on the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act.

SD-406

MARCH 22

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine Moderna considering quadrupling the price of the COVID vaccine.

SD-430

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senator Lankford delivered Washington's Farewell Address.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S487–S508*

**Measures Introduced:** Twelve bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 527–538, and S. Res. 79. **Pages S506–07**

#### Appointments:

**United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission: Kimberly T. Glas of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024. **Page S507**

**Walker Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. **Pages S492–98, S499–S500, S508**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 25), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S499–S500**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached provided for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 28, 2023; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Senate vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States Dis-

trict Judge for the Northern District of California, Senate vote on confirmation thereon at 4:30 p.m. **Page S508**

**Lawless Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. **Page S498**

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 Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Page S498**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S498**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S498**

**Grey Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S498**

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 Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. **Page S498**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S498**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S498**

**Simmons, Jr., Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of James Edward

Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Pages S498–99

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 Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Pages S498–99

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S498

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S498

**Gallagher Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Page S499

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 James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Page S499

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S499

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S499

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Vernelle Trim FitzPatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic.

William W. Popp, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda.

S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Jabari Brooks Wamble, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. Routine lists in the Air Force, and Navy.

Page S508

**Messages from the House:**

Page S505

**Measures Read the First Time:**

Page S505

**Executive Communications:**

Pages S505–06

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Page S507

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

Page S507

**Additional Statements:**

Pages S504–05

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—25)

Pages S499–S500

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3:04 p.m. and adjourned at 6:30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S508.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Senators Kelly (Chair), Cardin, Sanders, Merkley, Markey, Stabenow, Padilla, Fetterman, Cramer, Lummis, Mullin, Ricketts, Boozman, Wicker, and Graham.

*Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety:* Senators Markey (Chair), Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Stabenow, Kelly, Padilla, Ricketts, Cramer, Lummis, Mullin, Wicker, Sullivan, and Graham.

*Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife:* Senators Padilla (Chair), Cardin, Whitehouse, Markey, Stabenow, Kelly, Lummis, Cramer, Ricketts, Boozman, and Sullivan.

*Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight:* Senators Merkley (Chair), Sanders, Whitehouse, Markey, Fetterman, Mullin, Boozman, Wicker, and Sullivan.

*Senators Carper and Capito serve as ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

*Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development:* Senators Cardin (Chair), Kaine, Booker, Coons, Murphy, Hagerty, Ricketts, Cruz, and Paul.

*Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation:* Senators Shaheen (Chair), Murphy, Van Hollen, Duckworth, Cardin, Ricketts, Paul, Barrasso, and Rubio.

*Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism:* Senators Murphy (Chair),

Cardin, Shaheen, Kaine, Booker, Young, Romney, Cruz, and Rubio.

*Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues:* Senators Kaine (Chair), Merkley, Cardin, Shaheen, Murphy, Rubio, Cruz, Young, and Scott (SC).

*Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy:* Senators Booker (Chair), Coons, Merkley, Schatz, Van Hollen, Scott (SC), Young, Paul, and Barrasso.

*Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy:* Senators Van Hollen (Chair), Merkley, Schatz, Duckworth, Coons, Romney, Scott (SC), Hagerty, and Ricketts.

*Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy:* Senators Duckworth (Chair), Coons, Schatz, Shaheen, Kaine, Barrasso, Romney, Hagerty, and Paul.

*Senators Menendez and Risch are ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Children and Families:* Senators Casey (Chair), Murray, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, Smith, Tuberville, Paul, Murkowski, Romney, and Mullin.

*Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety:* Senators Hickenlooper (Chair), Casey, Baldwin, Kaine, Luján, Markey, Braun, Marshall, Romney, Tuberville, and Budd.

*Subcommittee Primary Health and Retirement Security:* Senators Markey (Chair), Murray, Baldwin, Murphy, Hassan, Smith, Luján, Hickenlooper, Marshall, Paul, Collins, Murkowski, Braun, Mullin, and Budd.

*Senators Sanders and Cassidy serve as ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 28 public bills, H.R. 1198–1225; and 16 resolutions, H. Res. 162–177, were introduced. **Pages H914–16**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H917–18**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 166, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) 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” (H. Rept. 118–4). **Page H918**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaLota to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H879**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:52 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H885**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H885**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H886**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023: H. Res. 132, responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 120; **Pages H886–90, H896–97**

*Amending the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding:* H.R. 1108, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding; **Pages H890–91**

*Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act:* H.R. 538, to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 121; and **Pages H891–92, H897**

*Authorizing notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any*

*Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce:* H.R. 1059, to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce. **Pages H892–96**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:59 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H896**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Sherrill wherein she resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. **Page H898**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Costa wherein he resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H898**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Plaskett wherein she resigned from the Committee on Agriculture. **Page H898**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Bera wherein he resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. **Page H898**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Crow wherein he resigned from the Committee on Armed Services. **Page H898**

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 164, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H898**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H896–97 and H897.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT; 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

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 347, the “Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act”; and H.J. Res. 30, 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”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 347, the “Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act”, and H.J. Res. 30, 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”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. 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 the amendments are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 30, 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” under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, Chairman Comer, and Representatives Raskin, Scott of Virginia, Molinaro, and Obernolte.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the conflict in Ukraine, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine advancing national security and foreign policy through sanctions, export controls, and other economic tools, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Michael Alan Ratney, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women’s Issues, Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, and Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, all of the Department of State, L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine the Equal Rights Amendment, focusing on how Congress can recognize ratification and enshrine equality in our Constitution, 10 a.m., SD-106.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to exam-

ine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

#### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Uncertainty, Inflation, Regulations: Challenges for American Agriculture”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing entitled “Quality of Life in the Military”, 10:30 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on Ukraine, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Military Support to Ukraine”, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “COVID-19’s Impact on DoD and its Servicemembers”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Energy, Installations, and Environment Program Update”, 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, markup on H.R. 1068, the “Securing America’s Critical Minerals Supply Act”; H.R. 1121, the “Protecting American Energy Production Act”; H.R. 1085, the “Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining Act”; H.R. 1058, the “Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act”; H. Con. Res. 14, a resolution expressing disapproval of the revocation by President Biden of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline; H. Con. Res. 17, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not impose any restrictions on the export of crude oil or other petroleum products; H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act”; H.R. 1115, the “Promoting Inter-agency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act”; and H.R. 1160, the “Critical Electric Infrastructure Cybersecurity Incident Reporting Act”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, markup on H.R. 1070, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) to treat the owner or operator of a critical energy resource facility as having been issued an interim permit for the treatment, storage, and disposal, of hazardous waste, and for other purposes; H.R. 1131, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize the use of flexible air permitting with respect to certain critical energy resource facilities, and for other purposes; H.R. 1140, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to waive application of certain requirements with respect to processing and refining of a critical energy resource at a critical energy resource facility, and for other purposes; H.R. 1158, the “Elimination of Future Technology Delays Act”; H.R. 1141, the

“Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act”; H.R. 1023, a bill to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund; and H.R. 1155, the “Keeping America’s Refineries Act”, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 554, the “Taiwan Conflict Deterrence Act of 2023”; H.R. 555, the “Securing America’s Vaccines for Emergencies (SAVE) Act of 2023”; H.R. 1166, the “Public Health Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2023”; H.R. 1076, the “Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act”; H.R. 510, the “Chinese Currency Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 839, the “China Exchange Rate Transparency Act of 2023”; H.R. 1156, the “China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2023”; H.R. 803, the “PROTECT Taiwan Act”; H.R. 1137, the “Neutralizing Unfair Chinese Export Subsidies Act of 2023”; H.R. 540, the “Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act of 2023”; H.R. 1109, the “Bank Service Company Examination Coordination Act of 2023”; H.R. 1165, the “Data Privacy Act of 2023”; H.R. 1164, the “OFAC Outreach and Engagement Capabilities Enhancement Act”; and H.R. 1161, the “Aligning SEC Regulations for the World Bank’s International Development Association Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Combating the Generational Challenge of CCP Aggression”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1093, to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; legislation to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State’s Taiwan Guidelines; legislation to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes; legislation to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the Countering the People’s Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, and for other purposes; H.R. 1107, to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People’s Republic of China as a developing country; legislation to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes; H. Res. 90, demanding that the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan; H.R. 1151, to hold the People’s Republic of China accountable for the violation of United States airspace and sovereignty with its high-altitude surveillance balloon; H.R. 406, to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1149, to establish certain reporting and other requirements relating to telecommunications equipment and services produced or provided by certain entities, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1153, to provide a clarification of non-applicability for regulation and pro-

hibition relating to sensitive personal data under International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Every State is a Border State: Examining Secretary Mayorkas’ Border Crisis”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, 12 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, Staff Appointment, Committee Memo, and Technical Corrections to the Committee Rules, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Part 1: Committee Funding for the 118th Congress”, 10:10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, markup on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Full Committee, hearing on legislation on Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews Act of 2023, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on legislation on the Transparency and Production of American Energy Act of 2023; and H.R. 209, the “Permitting for Mining Needs Act of 2023”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, Full Committee, markup on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress; H.R. 140, the “Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act”; and H.R. 1162, the “Accountability for Government Censorship Act”; 11 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The United States, China and the Fight for Global Leadership: Building a U.S. National Science and Technology Strategy”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “From Nothing to Something: The Story of the American Dream”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates, 9:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, markup on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress; the Fiscal Year 2024 Views and Estimates; H. Res. 152, supporting the goals and ideals of “move over” laws; H. Con. Res. 15, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H.R. 783, to designate the Department of Energy Integrated Engineering Research Center Federal Building located at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, as the “Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center”; General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; H.J. Res. 27, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5,

United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”; and H.R. 1152, the “Water Quality Certification and Energy Projects Improvement Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, 2 p.m., 390 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Building an Accountable VA: Applying Lessons Learned to Drive Future Success”, 2 p.m., 390 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress, Views and Estimates, and H.R. 1163, to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Chinese Communist Party’s Threat to America”, 7 p.m., 390 Cannon.

### Joint Meetings

*Joint Hearing*: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: to hold hearings to examine North Macedonia’s leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in a time of war, 1 p.m., S–120, Capitol.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 28 through March 3, 2023

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m. Upon disposition of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 4:30 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

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*: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on conservation and forestry programs, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

*Committee on Armed Services*: February 28, to hold hearings to examine the conflict in Ukraine, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

March 2, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on munitions to include requirements development, Ukraine support, and replenishment management, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: February 28, to hold hearings to examine advancing national security and foreign policy through sanctions, export controls, and other economic tools, 10 a.m., SD–538.

*Committee on the Budget*: March 1, to hold hearings to examine climate change and the economic risks to coastal communities, 10 a.m., SD–608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Phillip A. Washington, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, 10 a.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: February 28, business meeting to consider the nominations of Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Michael Alan Ratney, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women’s Issues, Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, and Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, all of the Department of State, L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, S–116, Capitol.

March 1, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, Pamela M. Tremont, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Richard Mills, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* March 2, to hold hearings to examine community health centers, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* February 28, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* February 28, to hold hearings to examine the Equal Rights Amendment, focusing on how Congress can recognize ratification and enshrine equality in our Constitution, 10 a.m., SD-106.

March 1, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SH-216.

March 2, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Charnelle Bjelkengren, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Matthew P. Brookman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Michael Farbiarz, and Robert Kirsch, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Orelia Eleta Merchant, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and Stephen K. Eberle, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Roy W. Minter, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* February 28, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 1, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the

legislative presentation of the American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* February 28, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

March 1, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

### House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations,* March 1, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, oversight hearing on the United Nations, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* March 1, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled "Promoting U.S. Innovation and Individual Liberty through a National Standard for Data Privacy", 8:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on House Administration,* March 1, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Part 2: Committee Funding for the 118th Congress", 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* March 1, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled "The Fentanyl Crisis in America: Inaction is No Longer an Option", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* March 1, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled "Unlocking Indian Country's Economic Potential", 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

### Joint Meetings

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* February 28, to hold hearings to examine North Macedonia's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in a time of war, 1 p.m., S-120, Capitol.

*Joint Hearing:* February 28, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 1, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 28

Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m. Upon disposition of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at

4:30 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

*(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 28

House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H.J. Res. 30—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” (Subject to a Rule).

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